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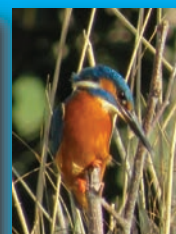
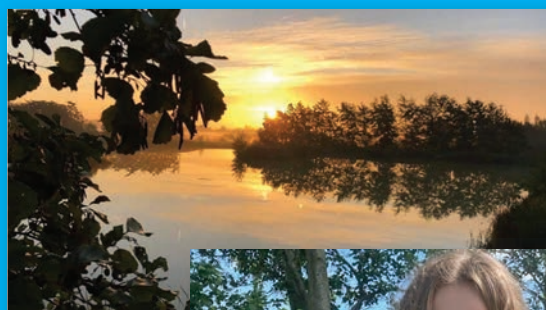


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www.sandwichlakes.co.uk

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PRICES

DAY TICKET X2 RODS - £15
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Telephone bookings are to be paid in advance and are non-refundable • Credit and Debit cards now accepted

LAKE RULES

1. A TICKET MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE FISHING
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
17. NO BAIT BOATS
18. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THE RULES WILL RESULT IN BEING ASKED TO LEAVE AND/OR BANS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND NO REFUND WILL BE OFFERED
19. TRICKLEBROOK IS NOW OPERATING A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO ANY ACTS OF AGGRESSION OR ABUSE TOWARDS ITS BAILIFFS AND STAFF
20. ALL RUBBISH TO BE TAKEN HOME

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OPENING TIMES
 SUMMER 7AM - 7PM WINTER 7AM TO DUSK



Hello and welcome to the July edition of the Freshwater Informer

Summer arrived, seemingly overnight, and we went from having so much water that it was possible to fish in venue car parks, to having so little that it's now possible to park on the lake beds of some fisheries.

Thankfully, most fisheries are now well equipped for the erratic English weather and are quick to respond with aerators should the need arise. That said, if you are fishing and you notice fish in distress, regardless of whether it's a commercial, club or river venue, please be sure to notify a bailiff or the environment agency (the number is on your rod licence) as low oxygen levels can devastate fish populations in a very short time indeed. Also remember to take extra care of your catch in these hot conditions, make sure everything is well wetted down and return fish as soon as possible.

Elsewhere in the region angling was very well represented at the annual South Of England Show, with stalls and demonstrations from Cinderhill Troutng Syndicate, Brick Farm Trout Fishery, The Fly Dressers Guild and Bodle Angling as well as both Plumpton and Hadlow colleges who offer fishery management courses as part of their higher education programmes. Speaking of education, the latter were also in attendance at a recent Kids In Mind Angling Adventures event held at the ever popular Wylands Fishery, nr Battle, where along with many other volunteers, youngsters were able to receive coaching and advice on how to fish. A great initiative for both children and angling alike and yet another demonstration of the camaraderie and willingness to share knowledge among the angling community in the South East. Speaking of



camaraderie, in this month's edition, Peter Cockwill joins Fishing 4 Schools Director Charles Jardine in an attempt to fly cast the distance of the London marathon, Warren White shares some of the highlights of F4S in action, Andy Lush looks to settle an old score, Bob Morris gets up close and personal with nature, Bob Rolph reflects on the halcyon days of the Royalty Fishery, whilst F.W.I takes a look at rivers closer to home and guest writer Harry Sandercock, of Bodle Angling, finds his sea legs with a 'first mate' we're sure many of you will recognise. Add to that fishery reports, the Junior Informer and plenty of readers catches and PB's and you have the issue no 313 of The Freshwater Informer, enjoy!

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

Catch reports – Alex 07484 699437



COPY DEADLINE for AUGUST 2023

MONDAY 17th July 2023 at 5pm

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- PAYMENT BY CASH ONLY

Bowies Barber Shop
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Wadhurst TN5 6TE



There's no stopping Luke Stone!

Readers will remember that **Luke Stone** featured on the cover of the May issue of F.W.I with a fish known as 'Elvis' from Tricklebrook Fishery. A Personal Best and his first thirty at 36lbs 2ozs. Not one to rest on his laurels, Luke focused his attention on the challenge of a southern club water and on his very first night landed this massive carp, known as 'The Box Common' that swung the scales around to 43lbs. Another new **PB** and his first forty!



That ain't no chub!



June the sixteenth saw plenty of anglers venture back out to the rivers as the new season got underway. Setting out to the River Stour **Lee Prior** was in for a surprise when, instead of his intended quarry of chub, this spectacularly marked brown trout followed by a **PB** 7lbs sea trout snatched his worm hookbait. Both fish were returned.

Birthday brace to remember



Ross Gourlay had a birthday trip to remember when he landed this huge 9lbs 9ozs tench. Caught on a 22mm halibut pellet topped with corn fished against heavy weed. Ross reported that the fish had no belly, which means that we can only speculate how heavy it was pre-spawning. He'd obviously dropped on the right spot, as less than 30 mins later the same rod was away resulting in a superb Common Carp just a few ounces under 25lbs for a brilliant birthday brace.



Piecing the puzzle together

Charley Lucas has been targeting a notoriously hard Kent club water, enduring motionless indicators for no less than nine blank sessions. But time fishing is seldom wasted and although the fishing was hard, Charley spent the time 'tuning in' to the moods of the lake and its residents, learning to anticipate their movements and feeding patterns. This preparation all came good on his tenth trip, landing 3 fish in little more than 2.5hrs topped off by this phenomenal looking, and new **PB**, mirror carp of 38lbs 14ozs.



Tricklebrook stunners for Charlie

Rising carp star **Charlie Young** had an exceptional session on the Old Lake at Tricklebrook Fishery accounting for 11 carp including these stunning specimens.



Elphicks Fisheries



Elphicks has been designed and built with the modern angler in mind. We have 7 lakes available for day ticket and session fishing. Each lake has it's own parking within easy reach of the swims and all swims are 'all weather' - either built of Astroturf, stone or bark. Please contact the fishery for further information on any of our lakes.



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www.gabriels-fishery.co.uk



Catfish capers with the Sussex Fishing Gurus

Fishing is many different things to many different people but a common theme is that it brings people together.

How many lifelong friendships have started with a simple 'Any luck mate?'

Once you've found a group of like minded people you can celebrate each others successes, commiserate each others loses and give each other hell (in the name of banter) just for the fun of it! One group such as this are the Sussex Fishing Gurus who arranged a social on Maisies Lake at Wylands Angling Centre, nr. Battle.

The group, consisting of James 'fish' Lock, Cal Arnold, Kieran Lock, Luke Ellis, Callum Packer and Mark Oliver hatched a plan to target the Lakes resident catfish and carp. Taking a heavy baiting approach for the catfish, they introduced a large quantity of halibut pellets along the far margin, accessible to each angler from their chosen swims. Rigs were stepped up, simple hair rigs baited with a variety of fishy baits, although halibut pellets topped with pop ups proved to be the most consistent.

This left the near margin clear for a more refined approach to target the carp, with each angler creating their own spot.

It proved to be a winning formula with fish after fish falling to the groups rods. With the fish clearly on the feed an additional 2kgs of pellet was introduced to the communal far margin spot after each take.

Incredibly, each member of the group managed to catch a new Personal Best catfish over the course of the session.

Top honours went to Mark Oliver with a colossal dark coloured fish of 49lbs 8ozs. His next best also breaking the 40lbs barrier.

James Lock took the second best fish of the trip at 48lb, with another seven catfish ranging from 16lbs to 38lbs.

Cal Arnold caught a stunning 44lbs 8ozs fish. For Callum Packer a top fish of 36lb among many others. Luke Ellis wasn't far behind with a best of 32lbs and Kieran Lock got in on the action with a 16lbs moggy. Six anglers with six new Personal Bests.



James 'fish' Lock



One of many carp caught



Luke Ellis



What a gudgeon!!



Another carp for 'fish'



Callum Packer

The carp sport wasn't lacking either with plenty of doubles landed and fish of 20lbs and 21lbs falling to Callum and 'fish' respectively. Callum also stole the show when, during a lull in the action, the friends had an impromptu float fishing match and he landed a massive gudgeon. For me this is what the fishing is all about, the highs, the lows, the camaraderie, the micky taking and the bragging rights!

But I'll leave the last words to James 'fish' Lock...

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Mark Oliver



Kieran Lock

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A PB for Kelv

Biddenden fishery, Greenacres has undergone a massive transformation in recent years. The lakes have matured nicely and are now home to some incredible looking scaley mirrors. A fact that **Kelv Allan** found out first hand when he landed this new **PB** 25lbs 8ozs mirror carp from Speci 1 during a recent trip.



Half ton moggy from Maisies

Callum Thompson broke the half ton barrier in impressive style with this 50lbs 4ozs catfish from Wylands Fishery. Fishing double chorizo on a size 2 hook proved irresistible to the massive moggy which, although generally considered a nocturnal species, picked up the bait in the middle of the day.





Les Franklin - 52lbs 12ozs - Westlake



Ed Rayner - 25lbs 4ozs - Snipe



Paul Owen - 17lbs 8ozs PB - Daughters



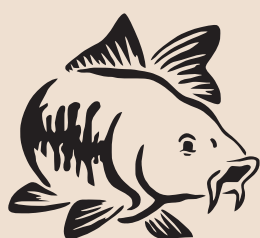
Ben Goshawk - 24lbs - Tricklebrook



Ian York 31-04 PB Common Snipe



Micheal Strydom - 55lbs 6ozs PB - Westlake



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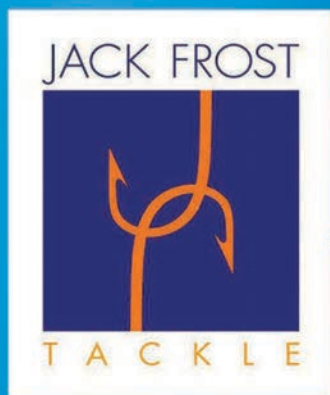
Bottom Lake
Catfish to 75lbs

Top Lake has five swims, Bottom Lake has six and both can be fished on a day ticket or lake exclusive booking

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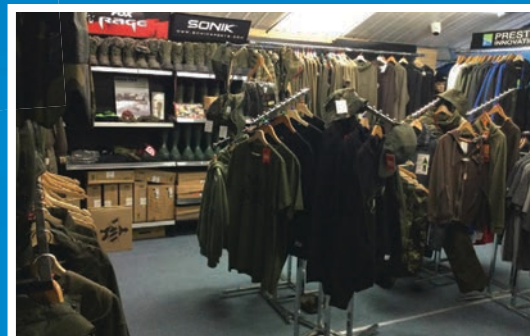
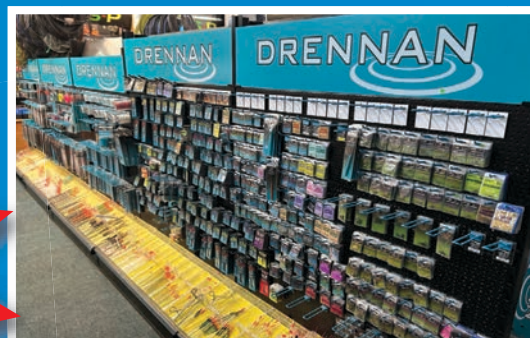
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Success at Cotton Farm



Lee Jackson is a name that will be familiar to most, if not all, carp anglers. The former British Record Holder runs the well known Cotton Farm Syndicate. Places are highly sought after and the fish even more so. **Jack Holden** is one angler fortunate enough, not only to get a ticket, but also get among its famous residents. None more so than the 'Big Lin' the biggest fish in the lake and widely considered to be one of the most sought after fish in the country, at a very impressive 35lbs 4ozs. Building on his success, he then returned for another session resulting in this large framed Common of 33lbs 2ozs.



