

# FRESHWATER INFORMER

# FREE

**Nathan Caldicott**  
**43lbs NEW LAKE RECORD**  
**Mousehole**  
**Lakes**



plus JUNIOR INFORMER pages 42-44, TROUT INFORMER pages 45-49, SEA INFORMER pages 52-58

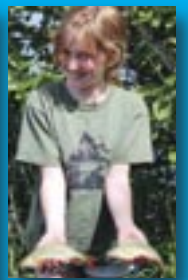


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*Hello and welcome to the June issue of the Freshwater Informer!*

**I**t was so good to be back out with the May magazines! After being confined to my 'bunker' for what seemed to be an absolute eternity, it was a pleasure to be out and about once again. It was good to see everyone and enjoy a catch up and some gossip and the coffee was welcome as well! The feedback from readers and stockists has been incredible and the return issue was greeted with relish! I do hope that you enjoyed your 60 page May magazine, however, I can't guarantee such a bumper copy every month!

This month sees the rivers open up once again which will be welcomed by many anglers. However, at the time of writing, rainfall is still way below what it should be and the Spring turned out to be the coldest, frostiest and driest for many years. I reckoned that at the start of May we were about 6 weeks behind where we should normally be for the time of year. Having said that, it will most likely begin to rain and not stop until October! Regarding the river fishing, don't forget that I welcome your catch reports and river news for the River Informer section of the magazine. Many anglers do enjoy reading about their local stretches of water! I would really like to see some businesses sponsoring the River Informer section of the magazine! If this may be of interest to you, please get in touch for a chat!

There have been no exhibitions this year and none are planned for 2021. There are some dates for 2022, but I guess everyone is very nervous about committing themselves in the current climate. I will certainly be leaving it to the last minute before booking the Informer in anywhere! Our tackle shops welcomed the move to open their doors when non-essential retail restrictions were lifted in mid April and anglers were also pleased to be able to go in and browse once again at the goodies on display. It is amazing how much gear you never knew you needed!

It has been nice to receive so many catch reports once again and admire some very fine fish caught in the region. Don't forget that each month Pallatrax will choose one adult catch photo and the lucky winner will receive a range of the impressive Gripz hooks! The junior anglers have not been forgotten as Pallatrax pick TWO lucky young anglers each month to receive one of their 'Ready, Steady Fish' packs! However, you need to be in it to win it so please send your catch photos to us by email or via a message on the Facebook page.. Sea anglers are not forgotten as I can always use catch photos in the monthly reports from around the coast!

*Enjoy your fishing, Barry Reed*

## The Freshwater Informer

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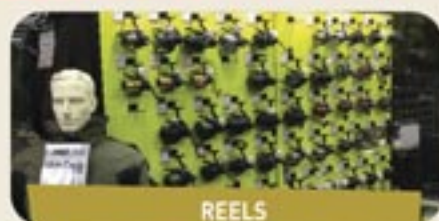
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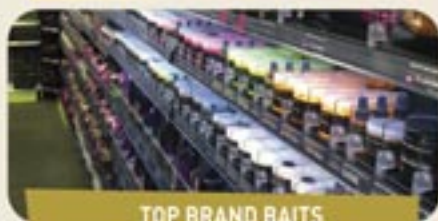
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## Hawkhurst Fish Farm Hawkhurst, Kent

Wow, what a busy month we have had! We've had lots of new visitors as well as our regulars, and there have been some amazing catches throughout the complex, with some of the bigger residents in the lakes gracing the banks.

**Main Lake** The catfish have been very active, especially considering the colder weather we have been seeing at night recently. The biggest caught over this last month has been from peg 5, and she weighed in at 73lbs. It was a great result for **Nick Carter** and he was over the moon to land a new personal best! There have also been a good amount of 50-60lb'ers out as well from all over the lake with several new PBs for various anglers. For those who don't fancy a catfish, there have also been some absolutely mint condition carp out, for example **Paul Mullineux** who caught a 29lb common on a night session, and **Kevin Randall** who had a lovely 26lbs 5ozs common.



29lb Common - Main Lake - Paul Mullineux



49lb 7oz Catfish - Main Lake - Kevin Randall



26lb 5oz Common - Main Lake - Kevin Randall



73lb Catfish - Nick Carter - Main Lake

**Specimen Lake** Our members lake has really come to life over the last month, with two of our blue carp gracing the bank, and some of our stunning carp coming out at top weights. Shout out to **Sam Hamill** who caught the 'big blue' weighing in at 45lbs 8ozs, and **Adam Worboys** who had the smaller of the two during his first session on the lake, as well as **Ricky Young** who caught her this month and has had her out in the past as well. We won't list all the carp which have been caught, but a big well done to all the members who have visited recently as everyone seems to be doing well!



45lb 8oz Big blue carp  
Specimen Lake - Sam Hamill



36lb 8oz Blue carp  
Specimen Lake - Adam Worboys



26lb 12oz Linear  
Specimen Lake - Ricky Young



33lb 9oz Mirror  
Specimen Lake - Rob Buckmaster

**Dove Lake** There have been an impressive amount of carp out of Dove Lake recently, as well as a handful of catfish. A lot of anglers have commented on the quality of carp caught and how beautiful the lake is.



22lb 8oz Common - Dove Lake - Dal Eil



24lb 4oz Common - Dove Lake - Steven Holdsworth



Common - Dove Lake - Kevin Henham

**Quarry Lake** Our ever popular runs water has been a little up and down in terms of catches recently, but those who have played it right have really hit the mark, landing plenty of carp and catfish during their day sessions!



23lb 3oz Catfish - Quarry Lake - Oliver Claxton

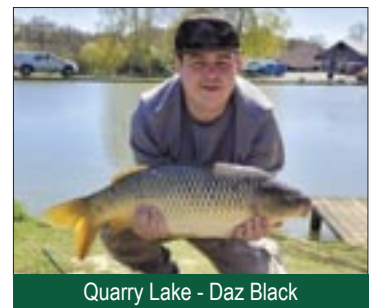


19lb 8oz Common  
Four Trees Lake - Stevie Hill



Maggie Tofts 17lbs 8ozs Quarry Lake

**Booking is essential for overnight sessions, as well as day tickets on Quarry Lake. You can pre-book day sessions for Main Lake and Dove Lake one day in advance. No booking is required for Four Trees Lake or Match Lake. Check out our website to see current opening times for the Junior Lakes!**



Quarry Lake - Daz Black

**PRICES**

DAY TICKET X2 RODS - £15  
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**Orchard Place Farm** Paddock Wood, Kent

Josh Moat - 23lbs - Lake 8



Kevin Gibbs - 26lbs 4ozs - Lake 7



Kevin Gibbs - 62lbs 2ozs - Lake 7



Lukasz Kubina - 27lbs - Lake 4



Lukasz Kubina - 44lbs - Lake 4



Martin Bell - 23lbs Top Lake Horsmonden



Martin Bell - 27lbs Top Lake at Horsmonden



Martin Bell - Top Lake Horsmonden



Tommy Stevens - 60lbs 10ozs - Lake 7



Shane Lee - 22lbs - Lake 7



Tommy Lee - 27lbs - Lake 7

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Alex Shipley - 39lbs 8ozs Plantation Lake



Chris Nichols - 42lbs 14ozs Westend Lake



Dylan Ward - 20lbs 5ozs Sandwich Lake



Dylan Ward - 22lbs 6ozs Sandwich Lake



Karl Owen - 34lbs Prairie Lake



Jack Gilbert - 32lbs 10ozs Prairie Lake



Lewis Duncan - 24lbs Prairie Lake



North Lake - 47lbs 8ozs



Tim Carter - 43lbs 14ozs North Lake



Martin Coupar - 30lbs 6ozs Pullens Lake



Nick Anderson - 33lbs PB Prairie Lake



John Siggs - 51lbs North Lake



Grazvydas Kaziukonis - 36lbs 8ozs Plantation



Dan Salter - Westend Lake

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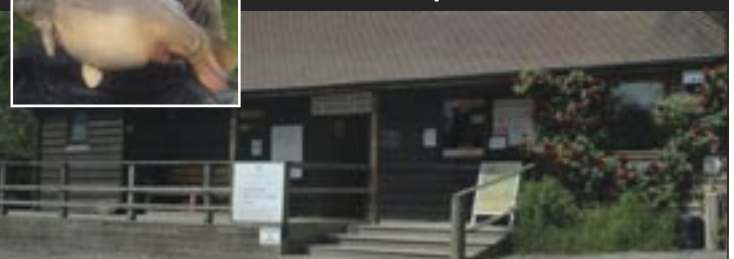
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**Frant Lakes** Tunbridge Wells, Kent



Connor Smart - nice scaly



'Dad' Bradley - Lake 7



Anthony Abrams - Lake 7



Matt Burdon - 28lbs 11ozs Speci Lake 8



Steven Smith



Andrew Crouch - Lake 6



Gudgeon from Lake 8



Craig - 25lbs



Brian Bradley - Lake 7



Chris Bassett - Lake 5



Steve Mack - Lake 7

# PINIONS

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**Andrejs Melniks has been in touch to tell us of Maidstone's latest attraction:**

"Hi Barry, I don't know if you might have been informed, but there was a seal in the Medway river at Maidstone just behind Lockmeadow. I am not sure how it got past Allington lock, but it was lying on the bank and wasn't scared of pedestrians at all." Regards, Andrejs.



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## Greenacres Farm Fishery Biddenden, Kent

**Speci 1** Carp are still coming out to those anglers that bait up little and often as **Andy Humphreys** found out on his trip fishing swim 8 and managed to land 5 carp up to 18lb. Carp have still not spawned on this lake yet but are starting to team up in numbers so I do not think it will be to long now before they do.

**Speci 2** Catfish are mainly showing at night to heavily baited spots of carp pellet. During the day people have been taking them on the dumbbell rig with a big bunch of lobworms suspended just under the surface, they have also come out on zigs. Carp have started to show with **Mark Barnard** catching one out of swim 1 which resulted in an 18lbs Ghostie Common. To get in on the action out of swim 7/8 was **Kris Melachrino** who landed a lovely 16lbs mirror and a 38lbs catfish. Carp have also not spawned on this lake yet but are starting to team up in numbers so I do not think it will be to long now before they do.

**Heron** This lake being shallower than the two specimen lakes has seen the carp spawn already, luckily it happened on the two days that we had no one booked on them! During this time the bream, tench and other silver fish have been the result of most anglers catches.



A mirror for Andy Humphreys



Mark Barnard with a lovely common



Nice common for Andy Humphreys



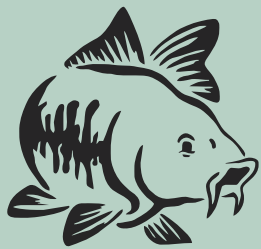
Good catfish for Kris Melachrino



Kris Melachrino and a lovely mirror

**Kingfisher** This is a well stocked match lake and great fun with a guarantee of catching, brilliant for families or anyone wanting to teach their kids how to fish. Stay away from boilies in here and use natural baits like maggots, corn, pellets, worms etc. Carp have also not spawned on this lake yet but are starting to team up in numbers so I do not think it will be to long now before they do.

**Bluebell** A little tench pond tucked out of the way. This pond is showing a good number of tench being caught on float or feeder tactics using worm, maggot, paste or sweetcorn on the hook. The carp in here are also stunning fish that can be caught up to 10lbs with also the odd roach, rudd and gudgeon. Carp have already spawned out on this lake the same time as Heron, which also happened on the two days that no one was booked on!



