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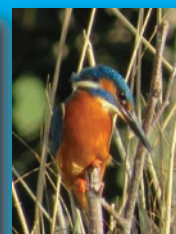
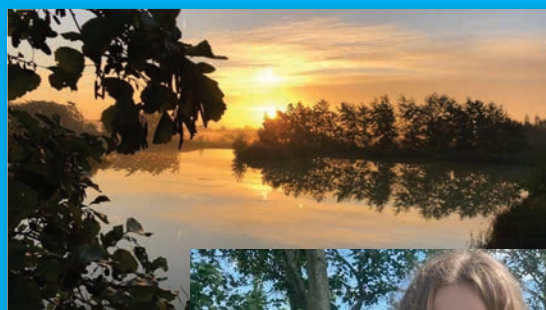


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Hello and welcome to the June edition of the Freshwater Informer

Although not carrying the gravitas it once had, with the onset of June many anglers will be preparing themselves for the 'glorious sixteenth'. That magical day when we can get back on our rivers, far away from the madding crowd, in pursuit of chub, barbel and a whole host of other river species.

From a legal perspective the close season hasn't applied to stillwaters since 1995, so we do at least avoid a three month lock down on the majority of lakes in the southeast.

Whilst this is great for Anglers and fisheries alike, it is important to remember that just because there isn't an official close season doesn't mean that fish stocks don't benefit from some peace and quiet during their breeding season. Thankfully the vast majority of venue bailiffs, whether club, syndicate or commercial, keep a very close eye on their waters and will shut a lake as soon as fish show signs of spawning. As frustrating as that can be from an anglers perspective it is worth remembering that spawning fish are not feeding fish and trying to catch them is an effort in futility. Far better to venture elsewhere or take the opportunity to see the stock of a lake up close and personal, as they pursue each other through the margins, oblivious to all around them. Many an unknown leviathan has been spotted this way, although sometimes the reverse is true. Many years ago I had my sights set on fishing a local reservoir, convinced it held a record sized fish. All things pointed to the fact that there should have potentially been huge carp in there. I made a point of watching a particular area where the fish were known to spawn. Day after day, week after week I looked and eventually they turned up. So consumed with their task at hand that you could stand amongst them as they made their way into the ridiculously shallow spawning bay. I must have seen well over a thousand fish, all commons, and not one looked over low doubles. Talk about disappointment. Any unknown giants remained just that! Since those days, a handful of mirror carp have found their way into the reservoir and grown to a respectable size but as far as I'm aware, it has never produced the absolute monster that we were convinced must exist in its depths.



Talking of monsters, the regions catfish have woken up in earnest and are flat rodding anglers all over the southeast. In this issue we cover the species in our 'A Simple Approach' series. Sea monsters also feature, with an amazing account of a beach caught Stingray. The two Bob's look both backwards and forwards in terms of tench fishing and Andy Lush demonstrates that fly fishing is for more than just trout. Warren White looks at the start of a school year with a difference and this months cover stars – The Sussex Fishing Gurus – demonstrate what fishing is really about – good times with good friends. Add to that fishery reports and PB's galore in the reader's catches and you have the Freshwater Informer.



Tight Lines, Alex Coutts & Lee Nicoll

The Freshwater Informer

12 Marigold Avenue, Horebeech Lane, Horam TN21 9DF

email: thefreshwaterinformer@gmail.com

Advertising – Lee 0787 3203998

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COPY DEADLINE for JULY 2023

MONDAY 19th June 2023 at 5pm

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Make hay while the sun shines

With the weather eventually starting to improve **Matthew Colegate** wasted no time in breaking out his surface fishing set up to target the regions big carp off the top.

An opportunistic afternoon session on prairie lake at Elphicks Fishery saw Matthew get off to a flyer with a 27lbs common, 27lbs mirror and topped off by a 30lbs 10ozs mirror, as Matthew picked the fish off at range using a controller set up with 10lbs line.



30lbs 10ozs - the best of an afternoon at Elphicks



Fran Cooper - 22lbs 9ozs PB mirror carp



Ronald Davis - 18lbs
Hawkhurst, Quarry Lake



Ricky Turner - 21lbs mirror carp



Matthew's surface caught PB of 34lbs 8ozs

Not one to rest on his laurels, Matthew followed this up with a trip to Tricklebrook's old lake where after a quick walk around he spotted a number of fish up towards the shallows, well away from the other anglers present. Steady feeding with dog biscuits soon got the fish feeding confidently within free-lining range and after casting out his banded hookbait on a size 10 hook, he soon had a 21lbs common on the bank before hooking into a new surface caught **PB** of 34lbs 8ozs.



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2. ALL NETS, UNHOOKING MATS AND WEIGH SLINGS MUST BE DRY BEFORE DIPPING IN THE DISINFECTANT BATHS
3. NO NUTS OR PARTICLE
4. BOILIE AND PELLET ONLY FOR SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE - ALL BAIT WILL BE INSPECTED
5. ALL FISH MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WATER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING CAPTURE. NO STANDING. FISH MUST BE HELD LOW OVER A MAT/CRADLE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS
6. MINIMUM 15LB LINE AND NO BRAIDED MAIN LINE
7. NO SACKING OR RETAINING OF FISH IS PERMITTED. THE REMOVAL OF FISH FROM THIS VENUE WILL BE VIEWED AS A CRIMINAL ACT
8. EACH ANGLER MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF 42 INCH LANDING NET AND A LARGE PADDED UNHOOKING MAT/CRADLE REGARDLESS OF TARGET SPECIES ON SPECIMEN AND BACK LAKE
9. BARBLESS HOOKS ONLY
10. NO LEAD CORE, NO FUSED LEADERS OF ANY KIND INCLUDING SAFEZONE
11. NO FIXED LEAD RIGS. ALL LEADS MUST PASS FREELY OVER LEADER KNOTS. RIG CHECKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT
12. RECREATIONAL DRUGS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED - IMMEDIATE BAN FOLLOWS
13. PLEASE INFORM FISHERY MANAGEMENT OF ANY SNAGGED TACKLE OR FISH
14. ANY FISH OVER 28LB MUST BE REPORTED TO BAILIFF
15. NO DOGS ALLOWED
16. BARBECUES ALLOWED IF OFF THE GROUND
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Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 Fishing has taken off with some fantastic catches being caught over a bed off bait or using solid pva bags. Preferred choice of bait at the minute seems to be frozen 15mm krill boilies from sticky baits, but like I say to everyone that turns up use what ever you feel comfortable with and the fish should show. And don't forget we have some lovely perch in here well over the 3lbs mark with the biggest so far being 5lbs 3ozs.

Speci 2 Catfish are showing up on whatever bait you put in the water at the minute, now that they have woken up. The catfish are coming out during the day, with the majority of them showing at night. Carp are being caught on small baited areas from the margins rather than open water as the catfish are picking up the baits before the carp. Stick to fruity baits or imitation corn for the carp as this seems to keep the catfish at bay for a longer period of time.

Heron This lake is fishing really well for a big bag of mixed fish either on the quiver or float fishing (don't ignore the margins) if you want the bigger carp. Smaller baits work best in here for all species of fish including the carp rather than the 15mm boilies that tend to get used. This lake can also be booked up for matches if you give us a call on: 07933 934942

Kingfisher This is a very good lake if you are starting up fishing for the first time as it is full of fish and keeps you busy all day. Main baits to use on here is pellets, paste, corn, maggots, luncheon meat or maggots/worms over a bed of groundbait. This lake can also be booked up for matches if you give us a call on: 07933 934942

Bluebell A very unique lake tucked out the way, this lake holds a good head of lovely tench to 6lbs and carp to 10lbs and is very peaceful. A large bag of fish can be caught from this lake at certain times of the year so be prepared.

Rules Dip all nets, sling and cradles upon arrival before going to any of the lakes • No takeaways after 6pm • No bins on site so take all rubbish home including fag butts/rolly's • No keepnets unless authorised by member of staff • Single hooks when pike fishing NO TREBLES • Please read all rules for lakes at www.greenacresfarmfishery.co.uk



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Mark Orchin - 4lbs 8ozs
Rainbow Trout - Cinder Hill



Peter Ferguson- 40lbs 3ozs Elphicks, West End



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Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

The Old Ballast Pit The fishing continues to be good with some cracking carp being caught as well as tench to over 7lbs and bream to nearly 10lbs. Lots of good sized roach and rudd being caught and a few small perch. **Charley Lucas** had a good session recently, catching some lovely looking fish, including a big grass carp.

Longfield Lake The tench fishing has been fantastic on here of late, with multiple catches with fish to over 7lbs. **George Kyles** and his grandson have had some great sessions fishing various areas on the lake. A few carp and plenty of bream around 6lbs being caught.

Haysden Lake Another lake fishing well for tench, most fish being caught close in and all around the 4-5lbs bracket. Feeder tactics have been good for bream to over 5lbs, skimmers and roach. Pole tactics have produced mixed bags to over 30lbs.

Mick Smith and **Lee Wakeman** continue to do well from the platforms and riverside.

Barden Lake Since the new stock has gone in, multiple catches have been reported which have included some of the older bigger fish. Tench to over 10lbs have been reported as well as bream to over 13lbs. Some decent roach to around 1lb also getting caught.

New Lagoon This popular little water is producing lots of mixed species with tench to nearly 7lbs, carp to nearly 9lbs, roach and rudd to over 1lb, bream to around 6lbs and a few perch to nearly 1lb.

Pippins Farm Not heavily fished but a few reports of tench to 3lbs, small silvers and the odd carp to 4lbs. We have also been trialling our new aeration equipment ready for the warm weather. We are also in the process of installing a state of the art remote oxygen testing system.



Surprise carp for Karen

Whilst staying at the lodge at Furnace Brook for a few days, **Karen Edwards** caught this 10lbs 20ozs common



carp after a handful of small roach, on a single grain of float fished corn, on a size 14 hook. It took her by surprise after the run of small fish that came before it.

Familiar name, unfamiliar results...



Normally when you see the name Sheehan it is because Laura Sheehan has comprehensively out-fished husband **Martin Sheehan**. But on this occasion it was Martin who grabbed the bragging rights with a new **UK PB** of 19lbs 5ozs, whilst Laura went without a bite.