New PB for Michael

Michael Sayer landed this stunning looking Common Carp at Mousehole Lakes. At 36lbs 8ozs, not only is it a new **PB** for Michael, but possibly one of the best looking fish you could wish to catch. The impressive specimen picked up an carp basics ocean fruit boilie, presented on a Ronnie rig at the well known fishery.



Iden Wood Fishery



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Morgan makes it look easy

Many anglers dedicate weeks, months or even years trying to catch their first twenty pound carp, a milestone in any anglers career. Not so **Morgan Walsh** who joined the twenties club on her very first fishing trip! Using nothing more complicated than a big of floating crust, she landed this long bodied common carp of 22lbs.



Multi-coloured swap shop

F.W.I regular **Mark Day** is best know for his very impressive pike catching ability but he put away his predator rods and swapped his attention to carp on a recent trip to Sandwich Lakes. Numerous fish, well into double figures, falling for his surface fishing tactics. The pick of which has to be this large tailed, multi-coloured koi.



Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

Lake Sophie Tench are showing up all over the lake with pegs 1 and 2 along with 25, 27 and 28 being very popular. Meat/corn/worm are all worth a try.

Lake Eva Carp are up in the water. Banded pellet and fishing shallow seems to be working along with bread or dogs biscuit on the top. 8mm pellet on the bottom is also worth a try in the morning.

Lake Amy Well done to **John Butcher** after losing a few on recent visits he managed to bank four fish after tweaking his rigs. I think the picture of him with his daughter is all that fishing is about, the joy on their faces says it all. Even his dog was impressed with the cracking fish! **Jack** and his buddy **Ben** have had luck off the top using the fisheries secret flavoured dog biscuits. What can I say about **Matthew Good**. Now up to 18 different 30lb+ fish and 2 different 40lb+ fish. he has managed to recently capture a known 30lb+ fish called Boris and he's still chasing a few 30s and 40s that he has seen or lost. **Jay** and **Les** went away with a smile on their faces after having a few out on a recent trip, with Jay catching a cracking looking scaly. **Dave Thomlins** managed a 30lb+ common off the top just before packing up.

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: We are a day/night ticket fishing but 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 around. **SNACK WAGON:** Mon - Sun hot & cold drinks inc. snacks. Sat & Sun hot and cold food served.

WC'S & SHOWERS: Separate men and women's - OPEN ALL WEEK.



John Butcher caught this classic looking mirror with a little help from his daughter, even the dog looks impressed!



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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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Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

Speci 1 Fishing has taken off with some fantastic catches being caught over a bed of 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 for matches. Call the fishery 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 are pellets, paste, corn, maggots, luncheon meat or maggots/worms over a bed of groundbait. This lake can also be booked for matches. Call the fishery 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.





GREENACRES FARM FISHERY



Sissinghurst Road | Biddenden | Kent | TN27 8EH

Located on the Weald of Kent in Biddenden we offer syndicate quality lakes for all. There is one specimen lake for carp up to 30lbs+, one specimen predator lake for carp to 27lbs+, catfish to 60lbs+ and pike, one match lake with twenty-two purpose built swims, one coarse lake and finally a tench/family pond. Facilities include a club house with toilets, shower, wet room and kitchen facilities.

This beautiful setting needs to be visited and enjoyed!

Prices start at £10 per session on the coarse lakes, £15 for the specimen lakes rising to £25 for a 24 hour ticket (£5 extra for a third rod).

Gates open at 7am and close at 7pm

SENIOR DAY TICKETS ON OUR COARSE LAKES HERON AND BLUEBELL ARE AVAILABLE FOR £5 MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY

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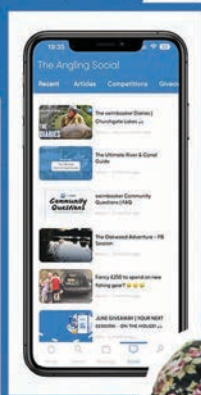
Fishery Management Dashboard	✓
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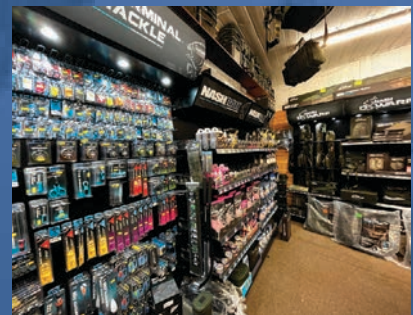
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Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Well, over the last few weeks we have had to shut **Daughters Lake** and **Majors Lake** as the carp were having a bit of spawning action. We have as of writing this report opened up both as they seem to have finished spawning. On Snipe Lake we have not visibly seen any spawning activity but a few of the carp caught have weighed lower than usual and a few have looked a bit spawned out. As usual we cannot list everyone's catches as there has been quite a few. Here are some of the catches reported to us:-

Snipe Lake has seen some good fish banked, with venue regular **Ian York** banking mirrors at 19lbs, 19lbs 8, 19lbs 14 and 23lbs 8 and commons of 30lbs 8ozs and a new **PB** of 31lbs 4ozs over a couple of sessions, **Adam Hughes** banked his first Snipe carp and a **PB** in the shape of a 24lbs 2ozs common, **Steven Gallagher** had a great session when he banked mirrors at 16lbs 2ozs, 21lbs and 21lbs 4ozs and commons at 15lbs 8ozs and 20lbs 2ozs, **Raymond Box** had a 21lbs common, **Toby Collister** banked his first Snipe carp, firstly banking a 22lbs 3ozs common and then had the ghostie at 31lbs 13ozs which was his first 30 and a **PB** too, **Phil Clegg** banked a couple of commons to 17lbs and a 27lbs 12ozs mirror, **Darren Watson** visited us for the first time in 8 years and was rewarded with a small common and a 17lbs 12ozs mirror, **Trevor Burgess** banked his first Snipe carp in the shape of a 20lbs 2ozs fully scaled mirror, **Lucas Tricker** banked a 30lbs 8ozs common, **Jordan Phillips** banked mirrors at 15lbs, 18lbs 8ozs, 20lbs and 26lbs, **Joe Turner** visited us for the first time and banked the big grassie at a new **PB** of 35lbs, **Ed Rayner** banked a 25lbs common and a 25lbs 4ozs mirror while his mate **Connor Peppard** banked one at 18lbs 14ozs and **Matt Jones** banked a 21lbs common and a new **PB** mirror at 28lbs 6ozs, **Scott Harvey** banked an 18lbs common and **Barry Spencer Smith** landed the small grassie at 18lbs.



Toby Collister - 31lbs 13ozs PB Snipe



Nathan Thomas - 63lbs 2ozs Westlake

Westlake has seen lots of anglers catching multiple cats in a session, **Colin Stone** banked 5 to 31lbs 8ozs, **Martin Smith** banked 7 to low 30's, **Finn Wolverson** banked 6 to 35lbs 12ozs, **Alan Teakle** has banked on average 6 cats every session he has done this month to 38lbs 4ozs, **Les Franklin** banked 13 to 37 on one session and then on another session banked a load more to 52lbs 2ozs, **Jay Martinelli** had 17 cats to a new **PB** of 63lbs 14ozs, **Darren Evans** banked 12 to 36lbs and **Nathan Thomas** banked 2x20's, 2x30's, 53lbs and 63lbs, **Adrian Fox** banked 3 to 39lbs and fiancé **Snez** had two to 27lbs, **Chris Streeter** banked numerous cats including 51lbs and a 54lbs, **Michael Strydom** banked cats to a new **PB** of 35lbs 9ozs then banked a new **PB** of 55lbs 6ozs, **Gordon Noakes** banked 7 to 38lbs, **Vic Collier** banked 8 to 32lbs on his usual once a week day session, **James Lewis** banked 3 cats to 42lbs 15ozs then on his next session had

8 to 45lbs, **Vladimir Ginchev** banked 6 to 28lbs on a day session and **Chris Jones** popped in for an overnighter and banked 8 cats to 42lbs including a double take all before 2.30am when he reeled in for a rest.

Jeff's Lake has seen most anglers getting amongst the fish, **Lawrence Marden** banked 35 F1's, 12 bream and one tench, **Les Parker** banked 25 F1's, 12 bream and 3 carp, **Callum Hutchins** banked 32 F1's and 4 bream, **Jack Fuller** had 20 F1's and young **Max Garry** aged 6 caught his first ever fish when he banked 4 F1's and 1 bream.

Daughters Lake has been its usual tricky self with the majority of the stock sunbathing most of the day. There have been some nice fish banked, **Ollie Shaw** banked a mirror of 16lbs 8ozs, **Ricky B** banked mirrors of 9lbs 2ozs, 12lbs 4ozs, 14lbs 8ozs, 15lbs 8ozs and 16lbs 2ozs, **Dave Parsons** banked a 17lbs 3ozs grassie and a 6lbs 8ozs tench then came back the next day and banked a 17lbs 5ozs mirror and a 26lbs 5 grassie which is a new **PB**, **Jay Gomez** banked a **PB** 27lb grassie, **Daniel Strentam** banked mirrors of 14lbs 4 and 16lb and a 18lbs 4ozs common, **Billy Snape** banked a 21lbs 1oz grassie, **Nick Beevis** banked a 16lbs 12ozs grassie and a 17lbs 2ozs common, **Danny Pledger** banked a new **PB** when he landed a grassie of 25lbs, **Paul Owen** also had a new **PB** when he banked a 17lbs 8ozs mirror and venue regular **Chris Shepherd** banked 12 carp on a 48-hour session including a new **PB** 25lbs 6ozs grassie.



Jay Gomez - PB 27lbs Daughters

Eden Pond has been quite productive even in the heat we have been experiencing, **Dennis Wheeler** banked a couple of tench, 1 common and 1 bream, young **Zac Swift** caught his first ever tench, **John Howe** banked 2 commons to 7lbs, 7 bream and 3 tench, **Graham Walsh** had 8 tench to 4lbs 8ozs and his mate **Gary Nichols** banked 19 bream, 3 tench to 5lbs and 1 carp, **Dave Lidgley** banked 6 tench and 5 bream while **Martin** and **Karen Davies** have been showing everyone how its done, one day session saw them bank 8 tench, 11 bream, 3 F1's and 2 commons, then on another session they banked another 15 fish with Karen taking the win banking 10 of them and Martin came back on his own and banked 3 tench, 3 F1's, 2 bream, then Martin did an afternoon session and banked 4 tench and 5 bream.