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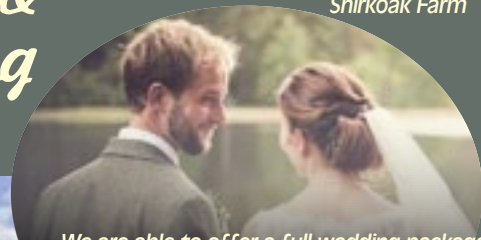
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## Beaver Fishery Lingfield, Surrey

Well it's good to get back to some sort of normality and see plenty of anglers back on the banks. As of writing this Ben and I have been busy strimming and cutting the grass which is a sure sign that the seasons are changing for the better. Also we have had some bream spawning activity on Majors Lake so that is another sign that it's getting a bit warmer for us all. What with the warmer spells the fish on the complex have certainly started to wake up and get their heads down for a bit of grub!

**Snipe Lake** has fished well with some crackers being banked and here are a few examples. The lake record was broken when **Lee Bishenden** banked 'Hayley's Mirror' at 37-08, Lee also caught a common of 29-10. **Craig Lancaster** had a few fish out to 28-08, **Jason Van Arkadie** kept his good run going by banking some cracking fish to 28-02, **Simon Gore** had a good session when he banked a couple of mirrors to 23-06 and a low 20 common, **Dan Munroe** had a lovely mirror at 21lb, **Benji Harding** broke his duck when he banked a 22lb common, **Ian Yorke** met one of the oldest residents when he banked 'Stumpy Tail' at 21-02, **Kel Stevens** had two low 20 commons out, **Dominic Hawken** also kept his run going when he banked 'Hayley's Mirror' and then he had a 26-15 mirror, **Sam Taylor** finally banked one and it was a cracking fully scaled mirror at 19-08, **Max Tansley** banked a 28-04 common and **Raymond Box** banked a 17lb stockie on his first 24 hour visit to us.



Jason Van Arkadie



Kel Stevens



Dan Munroe



Dominic Hawken



Lee Bishenden



Simon Gore

**Westlake** has been fishing very well and we have seen some cracking cats being banked to over 70lb. **Aaron Relf** had a good session when he banked cats including two 50's to 54lb, **Martin Young** banked cats to 59lb, **Daniel Latham** had cats to 52-04, **Rex Whittaker** had cats to 62lb, **Warren Humphries** had a 58, **Billy Whitney** banked cats to a new **PB** of 65-04, **Dan Smith** and **Mark Worsfold** banked their first ever cats at 36 and 33lb, **Dave Smith** had cats to a new **PB** of 63-02, **Ted Gribbens** banked 5 cats to 36lb, **Charlie Chapman** landed a monster **PB** of 72lb while **Chase Dunbar** banked his first cat at 21lb, **Carl Wrighton** banked his first ever cat on his first visit to us weighing in at a massive 70-04 followed by a few more to low 20's. Last but not least, **Graham** who runs the on site burger van had a birthday session and had an amazing time as he broke his **PB** twice. He banked four doubles to mid 20's then a 59-10 which was followed by a 68-02. We have had more big cats caught, but sadly not as many pictures sent in. If you need any advice about 'self takes' we will be glad to help.



Aaron Relf



Carl



Charlie Chapman



Graham Jewiss

The smaller ponds have been doing well. **Jeffs Lake** has been producing lots of F1 carp, some ghosties to 6lb and some tench. **Moat Pond** has had some great days this month with anglers landing multiple catches of carp to 9lb, some good bream and a few crucians. Eden Pond has seen plenty of anglers getting amongst the tench to just over 4lb, carp to 5lb and some bream and silvers caught too.

**Daughters Lake** has been driving a lot of anglers crazy as the carp have been sunning themselves and not really interested in feeding on the bottom during the day. Having said that, we have seen some anglers banking fish during daylight hours. Well done to **Jason Swift** who managed a low double mirror, **Steve Jewell** had a mirror of 13-11, **Martin Butcher** had a mirror of 15lb, **Martin Sharman** had a nice low double mirror, **Mark Boast** banked a mirror of 12-06, **Daryl Cook** had a small mirror and two grassies at 14 and 16lb, **Gerry Fowler** banked his first two fish from Daughters Lake which were two commons to low doubles, **Dominic Hawken** had two lovely mirrors at 11-07 and 13-07 while Ben and I had a few out on our weekly overnighter, the biggest being an 18-02 mirror.

Meanwhile on **Majors Lake** there have been a mix of species being banked. **Dennis** banked a few small carp, a crucian koi cross and a 22lb mirror, **Matt Sayer** banked bream and carp to 19-09, **Pawel Lesniak** banked bream, tench and carp while his daughter **Wicktoria** had a lovely low double common and a low double fully scaled mirror, **Dean Carroll** had two low double mirrors, **Callum Soper** had bream and four carp to low doubles, **Callum McNeil** banked a 13lb common, **Ryan Obrada** had bream and a mirror of 18-07 and Ben and I decided to do our weekly overnighter on Majors Lake and ended up with a couple of bream and 5 carp between us which included a 19-08 mirror for Ben and a 19-12 mirror for me (Andy).



Andy



Ben



Wicktoria Lesniak

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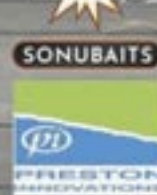


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This section is where you display your catch to other Freshwater Informer readers. Each month, Pallatrax will choose from the featured photos and pick their winner. **The winner will receive 8 packs from the innovative new GRIPZ hook range.** The lucky angler will have a packet of sizes 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, so will be equipped for all eventualities. This fantastic prize is worth over £40 RRP!

To be in with a chance to win this fantastic set of GRIPZ hooks, all you have to do is send us your catch photo via our Facebook message page or email [barnic@btinternet.com](mailto:barnic@btinternet.com) Entry is FREE and all coarse fish photos are welcome! From a carp to a roach, send us your pictures! Please make sure you tell us where it was caught and it's weight.



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Barry Davis - Quarry Lake Hawkhurst



Daniel Terry - Kent Lake



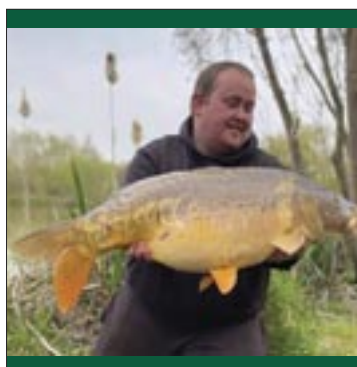
Henry Lindsay - Quarry Lake Hawkhurst



Ian Talbott - 31lbs 12ozs Hawkhurst



Jack Howe



Lee Birch - 30lbs 7ozs Mousehole Lakes



Jack Holden - 21lbs Darenth



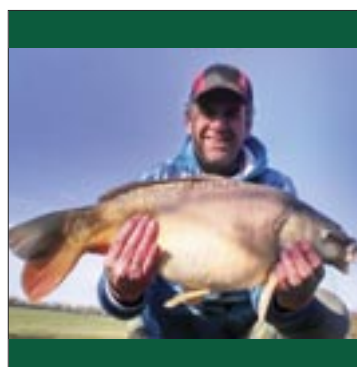
Marc Harris - 17lbs 13ozs Coombewood Fishery



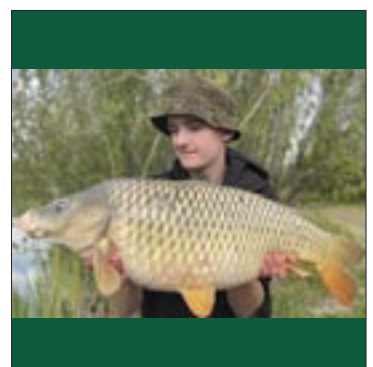
Jason Blackman - Kent Lake



Josh Moat - 23lbs Orchard Place Farm



Mark Day - Sandwich Lakes



Jack Wood - 20lbs Hartley Lands



Paul Dummer - 18lbs 14ozs Framfield Park



Paul Hewett - 30lbs Elphicks



Terry Donovan - 30lbs 8ozs Loggies



Terry Slatter - 27lbs 4ozs EMSR



Tom Churcher - 27lbs 7ozs Swanborough Lakes



Tony White - 49lbs 8ozs Elphicks



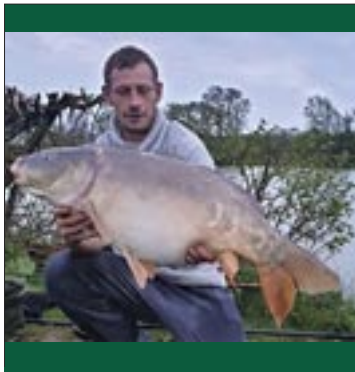
Ron Davis - Quarry Lake Hawkhurst



Kane Hallett - Quarry Lake



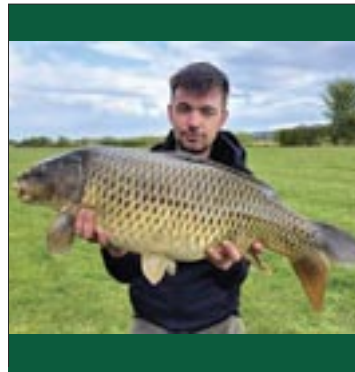
Roy Brett - 22lbs Lovelace Farm



Matthew Good - 31lbs 8ozs Old Speci Tricklebrook



Michael Sillick - 24lbs DDAPS water



Nick Tsalikidis - 18lbs 6ozs Falkenvil Fishery



Ben Kincaid - 84lbs Pittlands



Cole Peters



Simon Milton - Iden Wood



Sam Chats - 23lbs 8ozs Swanborough Lakes



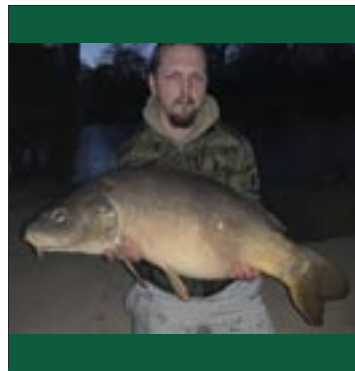
Kev Holt - 28lbs Charlies Lakes



Gordon Fellows - 25lbs 10ozs Lovelace



Gary Page - Mote Park



Jake Kenrick - 31lbs Tonbridge & District Ballast Pit



Brian Lucas - Claygate Lakes



Carl Alcorn - 29lbs 8ozs



Dave Wayman - 40lbs 8ozs Club Lake



David Graveling - 'Casper' 35lbs Hawkurst Speci Lake



Carol Huxstep - 30lbs 7ozs Wylands



Dean Morris - 21lbs 6ozs EMSR



Jack Anthony - 20lbs Coombewood Fishery



Jake Trapp - 23lbs 10ozs

**Great session at Orchard Place Farm for Danny!**

**Danny Boorer sent in this report after an enjoyable session at Paddock Wood's Orchard Place Farm fishery:**



"I thought I would send in a catch report from my recent trip to Orchard Place Farm where I fished on lake 4. I had a 5 day session and managed a total of 9 carp to 29lbs and 7 cat fish to 34lbs, please see photos below. Conditions were difficult at first when we had the cold northerly wind and high

pressure, but after consistently baiting a spot under a willow tree of the island the bites started coming. I managed to catch all but one of my carp on that spot and even had the big cat off it as well. Chuffed with the session as it was the first for a long time." Kind regards, Danny Boorer



**Success at Coombewood Fishery for Marc!**



Marc Harris has been enjoying some great sessions at Coombewood Fishery near High Halden. Marc normally fishes with a couple of mates and a 48 hours session recently yielded 16 fish. Marc sent in a few of his captures.

If you fancy a session at Coombewood Fishery, give Alex a call on 07895 679569.





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## It's Tinca time!!

**A**s I drove my fishing wagon East, there is only ever going to be one venue as I kick off my yearly quest of Tench fishing at the iconic Horseshoe Lake - the Carp Society's stunning 63-acre lake on the outskirts of Lechlade in Gloucestershire. Yes, I am slightly biased as this is my favourite UK venue and, having fished it for well over two decades, I have had some amazing Tench hauls from its gin clear waters, though the complex is best known for its awesome head of beautiful carp.