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Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Hopefully by the time you see this magazine the fish will have finished spawning but there may be the odd ugly one still lurking looking for a mate!

Lake Sophie

The bream haven't been showing in any numbers with only the odd few bigger bream coming out BUT the tench fishing has gone mad.

Steve Peters of Medway Trotters found one of the bigger shawls of tench in the match and had over 16 tench between 3 and 5lbs.



Lake Eva

Fishing on the bottom with meat or pellet has been working. When you're swim starts to go quiet try fishing upper layers or on top in the afternoon.

Lake Amy

It's been nice to see guys setting new PB's! Some lovely carp have been coming out. Well done **Matthew Good**, he's really been smashing the lake lately. He's always said that he has seen 40lbs+ fish whilst fishing here and managed to beat his **UK PB** twice by catching a 40lber. Then a few weeks later had a red letter day managing a 32lber followed by a 40lbs 9ozs new **PB**.

So far he has managed to catch 17 different 30lbers along with two 40lbers from this lake. He has seen other fish which are on his hit list including a rather large mirror and convinced that there are at least another three 40lbs+ fish which he is chasing to catch this year.

Please note: We are now limiting anglers on this lake and closing certain swims to prevent crossing lines. Weekends you'll need to pre-book with a deposit required.

Claygate Membership Due to the cost of living. We are offering 12 months membership on all lakes. Why not pop down on a weekend to discuss membership details and have a look round.

Hope to see you soon and don't forget the sun tan lotion but Larry Lobsters are also welcome!

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LAKE SOPHIE match/pleasure - Carp 16lb+ Tench 8lb+ Chub 5lb+ Barbel 4lb+ Perch 3lb+ Bream 11lb+ Roach 2lb+ Skimmer Bream and other silvers



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swimbooker

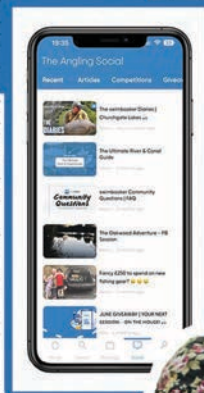
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What goes around, comes around

Readers of last month's issue may recall a report from Richard Tremain who broke both his Carp and Catfish PB'S with two huge fish in one session. It seems that some of his luck must have rubbed off on his friend

Simon Mitchell, who despite not catching on that trip went on to have a couple of dream sessions himself and sent in this report:

"I decided to go for a quick over nighter at my syndicate water in Hassocks expecting to get a good nights sleep having just come off nights at work and knowing that I've blanked for the last 10 x 48hr sessions.

Myself and the owner Jez Sussex fished Peg 5. My friend Dan Burke gave me some Carp company mixed baits to try as I hadn't had much luck recently. I put out 3 single hookbaits, 2 creamy white ones and a red one. 9pm that evening I struck into my first mirror weighing in at exactly 20lb. Put the rods back out and went to get some sleep. At 1-45am I got woken up by Jez who had a 28lbs mirror, I then got woken up again at 5-30am when my right hand rod screamed off and I had another 20lbs mirror. I got the rod back out, made a cuppa and chilled out. Was just drifting off when my middle rod went off that was close to the island resulting in what can only be described as the 'Big Linear' weighing in at a whopping 36lbs 6ozs. A new PB for me, I was buzzing!! Such a special fish. This is unheard of to catch 3 carp in one overnight session at the lake. At 12-30 I had another take on the same rod and couldn't believe it when I saw the scales go to 31lbs.



King of the Lake 'Arthur' at 41lbs PB



The Big Linear at 36lbs 6ozs and PB No.1

It was ridiculous now to have caught so many fish on such a tough lake. I had to be off the lake at 2pm so started packing up around 1-30 when to my shock my right hand rod screamed off again. I had just said that it would be nice to catch a common and then pulled in a 25lbs 10ozs common.

Five fish in 18hrs would be a tough act to follow but little did I know what fate would have in store for me on my very next visit. Little more than 4 hours into the trip, the bobbin pulled up to the rod and after a determined fight I had 'Arthur', the biggest known fish in the lake, resting in the landing net. At 41lbs, my second PB in as many sessions. Amazing Fishing!"

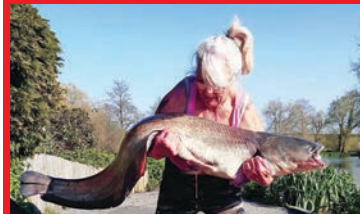
Right place – Right time

Whilst out and about on official FWI business, we stopped off at Beachborough Lakes, just in time to see Danny Fry land this immaculate 17lbs 8ozs mirror carp. The A2 Baits backed angler was attending a social at the venue just prior to its closure for spawning and got the take as we walked into his swim.



Danny Fry - 17lbs 8ozs

To come next month - Letters to the Editor from...



Lisa Branch - 50lbs catfish, Hawkhurst



Robin Piper - Claygate Lakes

Chasing shadows

Simon Marc Court had some fantastic sport when he fished a short 3 hour session at Chalk Springs. Armed with a Hardy demon 5-6 weight, with hardy ultralight reel, 5lbs point and using a small red stalking bug, Simon spent some time stalking shadows before picking out this incredibly well marked brown trout of 5lbs 6ozs. A fish which during the fight stripped him down to the backing not once, but twice. Simon also had a rainbow trout of 7lbs 7ozs to round off a great mornings fishing.

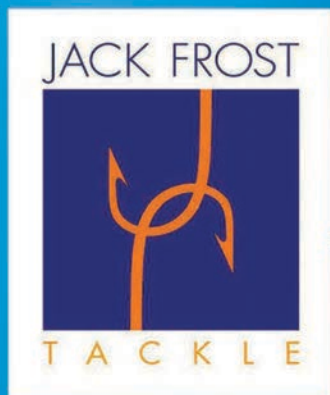


Lightning can strike twice!

Alex Evans paid a visit to Chequertree Fishery and was suitably impressed when a magnificent mirror of 29lbs 8ozs picked up his barrel waffer hookbait fished in conjunction with a solid pva bag. He returned the following week with son **Jack** and shared the tactics that had been so successful on his previous visit. Unbelievably, after following his Dad's advice, 11yr old Jack's hookbait was picked up by exactly the same fish and after a strong fight, weighed in at exactly the same weight!



Lightning struck twice for Alex and Jack Evans



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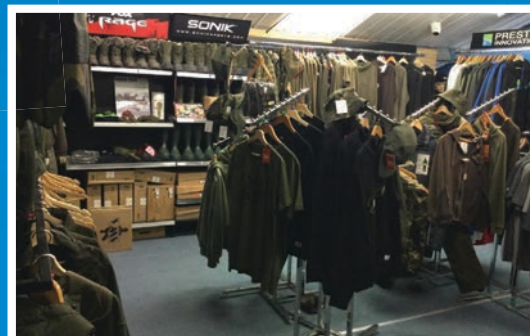
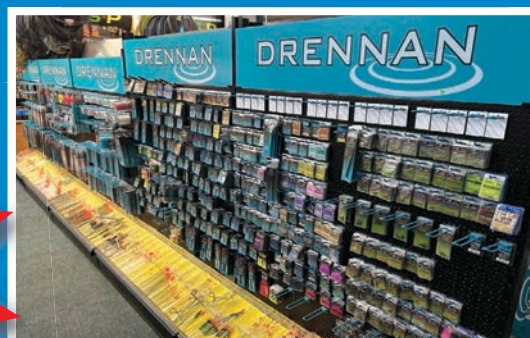
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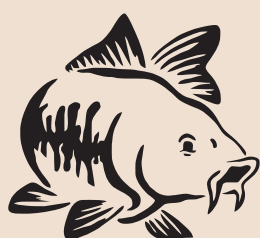
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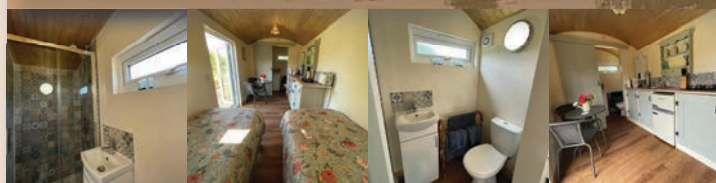
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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

As of writing this report Ben and I are nearly back on track with our work schedule, we have dusted off the strimmers and that will be us for the next few months. It seems like it's the same as painting that big bridge in Scotland, once we finish strimming we have to start again as the grass is growing with a vengeance. As for the fishing, it seems the fish are properly waking up now. Apologies for not including everyone's catches.



Alan 'Tipper' Tipping - 21lbs 8ozs Snipe



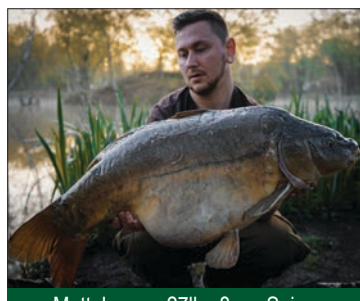
Michael Strydom - PB 27lbs 8ozs



Ian York - 28lbs 2ozs Snipe



Stuart Watson 30lbs 3ozs Snipe



Matt Jones - 27lbs 8ozs Snipe

Snipe Lake Michael Strydom hit the ground running catching a 15lbs 6ozs common and mirrors at 18lbs 14ozs, 21lbs 8ozs and a new **PB** at 27lbs 8ozs, **Mark Cheeseman** banked his first ever grassie at 18lbs, a mid double mirror and an 18lbs 2ozs mirror, **John Champion** banked commons of 17lbs 4ozs and 19lbs 4ozs and mirrors of 14lbs 14ozs and 25lbs 4ozs, **Joe Montgomery** banked a **PB** 29lbs common, **Lucas Tricker** banked commons of 17lbs 8ozs, 19lbs, a **PB** of 31lbs 8ozs and a 28lbs mirror, **Peter Mew** banked mirrors at 17lbs 8ozs and 25lbs 12ozs, **Nick Arnold** banked a grassie of 18lbs 2ozs and mirrors at 17lbs, 17lbs 6ozs and 22lbs, **Matt Jones** had a mirror of 27lbs 8ozs and mate **Liam Hall** had a 17lbs 14ozs common, **John Green** caught his first Snipe Lake carp when a 22lbs 8ozs mirror slipped over the net, **Stuart Watson** banked a 23lbs 4ozs mirror and a 30lbs 3ozs common, **Alex Tipping** banked a 21lbs 8ozs mirror and a 30lbs common,



Joe Montgomery - 29lbs PB Snipe



Steve Mills - 35lbs 14ozs PB Snipe

Mick Box banked a well deserved common of 28lbs 7ozs, **Steve Mills** had a great session banking a mirror of 18lbs 14ozs, and then broke his **PB** twice then he banked a common of 28lbs 11ozs then Hayley's Mirror at 35lbs 14ozs and **Ian York** continued his good form banking mirrors at 14lbs 14ozs, 16lbs, 18lbs 15ozs, 19lbs 8ozs and commons of 25lbs 12ozs and 28lbs 2ozs.