Maze Lake has seen lots of day anglers getting amongst the carp to 6lbs, F1's and some decent bream to 6lbs too.

Majors Lake has been the most prolific over the last few weeks with all species being banked. **Charlie Cox** has done a few day sessions and has banked tench, F1's, low double commons and mirrors and some good bream and his buddy **Trevor Burgess** banked bream and tench, **Matt Taylor** banked 4 bream a low double mirror and a 22lbs 8ozs mirror, **Paul Owen** had 10 bream, a 11lbs 1oz mirror and a 7lbs 3ozs common and another session saw him catch 30 bream while his wife **Claire** banked 4 bream, a 12lbs 2ozs mirror and on her second session had 11 bream and a small common, **Terry Edwards** continued his good form catching numerous carp to low doubles, bream and tench, **Jack Birtchnell** banked 2 low double mirrors and **Luke Allen** had a 5lbs tench, **Ryan Flint** caught several bream and carp to 17lbs 4ozs and **Callum McNeil** banked 6 carp and 6 bream, **John Howe** had an 8lbs common, 2 tench, 8 bream, 1 crucian and 2 mirrors to 10lbs 8ozs, **Bob Morris** and partner **Joan** banked bream to 7lbs, mirrors of 13lbs 10ozs and 14lbs 7ozs and a 17lbs common, **Simon Gore** had a lovely 14lbs ghost common, **Martin Davies** banked 23 bream and 2 tench, **Sean Wells** banked 7 bream to 6lbs and a mirror of 16lbs 8ozs, **John Wilkins** banked 20 bream to 8lbs 2ozs and 6 carp to 15lbs 4ozs and **Archie Roberts** banked a couple of carp to low doubles.

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Beaver Fishery

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The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing

by Bob Rolph

Remembering the Royalty - Chub and Barbel

As soon as I could drive and passed my test I couldn't wait to explore the fishing opportunities around the country. Petrol was cheap and maggots were £1.50 for a gallon biscuit tin full, so I packed my van, gathered some stores, and set off for the Royalty Fishery at Christchurch in Hampshire.

Dick Walker had been writing about the 'Rushes' swim, and news of Bill Warren's epic catches down there were fresh in my mind, as I entered central Christchurch and turned right into the fishery car park. I timed it to perfection as you had to line up outside Davies's tackle shop at 8 am to obtain your 10 shilling day ticket, and walk over the metal bridge to your chosen swim. The date was Friday October 21 st 1966, a date that would live in infamy because of the events in Wales that morning. I had left home in Bromley at 4 am and was totally unaware of what was unfolding at Aberfan that sad morning 56 years ago. My old Austin A 35 van had no radio, heater or passenger seat, as I recall, but it did cost only £1 to fill it up with petrol. The 5 gallons was more than enough to get me to Hampshire and back on Sunday night!

Some mates of mine were meeting me down there, some were travelling by motor bike and some had been staying in a B&B for the week at digs near the parlour weir pool, where the top car park was another opportunity. It was always a bit of a race to bag the favourite swims, like the Railway Swim or the Pipe Bridge Swim, and it was on a first come first served basis. There were never any fights, but Jack Harrigan always seemed to be in the Pipe Bridge swim before anybody else! My favourite swim was in the Trammels where the barbel swam between the weed beds and a close eye could be kept on the favoured Pipe Bridge swim if ever it became vacant.

My mate from Birmingham Peter Rayment was on the Trammels bank that morning, but there was room for 2 so I tackled up and joined him on that misty morning having walked up from the main tackle shop car park area. This stretch of the main river was just downstream of the weir pool, and was a favourite spot for large barbel and good sized chub. The previous year I had taken chub over 5 lbs from here and numerous sea trout on trotted maggot down between the weed channels. The barbel however were a different kettle of fish, and baits had to be fished on the bottom and just before dusk as it got dark about 6 pm at that time of the year. Basically you had to claim your pitch and wait for the witching hour before dark, when we had to be off the water anyway, or bailiff Ken Keynes would be down on you like a ton of bricks!

The bailiff ruled the fishery with a rod of iron, but swims could be reserved if you dropped him 10 bob - 50p today! All the most famous anglers of the day fished the Royalty Fishery during the 1960s, Walker and Taylor fished the Rushes swim where the Parlour arm meets the main river below the 'Engineers House', and is depicted in the book Favourite Swims. Jack Hilton fished the pipe bridge swim, and Peter Stone favoured the Boathouse swim nearer the main car park. I met them all down there, but as I was only a young lad of 19 they never took much notice of me, or my very meagre catches.

Two very famous anglers to grace the banks in the late 50s and early 60s could be seen with their black and white cheque Andy Caps. They were Bill Quinlan and Bob Buteaux from the Herts Specimen Group. Their catches were legendary and are depicted in the book Royalty Days written by Bob Buteaux and Tony Mears. The anglers that I fished with were Willy Parker, Chris Paris, Jim Bates and Ron Blackmore.



The lost art of touch legering



Long trotting for chub



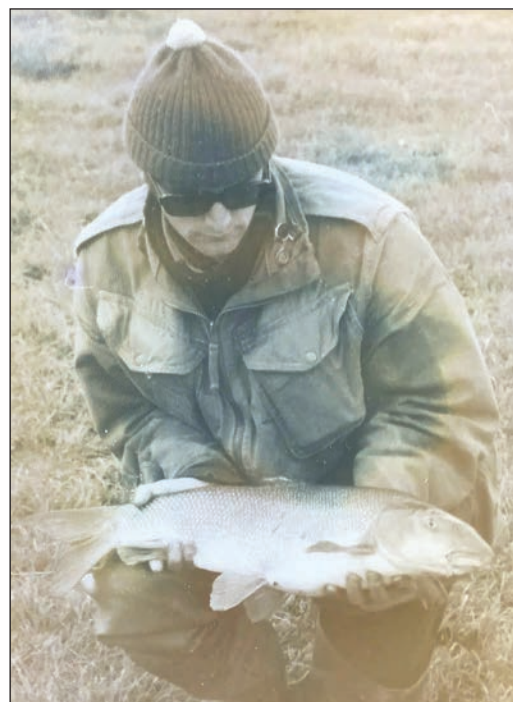
Jim Bates landing the groups best fish

Our method for the Barbel was touch ledgering with swim feeder and maggot, or very light ledgering in the slack eddys with 4 BB shot links and feeling for the bites. I also often waded to the tip of the island at Watersmeet to trot down a fluted float for chub, dace, roach and small barbel, but invariably the small sea trout got there first, and Bailiff Ken Keynes wasn't very happy! I used a B. James split cane Kennet Perfection 11ft 3in rod and Alcocks Aerial centre pin reel with 6lb line and no. 12 hook to nylon.

One name who I have so far omitted to mention and who fished down there at the same time as us, was Pete Cranstoun. I don't remember meeting him at the time, but his catches of chub and barbel were legendary and our paths must have crossed during the 60s and early 1970s. He was a great mate of Bob Buteux, and features in all the great books about the era. It shows how long ago it was when I first fished the Royalty, as I can clearly remember fishing the Railway Swim and seeing the Bournemouth Belle steam train passing over the Avon bridge in Oct 1966, almost next to my swim on the left. This service ceased in July 1967 when diesel trains took over, and I believe that Pete Cranstoun once worked as a steward on this train, and eyed the famous fishery from the comfort of the Pullman coaches!

I have been researching the late great Barbel angler Jack Harrigan who I met and fished next to in the Pipe Bridge Swim on several occasions during the glory days of 1966. Jack, who must have been well over 40 in those far off days, was the owner

of Judds of Hillingdon fishing tackle shop in West London. His captures down there were legendary, and he once held the Royalty record for both Barbel and Salmon. The old pipe bridge swim was renamed after him, and I frequently fished opposite him during several Octobers down there, watching in awe, as he hauled in barbel after barbel to my 1 fish! Once, I am sure, there was Jack, Jack Hilton, Bill Quinlan and Bob Buteux all fishing opposite me in the pipe bridge swim and catching good fish. I remember that they groundbaited heavily to keep the fish in the swim, but I could never get a look in as a 19 year old kid! But what a swim full of future legends, all twice my age these already accomplished London anglers, and I, just starting out and finding my feet in the 'Specimen hunting' world. The 1950s had seen legends like Bill and Sonny Warren, F.W.K. Wallace and Dick Walker all fishing down there and landing Barbel to die for. There wasn't the pressure on the river like there was years later when every expert under the sun descended on the fishery to try their hand and make a name for themselves be it with the chub, barbel sea trout or salmon.



Bob with a nine pounder

A book, published by The Medlar Press called 'A can of Worms' by Jon Berry in 2007, is all about the history of Barbel fishing in this country, and mentions Jack several times and he, together with my old acquaintance Phil Smith from Coventry are probably our 2 greatest Barbel anglers ever. Phil still going strong in his late 70s with 33 different rivers barbel to his name to date I believe!

I would love to return one day and relive the great times we had down there. The weir pool and parlour are both now bookable separately and fenced off, as is the punt moored below the town bridge and famous for trotting down to Christchurch harbour.

I first saw the river in 1954 as an 8 year old boy on a family holiday to the beach on the Bournemouth Belle, little did I know at the time that I would return 12 years after to catch chub and barbel from that famous swim right beside the bridge in the concave bend in the river, and that I would write about it all 70 years afterwards!

We fished most Octobers from 66 to 75, catching numerous small Barbel and some large Chub, mainly from the Railway Swim and down near the bypass bridge. There was an inlet near this bridge that held huge pike, and Jim had a 19 one day on a wobbled herring. In later years I took down Nick Papps, and we had some great success with the barbel and numerous sea trout, which always got to our maggots first.

Sadly all bar one of the characters that I mention are no longer with us. Nick Papps is now living in Hampshire and still fishing the Avon and Frome with great success. I first fished with him in 1962 at the Rookery in Bromley and we had many a trip down to the Avon fishing for the fighting barbel in the Autumn. I hear from him regularly about his captures, his bird watching and the stresses of being an avid QPR supporter! My Avon visits, no more than 15 in 10 years, were inspirational to me, I only managed one double figure barbel and several 5lb chub, but I met and talked with so many top flight anglers of the time, who really showed me how fish at the time. Pity that I could never put it into practice in later years. The Parlour pool and the Weir Pool were spots that I never fished, but I watched anglers like Peter Butler, Fred J. Taylor and Dave Stuart catch fish with ease as I dreamed of emulating them one day, but I never did! Our best catch was an 11lb barbel from above the bypass by my mate Jim Bates, netted by Dave Cruickshank.



Nick Papps with an 8lbs 8ozs barbel

Many of the regions Angling Clubs and Associations offer a variety of rivers as part of their venue portfolios offering the angler an opportunity to experience some truly wild fishing and the unique challenges and potential rewards that come with it. This month F.W.I. visited a stretch of the River Rother that falls under the control of the Rother Fishery Association – a collective of twenty local clubs giving access to 12.5 miles of river and canals



The good news was that I was out fishing again - the bad news was that any aptitude that I had for the gentle art had evaporated during the enforced lay off of the close season...