There are, and always will be, various factors that affect our fishing and a big one is the weather and with late frosts and clear skies I have to admit the conditions were far from ideal, but, as they say, "You've got to be in it to win it" and at the end of the day I was going fishing! Another aspect that would definitely impact on this session was that I was meeting up

with several Team Pallatrax friends and there was to be a very social element to the fishing. This would mean we would be seeking to plot up near each other thus putting our eggs in one basket and not looking to move. This is always a challenge for me to stay in one location, as if I am not seeing fish, I will be on my toes and moving swims, crucial to consistent angling, but, for this trip friendship outweighed good watercraft!

Saying that, I ended up in a reasonable swim in Summer Bay that I have caught Tench from before and fishing alongside my old sparring partner, the ex-Editor of Advanced Carp Fishing and true friend, Tim Hodges. We have both been involved within fishery management and the trade for too long to remember and, having not fished together for a few years, I anticipated some laughs and hopefully a fish or two!



The one thing I did notice is that the lake was almost devoid of the weed that should now be growing at this time of year. Weed to me is a great place to fish into because it is like the 'forest' of the lake where everything lives that the fish will naturally feed on, plus they will be more confident hidden out of plain sight. This would definitely affect the session in my mind, especially as we would be only fishing in depths of 4 to 5 feet with no cover and no food source, plus the 'baltic' weather, conditions were certainly not ideal.



My go to tactics, as many of you will know by now, for whatever species I am ledgering for is the so simple and so effective Stonze System. Using this natural and, therefore, unobtrusive stone weight as my weight/method feeder is always a huge edge and in such clear water conditions really does come into its own. Rig wise, well I am a fan of keeping things very simple, so it would be a braid rig on one rod and a Steamlink hinge rig on the other, both tipped off with a size 10 Wide Gape Gripz design hook.

Bait selection, I will always be prepared to chop and change if needed, but it's difficult for me not to gravitate towards my classic Tench bait - a single 10mm Jungle Squab pop up (Tigernut, Peanut and Clove). I would also be wrapping my Stonze weight in Daphnia and Maggot Crush Method mix to which I would add a sprinkling of 10mm Jungle Squab bottom baits. This allows for a few freebies that match my hookbait to be in the immediate area once the mix had broken down and hopefully give a feeding fish a bit more confidence as well as the added attraction. On the hinge rig set up I would also be adding a small PVA mesh bag stuffed with pellets and 10mm Jungle Squabs, an enticing package to create a mini 'bird table' to draw the targeted Tench down and on the munch - well that was the plan anyway!

Last, but not least, was to prep one area with a larger spread of bait with the hope of drawing in a shoal and keeping them in the area. I rarely put out a huge bed of substantial baits as I tend to use, as I would be here, particles which includes the mighty hemp alongside mixed seeds (red band) and some all-time favourite Tench fodder, sweetcorn.

And so the session began, and when temperatures dipped to below freezing on the first bright, still and moonlit night I have to confess I was thinking we should have been in the deeper water in Winter Bay - but friendship and reminiscing was the order of the day! For me this is a huge part of my fishing, especially as I have got older, and this trip with Tim turned out to be just like many in years gone by as that first night, wrapped up in any extra clothing we could find and cuddling hot water bottles we sat under the stars chatting, laughing and drinking copious amounts of tea until daybreak at 6 am - some would think us mad but what great memories!



Back to the fishing, it was, as expected, a tad slow but it was far from all bad news as I managed to wrinkle out two stunning red eyed and dark olive green Tench of 6lb and 4lb 8oz. Tench have always been a firm favourite of mine but in such clear water they take on these fantastic colours and are simply beautiful. Pound for pound they are great fighters on balanced gear, as they tear off and you feel that nod, nod and know it is a Tench on the end.



Like all great trips the worst part was packing down, but now Tim has returned to the UK from managing a fishery in France I know that there will be more trips on the agenda. Well, to be honest, we are already planning for a return trip once the weather warms up!

Till next time, stay safe and catch more, and if you have any questions please always feel free to contact me by e-mail at [simon@pallatrax.co.uk](mailto:simon@pallatrax.co.uk)

*Simon 'Pom' Pomeroy*

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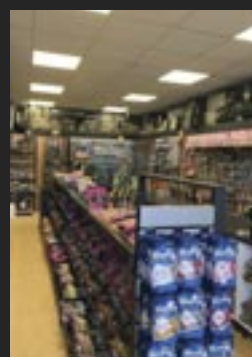
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was looking at a plan B. Should I bring the waggler rod out as another angler had picked up a nice bream of 9lbs? I wasn't sure about moving and changing set up 'midway' and by now the sun had moved enough to cast a shadow across half of the water. There were carp on the surface and the water erupted when I put some pieces of bread in! They were certainly having the bread off the top. After a few fish, I began to think about packing up and thought I would give the prawns a last chance, all or nothing and I cast in to the middle. To my surprise and relief the tip jerked round and a fish was on but it wasn't a carp. To my delight out came a nice perch of 3lbs 4ozs. I was delighted as it was my first of the year. I wondered if there were any more perch about so I fed a few more prawns and recast. Fifteen minutes passed and the tip went again. After a short fight my biggest carp from the Snake Lake was in the net at 6lbs 13ozs. The common was immaculate with no marks at all. As time was getting on I put some more bread out on the surface and the carp were still in a feeding mood on the surface. The second half of the day was much better and I ended the session with 30lbs of carp plus the perch.

Dave has done well at Claygate Lakes and a lot of work has been done improving the swims over the Winter. The match lake now contains some larger carp to double figures, hence the 8lbs line, so I was prepared for any surprises!"

**Regards, Robin Piper**

## Letters to the editor



**Regular correspondent Robin Piper sent me this letter to tell us about a recent session he enjoyed at Claygate Lakes.**

"Dear Barry, As the high pressure continued, I thought another session at Claygate was in order. When I arrived there were ten cars parked up already so I made my way to the Snake Lake. No problems finding a swim, in fact I had plenty of choice. I chose peg 22 which seemed fine.

I tackled up with the leger rod, 8lbs Maxima line (as you never know what might pick up the bait!) and a half ounce Pallatrax Stonze weight stopped 9" from a size 12 barbless hook. There was a light breeze and high cloud as I introduced some prawns as loose feed to see if I could bring some decent fish on the feed. Well, three long hours went past with no bites so I



## A Memory from last Summer

by Dale Green

**Local Kent angler Dale Green sent us this story of a session he enjoyed and remembers well from July 2020!**

"This particular session is etched in my memory and took place on a very hard members only lake and the fish that I will describe was on my first trip. On arriving at the venue, I decided to familiarise myself with the water and features and took a walk around this massive lake. I spoke to a lot of members on the lake and was told that I would be lucky to pull a fish out and for me that was 'Challenge Accepted'!

So after walking around the lake, I found myself at the shallow end of the venue where I had seen some movement on the top of the water about 200 yards out. I was going to fish with three rods and I planned to be there for two days giving me one night during my 36 hours visit. With the limited time available to me, I decided to go where the movement was. My left rod was positioned to the left of where I saw the earlier movement but 50 yards closer to the bank. The middle rod was exactly where I spotted the fish 200 yards out under a nice bunch of lily pads and my right rod was to the right of the movement, but, 50 yards further out. My set up consisted of a set of three Black Widow rods with matching reels loaded with 20lbs PB mainline.

I baited up the area with pellets and broken boilies and presented my hook bait on a hair rig tied to a size 4 Carp Spirit razor point micro barbed hook with 7" of Carp Spirit soft coated hook link in a black silt colour. The other rig components were a Carp Spirit lead clip with a 3ozs weight. After an hour and a half of waiting, my middle rod suddenly screamed off and I felt what I believed was a decent fish on the business end! It was a lively fish that didn't want to give up without a good fight and after 30 minutes of playing the fish I finally slipped it in to the landing net.

This amazing looking fish was beautiful and was an unknown, never seen before, leather carp. I was so happy, first trip, first day on this lake and I bagged myself a new PB with a gorgeous 27lbs leather carp! I was the only person to catch a carp that day and the only person to catch a carp in the past 3 weeks so the other members told me.

That was the first day on the new venue and, apparently, a lot of members were not happy as I had just joined and bagged a stunner! After spending the day and night, 24 hours on the same swim, I was very happy with myself, however, there were no more fish. I could see some movement two swims along in shallower water and as I had already packed my bivvy and other stuff up, I did not need anymore on my trolley so I decided to move along the two swims.

This day was one of the hottest days of the year to 'break camp' and move, but, as the swim I was moving to was closer to the car park and there was fish movement, the move was 'closer to home'! I decided to continue with the same set up and rigs from the previous day as they had been successful.

Very little happened until around 5pm when I decided it was time to pack up and go home. I began the task when my left rod screamed off and I was in again! After 40 minutes of playing a fish with a few people watching me, I landed a new PB! It was a 30lbs fully scaled mirror carp in perfect condition. The photo is not the best as I had packed away my tripod. However, I was so happy to smash my PB, not once, but twice in the same session!

That was my epic 36 hours on a new lake. I hope you enjoy my story as much as I enjoyed it on the day."







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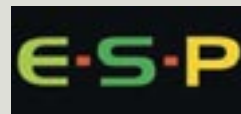
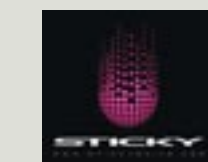
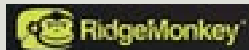
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**New Pbs for Daniel and Jason!**



Daniel reported: "Jason Blackman and I managed to get out on a 36 hours session at a local lake recently on the off chance we might catch a few! It was a hell of a cold night but we managed some success at peak hours with both of us smashing some PBs. On the first evening Jason had a cracking common and I had a small mirror. However, on the second evening, I had a PB mirror and both of us had a few nice commons in-between other fish which made it a cracking session before the rain hit hard and we packed up. Jason also had a nice surprise perch of about 2lbs. I can't wait to get back out again as it has been a tough winter with blanks. Tight lines people, stay safe!" Regards, Daniel



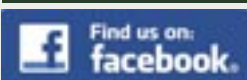
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## Langley's Lake

A 3-acre specimen carp lake with hard fighting fish up to 30lbs. We only allow a maximum of 8 anglers at time on to this water which has a variety of features to fish to. Langley's is the largest lake at the venue and there are a number of additional fishery rules in place on this water. The average depth is around 5'. Get your tactics right and you can expect a great session!  
**£15 / 12 hours - £30 / 24 hours**  
No concessions.



## The Stream

Approx 1/3 mile long with an average width of 30', this canalised section of wafer offers anglers the opportunity to fish with a pole or rod for a variety of fish including crucians, roach, rudd, bream, perch and tench. A very popular water for those who enjoy a more traditional style of fishing. The average depth is 4' and there are 60 pegs available.  
**£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours**  
Concessions available.  
Match bookings available.



## The Pan Lake

A more intimate water than Langley's with carp to 20lbs along with a selection of silver fish including roach, tench, barbel and perch. With an average depth of 5' and lots of features, this pretty water offers all anglers a great day out.  
**£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours**  
No concessions.



## Farm Lake

An average depth of 4' with lots of features, this lovely water is well stocked with carp, bream, roach, perch and F1s. This water is a popular choice for families, young anglers and beginners and is close to the well presented on-site facilities.  
**£10 / 12 hours - £20 / 24 hours**  
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Claygate Lakes is a peaceful venue comprising of three well-stocked lakes namely Amy, Eva and Sophie all offering a different style of angling. This picturesque 10 acres fishery is situated in the beautiful Kent countryside and is easily accessed from all major routes making it a popular destination for anglers regardless of their location. The towns of Maidstone, Tonbridge and Paddock Wood are all just a short drive away!