Westlake Callum Gardner banked 5 to 54lbs 4ozs, **Steve Deeley** banked 17 cats to 38lbs 8ozs, **Ion Istrate** banked 7 to 49lbs 3ozs, **Jordan Middle** banked 9 cats to a **PB** 35lbs 8ozs, **Nick Porrett** banked 16 cats to 41lbs 12ozs and his mate **Nathan Levitt** had 12 to 38lbs 3ozs, **Darren Evans** banked cats to 48lbs, **Nathan Thomas** banked 3 30's, a 58lber twice and a new **PB** of 66lbs but the best of the bunch were **Nick Bevis** and partner **Tammy Morris**. Tammy banked a cat of 27lbs 6ozs and then a new lady's lake record of 70lbs 9ozs and Nick banked one at 30lbs, a couple of 40's, a **PB** 54lbs 14ozs and then a new lake record and another **PB** when he landed the big one at 82lbs 15ozs.



Nick Porrett - 41lbs 12ozs PB Westlake



Callum Garner - 54lbs 4ozs Westlake



Nathan Thomas - PB 66lbs Westlake



Nick Beevis - 82lbs 15ozs - Westlake Record



Tammy Morris - 70lbs 9ozs - Ladies Westlake Record

Jeff's Lake doing well this month, **Lawrence Marden** who banked 26 F1's, 2 mirrors and 19 bream and **Les Parker** banking 20 F1's, 1 mirror and some bream and **Chris Pinnell** and young **Joshua** had a few fish on Joshua's first days fishing.



Chris Shepherd - 15lbs 11ozs Daughters

Daughters Lake has as usual been a bit hit and miss but a few 1sts and PBs. **Max Botting** had mirrors of 13lbs, 14lbs, 16lbs, 16lbs 1oz and 17lb, **Norman Epps** banked his first ever grassie at 13lbs 8ozs, **Mark Chapman** banked his first grassie and a **PB** at 27lbs, **Billy Snape** banked a 17lbs 1oz mirror, **Nick Boyte** had his first grassie and a **PB** at 20lbs 3ozs, **Chris Sheperd** banked mirrors at 12lbs 1oz, 13lbs 4ozs, 13lbs 6ozs and 15lbs 11ozs, **Dave Parsons** had his first Daughters Lake fish when he banked a 14lbs 2ozs mirror and **Michael Chandler** banked his 1st ever grassie and a **PB** of 28lbs 7ozs, **Daniel Hayne** also banked mirrors to 23lbs and our very own Ben banked a grassie of 18lbs 14ozs.

Eden Pond has been doing okay for most, a couple of examples are **Callum Hutchins** who banked 22 tench to 6lb and bream and Eden Pond regular **Martin Davies** banked tench to 4lbs 8ozs, a 3lbs crucian, commons to 7lbs 8ozs, mirrors to 8lbs 5ozs and amazingly he caught a black tench twice.



Chris Pinnell & Joshua aged 4 - Jeffs

Maze Lake has been tricky for some day anglers but there have been a few that have had very good days. **Paul Kelly** banked 25 bream and five carp to 9lbs and **Dave Horsley** banked 26 bream, 1 mirror and 7 F1's.

Majors Lake still fishing the best on the complex. **Pete Hulatt** banked 4 bream to 6lbs, a 5lbs F1, a 9lbs common and 2 low double mirrors, **Artur Truszyński** banked 1 bream and 7 carp to 20lbs, young **Mathew Notchev** banked 4 bream, 1 tench and a 18lbs 5ozs fully scaled mirror and his Dad **Jordan** banked a 11lbs 9ozs mirror while their friend **Sven Borov** banked a mirror of 11lbs, **Paul Kelly** had 9 bream to 7lbs, 2 tench to 4lbs 8ozs and a mirror of 11lbs, **Ted Gribben** banked 4 carp to 13lbs 10ozs and 1 tench, **Ethan Brind** banked a 10lbs ghostie, mirrors at 13lbs, 15lbs and 22lbs and a 20lbs common while his mate **Jordan** had 2 mirrors at 13lbs 1oz and 23lbs, **Tom Stevens** banked 2 mirrors at 15lbs and 23lbs, **Terry Edwards** continued his good form banking all species to a 20lbs mirror, **Charlie Cox** banked 7 bream,



Callum Hutchins - Eden 1 of 22 tench



Martin Davis
The Black Tench - Eden



Terry Edwards - 20lbs Majors



Megan Henery-Skilton - 5lbs 8ozs PB Majors

2 low double mirrors and a 15lbs ghostie, **Trevor Burgess** banked 6 bream and 3 tench to 3lbs 8ozs, **Dennis Wheeler** had tench, bream and a 13lbs common, **Bob Morris** banked 10 bream to 7lbs 6ozs, **John Howe** had a good day when he banked 17 bream to 5lbs 12ozs, **Lewis Perrin** banked a few including a lovely fully scaled mirror, **Jay Skilton** and **Megan Henery Skilton** banked lots of fish including a **PB** 5lbs 8ozs tench, commons and mirrors to mid doubles, **Jayden Forsyth** and family banked 6 bream, 2 tench, 2 mirrors and 1 common, **Sandra Nevill** banked her first Majors carp at 10lbs. **Darrel Schofield** and son **Louie** banked 2 bream, 8lbs common, 14lbs mirror and a new lake record mirror of 28lbs.



Jay Skilton - 16lbs 4ozs Majors



Jayden Forsyth - 12lbs 8ozs Majors



Lewis Perren - 13lbs Majors



Matthew Notchev - 18lbs 5ozs Majors

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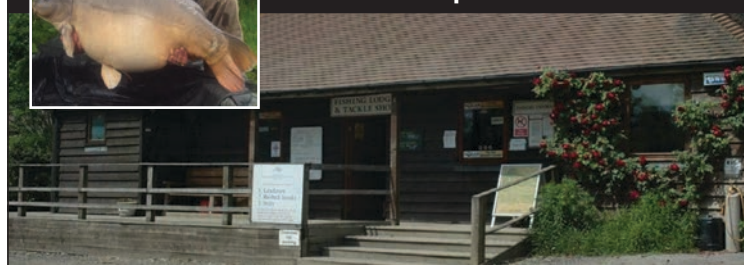
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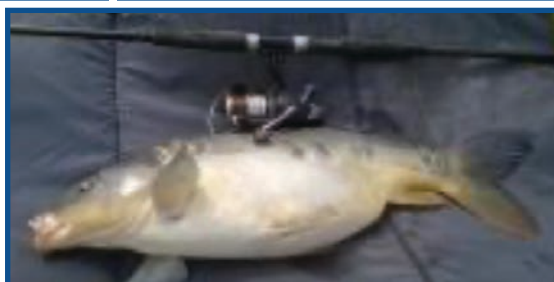


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KINGFISHER LAKE this pond is 0.6 acres in size and is heavily stocked with commons and mirrors to 12lbs and is ideal for bagging up! All eight swims are wheelchair friendly with excellent access direct from the car park. A bridge from Kingfisher allows easy access to Victory Lake.

Victory Lake



Berry Lake



Damson Match Lake



Meadow Lake

MATCH LAKES - DAMSON AND VICTORIA one acre in size, each of these lakes are designed for the match angler having shallow margins with reeds for summer fishing and a deep drop off for light feeder work and winter fishing. They are stocked with a great variety of fish including carp to 16lbs and we believe these are the most uniquely designed match lakes in Kent!

MEADOW LAKE one acre in size with eight marked pegs and traditional grass bank fishing, Meadow is stocked with scaley mirrors and commons to 14 lbs. This lake also holds large perch and roach so you will be sure to catch!

BERRY LAKE is one acre in size and stocked with 3000 F1s, commons, mirrors, roach, rudd, perch and some large bream. Float and pellet tactics work well on this lake. IN the summer months, surface sport with mixers produces huge bags of fish.

Day Ticket Prices:

1 rod - £8 2 rods - £10 Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) - £25 Under 16s - £7 Sundowner (3pm to 7pm) - £7
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Lee's best common



Trish with a 21lbs carp

Trish Whitworth and her other half **Lee** spent a 48hr session at Frant lakes. Lee caught 3 fish up to 23lb and Trish had four carp, weighing up to 21lb and her first ever tench. Lee was using pineapple dumbbell wafers on size 6 hooks, Trish's were caught on 15mm crafty catchers boilies (cream seed and mulberry) on size 8 hair rigs.



A lovely leather carp for Lee



Trish's first tench

A PB Birthday
What better way to spend your birthday than by going fishing? and what better way to celebrate than by catching a new personal best? Well that's exactly what **Jude Edwards** did on his 19th birthday, with a trip to Prairie Lake at Elphicks Fishery. Catching five fish topped off with this immaculate **PB** common of 34lbs.



Jude Edwards - 34lbs Birthday PB

Dove Lake success for Jim

Never ignore the advice of a fishery Bailiff. They know the water better than anyone and want to see anglers catch. **Jim Stonham** took full advantage of the bailiffs knowledge on a trip to Hawkhurst Fish Farm's Dove Lake.

Fishing tight to the central island, over plenty of crumbed boilies, resulted in three takes on Jim's Mainline Banoffee hookbaits. The first of which was a new **PB** in the shape of this lovely 29lbs Mirror Carp, soon backed up by a common of 24lbs and a small grass carp.



Jim Stonham - 29lbs PB - Dove Lake, Hawkhurst

Wake me up before you go go!

I'm sure we've all been there – one moment you're fast asleep in your bivvy dreaming of giant carp, the next a bite alarm bursts into life and you wake up with a start and can't remember how your feet work!