The day had started so well, June 16th, the glorious sixteenth, one of only a handful of mornings that I don't require an alarm to rouse me from my slumber. Out before first light, I hurriedly threaded my way through the narrow lanes towards my first river trip of the new season. At Salehurst I passed a fellow angler, busy unloading his tackle in the half light. Clearly better organised than me, boxes, bags and rod holdall neatly stacked on a trolley. By contrast, I had some bits I needed rolling around in a bait bucket, stuff I might need stuffed in any available pocket and all the tackle I most definitely needed still in its packaging and left at home on a window sill.

My destination was the River Rother at Bodiam, as much for the scenery as the fishing. A vista of which I will never tire. Dawn mist rolls across the valley as the castle is illuminated by the orange glow of the rising sun behind it.

Chub were the quarry and stealth is the key, for they will not suffer much in the way of bankside disturbance before they bolt for cover. My first cast was so stealthy it didn't even make the water. A gentle underarm lob that went straight up and down, the end tackle landing between my feet. The second, too powerful, saw the float delivered with arrow like precision into an adjacent reed bed.



Small but perfectly formed



First cast of a new season

Third time lucky, and I was at least now fishing in the water, even if the fish had long since departed. A few more casts and I was starting to find my rhythm. The plan was simple, keep moving and trot a section of prawn tail through any likely looking runs. I wasn't intending on using much in the way of free bait, so had dusted the prawn tails in krill powder to add some extra attraction. Reaching the tail end of a small bend, the float hesitated then dipped. I struck into thin air, weed or a missed opportunity? I wasn't sure but it caused my heartbeat to quicken and focused my senses on the task at hand.

Another early rising angler approached, we exchanged pleasantries and I could see that he was of a similar mind to me, the only difference been that his hook was baited with a big juicy lob worm. He too had yet to catch and we both had an urgency in our conversation. Not wanting to appear rude but neither wanting to be delayed from our fishing. As he headed downstream, so I headed up towards the bridge. For me the bridge at Bodiam marks a transformation in the Rother. Downstream it takes on a middle aged spread, wider, slower, with an all together easier disposition. Upstream it is full of youthful exuberance, fast shallow runs twist and turn as they riffle between small pools.

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



A nice chub to finish the morning

More dips and pauses from the float held my attention until it abruptly sank from sight and I was connected to my first fish of the season. A small chub came splashing to the waiting net and I felt that once again I could call myself an angler.

Pride restored, all urgency left me and I was able to fully appreciate my surroundings as I ventured ever further up stream, occasionally dropping in my float, here and there. Although still early, the sun was starting to beat down with surprising intensity, the cool of the dawn giving way to a stifling heat not conducive to enjoyment or fishing. 'One last cast' I thought to myself as I clambered down a particularly steep swim above a short, deep run. I swung my bait upstream towards a tangle of overhanging branches and in an instant caught sight of burnished gold scales as a chub broke cover and flashed at the bait. Adjusting my position for a better casting angle, I checked the spool of my centre pin and felt a sharp tug on the rod tip as another fish at the end of the run lunged at the bait. Not wanting to miss the opportunity and not intending on fishing past this point, I introduced the last few prawn sections to try and tempt the fish from out of their cover. After waiting a couple of minutes I ran the float through the swim again, poised to strike at the merest indication – nothing! I tried again with the same result. One last go, but this time I added a foot to the depth so that the bait tripped along the bottom. The float had barely cocked before it rifled under and began moving against the current. A solid strike was met with an equally solid resistance as an unseen force twisted and turned, seeking the sanctuary of the sunken branches. Playing a fish in such a confined space amplifies every aspect of the fight and even modest sized fish can flatter to deceive. After a few anxious moments a nice sized chub was bundled into the landing net. Not a giant, but that's not really the point of fishing these headwaters. Further downstream, specimen sized fish of all species are landed every season but upstream the challenge of fishing is in the challenge itself and on this occasion at least, I felt that the challenge was met.



The excited headwaters of the Rother



Hastings Bexhill & District Freshwater Angling Association

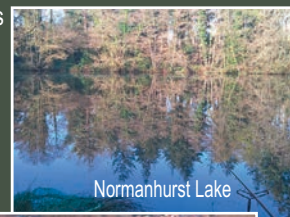
Season runs from 1st April to 31st March.

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.

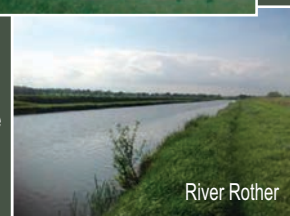
To apply to become a member please download and print the application form from our website. Complete and return to the Membership officer on the application, alternatively it is possible to purchase your membership from any of the tackle shops listed on our website.



Normanhurst Lake



Wishing Tree Reservoir



River Rother

For further information please contact:

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14 miles of River and 7 Lakes containing:

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Also large Roach and Rudd to 3lbs and large eels.

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PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB

Contact Martyn on **07802 248861**

a simple guide to surface fishing

With the summer months upon us there can be no more exciting, or frustrating way of targeting carp than fishing for them on the surface.

The perfect method for short sessions or as an extra string to your bow during a longer trip, fishing for carp this way puts you right on top of the action.

Seeing how your quarry reacts gives you a 'real time' opportunity to adjust and refine your approach rather than the guessing game that can sometimes be associated with fishing on the bottom.

It's also a great way of targeting individual fish, whether that be the biggest in the lake or 'that one' that you absolutely must have in your photo album.

Although most effective at either end of the day, surface fishing can provide opportunities, especially on well stocked lakes, whilst those around you struggle with more conventional methods.

Even if the fish aren't feeding, its a technique that is guaranteed to set the pulse racing as broad backs break the waters surface then abruptly change direction just as they get close to your hookbait. Never has the phrase 'You should have seen what I nearly caught...' been more appropriate.

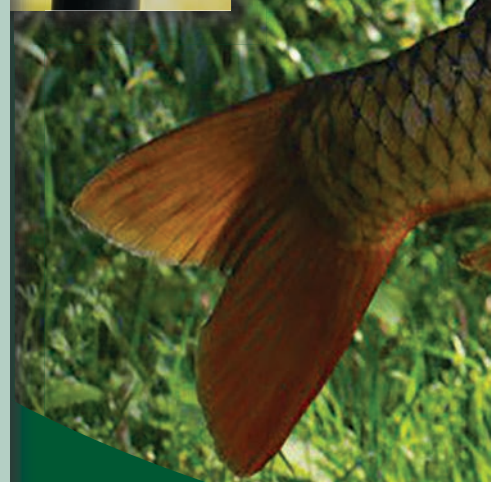
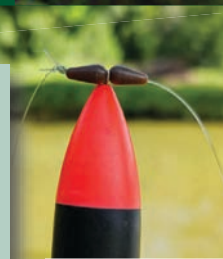
TACKLE A single rod, landing net, unhooking mat, a bag of bait, a catapult and a small box of terminal tackle is all that is needed for targeting carp on the surface. Choose a rod with a forgiving action. For most situations a test curve of between 1.75lb and 2.25lb is ideal.

A balanced reel loaded with 8-10lb and some polarised glasses complete the set up.



TERMINAL TACKLE

Terminal tackle for surface fishing has advanced massively in recent years, with semi fixed rigs, floating hooklinks and a huge variety of controllers available, ranging from bubble floats to streamlined bolt controllers. To get started a simple ten-pin style controller, held in place with float stops straight through to a medium wire hook (size 8-12) is all that is needed. This allows you to easily lengthen or shorten the hooklink and still create a bolt effect.



SWIM CHOICE There are three account when choosing a swim - other anglers are and v

little point in fe

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excellent sp



BAIT From humble bread to attractor laden pellets, floating baits come in a dazzling array of sizes and colours. Own brand dog mixer is fine for most applications (make sure they float!) and where they have been used heavily, given a new lease of life by adding a flavour. Experiment with anything that can be dissolved in warm water, stock cubes, rock salt, sugar, syrup, the list goes on. Simply mix in a mug and pour over your freebies. For harder waters try 4mm floating trout pellets. Their small size gets cagey fish feeding more confidently and they have the added bonus that bird life are less likely to spot them. A trimmed down pop-up or banded pellet makes the perfect hook bait.



FEEDING As already mentioned, try and feed upwind of where you are fishing and allow the freebies to drift back towards you. A lot is written about getting lots of fish feeding before casting out. For me, as soon as I see a fish I want to target I go for it. As the freebies drift back to your margin, keep an eye (and ear) out for feeding fish. Very often the biggest and most cagey specimens will feed hard against the bank, where they feel safest, giving you a real chance of snagging an extra fish or two.



delegate with a stunning 26lbs
face caught common
(note the shade)

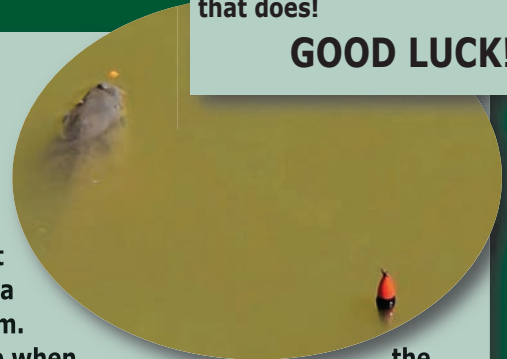


FISH CARE Most people wait for hot, sunny conditions to surface fish, although you can do it all year round, and therefore it should go without saying that fish care is paramount. Rest the fish in the net whilst you get your scales or camera ready. Make sure that your mat is wet and cool (nylon covers get very hot in the sun) ideally find a shaded area for unhooking and photos, etc, remember fish don't have eyelids and laying them on their side on a bright day will cause them to flap far more than in the shade. Not every fish needs weighing and photographing and the quicker you get them back, the quicker you might land one that does!

GOOD LUCK!

the things to take into
- where the fish are, where
wind direction. There is
feeding floating baits only to
they drift across the lake
another angler benefit
in your efforts. Better to
back a corner swim on the
end of the wind and drift
the freebies, and hopefully
fish, back towards you.
Often, island channels or
bays will provide similarly
excluded opportunities.
The exception is if you are
fishing with friends. Then
in open water can provide
support for all of you.

CASTING AND PLAYING FISH If possible cast past your baited area and let the drift bring the controller and bait to the fish. This is especially important if the carp are not feeding confidently. If you find yourself in the fortunate position of the fish feeding so hard that they are racing each other from bait to bait, then you can guide your bait towards a specific fish with far less risk of spooking them. Opinions vary as to whether you should strike when the fish takes the bait or wait until the controller moves. Try both and see which works best on the day. The one thing that I can guarantee is that when the king of the pond takes your bait – you'll choose the wrong one! Once you've hooked a fish, try and play it away from the main part of the swim. If possible land them slightly further up the bank. The less you disturb the swim the more chances you will get.



Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

Longfield Lake continues to produce tench and bream to around 6lbs.

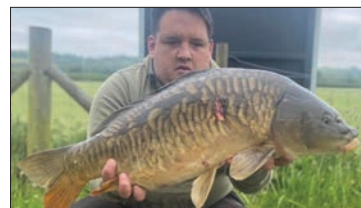
Haysden Lake has been very hot and miss as one week it will fish really well and the next it would be difficult. Mixed silvers bags to over 20lbs on a good day from the platforms plus double figure bags from the river side of the lake. Tench to 5lbs and bream to over 6lbs have been recorded.