The fishery has undergone an extensive programme of stocking, improvements and maintenance during the past winter in order to continue to provide top quality fishing and facilities to it's guests making it one of the county's prime fisheries!

### *Fishery Rules:*

We try and keep rules to a minimum, but it is necessary to have a set of rules so that all anglers can enjoy their visit to our venue. Claygate Lakes has separate rules applicable to the Match / Snake Lake and to our specimen waters. Please visit our website for details or call for more information

### *Find us at:*

The postcode for your sat nav is TN12 9PL. This exceptional fishery is within easy access of all major roads and motorways and is located just a short drive from the village of Marden on the B2162 between Collier Street and the White Hart pub.

**Collier Street  
Claygate, Marden  
Kent TN12 9PL**

## **NEW FOR 2021!**

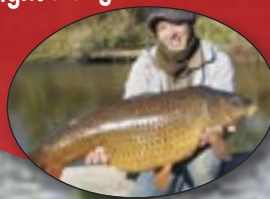
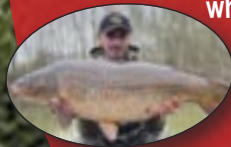
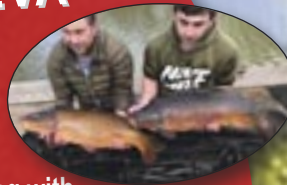
Claygate Lakes are delighted to offer the opportunity for people to pitch a tent or campervan overnight on the well-maintained grass area at the front of the lakes. This offers the angler's family and friends the opportunity to experience the joy of camping and enjoying the Kentish air and beauty! Fresh drinking water is available along with an Elsan point for waste disposal. Please call for prices and availability.

to 14lbs now caught



## **LAKE EVA**

One of our prime specimen waters, Lake Eva has been restocked with 4x 30s along with 20x upper 20s. A further 50 carp of over 10lbs have also been added to the original stock which already had specimens to 27lbs. Eva now enjoys a summerhouse which can be rented for the day or night along with sunbeds.



## **LAKE EXCL**

We offer all of our waters day/night sessions. Please

# welcom

## Open for Day & N

**FACILITIES** The large car park at the front of the fishery provides ample parking and anglers will find the upgraded toilets and shower units and an on site food unit providing hot and cold food and drinks.

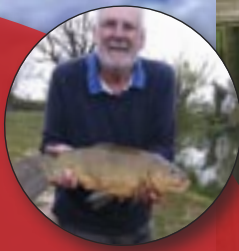
There are separate male and female showers and toilets which are maintained regularly along with a unit for disabled guests. The ladies and disabled facilities were installed during the Winter and have a key coded door lock for privacy. Long stay anglers will also find a drinking water point. There is a small on site tackle and bait shop providing charging points for your phones and bait boats.

**DOGS** Dogs are welcome, however, we do have a rule of only one dog per day so it is advisable to discuss this at the time of your booking. Dogs must be well-behaved and kept on a lead at all times and owners are responsible for cleaning up behind their pets.

# www.newcla

## LAKE SOPHIE

Sophie is our Snake / Match water and the stock of bream has been increased with fish tonight! Additional tench have also been stocked and the water now holds specimens up to 11lbs!



This water is also available for night fishing. Sophie holds a variety of silver fish species and some carp.



## RESERVATION BOOKINGS

(Amy, Sophie and Eva) to anglers for call us to discuss your requirements.



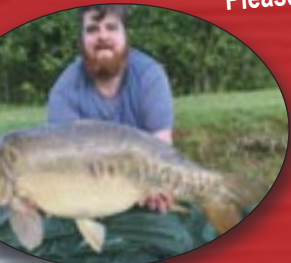
# WELCOME TO CLAYGATE LAKES

Night fishing

# 07770 513448

## LAKE AMY

Amy has also seen new stock introduced over the past few months with some lovely scaley carp going in. This water holds numerous 30lbs+ fish as well as a good number of carp in the high 20s. Amy has a number of power points that campervans/caravans can hook up to. Please call us for more information and availability.



### FISHING ON LAKES EVA AND SOPHIE

- £10 per day for up to 2 rods
- Juniors (under 13) and senior citizens (65 and over) £8 for up to 2 rods
- 24 hours - £24 (by arrangement only)
- Guests £5 each per 12 hours

### FISHING ON LAKE AMY

- £12 for 2 rods per day
- £15 for 3 rods per day
- £15 for 2 rods per night
- £20 for 3 rods per night
- £25 for 2 rods / 24 hours
- £30 for 3 rods / 24 hours

Charges for 24 hour sessions on Lake Amy begin from your arrival at the lakes and not at set times. Longer sessions are available, please call for prices.

# claygatelakes.co.uk



follow  
Dave Claygate

## Tonbridge & District Angling & FP Society

ALL of our stillwaters are fishing well now!

**The New Lagoon** is producing great Tench fishing with plenty of bream, carp and big silvers as back ups. The recently stocked crucians are starting to show also.

**Steve and Dave Ellis** enjoyed a recent visit, both catching some nice tench and bream.

**The Old Ballast Pit** is fishing really well for the carp with fish to over 30lb being caught.

Some very big eels also showing to over 5lb.

**Barden Lake** is producing large carp, the odd tench and some very big bream well into double figures.

**Longfield Lake** is slowly improving with odd nice tench and a few decent bream being caught.

**Pippins Farm** has produced some roach to nearly 2lb, odd tench and a few crucians. There are some lovely new swims being added by bailiff **Andy Bungay** and his Dad **Brian**.

**Weirwood** has been a little slow with the predators spawning and the silver fish still being in the deeper water.

**Haysden Lake** has fished fairly well of late with some bream to nearly 9lb coming out as well as roach to nearly 1lb and several perch to nearly 1lb. **Steve Twort** recently caught a cracking 8lb 13oz tench on the feeder using worm. **Colin Fowler** also enjoyed a great session on the waggler with a good mixed bag of silvers for 14lb.



**A recent friendly match showed that the fish were nearly ready to spawn with all the better bags coming from the shallower areas.**

**MATCH RESULT:** Although it was a terrible day weather wise, all 24 entrants turned out for a very well organised fun match day. Well done Martyn for sorting it all out.

Winning honours went to **Stuart 'Snowy' White** with a respectable 10lb bag consisting of 2 bream, some silvers and a fish of the day 14oz perch. 2nd place went to **'Pistol' Pete Groombridge** with a nice 8lb 6oz bag of roach all caught on the pole. 3rd place went to **Steve 'The Tench' Twort** who had two bream and some bits for 6lb 8oz and 4th place went to **Larry Howard** with a 4lb 4oz mixed bag.

Other fun prizes were awarded to give everyone a chance of winning something. Fish Bingo which was the first person to catch 3 species went to **Mick Smith** who also claimed the lucky dip peg draw. There were other prizes for guessing the winning weight and a draw for getting nearest a mystery weight.

*All in all, a great day with lots of banter and a jolly good soaking. Well done all and roll on the New season!*





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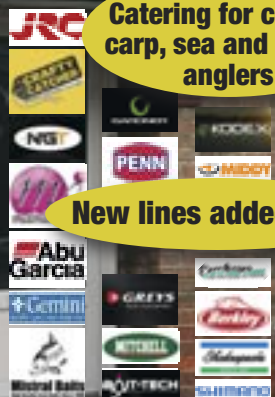
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Mousehole Lakes Paddock Wood, Kent



## Claygate Lakes Claygate, Marden, Kent

**Lake Eva** **Matthew Goode** has been trying to catch the 'ghostie' which has never been caught to date. However, in his quest Matthew had a good few other fish out! A very big 'well done' to **Zoe** on her first ever fishing trip. Zoe came to Claygate Lakes with her dad **Gary** and **Grandad Al** and showed them how to fish! **Ashley** popped in for a couple of hours with his mate who is

new to fishing, note the photo below and the 'L' plate in the background, a sheer coincidence! Ashley said that it is not how many fish you catch, but the size and 18lbs matters!



**Lake Sophie** Regular Claygate visitor **Peter** managed to land a proper 'dustbin lid' of a bream! We now have a good number of anglers who regularly fish 24 hour sessions seeking out the stock of huge tench and bream. At the moment the fish do seem to have a liking for worms!

**Lake Amy** **Brandon Pettit** joined the '30 club' with a new 30lbs carp. He has named the fish 'Boris the Barrel' as it was 'short, fat and caught whilst partially in lockdown'!



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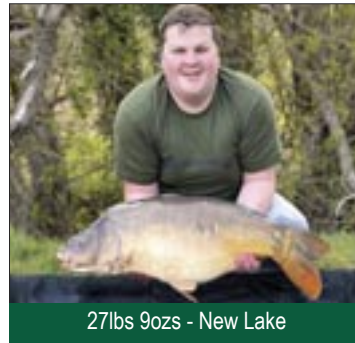
**Tricklebrook Fishery** Five Oak Green, Kent



19lbs Grass Carp - Old Lake



26lbs 4ozs - New Lake



27lbs 9ozs - New Lake



Scott - 21lb New Lake



Matthew Good - 31lbs 8ozs Old Speci



26lbs 3ozs - New Lake



Les Neville - 24lbs 12ozs New Lake



26lbs - New Lake



Les Neville - 27lbs 12 ozs New Lake



Les Neville - 34lbs 2ozs New Lake



Matthew Colegate - 26lbs Old Speci Lake



31lb

31lbs - New Lake



26lbs 8ozs - New Lake

**All smiles at Hartley Lands!**

Peter Connolly had a day on the 'Res' recently with his son and managed a number of bites ranging in fish from 8lbs to 12lbs. Well done and thank you for sending them in! Call Hartley Lands on 07703 825064.



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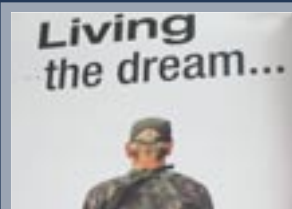
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# The Golden Years of Coarse Fishing by Bob Rolph



## Winter at The Bull at Downton

**D**uring the deep mid winters of the mid 1960s, four of us from my Kent Group took it in turns to always spend weekends in January and February fishing the Hampshire Avon on the famous Bull Hotel water at Downton, an 18th century former coaching inn. Although it's not actually on the river, but set on a wide section of the High St., the river and the fishing beat are only a mile and a half away from the centre of town and the long low building with converted stables at the rear house a car park and numerous outbuildings.

Its association with fishing on the Avon dates back several hundred years and many a famous angler and writer has stayed there and fished its crystal clear chalk stream waters, none more so than the celebrated roach angler and writer Capt. L.A. Parker. Leonard (Skipper) Parker was once the Bull's landlord for 18 years from March 1932 until 1950, when he moved to take over nearby Bickton Mill. Huge bags of quality roach were caught by him during this period, at least 172 fish over 2 lbs in weight, most were returned to the water, but sadly some were set up, or even taken for the table! Leonard Parker, who wrote "This Fishing" and "Roach" in the How to Catch Them series, served in the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War and was later commissioned at Old Sarum in 1930, he died aged 72 in 1959.

A friend of mine actually owns Cpt. Parker's prize rod, a whole cane and greenheart two piece made by famous rod maker W. F. Homer of Forest Gate in 1931, with which he caught many of his later 2 lbs roach all those years ago. Other friends in the collecting world also own landing nets previously used by Bernard Venables and Dick Walker and the original carp rods in cane and glass that Dick and Jack Hilton used for many of their big fish.