Well that's exactly what happened to **Dale Green** when he got an early morning wake up call during a recent session. After the initial panic, and knocking over most of his kit, he managed to get gain control of the situation. Initially he didn't think that he had hooked anything particularly big but when a scale-less back broke the surface, he knew it could only be a leather carp, and when the only leather carp in the lake happens to be the venues biggest fish and over 30lbs – panic set in! After twenty minutes of hanging on and praying to the carp gods, Dale was finally able to net the fish and celebrate a new PB of 31lbs 8ozs.



Dale Green - 31lbs 8ozs leather carp



Tony Bengt - 51lbs new PB Elphicks Fishery



Graham Rose - 16lbs common carp, Sandwich Lakes



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a simple approach to landing your first Wels Catfish

It's fair to say that no species of fish divides opinion in UK waters more than the Wels Catfish. First introduced into the country over 130 years ago by the Duke of Bedford, who stocked 70 into the lakes at Woburn Abbey, the Wels Catfish is classed as a non-native species and although they have been landed in this country to an eye watering 145lbs the official record still stands at 62lbs as new claims were suspended after that fishes capture in 1997.

Love them or loathe them, they are here to stay and found in lots of the regions commercial fisheries. They grow big (very big) They fight hard (very hard) and they offer anyone brave enough to fish for them a real chance to throw there arms as wide as they can and proclaim 'Honestly - it was this big!'

RODS AND REELS For the occasional catfish up to 20lbs standard carp rods will suffice but if you intend to focus on the species then you really need to be suitably equipped. Rods with a test curve of 3.5lb are viewed as the bare minimum for serious cat anglers with rods up to 5lb t.c not uncommon. It's a similar story with reels. The internal gears take a pounding during the fight and any inferior parts will soon be exposed. Loaded with 20lb mono, big pit reels with a proven clutch will pay dividends.



END TACKLE/RIGS

As with carp fishing, there are all manner of rig components that can be added to tweak the hooking arrangements, but a simple, well tied hair rig with the emphasis on strength is a great starting point as whilst catfish don't have teeth to speak of, they do have abrasive pads on both the top and bottom jaw that will make short work of light hooklinks. Ask in your local tackle shop for specialist hooklink material in upwards of 40lb b/s. Hooks should be matched to the size of bait and be of a suitably heavy gauge. Size 2 for boilies and pellets up to 4/0 for really big baits, although these will be generally mounted directly to the hook rather than hair rigged.





FISH CARE Fish Care starts before you land your fish. Many fisheries insist on a minimum net size of 50 inches on their dedicated catfish lakes. Even on a mixed lake a 42 inch net should be the minimum. The same goes for unhooking mats. The bigger, the better. Stay calm and be deliberate in your actions. Catfish tend to be quite docile on the bank. A gardening glove helps save your hand if you need to open the fishes mouth to unhook them. Forceps or pliers make it easier to remove the hook. If you want to weigh your catch be sure that the fish is fully enclosed in the sling. If you are deliberately targeting big Catfish, a weighing tripod is almost a must. It is better to take a photograph with the fish on the mat than risk dropping it, as Catfish can be tricky to hold and use the sling/mat to transport the fish back to the water.



LOCATION The age old question! If a catfish isn't feeding it won't move an inch to take a bait, whereas if it is, it might well cover every inch of the lake. Naturally, they tend to be nocturnal and patrol the marginal drop off where their prey of small fish and amphibians can be found but in many commercial waters they will feed at any time of day. Keep an eye on fishery reports and make a note of the light levels in any trophy shots.



BAIT Although catfish are predators, they are also very opportunistic scavengers and will take most baits from the humble worm through to large deadbaits. Fishy or meaty baits work best and on many waters where they live alongside carp they soon learn to take advantage of the steady introduction of fishmeal boilies and pellets. In the same way that a carp angler will use larger baits to avoid catching bream, so you should use larger baits to avoid the carp. Double or even treble 20mm baits will increase your chances but remember to adjust the hair length and hook size accordingly.

FWI RECOMMENDED VENUES

HAWKHURST FISH FARM is a great place to catch your first catfish. Quarry Lake contains cats to 20lb. Once you've mastered them you can move onto either Main Lake or Four Trees to try for much bigger fish. **ORCHARD PLACE FARM** is another fishery where you can work up in stages. **GREENACRES, WYLANDS** and **BEAVER FARM FISHERY** are all proven venues as well. Or you could try **CHARLIE'S LAKE** where Dean Ayres and Kev Holt caught these fish on a recent Team Cat session.

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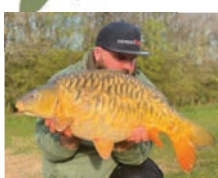
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Chris Smith - 57lbs 12ozs Elphicks

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Social success for Ryan and friends

The **Social Fishermen** had a great session on Quarry Lake at Hawkhurst fish farm. Catching carp ranging from 13lbs all the way up to a lake record at 25lbs 4ozs, including three 20s between and a lovely catfish at 17lbs. All caught on our own bait that we make the curry crab.



Joe Catt - 48lbs 1oz common - Elphicks, North Lake

Marc Harris - 30lbs common carp

Alfie Foad - 26lbs 8ozs mirror - Loggies Lake

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Carp and catfish PB's for Alex

Alex Watson took a 25 year break from fishing but is making up for lost time with two **PB'S** in quick succession.

After spending some time getting up to speed with current techniques, Alex put his new knowledge to good use. Firstly using a Solid PVA bag with 15mm Mainline Cell

Wafter on a size 8 Blowback Rig to join the twenties club with a 20lbs 4ozs common carp, before paying a visit to

Four Trees Lake at Hawkhurst Fish Farm and landing this 33lbs 14ozs Wels catfish.

His second new **PB** falling to 2 x 22mm Halibut Pellets fished over a bed of smaller halibut pellets.



Welcome to the twenties club...



...and the thirties club!!

When they look like this, weight is immaterial

Ryan Lamont

managed to get out for a social on Shirkoak Fishery for the first time since it was taken over by Hugh Pickett. It proved to be a wise choice as Ryan and his friend shared a catch of 10 fish

between them. Sticky Manilla Tuff Ones balanced with half a pop up fished over a small spread of matching boilies cast close to the island proved to be the winning method. With these two fish the pick of the bunch. The common went 26lbs and the mirror is just simply stunning.



26lbs - Shirkoak common



Ryan's favourite capture - a pure stunner!

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Night Fishing 24 hours:

Adult £25 with loyalty card £20 / Junior as for Day Tickets

Night fishing:
Only by prior booking.

Note: Juniors up to 13 years
to be with an adult - FOC



Contact Wantsum Angling Association on **01227 678063**

or visit us at

www.wantsumaa.co.uk

We can also be contacted via the
Contact Us message service on the website





Ashley Sceal - 32lbs 8ozs - Admiral Lake, Gabriels



Carl Milton - 30lbs 4ozs Southern Park Lake



A brace of forty fours!

Jason Fairbrass with 44lb No.1



Sam Crouch & Family - Tricklebrook, New Lake Pods



Lacy Haward - 10lbs 11ozs - First time fishing



John Wells (86 years young) - Eureka Fisheries



Claire Hainsworth - 27lbs 6ozs mirror, Sandwich Lake



44lb No. 2 - but 2ozs heavier

Jason Fairbrass had a great end to April and the start of the May Bank hols. Breaking his **PB** twice whilst on a social at West End Lake, Elphicks. The first weighed in at 44lbs with the second slightly heavier at 44lbs 2ozs. Both taken as the day broke on Krill wafers. What a session!

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Lost for words

- a story with a sting in the tail...

The Sea Angling section of the Freshwater Informer has been absent for sometime now and whilst we can't guarantee it will make a permanent return just yet, we could not pass up the opportunity to include Andrew Cook's superb 'blow by blow' account covering the capture of a truly remarkable fish.

With the hounds due to show any day it was off to one of our favourite high water marks to try for a few early ones. After picking Richard up we are on the mark at 1:30pm, the tide hasn't been flooding long so it's into the pub for a quick pint and a burger and chips. We're down on the shingle by 2:30, the Westerly is putting a slight swell on the water and we are looking at a fairly coloured flooding tide. There's a big weather front to the north but it drifts East and away from us fairly quickly.

Usual two rod set up, both armed with short pulley rigs, fishing one at reasonable distance with crab and the other a little closer in loaded with ragworm to start with the aim of seeing if an early Bass can be snared. Quality Bait once more courtesy of Medway Tackle Supplies, many thanks again guys.



Richard Steel - off to a good start

The first couple of hours go past fairly quietly with only a couple of small 'knocks' but nothing hooked. The wind shifts to the NW but weakens significantly which flattens the water right out and conditions become ideal.

First blood to Richard, a decent pull down results in a Thornback of 3 – 4lb. At least we know there is a chance of some decent fish tonight. A short while later and it's my turn, I'm talking with Richard to turn round and one of my rods has a big slack line. I reel up to the slack and lift into the fish, there feels like there's some decent weight on the end and it's pulling constantly, a few minutes of cranking and pumping sees another 'Thorny' of around 5lb slides up the shingle.

A quiet half an hour ensues, there must be a lot of very small bass about as we are continually getting tiny rattles with the ragworm getting stripped. Richard then gets another nice pull down which results in his second Ray of the evening and it's 2 – 1. Once again the ragworm rod dips down a few times and I'm into my second fish, again a Thornback but much smaller this time. The fish seem to be coming in fits and starts as we once again go through a quiet period. Martin Vincent from the local SAC comes down for a chat which seems to coincide with the fish coming back onto the feed as Richard gets another bite and it's all square on the Ray front at 2-2. This is quickly followed up with another fish for Richard but this time it's a dogfish. The rag is catching everything but we can't seem to get a bite on the crab. The conditions have gone high on perfect by now and I hopefully commented that we have an outside chance of an early Stingray tonight.

High water, (19:10) comes and goes and I'm beginning to think that we won't see any early hounds tonight. I'm not too bothered though as at least we are catching halfway decent fish. Another small pull down for me results in a third small Ray of the night. I quickly unhook and return the fish, slide another 8 inches of ragworm round the hook and send it North.