Barden Lake is fishing well with plenty of carp being caught. Also double figure bream to over 13lbs and an 11lbs 2ozs tench has also been recorded.

New Lagoon has been busy now the water has warmed up and continues to fish well for all species. Large rudd and roach being caught regularly.

The Old Ballast Pit is heavily covered with lilies which were due to be treated this month but has had to be put back. Fishing is still good though with large carp, tench and bream being caught.

The river fished very well on the opening weekend with some great weights in the Society match as well as a 6lbs barbel. Two other barbel have been reported which weighed 9lbs and 11lbs.



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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

Match Reports:

PADLEY BOWL
Long Reach & Bungalows

1st	Colin Fowler	32lbs
2nd	Sean Pope	24lbs
3rd	Mick Smith	13lbs

FEEDER Match - Haysden Lake

1st	Pete Groombridge	4lbs 8ozs
2nd	Roger Trask	2lbs 11ozs
3rd	Roger Marsh	2lbs 2ozs



Adam Hughes - 24lbs 2ozs PB - Snipe Lake



Chris Ryan - 13lbs 8ozs - Sandwich Lakes



Gavin Chapman - 24lbs common - Quarry Lake



Dave Parsons - 17lbs 5ozs - Daughters Lake



Ralph Saunders - common carp - method feeder



Daniel Neil - tench - Normanshurst Lake



Springbok Fishery & Campsite

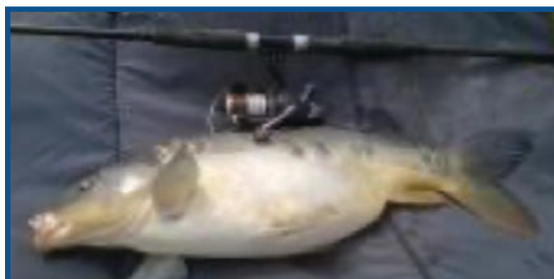
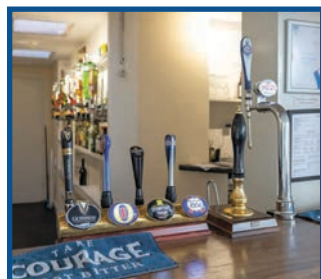


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Mark Stow - 26lbs common - Tricklebrook



Jay Martinelli - 63lbs 14ozs PB - Westlake



Dan Mortlock - 6lbs 2ozs - bream



Elvis Read - 32lbs - Tricklebrook New Lake



Steven Gallagher - 21lbs - Snipe Lake

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Graham Redhil - 25lbs 6ozs PB - Majors



Matt Jones - 28lbs 6ozs PB - Snipe



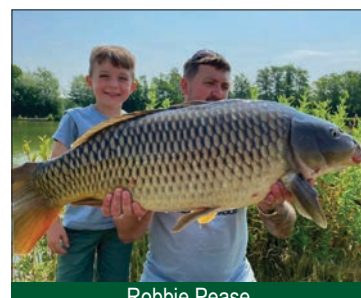
Phil Clegg - 27lbs 12ozs - Snipe



Matt Taylor - 22lbs 8ozs - Majors



Simon Gore - 14lbs - Majors

Robbie Pease
21lbs 8ozs - Tricklebrook New Lake

Beach fishing for Thornback Rays

by Luke Rippley

Most species of ray can be caught along the south coast, Thornback, spotted, small-eyed, blonde and even sting ray. But it is the Thornback that is the most common.

A member of the shark family, their skeleton is made of cartilage rather than bone, and whilst they don't have the razor sharp teeth of their larger cousins, they do possess surprisingly powerful jaws which they use to crush the shells of crustaceans on which they feed.

As their name suggests, they have a covering of sharp spines, or thorns, along their dorsal line and extending down the tail and out over their wings. Mature females may even develop these thorns on their underside as well. Thornbacks move into coastal areas, such as Eastbourne, by mid march to breed. This makes them a popular target for shore anglers.

Location A great tip is to look over areas of beach on spring low tides. Make a note of any sand bars, gulleys or areas of sand between rocks. Anywhere where food is collected by an incoming tide. I often measure from these areas back to the high tide mark and make a note on my phone for each area. Then it's simply a case of clipping up my reels to the required distance, allowing me to get fishing quickly and be confident that my baits are being presented in the right spot and at the correct distance. This especially useful in the hours of darkness.

Rigs for Rays Personally I like to use a short pulley pennel rig, with 100lb mono. This is heavy but doesn't twist or tangle in the tide. As with any type of fishing you should match the hook size and strength to the bait and target species respectively, but a good

starting point, and my hook of choice, are Varivas BMX 4/0 hooks.

Rods and Reels Any shore set up capable of casting 100yds will put you in the zone for rays. I like to use a century T700 eliminator rod, coupled with a Daiwa Emblem surf casting fixed spool reel. Thornbacks are powerful fighters, their flat profile acting like a kite during the fight, so rods and reels need to be suitably strong.

Bait Fresh fish baits, such as mackerel and sandeel are best for rays, but prawns, crabs, squid or mussels will all work on their day.

Rays feed by dropping down over a bait and covering with the flat of their bodies. Often the first indication that an angler sees is as they



Night time is most productive



Big baits need big hooks



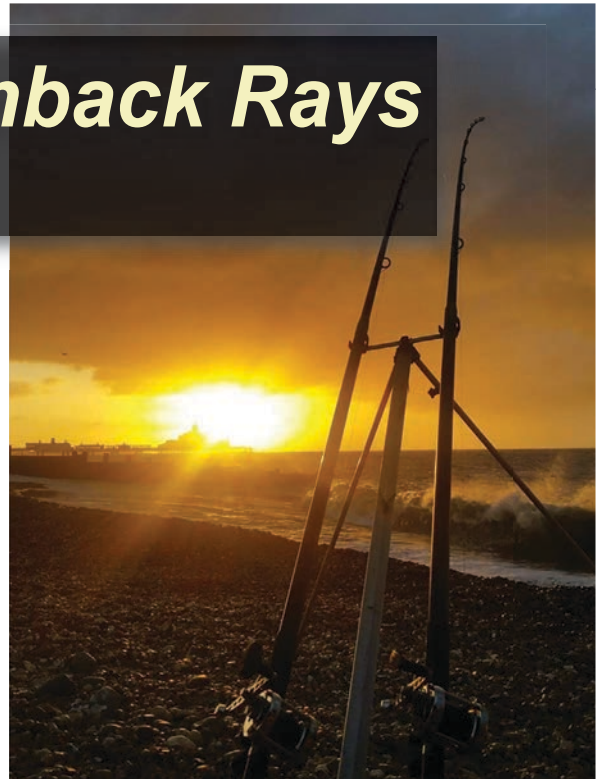
Fresh bait is a must

pluck the mainline with their wings as they manoeuvre into position. Many a fish has been missed by the angler reacting to these nods and twitches on the rod tip. It is important to wait until the ray moves off before you strike or you will miss far more than you hook.

Tides High night tides are the most consistent conditions in which to catch rays as they move close to shore, but they will feed in the daylight hours, especially in coloured water after a storm as they take advantage of any easy meal coming their way.

Hopefully this short piece will inspire you to get out and fish for some of the lovely rays along our coast.

Tight lines, Luke Rippley



Ensure that the hook points stand proud



...but you can catch in the day

Claygate Fishery regular Robin Piper keeps a meticulous record of his catches and between March and October last year, fishing Lake Eva, he caught an impressive 620lbs of fish including a specimen eel of 5lb 8oz. He dropped F.W.I a line to outline his plans for the coming season.

Hi, This season I intend to concentrate my efforts on Lake Sophie due to an increase in tench been caught from the water. Early results have been very positive with a number of good fish up to 4lbs 12ozs falling to my usual tactic of legered prawns. With the weather improving I thought that I would try a new tactic in the form of chickpeas as bait. Fishing a simple running leger to a size 12 barbless hook, I have been casting to open water and loose feeding with a few chickpeas to gain the interest of the fish. So far it is paying dividends with tench up to a fantastic 6lbs 7ozs and a running total, since April, of 180lbs. Time will tell if I can exceed last year's total. **Kind regards, Robin**



Letters to the editor



Lisa Branch got in to touch to share a memorable capture:

Hi, I just wanted to share my new PB for a catfish. Caught from Main lake at Hawkhurst Fish Farm. 50lbs of absolutely handsome kitty cat. From peg 2. No carp for me today, but I'm just grateful to catch any fish. I try my hardest to go fishing when my body allows. I have arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic pain syndrome and more. I love Hawkhurst because it's close to my home and they always help me if needed. Adrian their new bailiff is very nice and helpful. Highly recommended and the guys in kent tackle are simply the best. So today it took about 15 mins to bring in, luckily for me there was a lovely young man next to me in peg 1, Louis, he was totally amazing helping me get this monster in the landing net and into the cradle and weighing him for me, I honestly have not got it in me at the end of the day. I found this hobby a year ago and love every minute I'm on the bank. My heart is still pounding from excitement. **Take care, Lisa Branch**



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TROUT INFORMER

Tenterden Trout Waters Tenterden, Kent

Tenterden Trout Waters will be closed, as usual, for Trout Fishing from sunset on the 16th July and will re-open on 25th August for the Bank Holiday weekend. However, anglers are welcome to fly fish for carp on Lake 3 from the 17th July to the 13th August (No baiting). Live carp caught need to be placed into the large retainer baskets on the lakes.

Please call or email to book. Full Day 9am to 6pm £20 - Half Day 9am-2pm or 2pm-6pm £10. Fishing Tuition and Shepherds Hut stays will be available throughout the Summer closing period.

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 and 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 have had some very positive reviews. We offer 20% off our trout fishing permit prices if you stay in our Gillies Hut. To discover more visit our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website and click on Availability and Bookings which directs you to our Airbnb listing. **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. **Gift Vouchers** Fishing Permits, Tuition and Shepherds Hut staycations can be purchased by bank transfer, cheque or cash. We can email/send them out for you. 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. Our Farm/Fishery is also a unique Wedding Venue in July, August & early September. Tenterden Trout Waters is set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a warm welcome awaits you this Summer.

Tight Lines – Gaynor, Richard & Audrey

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The Quest

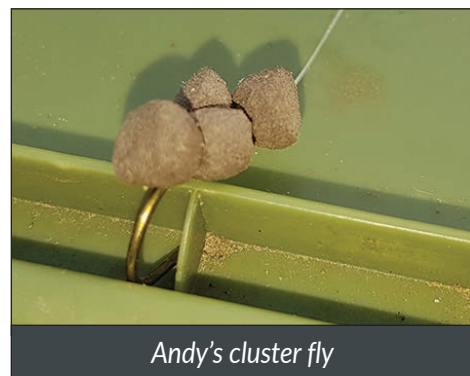
I have to confess I've a thing about grass carp. Although last season I caught my 'fish of dreams' from Elphicks Kettles Lake [TN12 8EL], I still had unfinished business at another local fishery.