The main feature of the pub in days gone by was the huge collection of stuffed, cased fish adorning the public bar in the days when I used to frequent it, mainly in 1965. Large pike, salmon, trout, chub, barbel, grayling and cases of huge roach are my recollections of what was on display from floor to ceiling. They are all gone now, well over 30 years ago at least, sold at auction for a fortune no doubt, some cased fish were collectors' items, some I believe by Coopers of London, the greatest firm of taxidermists around at that time. We sat drinking in the bar each evening beside the log fire, drooling at these fish, hoping to gain inspiration for the cold days fishing ahead of us!

Mary and Peter Scott-Newman were our hosts in those days, Peter the quintessential colonial type with his handlebar moustache and Mary producing fine meals in the oak panelled restaurant for returning wet and cold young anglers! We always booked two rooms, well in advance by phone, remember land lines. We almost had a standing order for two rooms every week end after Christmas and New Year, as it became a tradition with us young lads from Kent! Some even took their wives and girlfriends who drank the pub dry whilst we were fishing or ventured into Salisbury to spend our hard earned money! I was single and knew nothing about girls, but I had aspirations on the lovely local bar maid from the village! Her dad had once caught a salmon from the river and that was enough for me! No, I never married her, I spent too many years fishing and travelling, then 50 years later married the niece of a famous football manager!

Anyway, back to the fishing and the pub. When Capt. L. A. Parker took over the hotel in 1932 he added a tackle and boot room and a

drying room in an outbuilding at the rear of the hotel, and employed a full time water bailiff to look after the boathouse and punts down on the river. We used this room a lot during our stays there in the cold, wet weather of January and February and the water bailiff always looked after us and cleaned out the punts prior to our arrival each Friday evening.

Barry Graham, Alan Tisdall, Geoff Keeble and Ron Blackmore all fished here with me for the grayling many times, trotting down a bunch of maggots on a fluted float from an anchored punt in mid stream. Some days it was so cold that ice formed in our rod rings and trotting with a centrepin was out of the question, but this

did not stop the purple hued grayling from taking our baits right beside the punt with gusto during those memorable days 55 years ago! Fish from half a pound to just under 2 lbs were the order of the day, dozens of them, the "Lady of the Stream" really was prolific in the mid 1960s!

We also fished for chub, roach, dace and pike, and we filled keepnets full of smallish fish on most occasions, despite the atrocious conditions. One memorable day in heavy snow, we had over 20 lbs of grayling in the net over the side of the punt, all returned safely. Trotting with an Alcock Aerial centrepin reel, fluted float and a B. James Kennet Perfection built cane rod were the method of choice in those days, then a bit of ledgering in the slacks with worm or bread for the chub. The fact that our fingers and hands

### The Bull and fishing past



### Geoff, Barry and Alan



## THE BULL AT DOWNTON

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Telegrams : BULL, DOWNTON

Under the personal direction of Mary and Peter Scott-Newman.

This picturesque 300 year old Coaching Inn has become a centre for anglers from many countries and other discriminating guests seeking a comfortable base for visits to the many near-by beauty spots and places of interest.

It is situated on the Salisbury-Bournemouth road (A.338) six miles South of Salisbury at the Northern edge of the New Forest. The comfortable bedrooms all have hot and cold water and some have private bathrooms. Electric blankets are available on request at no extra charge.

Good English cooking is a tradition of the hotel. The daily supply of fresh vegetables grown in its own grounds and the excellence of its cellar both add to the delights commented upon by Raymond Postgate in his "Good Food Guide" and Egon Ronay in his Guide. It is also approved by the A.A., R.A.C., and the British Travel and Holiday Association.

inside of the 1964 Bull brochure



were so cold is what I most remember from this winter ordeal, but the next morning we would be up early for more of this torture!

Barry Graham emigrated to Australia the following year, a little bit extreme I thought, he only had to say "no more of this foolishness"! He went to Adelaide on the £10 'Pom' scheme. I lost five mates this way in the early 1970s. They must all have known something I didn't at the time. Never mind, I discovered Australia myself in 1985 and have now been over there 10 times! I now know why they went!

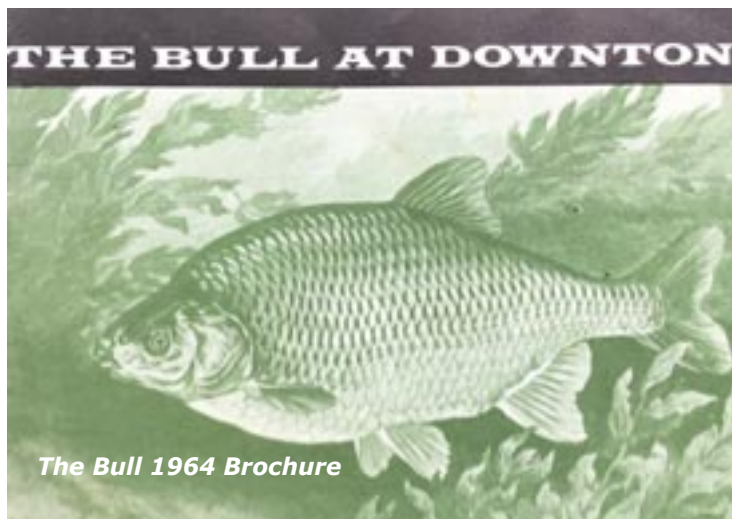
One year Barry couldn't make it so I enlisted the 'heavy mob' in the form of John, Ron and Dave. They were convinced that the pike of the Downton stretch would fall to dead herrings and sprats in the big eddies behind the island. The island swims necessitated a crossing of the river by a rickety hand pulled chain ferry and in January it was not a pleasant task. The ice cold chain and wooden barge type platform needed some skill to handle in the flooded river. When we got there a few small live baits were caught in the slack water behind the island. However, my sprats proved essential as I was convinced that we shouldn't be using live baits when the bailiff was around! Pike rods were set and the snows came again as freelined sprats and herrings punctuated the cold still air. We found a feeding area and runs were prolific. Dave caught fish of 14, 10 and 9 lbs, quite easily one afternoon from the shelter of our newly developed Bivvy. I had fish between 3 and 7 lbs. They were a little bit incongruous on the banks of the hallowed Hampshire Avon, all be it behind the bare trees of the island swim, luckily the bailiff didn't show up that day as I don't think we should have been doing the things we were doing and as for Bivvies on the Avon, well that was just not cricket!

We had some great times fishing the river and progressed to the Royalty Fishery at Christchurch in later years, but that's another story! We never caught a 2 lb roach, but had them to just under the pound with chub to 3 lbs, grayling to 2 lbs, dace to 12 ozs and pike to 14 lbs. This was all over a 3 year period, no monsters, but good fish for youngsters like us! I must return one day to drink in the bar and see what has become of the boathouse and dugout punt mooring bays. Bet the chain ferry is no longer there and that the pub is now a "road house" with modern day restaurant and just one bar only with nothing to show of its former history as a famous anglers retreat. No doubt the village of Downton today is awash with American tourists all looking for the "Abbey" which of course does not exist, not there anyway!"

I did return to the Bull during the brief respite that we had last summer and drank in the re-vamped bar for old times sake! It is now a Marstons pub, no sign of the old stuffed fish and the landlord has no knowledge of its former glory as a famous fishing pub. Walker, Taylor, Stone and Venables all stayed here and fished from the punts, of which there was no sign, nor of the boathouse or wooden chain ferry that took us across to the now overgrown island. A mowed



A typical chub bag



The Bull 1964 Brochure

The Avon near Downton



Millenium park walk and housing estate now adorn the field we used to cross and it all felt rather sad. Downton Tannery and mill were all gone, flats now, and I wish I'd never gone back! The water seemed shallower now, in the light of summer, a far cry from the coloured flood waters of winters fifty years ago when chub, grayling and pike were plentiful and filled our nets to overflowing.

I walked the banks where once the swims were kept neat and tidy by the bailiff, but today most were so overgrown with vegetation that they were unrecognisable as the ones we used to fish and the boathouse inlet was silted up. Dozens of swans now swam the river, where once we trotted for the lovely grayling in the driving snow! The smell of cucumber is my memory of those purple fish from 55 years ago, such a distinctive aroma and the chub and pike, Oh such smelly cold Days!"

Bob Rolph

# Medway Man

## Bob Morris

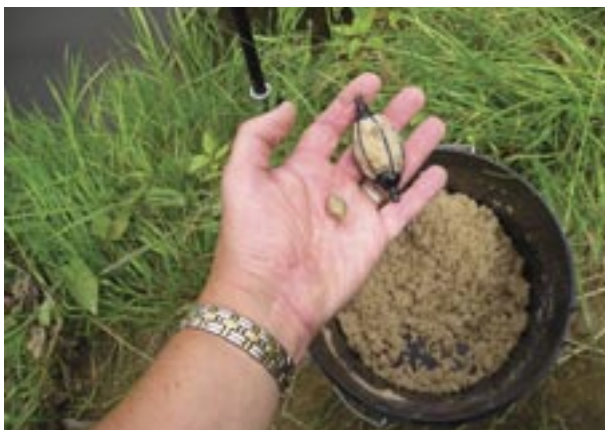
In spite of the emergence and rapid spread of the Indian variant of the Covid 19 virus, it appears that steady progress is still being made towards some form of normality. Along with most of you I am certainly looking forward to getting back to resuming some of my former activities both personal and piscatorial over the next couple of months. Having said that, I will be happy to go along with any further restrictions that can be shown to finally get on top of this pandemic - even if this means further regular vaccination.



*A good tench on feeder tactics*

Obviously some form of swimfeeder is required if a wetter mix is being used. The problem here is that most of the versions available commercially are not big enough for what I want and I often end up making my own. I first started making feeders many years ago and probably the first ones were made from old film cannisters back in the sixties. These worked fine and usually copied the normal patterns and started off as a way of cutting cost. I soon realised however that if you were making your own kit whether it was rods, rests, nets, lead weights or even feeders that it was possible to custom build to your exact requirements. When it came to swimfeeders the following aspects were relevant. Do they need to be aerodynamic for distance, heavy - for holding in a strong current, able to deliver the right quantity and consistency of bait, buoyant for weedy conditions, tangle and twist free, and last, but not least, minimal in water resistance on retrieve. The size, Weight and shape of the feeder can be crucial and although I tend to stick to a basic tube format the versions range from a solid walled to a cage style with various mesh size to allow for different mixes and textures.

Fishing in thick weed poses problems for presentation and also for potential loss of a hooked fish when leads/ feeders and terminal tackle gets hooked up during retrieve or when playing fish. Running leads or feeders (normally my first choice) are a liability in these conditions as it is easy for them to get embedded in the weed and you end up playing the fish at an angle through the swivel and risking the loss of the fish, due to a hook pull or even a break, if they can't be dislodged. A backstop is a great help in this situation as it means that the feeder follows the fish and is less likely to snag up. A rotating (helicopter type) rig will also achieve the same result. However, something that is also extremely helpful in these 'weedy' conditions is a negative buoyancy lead or feeder, as this will be far less likely to bed down or pull into the weed and cause problems. Some effective examples of these feeders have worked quite well for me recently and have been made from jumbo hair curlers which are very tough, cheap and actually float.



*Different bait textures need a variety of feeders*

My Spring progress on the fishing front has been incredibly slow, although I have to admit that for reasons previously stated I have kept away from one or two of the waters that I would normally regard as reliable at this time of year. When things get tough however, it often forces me to try different methods or seek out new areas to fish and this in itself can be a very interesting avenue to explore. At this time of year a lot of my fishing involves the use of feeder tactics of one sort or another because sometimes the fish, usually tench, bream or others, are not frequenting the margins and for this reason my favourite float fishing approach is not likely to succeed. Sometimes ranges of 40 - 70 yards are required and although this is easily achieved when using pva bags, stringers etc, groundbait balls need to be fairly firm to throw or fire out that sort of distance - unless a spod/spomb is in use.