Three minutes later, the sun has literally dipped behind land and fortunately the three of us are standing next to my rods when the recently baited ragworm rod starts to pull down, and simply keeps going, by the time I grab it and lift into the fish it's stripped 10 yards of line from my reel and is moving fast to the East. The speed of movement has me shouting 'this is a hound', it's taken me into the next bay within 10 seconds of seeing the bite! In an attempt to apply a little pressure and 'bully the fish' I reel down and start pumping the rod. This turns out to be a bit of a waste of time as the fish simply pulls back and strips another 30 yards of line off my Fathom II. Finally I start to make some progress but I honestly think that the line I gained was more down to the fish moving towards the shore than it was me having any sort of control over it. Richard and Martin have jumped over the breakwater to the next bay to try and get a glimpse of whatever is leading me on a merry dance. It's now 20 yards out so I exert a little more pressure once more, once again a similar result to the last attempt to dominate the fish with another 20 yards of line stripped from my reel. I slowly get the fish into the shallows, I'm right on the waters edge now and 'playing' the fish over the breakwater, (I think that most of the time the fish was actually playing me). We still haven't seen a dorsal fin which would have given the fish away as a decent hound.



Another nice Thornback for Richard

Richard then shouts 'it's a Ray', I'm thinking surely not as the fish powers off once more I, this time straight at the breakwater. I've got to get it away as it's heading straight for the part just below the surface and if it gets over that I'll get snagged and lose it, so I take a risk and really pull against the fish. This fortunately does the job and also results in getting the fish close enough for the waves to work in my favour. Richard then shouts out 'it's a Stinger !' The problem is now the fish is in shallow water I simply cannot beach it. I don't want to risk pulling the hook so I shout out 'let it tire itself for a minute'. This had the same amount of success as the last attempts to gain control as the fish manages to turn once more and take a further 10 yards of line back into deeper water. I'd also tightened my drag for what I thought was the final battle, but the force of her last bid for freedom sees my rod pull down so far before I manage to loosen it that she almost pulls the rod onto the breakwater. Finally it seems spent and I manage to get the fish back into the shallows. Richard and Martin grab the line and pull it onto dry land. I still cannot see the fish as being over the other side of the breakwater I'm somewhat lower than the beach on the right. I'm soon 'advised' that this is a little special when Richard lets out a number of expletives! Resting the rod on the breakwater and jumping over I'm met with what I can only describe as the biggest shore caught fish I've ever seen, let alone caught !



An omen of things to come for Andrew



49lbs 1oz (at least) of solid muscle

It's not the wingtip to wingtip that surprises me but the sheer depth of the fish, it's got to be around 10 inches thick! Now we've got to unhook it, there's also no way that she's going back without a weight. Martin kindly wraps the tail and we flip her onto her back, the hook literally pops out on the T-bar, (when you look at the picture of the 2/0 Sakuma circle hook and the state of it you'll see why) Fortunately I use a large IKEA bag as a weighing sling which is fairly wide so we lift her between us while holding the tail very firmly and slide the bag underneath her. Richard hooks the scales on and heaves 49lb 1oz ! She may have gone slightly more as we are holding the tail up for safety. Also my scales only go to 50lb. I'm simply stunned and don't really know what to say as both Richard and Martin congratulate me and shake my hand. A quick few pictures as to be honest my thoughts turn to getting her back into her environment as soon as possible. I gently pull her the couple of yards back into the shallows, she turns and I release her tail, (stepping back rather quickly at the same time), she does a quick 360 in the water as though she was taking a look at me and getting her bearings, then with a flap of her wings she's gone, and I'm physically and emotionally wrung out !

What can you say after that? I cannot thank both Richard and Martin enough for helping land and weigh her, I really wouldn't have got her in if it wasn't for your efforts. I'm extremely lucky to have got her in anyway, by the star of the circle hook she was lip hooked on one more run and she would have bent it straight, (back to larger hooks for ragworm baits I think).

I try and get back to fishing of sorts but I really cannot muster the concentration so I quickly stick another ragworm on, cast out and just leave it. Richard gets another bite which results in a perfectly formed 4th baby Thorny of about 1lb. We give it another hour but with the tide ebbing fast at 9:20 we agree to call it a night. I lift into the crab rod and there's some weight attached, (this is the bait that has been soaking for nigh on 2 hours now), The fish comes in fairly easily and it's actually a double shot of a small Ray and a dogfish to end the night.

So as I'm laying in bed typing this out right now I'm still a little stunned, I wanted to try for a decent stinger this year as my two previous ones have only been around 3lb each, but where do I go from here? Never in my dreams did I envisage landing a fish that big, and I'll probably never land one that big again in this lifetime, unless I'm lucky enough to hook a decent Tope when we venture down to West Sussex for them next month. It's difficult to explain the awesome power that she had, a top predator in these waters. We've also had 8 Thornbacks between us, 4 each so it would have been a decent session without the stinger.

Good luck if you are out over the weekend, next week – I will be hound hunting somewhere but right now I really need to gather my senses!

Tight lines, Andrew Cook



Once in a while your luck holds!



It may have gone bigger...



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Sid's Bank Holiday Birthday

Alun Howell sent in this wonderful report of a Birthday session: It was a special weekend, for Birthday Boy **Sid**, my sons best mate and fishing buddy. He turned 13 so, his first fully licenced fish. On Saturday I took the boys to Darenth, and **Beau** caught a 17lbs and 15lbs common on Terrapin lake. Sid's mum kindly treated us to an overnight session at Monk Lakes. While we were struggling with the bivvy Beau's reel screamed off and he caught another one at 16lbs. At 4am, in still pitch dark, mine then screamed off and I landed an 18lbs. But hey, this was Sid's birthday, he needed a present and it had to be fish shaped. The beautiful dawn didn't produce



A nice double for Beau



Birthday boy Sid with his 13lber

any fish and the suddenly around mid day Sid finally got a bite. All of us willed it in, before finally he wrapped it nicely in the net. And guess what it was 13lbs.

The perfect present.



Sid & Beau talk tactics



A bankside birthday cake



Some of the best anglers in the country started their fishing careers by catching the humble perch. Which put 7 years old **Sienna Davies** in good company when this greedy stripey took a float fished maggot.



Charlie Young managed a quick after school session on Tricklebrook's new lake and landed six fish topped by this 20lbs mirror.



Fresh from his success at Orchard Lakes (below), **Harrington Blowers** visited Tricklebrook Fishery with his friend **Eadie Hewitt**. Both caught plenty of fish including a new **PB** mirror carp of 5lbs for Eadie.



5 years old **Jack Baker** enjoyed a trip with his Mum and Dad to Furnace Brook where he caught this pretty roach.



It's fair to say that **Archie** has taken to fishing like a duck to water, landing this massive looking mirror carp on his very first trip!



No wonder young **Sydney Smith** was smiling when she landed this fantastic 6lbs 6ozs tench. The biggest of a three fish catch and a new **PB**!



7 years old **Harry Lovett**, baited, cast and landed this 24lbs catfish all by himself!



8 years old **Matty Ewan** and his first roach at Gabriels Fishery.



Even though it was his first time fishing, **Brinley Walsh** didn't waste any time in landing this lovely ghost carp from Barretts Park Farm, ably assisted by Bubs Grimsey.



Harrington Blowers with a pristine common carp, caught on boilies from Orchard Lakes.

June update

by instructor Warren White



Todd with a fine looking common carp

Todd's Fishing Adventure - An Introduction To Angling

Getting young people involved in fishing in the modern era is never going to be an easy thing with all the indoor entertainment that is there these days. There is a feeling in the fishing community that although the statistics for participation have gone up since Covid, we still need more juniors on the bank as it will be them that are the future of angling.

I realize that there are some really good fishing initiatives running throughout the country. Normally there is a junior event arranged which is a great success that hooks youngsters in, but the problem in a lot of cases there is no follow up sessions. Which is where the problem lies.

A few years ago on a Fishing 4 Schools course with Thamesview School, Gravesend I happened to meet a young lad, named Todd, who was really keen on fishing and wanted to learn more, after the 4-session course had finished. For any young person able to get on the Fishing for schools Course, it is a great experience and where their interest in fishing begins. After this course finished I was approached by Todd's mother who asked me if I would be willing to

coach her son, she wanted him to be at the stage where he was able to go fishing on his own, but naturally a adult would always be with him.

To be honest I wasn't sure at first, mainly as I am really busy with the work I do with schools and mental health groups, normally working with groups and not one to one sessions, and for the fact that I do not like to charge, I would prefer a young person to go to a Fishing event that is free, there are a few out there, but normally one offs, not where you can get taught a longer course, which you need if you are going to learn different methods of fishing.

Because I knew the lad was a really keen and nice lad, I agreed to go ahead. We started at Shorne country park, which is perfect for a junior to learn, not the biggest of fish but the variety is excellent and the fishing is normally good. We went through the basics, started on the whip, learnt how to plumb up which is vital in colder conditions and practiced using the disgorger, the one fishing skill that youngsters are really keen to get the hang of it. Its the one thing that parents get concerned about, when their children go fishing, are they going to be able to unhook a deep hooked fish, because in a lot of cases the parents have never been fishing themselves. It is one of the advantages of working one to one that you can give the student plenty of individual attention and in no time the lad was really confident using the disgorger.



Thamesview fly caught carp



Some theory with Thamesview students



Obviously fast learners!



Stone Lodge - Ellison's carp

Over a few years, mainly in school breaks we have learnt a variety of skills including Whip, Pole, waggler and the feeder and along the way at Birthdays and Christmas Todd has got many new bits of fishing gear including rods and reels. Along the way I have met the Todd's Grandparents who have brought him and stayed with him throughout the sessions, in particular his grandmother was keen to learn more about fishing herself. I also had a few sessions with the lad's father which was good. I always look at it that if the family are involved and get to know more about fishing, they are more likely to take their children fishing and can also pass on advice to them.

My last session coaching the lad was at my club water D.D.A.P.S (Sutton) on the banjo lake, where I was able to get the lad a guest ticket. We concentrated on feeder fishing, looking at making groundbait and pellet for the method feeder, the lad had a really good session catching Carp and Bream on the feeder and some good silver fish on the waggler. Todd was particularly pleased with the bream he caught mainly because it was a nice sized fish but also it not a species that he had caught on the other venues we use.