Last season, while targeting some carp at Coombewood [TN26 3JH], I happened to notice what appeared to be three logs floating in a calm section of the specimen lake. Curiosity got the better of me, so I had to investigate. What appeared to be logs from a distance turned out to be three grass carp basking in the surface. I pulsed a few floaters towards them, which turned out to be a big mistake as the fish just sunk out of sight! I returned to my swim and tried to extract some carp from under a tree, but those big submarines had my attention now. After half an hour I sneaked up to see if they had returned to the surface and to my relief they had. This time I was much more circumspect using every bit of cover to hide my presence. I now fed half a dozen 11mm floaters just up-wind of these cagy fish and let the pellets drift onto them. I watched patiently to see how they would react. They didn't spook, but they didn't take them either, they did however start slowly circling the floaters much like 'Indians around a wagon train'. I again left them for another half an hour, returning to the mirrors and commons that were still prepared to nick the odd floater and occasionally my imitation fly.

As the afternoon progressed into evening, and the light softened I checked the grass carp once again. All my freebies had gone and three fish were still in the same area, game on! I had to be ultra careful, a mistake now would blow my chance. I cast out and fed a few loose offerings around my fly. The fish started mooching around the baited area, occasionally they would swim beneath the floaters without showing any signs of interest. They continued in this manner for what seemed like an age, when suddenly the largest fish took a floater without slowing or changing direction. Eventually this fish approached my fly, still swimming slowly about six inches beneath the surface, when it popped its head up and sipped in the fly! As I set the hook there was a massive boil on the surface as the fish rolled over and my fly lost its hold and flew past my head! I couldn't believe it! All that patience and effort to be thwarted at the vital moment. After that disaster I managed to catch the smallest grassie of the trio at 12lbs. I decided there and then, I would get even, sometime in the future. Unfortunately, on my return visits



Andy's 'fish of dreams'



Andy's cluster fly



Coombewood grass carp

last season I was unable to create any chances, and so it was unfinished business.

Back to the present, the persistent North Easterly winds had made life difficult as a fly angler. Fortunately, Coombewood's specimen lake is surrounded by trees which offers a fair amount of shelter. So that was why I chose a short afternoon session a few days ago. I phoned Alex Moulang the fishery owner to see if there was any room for me. He told me he was the only angler fishing the specimen lake. I quickly headed to the fishery and found what I'd hoped for, a few grass carp in their favourite spot, but this time in a more accessible area. I fed a few 8mm floaters just short of them and immediately they responded! I couldn't tackle up quickly enough, my fly choice was easy. I tied on a 'cluster' pellet fly which represents a few small pellets sitting close together.

I cast ahead of the group of fish and fed a few more free offerings; the scene was set, and I waited patiently. A large fish slowly approached, I could feel my pulse quicken in anticipation, a small



Orchard Lake

water. I started trickle feeding some floaters while George prepared his tackle. It didn't take too long to get some carp regularly taking baits as they swam through the swim. George's opening approach was to free line bread flake, but the bread wouldn't withstand the cast required to reach the fish. A change to soft hookable floaters made it possible but it wasn't easy to spot the hook bait amongst the freebies. Despite this it didn't take long before he was into the first carp of the session. After this it was difficult to tempt the fish back into the baited swim. George noticed signs of fish emanating from under a small bush along the bank, so he went stalking. This is a tactic he and his brother Bob use very effectively. I kept feeding the original swim, hoping to draw some carp back and keep them feeding in the one spot, rather than chasing them around the pool. The fish were proving elusive to the stalking approach, so George reverted to fishing the baited swim, and quickly caught another fish.

mouth opened, and my fly was gone! I set the hook and the fight began. Grass carp have a reputation of not fighting at all, and then proceeding to beat you up on the bank. So, I took my time allowing the fish to fight in the water, hoping this strategy would negate the battle on the bank!

I was delighted to have deceived this tricky fish. The scales registered 19.5lbs, it would have been nice if it had gone twenty, but it really didn't matter. It was "job done" for now, but I know there are bigger grass carp at Coombewood so I will have to return and try again!

Take a friend fishing

I'd been busy during the half term break, but I did manage to squeeze an afternoon session at Iden Wood [TN31 7UT], with my nephew's son George. The match and specimen lakes were both busy, so we headed to Orchard Lake, a hidden gem.

You have to search to find this stunning tree fringed pool. This picturesque lake was deserted, as we surveyed the water we spotted slight movements on the edge of a reed bed, out in open



George Baldock's new PB

Time to move on, having spent two hours fishing Orchard Lake we moved to the specimen lake, which was almost empty. Having watched George fish, I now needed to wet a line! I chose to fish close to some snags, so scaled up my tackle to my #10 weight fly outfit. George went stalking, no surprise there then! After about an hour I had a fish tentatively venturing out of the snags feeding on my floaters. From previous experience I knew chances were few and far between, so I had to take this opportunity, which resulted in a 15lb mirror. I noticed another angler running along the bank to where I thought George was fishing. Once I'd dealt with my fish, I went to see if he needed any help. As I arrived, I was delighted to see him cradling a 25lb mirror, having his picture taken. What a fabulous result, and a new PB to boot.

Unsurprisingly the specimen lake was now dead, so we were on the move again, this time to the match lake. There was plenty of room now, as most anglers had left for home. It was getting late but there were still plenty of fish to catch, and we were both hungry for more. I now switched to my regular #8 fly outfit, as I was no longer 'snag fishing'. George switched to fly fishing too. I struggled to concentrate the fish with my freebies but did manage to catch one more mirror. George found a weed bed that held several carp, they would occasionally leave their sanctuary and mill about under some overhanging trees. He managed to extract two fish from this 'sweet spot' and missed a couple more. The light was fading rapidly now, and I had to drag George away!

I finally delivered him home, late, tired, but happy!

Til' next month, Tight Lines, Andy Lush



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WITH ANDY LUSH

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FLY FISHING One of Andy's favourite methods, Trout, Carp or Pike can be targeted.

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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.



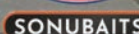
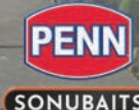
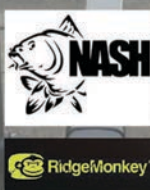


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Bass, boats and crispy squid

Harry Sandercock is the manager at Bodle Angling. A self confessed 'Angling Addict' his passion has taken him all around the country, and indeed the world, in pursuit of both knowledge and fishing. Recently he, and good friend Alex Smith have turned their attention to bass and boats...

I am sure many of you know first hand just how insane the draw of these fish are. The power, stealth and just general headache in some instances to angle for make these fish so attractive in any ones eyes, not to mention the fact that a rod, reel and a small selection of lures will catch these amazing creatures. We are spoilt on the Sussex Coast with a huge array of ground to target. I am very lucky to be surround by like minded bass heads from being in the industry, constantly sharing stories, marks and just general interesting conversations about the secrets of the ocean.

I am not sure if anyone else stood on the beach casting lures and thinking, there is a whole lot more sea out there... and although I know and experienced first hand just how close any fish will come to the shore or bank, that thought would always be going on my head. I am a strong social media follower of many page's including charters and private boat reports and I would just find myself poring over the huge numbers of big fish being caught along our insane Sussex coastline. I have always thoughts of boats as a huge advantage, being that much closer to their environment and accessing places that a simple cast would never achieve, a boat for me is just the final piece to the puzzle.



Catch & cook - chef Alex on the case

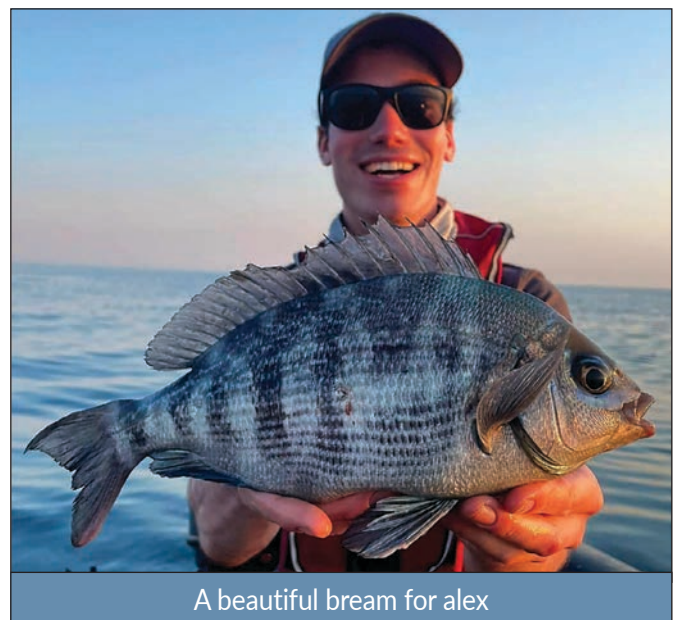
network of anglers who are 100x more experienced than me when it comes to boat fishing and slithers of information built a nice picture for us to work on. The first few trips out to sea were ones I will never forget.

I had never taken into consideration where to launch a boat from before so we thought the beach would be a great place to start, yep I was wrong. Squeezing through tiny gaps to then be greeted with a nice steep shingle bank made things a real work out, reaching the waters edge we where met with breakers and shallow water, too shallow for the prop. So waders on (it was freezing in March) and out we pushed her, jumped on once waist deep and off we went.

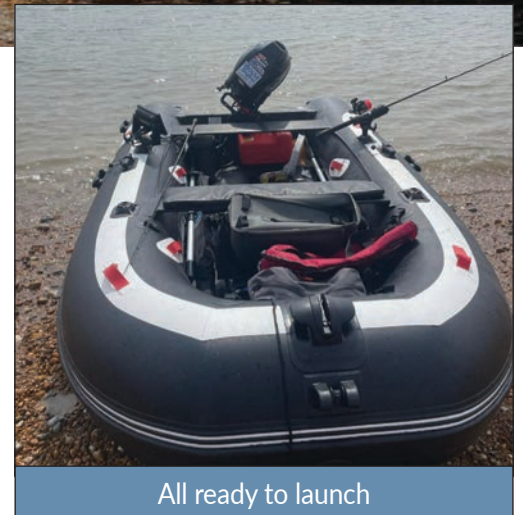
So it became my mission this year to firstly get hold of sea fairing vessel, then use it enough to warrant the investment and also ask my self the question will effort equal reward in this instance?

The first port of call (excuse the pun) was a suitable boat. Now I'm a good 30 minutes from any harbour and time isn't at my disposal, this coupled with the fact I have not got £10k+ laying about for a big vessel, I opted for something I've used carp fishing in the past, an inflatable boat. 'Don't tell me you actually go out to sea on an inflatable' The answer is yes, a 3.7m Hydrus from Inflatable Boat Fishing kitted out with an air deck, 9.8hp outboard and an Raymarine Element 7. My very good Friend and fellow life enthusiast, Alex, was prepared to join me on this chapter of our angling, which none of us had any previous experience in taking a personal boat out to sea, so to use the term learning curve is spot on.