*Feeder tactics again*

Various amounts of lead or weight can be attached to cope with differing requirements and configurations and they can easily be adapted to deliver a variety of baits including maggots in good quantities. I have recently experienced quite a few weed related problems of this type and one of the best adaptations so far with this system has been to use no added weight at all but include a couple of heavy or appropriate sized stones in with the groundbait inside the tube. This will allow casting to the desired spot and tightening the line in the normal way. When a bite occurs and the fish is hooked, the



stones are shaken out of the feeder and it becomes buoyant again and this will help it to avoid fouling the weed as you deal with the hooked fish. Obviously, this will not totally solve the problem because the fish is often trying its best to get down into the weed itself but, my experience indicates that this tactic certainly helps.

I have also been messing about with some of these jumbo feeders and adapted them for river fishing with the addition of a strip of sheet lead to achieve the required level of weight and I will look forward to trying them out later this month. I will keep you posted on the effectiveness of these!



One of Bob's 'hair curler' feeders



Another bream on the feeder - into the net

that time without giving a reason? I am sure that Barry would be happy to publish a response / explanation here in FI.

Finally, I would just like to thank all of the people who messaged and called me with support for my position - after reading my short piece last month about losing my membership of the Dartford Angling Club after 50 years. All had the same question - How can you throw somebody out after all

*Best Fishes + Developments  
Bob Morris*



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many magazine  
subscribers for their  
kind donations!**

## Hello and welcome to the June edition of the Junior Informer!

Now the weather is getting better, the fish are becoming a lot more active and always looking for something to eat! The days and evenings are getting longer so have you thought about going fishing just for an evening, once you are home from school and mum and dad are back from work? The warm summer evenings see the lakes come alive and a great way to fish is in the margins for tench. Methods are very simple and nothing more than a simple float set up is required with sweetcorn being the ideal hook bait. It can be a good idea to pre-bait your swim for a couple of evenings before you go with baits like dead maggots, corn, hemp and pellets and even some broken up boilies. One of the reasons for using dead maggots is that they will not burrow down in to the silt and hide. I generally kill my maggots by placing them in to a plastic bag and securing it tightly and then placing that bag in to another bag and again securing tightly. Then place the bag in to the freezer for a day or two! Please get mum's permission before putting your maggots in the freezer unless you are lucky enough to have a bait fridge/freezer in the shed! I have found that red maggots seem to work better when targeting tench. Don't be surprised if you hook in to a big carp as they also love to feed in the margins! Hook up and hang on! Good luck and send us your tench photos (and carp of course!).

**The support of our sponsors listed above makes the Junior Informer possible. If you would like to become a Junior Informer sponsor please do get in touch! Having your logo displayed at the top of the page for a year shows everyone that your business supports and encourages junior anglers! Please email, call or send a message to the Facebook page. Contact details are at the bottom of the inside front cover. Thank you.**

### Well done to Billy junior!

**Proud dad Billy Roberts sent in this report for his son Billy junior:**



"Hello Barry, Please find attached some photos of my son Billy from a session we had at Cottington Lakes near Deal where he caught a couple of lovely carp!"  
**Well done Billy!**



### Well done to Morgan!



**Kirsty Gray sent in this report for Morgan:**

"Morgan Kirby-Gray, age 8, fished a 24hrs session on a new lake. She baited up her own swim and with a little help getting it in the net landed this lovely looking mirror and a new PB of 16lbs. One happy little girl!" Thanks, Kirsty

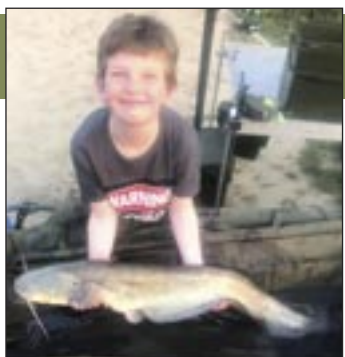
### Happy Days at Orchard Place Farm Fishery!

**Barry Whyton sent in this great report on a good session at Orchard Place Farm:**

"Myself and young Ronnie Sawyer have just got back from a 48 hours on Lake 1. This was the first



overnight fishing trip Ronnie had done! We arrived at 7am on a Thursday morning to a warm welcome, chose our swim and settled in. Ronnie started this trip with a PB mirror carp of 5lbs, but, dreamed of catching a catfish. First was a 9lbs carp to grace his net followed by a 15.8lb catfish, two new PBs to leave with! In total we had 6 catfish from 5lbs to 30lbs, 20 carp from 4lbs - 17.4lbs and a 3lbs bream. Safe to say that Ronnie, aged 11, is now hooked for life! Wet nets and tight lines from us both." Barry and Ronnie



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Frankie-Ray

**WINNERS**

Shane Hynes



The two lucky winners for May  
*well done!*



Jimmy Waller jnr - PB at Lavender Farm



Maggie Tofts - 17lbs 8ozs Hawkhurst Fish Farm



Shane Hynes - 7lbs Monk Lakes



Josh Cowley - 40lbs Falkenvil Fishery



Morgan Benson - 11lbs 12ozs



Tristan, aged, at Cottington with his first ever fish!



Lenora didn't want to hold the fish!



Morgan Kirby-Gray - 16lbs new PB!



Matt Cowley - 25lbs Falkenvil Fishery



Molly Talbott - 25lbs 8ozs Hawkhurst



Tomme, Zack and Tai

# Fishing for schools - JUNE UPDATE

from coach Warren White



Monk Lakes

**A**n important cog in the wheel, and part of a successful fishing coaching operation, is the fisheries we use. We have three fisheries that we use; Grove Farm Hadlow (Hadlow college), Monk Lakes and the T.W.A.P.S Club (Shorne Country Park).

It is important when fishing coaching to have the best fisheries available, because in this day and age when coaching, facilities such as good fishing, toilets, parking etc. are a must.

Grove Farm Fishery (Hadlow College) is where the majority of our outdoor sessions take place. The beauty of this facility is that we have a classroom (lodge) right next to the lake, so in bad weather conditions or as with our school teaching, BTEC Fisheries course, throughout the winter months, we have an indoor facility that we can use, which is a rare commodity. The link and the good relationship that we have with Hadlow College, and in particular Brian Bailey the Fishery manager, allows us to use Grove Farm Fishery. We regularly run courses for schools, mental health groups and help the college on Open Days to get more people into



Shorne Park

fishing. But one of the most important points is that we have a place that our young students can progress onto when they leave school, something we are seeing a lot more of as the years go on.



Grove Farm, Hadlow

Monks Lake, in my opinion, is one of the best fisheries in the UK. We have been using the fishery for 13 years. Morgan and his staff that run Monks Lake are keen to encourage more youngsters into the sport. They subsidise our courses and are always willing to make swims available for coaching. They seem to have the same vision as us, that the young people of today are the future of fishing.

T.W.A.P.S. (Thameside Works Angling Preservation Society) is an angling club situated in NW Kent. It has lakes locally in the Gravesend area and other lakes and river stretches in Kent. Being a member myself, I know what a great club this is. Dennis Hammond who is Chairman of the club, like us, has a vision for getting more youngsters into fishing.

One question I regularly get asked by parents after they have had a Fishing coaching lesson is where do we go from here if my child is keen to get into fishing. I always advise to keep an eye on any Coaching days that pop up throughout the year, and to look at joining a good local angling club. The link to what we do at Shorne Country Park with the T.W.A.P.S. fishing club is that we can then advise parents to join this club. The advantage of joining a club is that clubs, in order to encourage more junior anglers to join, keep membership fees low and generally most of the clubs waters are set in a secure, safe environment. I must say that it is brilliant to be back coaching our schools and mental health groups once again. Being a fisherman, we have all been very fortunate that throughout the Covid lockdowns, fishing has been one of the only sports that has carried on more or less throughout. A lot of the praise must go to the Angling Trust who have lobbied Parliament to keep angling going, which is great. But, for me, organisations that do not get enough recognition for what they have done through Covid, are the Fisheries and Clubs themselves, whose workers have been put on the front line, to ensure fisherman get their angling fix and for some anglers this can be a life saver! Well done.

**Warren White**

**Steve Bates and his son Ollie enjoyed a session at Evegate Fishery near Ashford and Ollie caught a new PB!**



All fish fell to cheese, fished on a short 4" hair, size 10 hook with Dynamite Tiger Nut pellet and sweetcorn for free offerings. We fished as close as we could cast to the far bank." **Steve and Ollie**

**Good day for Ollie!**

"Ollie and I had a great day's fishing at Evegate Lake in Smeeth. We had 7 low double figure fish to 13lbs until Ollie hooked into a chunky looking mirror carp at 16lbs 10ozs which is a new PB for my young fisherman.



# TROUT INFORMER

## Brick Farm Lakes Herstmonceux, East Sussex

Fishing in the last few weeks has continued to be fruitful with more successful and impressive bags being landed. The nicer weather of recent has seen longer days and the start of some evening rises particularly on Stag Lake. Buzzers are proving a winner generally with some hatches to be seen, but as always Blue Flash keeps catching also. Claret Hoppers produced some lovely surface fishing the other day as well.

We are pleased to be seeing several fly fishing newbies joining us for pre-booked lessons, and it's great to be meeting new regulars. Along with some sizeable rainbows coming out over the 6lbs figure, it's always good to see some nice brownies - most notably of recent include **John Cromer** who caught a lovely 7lbs 4ozs, **Peter Buss** who started a day with an early 8lbs 5ozs brownie from Stag Lake, and **David Goldsmith** with his **PB** brownie weighing in at 8lbs 4ozs (part of a fine 3 fish bag totalling 13lbs 11ozs).

*Tight lines, The Axells*



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ordered by Tuesday 13 June to allow for postage. These and other vouchers are available directly from the Lodge, or by telephone on 01323 832615 and we can post vouchers to you, or directly to the recipient for just £1 postage and admin.



## Tenterden Trout Waters

Tenterden, Kent

May has been a great month for fishing at Tenterden with many anglers reporting some very good sport. The varying weights of hard fighting trout which have been recently stocked are providing our anglers with the excitement and challenge of fishing here and catching good quality rainbows, blues and browns.



The brownies have been well received and we appreciate you returning them to the waters. **Ian McKenzie** caught a 7lbs rainbow on a 'Black Minky' and the 'Catch of the Season' goes to **Gary Jones** who caught a 10lbs 14ozs rainbow and 4lbs brownie on a 'Black Damsel/Blue Tinsel' all caught on Lake 3. Many trout have been caught throughout the month. Fishing with an intermediate line is working well. Popular patterns include Damsels, Daddy Longlegs, Black Lure, Orange/Red nymphs.

Our Fishery hosted the Charles Jardine Skillset Day here on the 2 May which was a fund raising event for his charity, Fishing for Schools. We were delighted to all be out in the countryside with Charles and his coaches who provided a great day for all our participants. We thank everyone for their support.

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### Stay & Fish

Our Shepherds Hut accommodation is open for both anglers who wish to stay and fish and for other guests who just welcome a short break away now that lockdown is unfolding. If a 'staycation' is of interest to you then we are offering 20% off our permit prices if you stay in our Ghillies Hut. For more info discover our 'Shepherds Hut' heading on our website with a direct link to Airbnb. We all look forward to sharing a great Summer with you, here on our Farm/Fishery. Call or email [gaynor@coombe-farm.com](mailto:gaynor@coombe-farm.com) 01580 763201 to book your fishing. If we don't answer please leave a message, name and number and we will get back to you asap. We will limit our numbers to 12 anglers fishing at any one time to create the space you all need. Our booking system facilitates this well and we will continue to use it from now on.



### SUMMER CLOSING

**The Fishery will be closed on the 27 June and will re-open on the 1 July for lake maintenance. We will be closed for Summer from the 19 July and will re-open on the 27 August for the Bank Holiday weekend. Reservations for the Shepherds Hut will be available throughout the Summer.**

### Fishery lodge

The Fishery Lodge has now re-opened in line with the guidance and our facilities are operating as usual for you to enjoy tea/coffee with our compliments. We have great facilities with kitchen/dining/sofa, toilet and lakeside balcony where you can relax. See photos in our Gallery. We thank you for your support whilst it was closed.