It is always good for a young angler to try different venues, for the Experience and to see the different variety of fish, and good to take Him around my local club waters T.W.A.P.S and D.D.A.P.S to see their Waters. After the last session, the lad's mother informed me that her Todd wanted to join a Fishing club, and asked my advice about what club to join, either of my two clubs would be good clubs to join, but because the lad comes



A Stone Lodge student with a nice crucian - 17.5.23



Stone Lodge - Class of '23

from the Gravesend area and I know there is not a waiting list to join, I advised on joining the T.W.A.P.S club. His mother has paid his subscription and he and this mother are now members of the Club. His mother has been a rock, throughout our coaching sessions.

This is something I had always been working to with Todd, but something you cannot rush, but to see a young lad join his local fishing Club, which could mean a hobby for life, really means a lot to me.

With some much appreciated help from The Tackle Box at Dartford, this years Fishing for schools, Kent programme, is now underway. The two schools are Thamesview school and Gravesend and Stone Lodge Dartford.

These courses are a mixture of education and Fishing skills, that forms part of the Cast Level one course, which focuses on; The Countryside code, Relevant Health & Safety issues, Weather conditions and fish care. So although we love our fishing there is an Educational focus to the course.

The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

Tench, worms and monster gudgeon

After my brief travelogue about canals and locks, I'll continue with my memoirs about my 65 years of fishing. In the words of the great Welsh rugby fan Max Boyce: "I was there", which just about sums up my early years of coarse fishing at some of the most famous waters in the country and with some of the legends of the era.

I never had the drive, dedication or time to hit the 'big time' with my big fish captures, I had a few, but spread my net too widely, never concentrating too long on one water or one species at a time.

The glorious Tench was a case in point. I've caught hundreds in my time from all over Kent and Sussex, probably my favourite fish with its olive green flanks and little red eye looking up at you from the net, after falling for a large juicy lobworm. No prepacked baits for me, just home-caught worms from my garden lawn, maggots, cockles or mussels free lined between the weed beds.

Worming was an event in itself on a hot summer night, after rain and with no wind. The worms hated wind and scurried back into their lairs at the slightest hint of it. How many of you youngsters have ever been on a 2 hours night worming expedition, armed with a bright torch, bucket and carpet slippers? Here's a new use for your mobile phones give it a try. You have to use stealth, worms are still the best overall natural bait for most big fish, just ask Thomas Lochrane the Keston Carp expert and his group the K.L.C. of which I am an honorary member! It worked 60 years ago, and it still works today.

You need to be dead quiet, with a strong grip and back, to comb your garden lawn and borders for gigantic lob worms, some over 8 inches long. The soil must be damp, best after heavy rain, as you creep around slowly pulling these almost eel like creatures from their holes as they lay out on top of the wet grass in the pitch black. In the 1960s I've filled a small bucket in under 2 hours work, I presume you can still do it today, although I haven't tried for years, with my dicky back! Don't pull too hard or you will break them, get a grip and pull very slowly and straight. I'm sure I would have won the world worm catching championships if there ever was one!! Some dark nights the worms lay right out of their holes and you just pick them up, my Dads Dahlia borders were the best, just on open soil.

Sometimes we used to venture further afield on our worming quest. The hallowed turf of Bromley Town F.C. and Hayesford Park saw epic tussles, long before they ever got into the National League. We were even challenged by the police one night, who wouldn't believe that we were hunting worms and not breaking into the grandstand. One copper was going fishing himself the next day so we palmed him off with a tin full and how the roach of the river Medway just loved them.

Often we had so many worms that we sold them to Ken Browns Tackle shop in Homesdale Road for one old penny a piece, and many a fine Tench, Carp or Roach were caught after our achievements the night before. Today you can't beat a good old lob worm for specimen Perch that are coming out of many of the waters listed in the Freshwater Informer, Warren Edwards swears by worms or prawn for big Perch, don't pay £15 for 50 lobworms off the internet, catch your own, it's great fun!

My early Tench catches at Keston and the Rookery were mainly taken on worm. These were generally fished freelined on a size 8 hook beside the Lilly beds, laying on with a small quill float or silver paper as a bite indicator. In the Wealden ponds around Tonbridge and on the backwaters of the Medway, I had many tench on float fished maggot, and at Horton Kirby top lake when it was still being worked in 1962 or so, small tench were prolific in a mixed bag of roach, Rudd and Gudgeon. The huge Gudgeon in the lower lake were like small barbel, I recall, and I am sure I must have broken the record there one day in a bag of 118 Gudgeon weighing nearly 20lbs. On March 8th 1962, it's all in my diary and I remember it well! The Gudgeon record then was 4ozs 4drms and the causeway between the two lakes was brand new with no trees or bushes on it 61 years ago, just bare gravel banks where I fished facing towards the distant railway viaduct. Two



Jim Gibbinson lands a tench, notice the hessian 'blind' at the front of the swim



A fine brace of Burghfield tench for Jim

shillings a day payable to the bailiff on the bank. Oh, for those glorious days again!

The squeaky Gudgeon of Redmire Pool were another feature in my early fishing life. Although we had no record breakers from the nutrient rich lake, fish for them we did, off the Dam with float fished maggot when the carp fishing became too exasperating in 1966. Chris Yates also fished for them, but surprisingly never broke the record there as well, as far as we all know?

In 1968 I fished at Burghfield pits near Reading with Jim Gibbinson, when he lived at Mortimer. Several times we fished for the tench that were prolific there at the time. We fished at night and

had good bags of fish to just under 5lbs. In those far off days a 5lbs tench was a super specimen, when the record still stood at just 8lbs 8ozs, but it wasn't until July 1972 that I finally broke the 5lbs barrier with several such fish from a beautiful small reservoir in the midlands just north of Northampton. Sywell Reservoir was famous for its pike, and Wagstaff had a 28 from there in 1962. The tench fishing was legendary, and members of the Tenchfishers like Pete and Janet Jackson secretly fished here for years before the news got out.

Old estate lakes were famous for the huge tench that they were producing at the time in the mid 60s. Waters like Southill Park in Bedfordshire, Blenheim Lake, Bowwood, Castle Ashby and in Kent, Johnson's Lake at Snodland. They all had their devotees like Peter Drennan, Frank Gutfeld, Bill Quinlan and Stephen Harper, and in Kent Steve Edwards and Jim Gibbinson at Snodland. Sywell was no different, Bob Church, Pete Jackson, Phil Smith, Mervyn Wilkinson and one Chris Tarrant all fished here with me that memorable year of 1972, and what fishing it was among the reed fringed margins high up on the two arms of the 180 acre reservoir.

Night fishing was not allowed, it was strictly 8am – dusk on a day ticket from the water board office at the gate on the morning of your fishing day. None of this advanced booking, which so infuriates me today. We all camped overnight in nearby lay-bys and turned up at 8am at the gates to get our day passes. Can't remember what it cost, no more than 5 old shillings, for the best tench fishing in the country at that time! We developed metal Dexion trollies to cart all our gear and maggots over the Dam wall and up to our chosen swims far up on the west bank near to a huge weed bed and reed fringed swims where the tench were feeding on larvae and caddis and corixa larvae prolific in the weed up there. We used swim feeders and treble maggot on a size 10 hook, and held the rod to feel for bites, just like we did on the Avon for the Barbel.

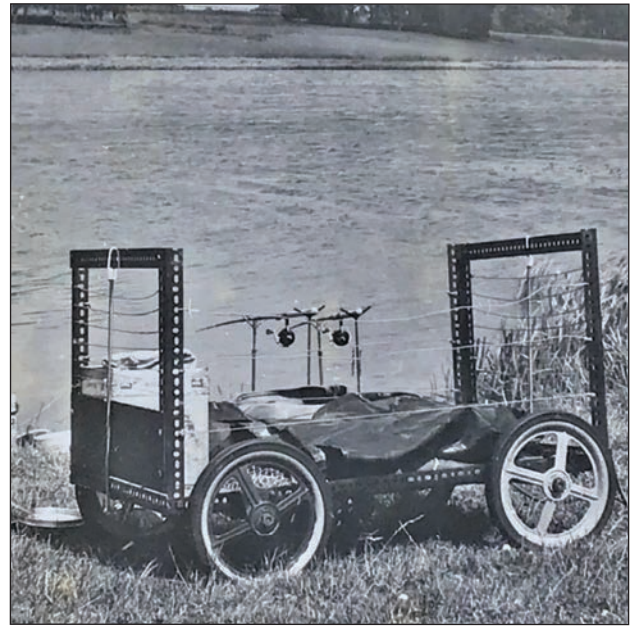
I had many Tench up there, including my best of 5lbs 6ozs and a brace of 5lbs 2ozs, good fish for those days. Bob and Peter all had fish over 6lbs, but they were local and could fish every week end in 1972. Today double figure fish are caught up, there, but I don't know what the ticketing arrangements are these days, if it's a club or syndicate water today. Once it was the best Tench water in the country, but in later years Kent could rival it with the fine fishing at Snodland and in the Stour Valley near Canterbury. I never carried on with the tench once Bewl Water opened in 1978, but it is indeed Bewl which now holds great Tench under the old cages area, where bait fishing is now allowed so I believe from the boats.

I have tench in my garden ponds today, but I rarely see them, they really are the bottom feeders of the fish world. In June they can sometimes be seen basking in the weedbeds, just like the carp, but I've never known them take a floating bait like crust or mixer, unless of course you know differently! Mixers for Tench off the top? Chris Ball May know a thing or two about that?

I must get down to the Tench pool at Greenacres fishery this summer. An old bomb crater full of good fish so I am told, and try and catch a fish I haven't landed now for over 40 years. Tinca tinca.



Bob's PB tench of 5lbs 6ozs



Necessity is the mother of invention - the first tackle barrow?



July '72, Sywell Reservoir in all it's glory and a trio of 5lbs tench for the author

Angling Societies

Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

Established in 1895 the association provides its members and day ticket anglers with various lakes and rivers to fish throughout Hastings, Bexhill and the surrounding area.

We currently have seven waters that provide a mixture of species at specimen weights to suit all anglers' preferences. As well as the lakes run by the association we also offer members the ability to fish various stretches of river in the surrounding area.

The association provides waters to suit all ages, abilities and interests so there's something for everyone.

To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website. Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed on our website.