The boat was collected, engine sorted and it was time to gather the kit at set sail. Plenty of research was in order but most importantly, boat safety. Then came the fishing research, I am extremely fortunate that I have



A beautiful bream for alex



All ready to launch

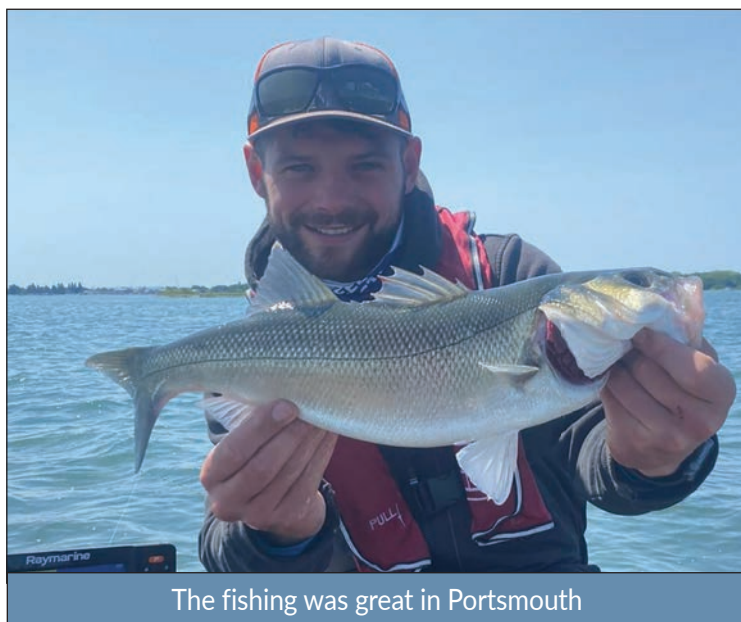
What a feeling this was, the feeling you had when you got your first bike or when you past your driving test... I can go anywhere!

After a couple of beach launches we then discovered a boat ramp we could access, game changer! No shingle, breakers or awkward trips pulling the boat, just a very pleasant slide into the river. With the engine run in, kit fine tuned and launchings all going smoothly, it was now time for the reason we got the boat, FISHING!

The main target was bass, using lures is what we had in our minds but with very unfavourable weather conditions and a very slow spring we felt we where a little bit on the back foot. a report came through of huge numbers of bass being caught from a large underwater shelf, we thought this was our chance. We made the 1hr car journey, upset many people with the air pump at 5am in the middle of town then got afloat, only to be greeted with massive currents and strong winds. Not very pleasant in my books, and very bass-less. A week late to the party I think? Alex was unable to make a the next trip as I think he was trying to find the source of Carbonara in Rome or something along those lines, I took Liam who works in the shop with me. We set out with lures but also a few sneaky rag worms. Few hours drifting around trying several marks found us drifting over an in-shore reef. Down went a couple of flapper rigs and to our amazement, tap, tap, tap... we had found a shoal of bream. Re-setting the drift and hitting it bang on saw us land several bream, great sport and the first fish to the boat!



G-stick, simply deadly



The fishing was great in Portsmouth

Itching to get back out there and with Alex back on board we headed out at the start of the never ending Northerly wind. Brave or stupid we ventured out, although flat calm sea's, it was not very pleasant. We must have been no further than 500m of shore, at all time seeking shelter around Brighton marina and then Brighton pier. Feeling sorry for ourselves in amongst the pillars listening to the roller coaster screams Alex hooked into a fish! A big bend in the rod but not much fishy action going on, what could it be? Up popped he biggest squid I have seen! Absolutely over the moon we had caught dinner. We headed home and Alex cooked up the most amazing crispy squid on my fire pit. That for me was a catch & cook, perfected!

With this horrid northerly still causing chaos but still very eager to get fishing we hatched a plan to venture even further and try the shelter of Chichester and Portsmouth harbour. Now I have a few mates who are luckily enough to have these on there doorstep, a few phone calls later and a launch site was found, this is the first hurdle and probably the biggest in my opinion. By now we were inflating and hitting the water in under 30mins, we were like a well oiled machine together. Although sheltered, the wind still found itself howling through the harbour arms but we found refuge in a beautiful marshy area just as the tide was ebbing. In the crystal clear water we saw smashes and crashes! At last! Bass! Casting small soft plastics and working them in the flow provide great sport and it was even more exciting to hear other boats filling their boots as well! (not boats as you can not keep Bass in nursery zones even of legal size). We had an absolute blast moving down with tide watching once bass filled water turn into marshy, muddy shore line. Two happy lads that trip.



Sleeping in the boat

The excitement of Chichester lead us to try Portsmouth, similar but on a larger scale. Going in blind we hit some cool looking sand bars, dragging anchor in the strong winds made for difficult fishing but with little option we had I put faith in a lure that I have always carried but never used in confidence, which is the gravity stick. A remarkable soft plastic which can fished weedless through the thick weed where I though the bass could be hiding. Several cast later an almighty subsurface eruption happened after a few reel turns and I was in. The sound every angler dreams of, a screaming reel! We got among a couple of nice ones that day.

Adventure time, a phone call from another nutty fishing friend, Chris, 'fancy a mad one down Lymington this weekend?' 'YES'. Boat loaded, work finished and off I went. We set up camp on the beach, boats inflated ready for the 2am alarm. A couple of hours kip, which I chose to spend in the boat as it was a lot more comfy than the pebbles, and we were off. Out before first light, fuelled on coffee, the engine was roaring just as those magical light beams shot across the sky whilst the rest of the world hadn't even thought about stirring. We hit an inshore mark on the flood, anchored up and feeling confident there was the first bite... tap, tap, WHAM. A very strong fish was on the end, after seeing some brown in the depths I didn't believe it. Chris netted a huge wrasse for me! I was over the moon, with the sun now fully making appearance, we where set for the days a fishing. A couple of bream made an appearance after that but something caught our attention, the unmistakable sound of gulls chowing down their breakfast just a few hundred yards behind us. Rods in, anchor up and full throttle towards the gulls. With the tide really rushing through now the drifts were short and sharp, quickly back on the tiller in order not to get washed into some nasty metal structure



A boat makes all the difference

that was down tide. We caught endless amounts of bass on each drift on a range of different lures, nothing table size but amazing sport regardless. After the bass bug ticked we thought we ought to get back to bait fishing as we had a fair amount to use up! Scanning Navionics and using everything I've learnt, we hatched a plan and found some nice looking sand banks. Surely this would hold some fish. What fish? Who knows? But my instincts were correct. A juicy whole squid fished on a pennel rig was my plan of attack, the rhythm of the rod tip got interrupted by something. I hit it, and on my light 40g rod I was convinced some sort of snag had attached it self to my line until I felt a thud of a large pair wings doing all they can to catch the current. After a great battle on light gear a beautiful ray graced the deck, claiming the 'biggest fish to the boat ever' title! This trip was a success, a massive variety of species along with some great laughs with friends.

Back on home turf (well local) we ventured out on our first after work trip. This just proves how convenient a small inflatable boat is. Loaded in the morning, shot to the coast after work and out fishing by 7pm. The tide was bang on, beautiful weather so we had reason



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Wrasse

to have a spring in our step. An hour or so went by with a few mackerel to show but no bass. Until on our 'lets make our way home now' leg of the journey we tried 'just one more zone'. We found a really unique feature that obviously was providing some sort of feed for a whole array of fish. We had found a jacuzzi of mullet, mackerel and most importantly bass! Slinging out tiny Axia pearl glides the action was non stop. Hit after hit, fish after fish! A beautiful sunset behind the industrial buildings made for an epic evening angling. That trip takes us to where we are now, I had planned on fishing a new carp syndicate, but the drag of saltwater has truly got me wanting more and there is no doubt I will continue my adventures on the boat. An aspect of angling that has a unimaginable amount of options. If a few words wasn't enough for you, Alex made a great video documenting our adventure so far, find it on Youtube under 'Just Alex - We got an inflatable fishing boat! - catching and cooking food from the sea'. **Harry**

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Hayden Breaker - 40lbs 8ozs catfish - Orchard Place



Catfish - Greenacres Fishery



Eliza Harbour, aged 7 - 12lbs 4ozs PB - carp



Reggie Bristow, age 9 - 12lbs 14ozs PB



Zac Swift - first ever tench - Eden



Ollie Pease - Tricklebrook



Max Garry, aged 6 - first ever fish - Jeff's Lake



Alisha Mooney - catfish - Orchard Place Farm

Buntie's Bogey Fish

Dean Austen took 6yr old daughter **Buntie** fishing for the first time with her own whip. She fished a side hooked single grain of corn on a stick float with a shot a few inches above the hook and had multiple roach and rudd.



Buntie got more confident with hooking her own baits on and setting the hook and the next time the float went under she shouted "Dad this one's really big it's pulling back alot" so Dean grabbed a small net and landed this lovely tench. She was over the moon and quoted "it feels like a bogey". She is definitely hooked now and can't wait to get back out there.

Riley's River Success



It's great to see younger anglers embracing the tradition of the opening day of the River season, as young **Riley Parsons** did when he visited a local waterway with Dad, Tristan. After taking some time to look around the pair found a perfect looking spot, a small area of slack water behind a tree, where 4 year old Riley was able to lower in a lump of bread flake moulded around a size 4 hook. Within a couple of minutes of the rod being out the tip bent round and he was in to his first chub of the season weighing a very impressive 2lbs 12ozs.



Oliver Moxley - first tench - Eden



Archie Roberts PB - Majors

July update

by instructor Warren White

"I am always amazed about the positive effect fishing and the outdoors has on people of all ages"



Brian Bailey, Fisheries Manager, Hadlow College



Brian Bailey, Commercial Fisheries Manager at Hadlow College, explains why he lends his support to Fishing for Schools.

"In describing Brian to an audience outside of Fishing for Schools, Kent even, is tricky. Simply put, without Brian and the support of Hadlow College we would not be the success in Kent that we most certainly are. His enthusiasm and unstinting support for the initiative is the engine room and launch pad for many of our activities. We owe him a huge amount and Brian is also one of the MOST enthusiastic people you will ever meet. Brian rocks!"

Charles Jardine, Director of Fishing for Schools.

Q&A

Brian, how would you describe your current role at Hadlow College?

My current role sees me running the college's hatchery where we keep over 50 tanks of exotics and breed fish species such as carp, koi, tilapia and African walking Catfish. I run Grove Farm Fishery – the college's fishery and fish farm. I also conduct many fish surveys during the winter months in lakes, rivers, canals... basically most water bodies. The other part of my role is attending events to promote the college, the land-based sector and careers in these areas.

Is this area of education something you have always done? Or did you come to the position from a different career path entirely?

I changed career in my thirties and went back to college (Hadlow) and completed my degree in Fisheries Management & Aquaculture. Once I graduated, the college employed me and that was 15 years ago! I wanted to study fisheries when I left school but these courses did not exist (many, many years ago!) but I got there in the end. What attracted me to work in education is seeing the effect you have on people's lives and the positive influence you have on them. I get the most pleasure in working in my role and Fishing for Schools just by seeing young people 'getting it' about working and being outdoors.

What inspires you to work with young people in aquaculture and what is your greatest success in this area?