Fishing Tuition can be booked direct with Richard Stokes, our Instructor, please email [richard@coombe-farm.com](mailto:richard@coombe-farm.com) if you are interested in learning a new skill in 2021. It is always fun to learn new things in life and you can purchase a lesson as a gift voucher experience for someone special.

For an up-to-date fishing report please go to our website and click on News/Fishing Report. [www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk](http://www.tenterden-trout-waters.co.uk) you will find an Aerial Tour on our Home Page so you can view our picturesque Wealden setting. Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook and visit our Gallery.

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# Lure Fishing

Andy Lush - The Friendly Fisherman

## Lure Fishing

### Chalybeate Springs – TN3 9JA

I took the opportunity before yet another storm arrived to pay a visit to Jim Streeter's Chalybeate fishery. The unsettled weather was set for the rest of the week so it was now or never for at least another seven days. On arrival, I surveyed the scene, hardly a breath of wind or a cloud in the sky. The sunlight was so intense and yet there was still a chill in the air. I donned my waterproofs which would keep the cool wind off, keeping warm and comfortable is so important at any time, but, when the fishing needs a lot of concentration it's doubly important. I decided to fish off Jim's jetty at first as I'd not fished this end of the lake before and I was keen to learn the topography. My usual haunt in the corner of the dam allows me to cast along the adjacent bank which has always been a productive tactic. On this occasion, I was casting towards the shallows and the extensive reed beds. I was hoping for a hatch of some sort of flies in the shallow sheltered area.

Shortly after tackling up another angler arrived and positioned himself half way along the bank towards the dam. Before I'd started fishing properly I noticed a couple of fish rise just off my favourite corner swim. I couldn't resist moving onto these feeding fish before the chance was lost. Now in position I worked my way through my usual gambit of tactics for a couple of hours without any success. The active fish had disappeared which puzzled me! Another move was in order; I spent a short time casting along the face of the dam from a strategically positioned casting platform in the middle of the dam. This also proved unsuccessful and I was ready for a break, time for lunch and a re-think! Up until now I'd been using a Midge tip - sink tip line with a variety of weighted nymphs and lures.

### Plan B

I moved down the "deer park" bank towards the reeds and the shallows directly opposite Jim's jetty. This area was on the downwind side of the lake. Although the breeze was gentle, at times it picked up enough to drift my floating line around in a seductive curve. On my first cast I missed a take! The water was very shallow so I'd downsized to a size 12 Diawl Bach, being approx. 30% lighter than a size 10. This meant I could hover my fly just sub-surface. Every time I managed to cast across the wind the gentle side-ways swing produced a take. I was using a FM Black Marabou Diawl Bach, similar to a Cormorant, but with a small marabou tail instead of a marabou wing. Once I'd discovered the method, I could almost guarantee a take every cast, as long as I could get the all-important "swing". My retrieve was just sufficient enough to create tension stopping my fly from sinking below the fish, which proved essential, no side-ways movement, no offers.

I caught several fish up by the reeds before the takes finally dried up. I worked my way back along the bank towards the deeper water and the dam. The ripple was pushing into this corner too and again when I managed to get the tension right and the all-important drift and swing I caught more fish. The fish were very shallow probably only 12-18" from the surface which surprised me. In the last 2 ½ hours I caught 8 fish and missed several more, what a result after such an unpromising start.

It's important to remember when choosing a fly to take into account its build. Whether it's weighted or un-weighted and it's dressing, slim or fluffy, all these elements affect the "depth and speed" it can be fished at effectively. Consider these elements first before considering appearance. I started my session using weighted flies which had taken them below the fish for almost all of the retrieve. The only time they were visible to the fish were as they landed on the surface shortly after I'd cast, while they were sinking and finally as I was about to lift off at the end of my retrieve. For 90% of the time they would have been invisible to the fish, hence my lack of success! If I'd continued with weighted flies I would have had to use fast retrieves to prevent them from sinking below the fish, on this occasion that proved to be far too crude. The change to un-weighted patterns had given me the depth control I needed, allowing a subtle slow and shallow retrieve which immediately proved to be the right combination. A lesson learned, yet again!



This Rainbow was feeding very close to the surface



Jim Streeter - in his office

### Hazel Copse - RH12 3AF

James Gardner and I fancied a change of scenery and with the easing of lockdown we ventured into deepest West Sussex to fish Hazel Copse fishery. On the day we visited, Wilf Welch was on hand to meet and greet us and while I tackled up James and Wilf reminisced about the early days of the fishery when it first opened. Hazel Copse was one of the first fisheries to adopt a catch and release policy, which remains to this day which suits those of us who love catching Trout but not necessarily eating them! Wilf was also one of the first to stock Stillwater Salmon which also proved to be popular until the source of farmed Salmon became too scarce and unreliable to continue.



## Sad news

As I mentioned last month Wilf passed away in April, but rest assured Wilf's family are committed to keeping the fishery open, Wilf's legacy is Hazel Copse.



*The familiar sight of James Gardner hooking the first fish*

still catching a few fish so I compared my leader length against his and it became obvious that his leader was a good deal longer than mine. I attached another 5ft to mine and immediately had five fish in five casts!

We noticed as we ate lunch that most of the anglers from the back pool had caught their fish and left. We resumed fishing the front pool but both fancied trying our luck on the back lake. We waited as long as possible to rest the water before we finally couldn't resist it any longer. It wasn't easy, the fish were off the feed now but we like a challenge and so we both opted for a favourite tactic in these situations i.e. the indicator.

It was a slow start as we searched to find the taking depth, finally we started catching at 4ft. I caught fish from a deep section of water in the middle of the lake where the fish seemed to have holed up. Takes occurred as my flies were sinking shortly after I'd cast. After that, on a very slow inched retrieve, stopping every 10ft also produced a few fish. We were both frustrated by the amount of offers we missed. But it was fun too as we derided each other on

our inability to perform the easy task of hooking fish! We moved around the lake catching a few more fish here and there. As the light faded the takes diminished, we expected the fish would move shallower but to our surprise we eventually found them feeding deeper at 7ft! We caught on a variety of flies from Blobs to Crunchers, Diawl Bach's to App's Bloodworms, they all worked.



*The end result - caught on a Hot Head Damsel*

What a fantastic day, a day to remember for more reasons than one. 'Rest in peace Wilf'.

*Tight lines, Andy Lush*



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For further details contact: **Jason Tuckey on 07983 569220**

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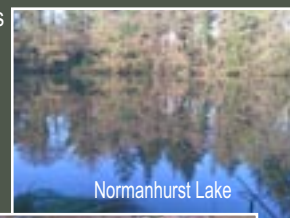
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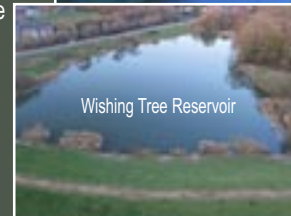
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Chris Pagan: **07429 655237** Steve Potter: **07935 268174**

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## Please support your local tackle shop!

The year is marching on at an incredible rate and here we are at the start of the summer! I think we have been short changed as Spring seemed conspicuous by its absence! The beginning of May saw some very rough unsettled conditions but things do seem to have settled down a little now. The everlasting cold winds

and high pressure done very little to help anglers in both fresh and salt water. Let us hope that June sees some more seasonal conditions.

At the time of writing Dover Sea Angling Association has recently had a meeting with the Dover Harbour Board regarding the Admiralty Pier situation. DSAA described the meeting as 'constructive', but nothing has yet been resolved. DHB is still citing repairs and security as the issues behind the pier's closure to angling. I understand further talks are planned in the near future. There are lots of high profile people and groups supporting the reinstatement of fishing on the pier including the Angling Trust. The story even made the local Meridian Television news on the evening of 6th May! Please continue to support the organisations, petitions and local shops who are pressing DHB in to reversing the closure decision. The smoothounds are beginning to move within casting range of the shore anglers with a few double figure fish already caught. If you are foraging for crabs among the rocks, it is vitally important that you replace the rocks etc just as you found them. Please preserve the shore line and only take what you need. Although the sea temperature is still cold, some early mackerel have already been caught at Brighton. Tony Hills at Seagull Tackle was telling me that the sea temperature during the past winter was the coldest for a good many years. It is going to take a good deal of time, sunshine and settled conditions for that temperature to rise! I always welcome sea anglers' catch photos for the various reports from around the coast so please send your pictures to me by email or message on the magazine's Facebook page.

**Thames report courtesy of Wayne May** Erith pier, plenty of flatties caught this week on fresh ragworm, fishing back towards the wall producing the most as the tide makes, using flapper rigs proving to be beneficial at this venue. School Bass are a plenty, taking a variety of baits under the QE2 bridge, peeler and lug wrapped baits with bait elastic keeps the baits on longer, avoiding the multiple takes from smaller fish. Greenhithe Park has also fished reasonably well. Following a couple of days without a bite, I changed to early morning tide and was on the flatties again, all reasonable sizes. Thames Estuary beaches and boats are catching the first smoothounds and rays are being caught regularly. Fishing from the Isle of Grain local novice angler Kevin Shields caught his first 8lbs thornback followed by a 6lbs ray on lugworm and

herring cocktail. **NJ Fishing Tackle at Gravesend stocks a great range of fresh and frozen baits and a wide range of tackle. New products have recently been added! Call 01474 353998.**



**Medway report** Fishing along the river marks is improving. The bass are making their way further along now and some nice sized eels are also appearing. Gillingham pier has produced some rays and a couple of small hounds along with whiting and pouting. Ragworm is the preferred bait for the bass and eels.

**Medway Tackle Supplies at Twydall has a great range of tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call 01634 475260.**

**Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling** The rays are continuing to be caught around the island along with smoothounds and bass.

A number of soles have been showing which is pleasing to see along

with some flounders. The May weed began to appear in mid-May and it is hoped that this will clear in 2 to 3 weeks. Supplies of crab to Sheppey Angling have been hit and miss as the general shortage everywhere is also affecting us. No sooner do we get some crabs in and they are gone straight away! Please continue to phone us regarding daily availability. **Sheppey Angling can supply all your fresh and frozen baits (subject to availability) along with a wide range of tackle. Call us on 01795 661089.**



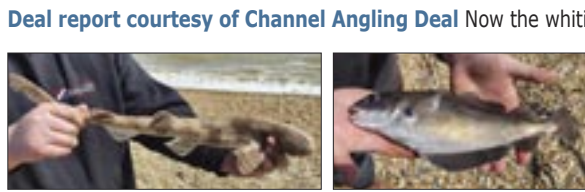
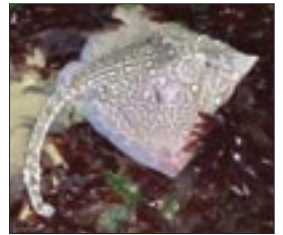
**North Kent report** To say the fishing has been pretty good would be an understatement! Lots of reports of hounds to double figures, rays and some fine bass being

caught. It might pay to find a mark away from the more popular venues as they have been busy. The Swale has produced some rays and school bass and flatfish and bass, hounds, rays and dogfish have been



caught from the shallower sandy beaches in the Herne Bay area. **Absolute Tackle at Herne Common stocks a wide range of tackle and fresh and frozen baits. Call 01227 636724.**

**Thanet report courtesy of Fisherman's Corner** Good numbers of bass being caught locally and the fish seem to have really turned on to lug baits. We have also seen the odd squid being caught by anglers lure fishing for bass and some of the bass that have been gutted have had squid in them. Few hounds and rays are still being caught from the East pier. **For bait, tackle or advice on fishing Thanet pop in to Fisherman's Corner or call 01843 582174.**



**Deal report courtesy of Channel Angling Deal** Now the whiting are in decline it's time for the bigger fish to find your baits. There have been some decent bass showing on worm baits along with hounds on crab and rays on bluey and herring. There are plenty of dogfish as usual and some rather large pouting. So, all in all, the prospects for Deal are looking good! The pier is now open for fishing so get down here and best of luck to you all, Fred.