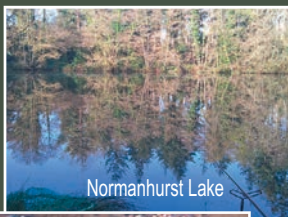
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H.B.D.
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14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:
Carp to 52lb 4oz, Tench to 12lb 8oz, Bream to 19lb+,
Barbel to 15lb 2oz, Chub to 5lb+, Perch to 3lb 6oz,
Pike to 31lb 6oz, Crucians to 4lb 6oz and
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Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

MEMBERSHIP FEE 2022/23 SEASON

Senior Membership – £70 + £10 Joining fee

Ladies Membership – £30 + £10 Joining fee

OAP 65 years – £35 + £10 Joining fee

Junior Members £10 + **NO JOINING FEE**

Family Ticket (parents + children u16) – £100 + £10 Joining fee

Flood Barrier Night Ticket – £175 + £10 Joining fee

Student 16–18 years – £35 + £10 Joining fee

View the waters on the web
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PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**

The Linton Angling Society - Membership Vacancies

We are a small but friendly club with beautiful lake, 2 ponds, 5 reservoirs and over 8 miles of fishing on the River Medway and Beult.

Our waters contain Carp to 32lb, Pike 30lb+, Tench 8lb+, Chub 7lb, Perch 4lb and Roach to 3lb, including some good Bream and Eels. All year fishing, member's guest permits, night fishing allowed.

We run over 30 matches a year and have a large junior section. Concessionary rates available for OAPs, Disabled and Juniors.

For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220** e-mail: lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk

www.lintonangling.co.uk

Big shoulders and burnt legs

Andrew Hall fished 48hrs on Lake 2 at Cacklehill Fishery where he managed 3 fish. 23lbs 10ozs, 26lbs 8ozs and this huge shouldered 29lbs mirror. All were caught on the same rod which consisted of a korda hinge stiff rig size 8 hook using parkerbaits og fish boilie topped off with a waffer scattered over some carbon baits darkside mix shelf life power jars. Andrew also reported that he caught the sun and burnt his legs!



29lbs mirror - Andrew Hall

A Family Affair

Lauren and James Baker along with their 5yr old son **Jack** had a great time at Furnace Brook Fishery, catching a mixed bag of fish including carp, grass carp and silver fish (**see junior informer - page 31**).



James Baker with son Jack



Successful baits included boilies, sweetcorn and pellet.

Mum Lauren, got in on the action too!

TROUT INFORMER

Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

May has provided good sport for our Anglers at Tenterden as we hoped it would with fully stocked lakes. Everyone has enjoyed the Bank Holidays being outside in good weather, thankfully not as hot as last year. The Rainbows, Browns & Blues have all fought well and buzzers & damsels are currently working well on an intermediate line. Inevitably it will all change up in June when the weather gets warmer and then the Trout will go deeper which makes fishing more of a challenge, but you will still enjoy fishing here in picturesque surroundings. We stock Trout from 3lbs-14lbs and do request that our Brownies are returned to the water. There is a choice to fish on catch/keep or catch/return permits – Full Day, Half Day. Evenings are popular too for the evening rise after work from 5-9pm. £18 – 1 fish £15 Catch/release



Our friendly, family run Fishery was established in 1975. We are in the Top 50 Stillwater Trout Fisheries in the British Isles and a Trout Master Water. Tenterden Trout Waters is set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which you can see in the banner photo, in the Weald of Kent. A warm welcome awaits you.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

TENTERDEN TROUT WATERS

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Contact (01580) 763201

www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk

The Fishery Lodge is available for you to enjoy a tea/coffee with our compliments.

We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. All this adds to a good fishing experience for friends and family at Tenterden. Booking Please call 01580 763201 or email gaynor@coombe-farm.com to book your fishing. We limit our numbers to 12 so there is plenty of space for our Anglers.

Fishing Report - visit our website www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk and click on News/Fishing Report. Please follow us on Instagram, Facebook and visit our Gallery.

Stay & Fish Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open all year round for both Anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away in Kent. We offer 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut.

Fishing Tuition is available. Discover more on the Tuition Page on our website. £50 for 1hr 30 mins. Please enquire/book with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, direct email: richard@coombe-farm.com if you are interested in learning a new skill set this year.

HAZEL COPSE TROUT FISHERY OPEN AS USUAL

Had a good month with full bags being taken from both lakes. On all sorts of lure. From Buzzers to Black Nymphs. Both on top and sinking.
Steve Becks had 4 Trout - best at 5lbs 8ozs.
Lawrence had a lovely 3lbs 8ozs Rainbow.
Robin Brogan had a nice Rainbow, banked 2 but lost 4 others. Graham Berry Collins caught a nice Trout.
All in all good sport for the month.

Cooks Hill, Rudgwick
West Sussex RH12 3AF

Contact julie on 07591 373959 or 07849 061824



Lure Fishing

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

Whether to fish?

It's easy to stay indoors, especially when the weather forecast says it's going to be wet, cold, and windy. One thing is certain, if you don't go fishing, you won't catch. It only takes one fish to make it all worthwhile.

Big fish, in natural waters are at the top of the pyramid, so few in numbers. I've often thought that when conditions are 'cock on' and all the fish are feeding hard, those big fish are completely outnumbered and more often than not are beaten to our baits or lures. In these conditions we are too busy hooking, playing, and landing fish, that our bait is unlikely to be picked up by the specimens we're after. When the weather is not favourable however, enough to put the bulk of the fish off feeding, it's times like these that might just give us the edge we're after. Let's face it, catching big fish isn't an exact science, if your location is right, avoiding unwanted fish leaves your swim undisturbed long enough for the big'un to come our way.

Fly-fishing for carp



Andy caught this mirror when most fish were off the feed

see if any fish were feeding on my free offerings? If carp were there, it would be easy to concentrate the feed and the fish, unfortunately there were no signs of fish. After a complete circuit of the lake, I decided that nowhere looked any better than where I was already fishing.

I decided to change tactics and feed smaller 8mm floaters, in an effort to induce some fish to feed. I decided to 'juice up' the pellets with halibut oil too, my thought was the scent leaking off would attract the attention of carp even if they didn't see them? Four hours into my session and, I finally saw the first carp take some floaters, then a couple more fish joined in. The only problem was I'd also caught the attention of a Canada goose and several mallards, Doh! Six hours after starting and I caught my first fish, a grass carp of 14lbs, then another grass carp of 16lbs. What was strange was almost all the feeding fish were grass carp? Earlier, I'd seen carp repeatedly jumping in the far margins, could this be the prelude to spawning? If so, it would explain the lack of interest from the commons and mirrors to my loose feed. This was later confirmed when a mid-double mirror spent milt all over my unhooking mat as I unhooked it. I gradually managed to hold several fish within my casting range and caught another grass carp, a small common and a super ghost common of nineteen and a half pounds, which fought like a tiger taking all my fly line and 30yds of backing. Fortunately, no one was fishing the pegs below me as it kited into

For the last few years, I've filled in by fly fishing for carp when 'the dog days of summer' arrive, a period when the trout fishing dies and it's unsafe to fish for pike, my other quarry. To be honest I've enjoyed the carp fishing so much that as each year passes, I look forward to 'the dog days of summer' when I can start carp fishing again.

Last season was my best yet, in four short months I caught over three hundred and fifty, mainly double figure fish, with ten twenties and a thirty-three pounder, a new fly caught PB. So, when I got a message from Colin Beddoe, a recent carp fly-fishing convert, telling me the carp were having it off the surface at Elphicks, I just couldn't resist a visit. Colin had a very successful day fishing Kettles Lake, catching his first twenty pounder of the season, along with several doubles.

It was a cold morning with a strong North Westerly wind blowing down the length of Kettles when I arrived. The only calm area was the last three pegs at the 'top end', where a line of trees offered some shelter. I started feeding 11mm floating trout pellets very sparingly, in an effort to draw fish towards me. I was very cautious not to feed too much as the wind was taking the loose feed downwind and would potentially take the fish with them. After a couple of hours of trickle feeding pellets and with no signs of fish, I went 'walkabout'. I headed to the bottom end of the lake to



This stunning ghost common fought like a tiger!

the margins, which made it very difficult to have a clear line of sight, gradually I managed to coax it back into my swim before scooping it into my waiting net.

Kayak event

Last year Bogdan Pascaru managed to persuade Bewl Water's management to allow kayaks on the reservoir for a trial fishing event. The competition was well attended and a great success. It was such an enjoyable event that everyone was keen that Bewl should be added to the venues they visit each year. This year's competition was going to be a two day 'festival of fun'. I say that because the kayak community, although rather small, is a friendly bunch, everyone knows everyone who's participating and they fish, camp, and socialise together. This year's event was attended by most of the successful 'Team England Kayak Squad', the current 'World Champions', including Mike McGuire the individual 'World Champion', so the competition was going to be very competitive. I attended, in my capacity as a local 'expert', who has spent forty odd years fly-fishing and lure fishing Bewl reservoir. I did a brief speech before the competitors made a 'mad dash' to their secret spots. Their target was to catch, one trout which had to be retained, one pike and five perch, each day. The pike and perch were measured and released but could be 'up-graded' during the event. These guys take their fishing very seriously, as could be seen by all the equipment they managed to load into their kayaks.



World Champions – Team England Kayak Squad



Heavy duty fly-tackle is required for pike fishing

It's worth mentioning that Grafham and Rutland reservoirs also hold good numbers of specimen zander that fall to the same methods and tactics.

So far, my catches have been dismal, while I've been guiding. However, time fishing and enjoyed is never wasted. Everywhere I've been recently has been suffering with colder than normal water temperatures for the time of year, coupled with a succession of cold easterly winds, never a good direction for fishing. Well, that's all my excuses out of the way, fortunately I've been teaching my clients how to 'fish and search' large bodies of water from a boat. So, any fish caught are a bonus and very welcome when they do eventually turn up. I was guiding on Rutland on a very windy day last week, searching a very large shallow bay. Most of the boats around us were trout fishing, hugging the shoreline for shelter. My boat partner and I, once we were sure how to cast safely under the conditions, started drifting out into open water. I was regularly checking the depths on my echo sounder, trying to identify potential holding features. We then decided to anchor up towards the downwind shore, in ten to fifteen feet of water. Anchoring allowed us to slow our presentation down and make several casts through the same area, sometimes with different flies or different retrieve patterns, so much to try and learn! Every half an hour or so we re-positioned along the shelf, as we searched for an elusive pike. When we tired of this we returned to drifting, although this covers huge amounts of water it does require the pike to be prepared to chase. As the wind increased, we headed up-wind seeking some shelter and again dropped the hook in shallow water. My boat partner had a gentle take, followed by a savage hit, 'fish on'. Although a small pike it was his first on the fly and firsts are always the hardest and most important. As I keep saying 'confidence is vital', a confident angler will always succeed as he knows what he's using works and it's only a matter of time before he catches!