I feel I have had been very fortunate and have been able to influence some people with their careers. Some successes may seem small but for the individual they can be huge. It could be building someone's confidence to do things they thought impossible. I am a true believer in education and the positive effect it has on everyone. I have had some students who didn't do well at school but stayed with college and worked really hard and left with a degree. Two of those students are now working for the EA and the Government. My ethos is to get my students to their full potential then either into industry or higher education.

What impact has Fishing for Schools had on your college?

The college's relationship with Fishing for Schools has been wonderfully positive. From working with young people who have never been fishing or even out to the countryside, through to showing them around the college and them coming to college. I see the future of our relationship growing together. We both want to inspire the next generation of young people and I truly believe that together, we can. Working with the excellent coaches at Fishing for Schools we have got some young people into college and out into industry. One of our success stories is James who came to the fishery through Fishing for Schools. I showed him round and after school he came to us, studied hard, completed his BSc and is now running an offshore salmon farm in Scotland! I get the most pleasure in working in my role and Fishing for Schools just by seeing young people 'getting it' about working and being outdoors. I am always amazed about the positive effect fishing and the outdoors has on people of all ages.

What has given you the most pleasure in your role (and working with Fishing for Schools!) and what has been the funniest moment so far?

I have had many funny, heart-breaking and bizarre moments in my career – too many to mention here. Recently, my best experience has been looking after a four-year old alligator for a few weeks. Alligators can be trained (I didn't know that either!) and she was the sweetest thing, completely changed my opinion on members of the crocodilian family!

How do you see the future of angling in the UK?

What do I see in the future of angling in the UK? That's a tough question... I think it will continue to grow as a sport. Everyone realises the benefits of being outside, not just for mental health but social and physical wellbeing too. I am hoping the condition of our water ways will continue to improve thanks to all the outstanding work being done by individuals and groups. I want to see more work to increase numbers and passage of many fish species that are in decline. I want to see more work for species such as trout, salmon, eels, the lampreys, crucian carp and bullheads. We have enough carp already.

The Director's Update: Mid Summer Solstice Madness

Quite probably you will have now realised I will go to the ends of the earth to ensure Fishing for Schools is a success. To ensure that initiative plays an active role in angling education and has a relevance and reach way beyond the usual angling boundaries.

Sometimes, all of this calls on me to do mad things. Marathons, altitude runs and so on. Anything actually (more or less!), if it means that I can generate the funds so that we can be even more successful. Simply; I believe in the project.

None of my previous hair-brained ideas could be construed as more mad than dragging my fishing friend of fifty years – Peter Cockwill (actually it was his idea; oh yes it was Pete!) – to undertake the challenge of fly casting the equivalent of a London Marathon distance, 26.2 miles, at Syon Park on Wednesday 21st June; the summer solstice.

By the time you read this I hope we will have achieved our goal.

The lovely folk at Orvis have given us six fly rods in their lovely Helios range – all different line sizes which we will cast in rotation over a pre-measured distance and we will both continue to cast until we have reached 26.2 miles. We think it will take us 10 hours. We need all the support we can muster!

To add some spice to all of this I have damaged my right hand... a long and horrid story involving a missile-like, out of control cockapoo, a retractable lead and a surprised lady owner.

To support Charles and Pete on this epic challenge, please visit their Just Giving page. If you would prefer to make a donation offline, please contact info@ca-foundation.org



Peter Cockwill with F4S Director Charles Jardine

The Fishing for Schools angling courses are certainly under way. The pictures say it all... and the feedback from students



"I have liked learning how to catch fish and it has been challenging landing carp and being able to use a disgorger. I've like working together to help land the big fish. I want to carry on fishing"



"I have enjoyed learning how to identify different fish. My highlight was catching a 17lb carp. I've got more confident as I've learnt new things"

"I've found it really calm and peaceful. One day I didn't manage to catch anything but I was still very patient and just found the whole experience really fun"



"I've enjoyed using different rods, I've used a whip, margin pole, fly rod and reel. I've learnt how to use them correctly and for catching the right fish. My best catch was a 12lb 8oz carp"



"From week 1 I got lucky and caught loads and have enjoyed very moment. I'm good at landing the fish as I've learnt what needs to happen to land them quickly and safely with teamwork. A total of 14 carp caught so far!"



"I've really enjoyed the fishing but I've found it hard to handle fish. I've got better as the weeks have gone on. I've been fine with the maggots and loading the hooks and have grown in confidence"



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VICTORY LAKE a specimen water of two acres with interesting island features and lily pads in the margins. Stocked with commons and mirrors to 35lbs along with ghost carp, tench, roach, rudd and specimen perch. Night fishing by prior booking available.

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

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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.

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Medway Man

Bob Morris

Things that go bump in the night

With what used to be referred to as ‘the glorious 16th’ almost upon us I was hoping to make this episode all about my river fishing debut this summer. Unfortunately, with the magazine deadlines and a rather heavy domestic weekend coinciding this is looking unlikely now. Instead, I will recount a tale of a recent session that was a bit unusual to put it mildly.

I normally restrict my all-nighters to the warmer months these days and usually manage to avoid using a bivvy, except where conditions force me to do so. Although I have had to succumb to this a couple of times due to low temps and a cold breeze during May, I am back to my normal procedure of just using a brolly since the warmer weather arrived. So, it was a set-up of this nature that I was using during this session with my rucksack and tackle box doubling up as a table with stove, kettle, Water bottle, bait tub etc, all arranged neatly to my left-hand side, which allowed me to access the two rods without hindrance should a take occur during the hours of darkness. One did, but events did not unfold in the usual way you might say. I am not really into chasing big fish these days and although it is always good to get a pb or an unusually good fish for the venue, it is more about trying to achieve success on a chosen water that ticks my boxes. However, having landed forty or more tench up to about seven pounds during April/May I was hoping that a couple of the harder waters that I had been fishing would have been a bit more productive and thrown up a lump or two. This was one of those places and although I had managed five fish, it had taken six sessions to do so. It was a mild night with a gentle breeze blowing from behind and I was lying, dozing on top of my bag with just the odd bleep from the indicators to penetrate the arms of Morpheus (or was it, Orpheus) all extremely pleasant anyway. Around about 1am a bleep, followed by a large crash right next to me certainly had me reacting. I sat bolt upright and in the eerie green light of the latched Delkim I could see that my camp was populated by a few black and white faces – all looking at me. I am tempted to say a dozen or more but, it was probably three or four. I could have sat exchanging eye contact and no doubt would have except that the bleep on my indicator became our old familiar (if you’re lucky) one toner and I was urgently called to do battle on the right-hand rod! The Badgers hung around on the perimeter of the swim long enough to witness me make a rather ham-fisted attempt at playing and landing what turned out to be a low double figure common carp. I fell over three times during this process and was not at all pleased with my performance. The invaders had deserted the scene of the crime at this point and so I decided that a cup of tea was in order to calm me down. I say the crime because I then discovered that my plastic bottle of milk was nowhere to be found!! They’d had it away. I did find it just after dawn, about 100yd away on top of a grassy bank. They had been unable to unscrew the top and had probably sussed that it was in fact semi-skimmed. I have often had things removed from my bivvi/brolly in the past by foxes but at least they are quiet!! This episode was enough to bring on a heart attack and the last time I had one of those it all culminated in the surgeon telling me to take up something relaxing like fishing – I replied ‘sign here doc’.

You might think that it all ended there but no... Shortly after this, I found myself up to my waist in water in the middle of a reed bed with rod in one hand, and desperately trying not to slip down the gravelly slope into the seven foot plus deep margin. It had been an executive decision after having hooked what I considered to be a good-sized tench which had then kited to my right and ended up snagged in the dense reeds. I thought that it would be easy to extract it and felt that this water really did owe me one. I was wrong. The fish was solid in a snag several rod lengths out and all my attempts to free it merely caused the line to cut on something sharp!!! It is a wonderful hobby at times.



The tench fishing started well...



Sign me up Doc!



...before the carp moved in



Bream got in on the action too

I had no more action and decided to pack up at lunchtime and go and meet my pal John up at the pub. It was a really hot day, and the pub car park was full. I managed to squeeze in behind a large van which immediately identified itself as a delivery vehicle by putting on its hazards and reversing lights. No problem I thought, just reverse back a few yards to give him more space. Simple you might think, but not when the knob on the top of your gear stick suddenly decides to spring off and roll under the seat. Have you ever tried to pacify an extremely angry van driver by using the phrase "my knob has just fallen off"? Well what can you say? After a few minutes I did manage to get the car into reverse and Mr Angry then proceeded to screeched out of the car park – with little or no difficulty. I entered the pub, desperate for a pint and met John sitting at the bar. Got my pint, beautiful and well deserved. "Want some nuts says John". Sure, do I reply. First bite and one of my bottom teeth broke in half. My next rather loud phrase was "OH COME ON".

I think that the above events should qualify for a cartoon or two – I must have a word with Pete Curtiss. Probably be good for my next book. Yes, you'll be pleased to know (or not - as the case may be) that another one will be coming – although not this year.

Watch this space.

Talking about books, I still have a few copies of the current one left in stock.

*Best Fishes & Happenings
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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

Brick Farm Lakes Windmill Hill, Herstmonceux BN27 4RS	01323 832615
Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Membership available from: Email: r.nathan@btinternet.com	01892 770903
Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery & Fly Tackle Shop Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9DG	01883 715666 / 07798 605867
Spring Hill Trout Waters Albans Farm, Romford Road, Pembury TN2 4BB	07951 304515
Tenterden Trout Waters Coombe Farm, Chennell Park Road, Tenterden TN30 6XA www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk	01580 763201

Tackle & Bait Supplies

Absolute Tackle 12 Wealden Forest Park Herne Common, Kent CT6 7LQ	01227 636724 / 07809 330854
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Anglers Den 6 North Road, Pevensey Bay BN24 6AY	01323 460441
Angling Specialist (ASH) 29 Queen Street, Horsham RH13 5AA	01403 264644
A.R. Tackle 8 Castle Street, Hastings TN34 3DY	01424 422094
Bait Bucket Tackle Warehouse Unit T Rich Industrial Estate, Avis Way, Newhaven BN9 0DU	01273 933050
Best Buddies 28 Martello Drive, Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6PH	01303 487144
Bodle Angling Cuckfield Road, Burgess Hill RH15 8RE	01444 247757
Camos Carp Cabin 11 Turner Street, Ramsgate CT11 8NJ	01843 581784
Chris Brown Products email: chrifoaks@gmail.com	01892 723670 www.cbproducts.co.uk
Dens Tackle 73 Dymchurch Road, Hythe CT21 6JN	01303 267053
Eastbourne Aquarium & Reptile Centre 19-21 Seaside, Eastbourne BN21 3PP	01323 730635
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	
Tonbridge & District A & FPS PO Box 131, Tonbridge TN11 8WB	Martyn 07802 248861
Wantsum Angling Association or contact via website www.wantsumaa.co.uk	01227 678063



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6 days : £160

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72 hours : £100

84 hours : £115

96 hours : £130

7 days : £175

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24 hours : £35

36 hours : £50

48 hours : £65

5 days : £140

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