Tight Lines, Andy Lush

The Result

After two hard days fishing, the competition was won by David Jacobs, 2nd place Mark Radcliffe and 3rd Richard Archer. For more details go to Bewl Water Kayak Fishing Competition's Facebook page.

Pike Fly-fishing

At last, the pike have started waking up on Bewl Water, where I've been guiding recently. Fly-fishing for pike has captured the imagination of a lot of specimen pike anglers over recent years. Mainly I believe because a certain trout reservoir, Chew Valley near Bristol has produced several fish to over 40lbs on the fly! The other reason is fly fishing allows you to fish trout waters around the country, that hold 'wild' fish, rather than just stocked trout. It's not often the case nowadays, to be fishing for unknown fish anywhere.





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WITH ANDY LUSH

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LURE FISHING Fish a variety of reservoirs for Pike, Perch and Zander. These days are suitable for beginners and improvers who wish to 'fast track' their way to success. Learn more about lure fishing, the use of boats and fish finders, or just have a FUN day with an experienced Predator angler.

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TO BOOK A DAY email: info@thefriendlyfisherman.co.uk with your contact phone number and Andy will call you back and discuss details.





Medway Man

Bob Morris

“Change your hat change your luck”

Who was it that first uttered those immortal words? It was probably me, although when I initiated this ‘Morris’s tradition’ I really can’t recall – it was far back in the mists of time. So, does it really work? Well, no, but for some reason, I stick to it and religiously change my hat or cap when I am on a long blank or unlucky spell (which I refer to as ‘the Bum’s Run’) - not uncommon in this great hobby of hours.

Sometimes you just need a bit of a sense of humour to get through it all I find. For the same reason I usually put my ground bait balls out in multiples of 13 – just to prove that it does not make any difference. You do have to have a laugh sometimes when it seems that things won’t go your way and the ‘piscatorial pendulum’ has swung away from you, despite of your best efforts, what else can you do? A recent series of sessions perfectly demonstrates this. Following on from what I considered to be a rather poor pike season overall I seemed to be having a lean time on the tench and bream front. I was getting action, but it was very slow, and bites were hard to come by. One of the family bought me a birthday present that included a new hat with the inscription ‘lucky fishing hat’ on it. I could not wait to try it out.



No hat - Martin

As it happened, I was due to go out tench fishing with brother-in law Martin the following week to

a small club lake where he had never been before. On the day for sociable reasons, we decided to fish in the same swim with Martin on the right and me on the left both fishing up to the edge of extensive beds of Lilly pads – the ideal spot, it would seem. To cut a long story short, the lucky hat failed me as Martin went on to catch 7 tench and lose several, while I could only manage a small Perch and a Rudd! To further compound the hat’s inabilities another angler moved in to my left and managed to get amongst the tench as well. What can you say? It may be that the hat was a slow starter however as the following session on a different water saw my luck improve with several decent fish on my float tactics tench, bream and a bonus carp. The only thing was that although I had the hat with me, I had left it in the car! I did even better the following trip and had decided to wear the hat. I managed to land eight good fish, again on the float. Just to make mincemeat of the lucky hat idea though, Martin was with me again and he had about thirteen (unlucky for some) nice fish carp, tench and bream – and he was not wearing a hat! Make what you will of that. However, it does seem now that the pendulum has finally swung back in my direction and



Another nice Tench

since these events took place (early May) I have been getting consistently good results, without really changing much about my approach - tackle or bait wise. It just seems that at times you just can't get it right and then suddenly you can do no wrong.

I am as you might imagine looking forward to the river season opening this month although I have no firm plans about where I will go yet. It has been a relatively wet spring and I am suspecting that conditions and levels will be good for the 16th. It is always a bit of a dilemma what to do at this time of the year, particularly if my tench fishing hat is working properly. I normally find a way to get a bit of both worlds on the go and I think that this 'choice' is quite a nice problem to have, and I am hoping that both river and tench hats are going to be on their best behaviour.

As you can gather from the above, I am not at all superstitious and certainly don't believe in fate. It never ceases to amaze me how large a percentage of our species seem to be happy to just believe what they want to without any real evidence for it, in fact quite the contrary. I always remember my old grandad believing that the world was flat. No number of photographs from space or accounts from scientists could persuade him otherwise. Mind you, he had some other strange beliefs. Had they been true, I would have been struck down long ago.

Best Fishes & Beliefs
Bob Morris

Piscatorial Politics



As we know springtime is the time when the birds and the bees along with other wildlife, get at it on the mating front. Unfortunately, it is also the time when many angling clubs and water management organisations get to it on their working party schedule. There are many reasons for this that I won't go into here but suffice to say that the two operations are often not compatible. It is true that removing bankside vegetation and re-constructing the bank profile at any stage is bound to be disruptive to wildlife, but I would like to think that other times of year are considered for any major works of this nature to be carried out. Regrettably there is often not much evidence that this is the case and a sort of 'oh well it has to be done' attitude prevails. Just on a similar subject, I have noticed that various club working parties are still treating ivy as the enemy and cutting it off trees. This destroys habitat and nesting sites of various small birds. I was at a nature reserve recently and saw this (pictured) sign.

However, there does seem to be a bit more awareness generally these days and the value of older trees for instance is being taken more seriously now. I saw a news item a couple of weeks back where a farmer was jailed for cutting down about 150 riverside trees! This was referred to as an act of vandalism on an industrial scale. This desecration was apparently carried out to help prevent flooding. Even the EA are now saying that holding water back, rather than shooting it all straight out to sea ASAP is a better way to go.

Many of us involved with running river-based clubs have said this for years. The days of justifying any type of mutilation of the riverbank with the words 'Flood Defence' are hopelessly over. As I was saying though, people often believe what they want to - despite all the evidence.

Bob M



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Chart Hill Lakes Chart Hill Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3EZ	07398 571337
Chequertree Trout and Coarse Fishery Bethersden, Near Ashford TN26 3JR	01233 820078
Coombewood Fishery Redbrook Street, High Halden, Near Ashford TN26 3JH	07895 679569
Elphicks Fisheries Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden TN12 8EL	01580 212512
Eureka Fishery Nicholas Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AG	07597 879621
Furnace Brook Fishery and Fish Farm Trolliloes, Cowbeech, near Hailsham BN27 4QR	01435 830835
Gabriels Fishery Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Greenacres Farm Fishery Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden TN27 8EH	07933 934942
Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hastings Road, Hawkhurst TN18 4RT	01580 753813
Horam Manor Fishery Horam Manor Farm, Horam TN21 0JB	01323 840889 / 07707 759364
Horsmonden Lakes Grovehurst Road, Horsmonden TN12 8BQ	01892 838576
Iden Wood Fishery Coldharbour Lane, Iden, Rye TN31 7UT	01797 280180 / 07906 232225
Knightingales Fishery Stone-In-Oxney, Near Tenterden TN30 7HA	07941 176205
Mousehole Lakes Maidstone Road Nettlestead, Near Paddock Wood ME18 5HR	07725 783405
Orchard Place Farm Fishery Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6NY	01892 838576
Pittlands Lakes Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Paddock Wood TN12 8HL	07716 065900
Sandwich Lakes Coarse Fishery Sandwich Ash Road (A257), Near Canterbury CT3 2DA	07936 409912
Shirkoak Fishery Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford TN26 3PZ	07973 410973
The Lakes at Beachborough Beachborough Park Newington, Near Folkestone CT18 8BW	07469 809877
Tricklebrook Fishery Colts Hill, Five Oak Green TN12 6SH	07743 955812
Willows Angling Centre Bax Farm, Lower Road, Teynham ME9 9BU	01795 520887
Wylands Farm Wylands Farm, Powdermill Lane, Battle TN33 0SU	01424 893394

Trout Fisheries

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Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
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Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
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Chris Brown Products email: chrisofoaks@gmail.com	01892 723670 www.cbproducts.co.uk
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Gabriels Fishery Tackle Shop Marsh Green Road, Edenbridge TN8 5PP	07730 066088
Henfold Bait & Tackle Henfold Lakes Henfold Lane, Newdigate, Dorking RH5 4RW	07956 043922
Jack Frost Reynolds Place, West Green, Crawley RH11 7HB	01293 521186
Kent Angling Centre 44, Seal Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5AR	01732 905088
Medway Tackle Supplies 11 Twydall Green, Gillingham ME8 6JY	01634 475260
MFC Outdoor Store 9 Station Road, Hailsham BN27 2BE	01323 846883
NJ Tackle 150 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RG	01474 353998
Orchard Tackle 58 High Brooms Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9DB	07494 670328
Pinions Baits 431 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DB	01622 718580
Polegate Angling Centre Unit 7, Birch Industrial Estate, Eastbourne BN23 6PH	01323 486379
Romney Angling 59, High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH	01797 362889
Sheppey Angling , Unit 5, Regis Business Park New Road, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HA	01795 661089
South London Angling Centre 286 Lee High Road, London SE13 5PJ	0208 852 4451
Sussex Bait Developments Falkenvil Fishery, Saltmarsh Lane, Hailsham BN27 2RJ	07971 303949
The Tackle Box 251 Watling Street, Dartford DA2 6EG	01322 292400
Trade In Tackle Maidstone Road Wateringbury ME18 5EH	01622 814296 / 07941 085011

Angling Clubs & Societies

Bromley (Kent) & District AS PO Box 895, East Grinstead RH19 9ND Email: bdas-kent-enquiry@bdaskent.co.uk	
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Hastings Bexhill & District Postal enquiries to S.Corke, 2, The Sidings, Bexhill On Sea TN40 1RF Chris Pagan 07429 655237 / Steve Potter 07935 268174	
Linton Angling Society Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220 or email lassecretary@lintonangling.co.uk	
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Wantsum Angling Association or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk	01227 678063



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