**For bait and advice, please call Channel Angling at Deal on 01304 373104. Channel Angling is situated at the pier entrance.**



**Dover report** Shakespeare beach has produced rays, dogfish, some small hounds, pouting, whiting and bass. Depending on the weather, we could expect the first of the mackerel shoals to move closer in during June. Samphire Hoe has produced wrasse, pollack, pouting, dogfish and bass. Don't forget your 'rotten bottoms' to reduce tackle loss. Channel Angling at Dover is always happy to advise you on making the most of this great venue.

**Call Channel Angling at Dover on 01304 203742.**

**Hythe and surrounding area courtesy of Steve Bates** Folkestone, Hythe and through to Dymchurch has been fishing reasonably well over the past month since the last report. Local anglers have been able to get out to fish their local spots, but as Kent starts to open back up and we can move around, most of the attention has been focused over North Kent with the smooth hounds showing up in good numbers, many anglers have been very successful including myself, but I would say it is always worth a try for the hounds along the parade or Fisherman's Beach at Hythe, as hounds do occasionally appear here, so always best to have some crab in your bag if you can get your hands on some. We have had a real mixture of weather with hot and cold spells, plenty of big south westerlies bringing some much needed rain but also plenty of sunshine, this has not put the fish off too much, with rays showing again in abundance. A 33 ray haul was reported in a recent match along the parade.



There is plenty of the usual suspects about at the moment with dogfish, dabs, whiting and the odd decent flounder being caught. Pulley pennels baited with fish baits or squid should help you find the rays and fresh lug on clipped down rigs should help you find the other species, including any early soles. **Local tackle shops are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 487144.**

**Eastbourne report courtesy of Tony's Tackle** As I write this report, the hounds are arriving along the South Coast. 'Match wreckers', 'mackerel sharks', call them what you like, just don't forget to set your star drags and don't lose your rod! These powerful beasts, pound for pound, are one of the greatest fighting fish and deserve to be returned alive. Jim Whippy and Ed Holyoake both landed hounds of 104 cms from Eastbourne beaches. Crabs are the main diet, although there have been some good reports of fish coming to a chunk of squid. Anyway, love them or hate them, get out and enjoy five to six weeks of great sport. The May rot, which has not been so bad this year, is starting to go now, although we must apologise for the lugworms are tending to be a bit soft this year, but we will continue to throw out most of the bad ones. Squid bombs arrive this week and will be a great hound bait stuffed with edible crab. Anyway, enough of the hound talk, some good rays are showing at Pevensey. Pete Cornwall had one of over 11 lbs winning the Tony Honeysett Memorial Trophy which will take place every year. Over £350 was raised plus a huge £200 donation from bass legend Craig Gosling. It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of fishing legend and friend Ian Golds who was a great inspiration to anyone in this world fighting the battle against cancer with biennial diagnosed as terminal. Ian fought on as people who read his post to the end will know, refusing to be beaten. RIP my friend, it was an honour to know and fish with you. Joe Plumstead continues to fly the flag for Eastbourne anglers. The franks matches at Shoreham, Brighton and Eastbourne have been good for Steve Kerr who won the Tony's mini open and has framed up well lately. Also Keith Erridge has picked up money this month! Plaice are still showing at Langney Point in the calmer weather on lug and ragworm. Some huge bass reports this month with Tony Rose catching one of 9lbs 3ozs from Pevensey and Pete Cornwall landed one of 8lbs this week. The boats out of Eastbourne have caught cod, pollack and plenty of thornbacks from the Light Tower area with some congers on the wrecks. **DON'T forget to order your bait from Tony's Tackle shop. Call us on 01323 731388 or 07821 514853.**



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## DUNGENESS Latest catch reports on [www.seagullfishingtackle.com](http://www.seagullfishingtackle.com)

What weather! The sea almost froze, frost every night and it's the monsoon season, it can only get better. On the bright side, the fishing, much to my surprise, has been good, in spite of the May water which is now easing. The signs are looking good, but the area is strangely quiet, as people go back to work as we try to unlock from the pandemic.

### BEACH REPORT

The fishing after the cold weather has been good, loads of dogfish, plenty of ravenous smoothounds and rays looking for crabs, which due to the cold snap are in short supply. Bass are beginning to show in good numbers and even mackerel being reported! Strange. Here are the odd reports from the beach:

**Brian...his day went with a bang** In more ways than one, I will let Brian tell you in his own words:

*"Hi Tony, it's been a long, long time and all that. Thought I'd come out of hibernation and give it a go.*

*First the good news. At Dengemarsh it was cleaner than I can ever remember. Huge respect to those who have got it that way as I've taken home sack loads of other peoples' crap over the years and it is soul destroying. If you want any more good news, stop here. Cos there ain't any!*

*The May weed was terrible, especially towards the end of the flood tide. I did manage to get into a bass, but there was so much muck on the line I had to hand-line it in. It was the most manky bass I've ever caught, with great patches of skin missing from both flanks where something had given it a good mauling. It looked like it hadn't eaten for weeks, poor thing. 45cms long, I bet it didn't go much more than 1lb 8ozs. Next cast, the top half of the rod followed the gear out to sea. At first I thought it had just worked loose. But oh no. The male spigot had totally disintegrated. This is not any old rod. It is an early Conoflex ultra fast taper, with the slightly reverse taper butt, that I built from the blank I bought 42 years ago. The blank alone cost me eighteen quid. To put that in perspective, back then you could buy 50 pints of Whitbread Trophy bitter (the pint that thinks it's a quart) in the York House for that, and have change for a Party Seven to take home after Last Orders. I won the Dover Sea Angling Association Junior Championship with that rod. The Anglers Den Cup. The Pairs Cup, with Admiralty Pier legend Dean Graham - remember him? The Evening Series. Me and that rod, that's perfect fishing harmony. Or was!*

*Next, as I sat there, crying my eyes out, cradling the broken remains of the Conoflex, a chap in Army fatigues came and very politely suggested I might want to move my car. Before it got blown up. Because it was parked by two shells that his mates from Shorncliffe were coming to sort out. So, trying to ignore the excruciating sciatic pain shooting through my left leg (I fish Denge as you can park so close to the water) I dragged myself off to the car, shifted it, and limped back to my gear to carry on with my other rod, a little up-tider I built for boat fishing. It does well for bass, given how close to shore they can be. Poured myself a coffee, settled down, and back comes the ever so polite Army chap to say I should move a couple of hundred yards to get well away from where the shells were going to be detonated. As there was no firing I limped my way west, into the range.*

*Next, half an hour later the ever so polite Army chap reappears. The ordnance boys want to deal with the shells on MOD property, about where I'm fishing. So sorry but would I mind moving a couple of hundred yards back east. Course not, so off I stagger again, and set up just east of the range tower. I'm pretty knackered from all this lugging my gear about so set the drag on the reel, just in case, and wriggle my poor old back into the soft shingle. Nice and comfy. Doze off. Sparko. At one with the world. Peace. Next: KABOOM. Those shells I just mentioned were only about the size of a baked bean tin, if that, so I hadn't given much thought to what would happen when they were detonated. To say I woke up with a start would be understatement of the year. I nearly shat myself. Next, as my heart beat began to come down a bit, I heard a scrunch on the shingle and looked round expecting to see the Army chap again. Wrong. It was a dirty great big fox walking off with a whole mackerel in his chops. The last of my fish bait. Just strolling off, bold as you like.*

*Next, I thought it time to reel in and check the bait, only to find I was snagged solid. I never get snagged. At this point, I decide it isn't my day so pack up and drag myself back to the motor.*

*When I got home and explained to the Missus I'd broken the Conoflex, she just shrugged and said I'd have to buy a new one. At first I thought she was joking. She wasn't. She doesn't get it. But if her cat so much as sneezes you'd think it is the end of the world. So I said telling me to buy a new rod was a bit like the cat snuffing it, and me telling her to just go and buy another cat. That went down like a lead balloon.*

*Next, I look at your website today to discover that Paolo was fishing just along at Dunge at exactly the same time, and filling his boots with bass to 6lbs. That really cheered me up.*

*Anyway, that's my first catch report for a long, long time. One bass. Don't suppose you've got a bucket of old fibreglass bits lying about that might work as a replacement spigot? Assuming I can get the remains of the old one out. I know, I know, the rod's past it. So am I, that's not the point. All the best, Brian Rees."*



### Who chomped Brian's bass

*"...see where something has had the skin off it? It was the same on the other side.  
Cheers, Brian."*

### What a great day for Paolo

**I had this great report of early season bass...it's looking good for summer...**

*"Fished yesterday at Dungeness. Very good day with my PB nearly 6lbs Bass plus three other bass about 2lbs each. From Paolo."*

## Would you 'Adam & Eve' it!

I was chatting to one of my customers last night when he popped in to pick up his bait. Last Sunday he fished Dengemarsh, the sea was cold, but following two weeks of easterly winds (wind over tide) left the water 'gin' clear...he had twelve mackerel at distance! This follows a report of mackerel being caught on Folkestone Pier.

## Neil has been on the road

I had report in from Neil Rodwell this morning...

"Hi Tony. Hope you are well. I thought I would update you on my fishing expeditions since restrictions were lifted. I've been a few places over 6 trips and I've landed 9 species in total this year including 9 plaice from Brighton marina, a PB thornback and a surprise coalfish from Samphire Hoe today. It's been a good start to the fishing year. Hopefully the best is yet to come! I'm still yet to fish Dungie this year and looking to get there soon. Stay safe and will speak soon. Neil."

## BEACH OUTLOOK FOR JUNE

Its looking very good with more bass, smoothounds, dogfish and rays. Hope to see more plaice and a good start to the mackerel season...all we need is good weather.

## BEST BAITS

Bait could be a bit tricky with so many shortages being talked about. But any of the fish baits will work for the shark family, my favourite is squid or bluey. Bass love crab, sand eel or fresh mackerel. For the flatfish worm baits lugworm being favourite.

## BOAT REPORTS

The boats are getting into their stride with improving weather...here are a couple of reports..

### It's picking up but still cold

I had this report from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye, the sea is still cold but now starting to move upward... "Seb with best plaice of today."

### A cracking day for all

I had this report from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye... "Cracking days wrecking, the boys fished their socks off, although currently steaming home through a lightning storm is not so much fun!"



### What a great way to start

I had this report in this morning from Anthony out on Peganina (07989778361) from Rye...

"So after a week off due to awkward tide times finally got back out here today and actually just had our first proper Cod of the year knocking on the door of double figures. Hopefully a sign of a good summer also plenty of pollack and codling come over the rail to!! Cheers Ant."



### Miles of smiles

I had this report in this evening from Anthony out on Peganina (07989 778361) from Rye... "Plenty of smiles"

## BOAT OUTLOOK FOR JUNE

The wrecks are filling up with pollack and cod and the bass won't be long as the sea temperatures bounce back! Inshore all the usual shark family species are filling the ground and we should find plenty of bait fish as the water clears.



**BEST BAITS** Things like the fish don't change...artificial sandeels on the wrecks for Pollack and cod. Rough ground you can't beat fresh mackerel...but most fish baits work.

# SAM'S FISHING JOURNAL

courtesy of Sam Cox

## Short and not so sweet!

**A**fter a winter of semi lock down, where my pike fishing had helped to keep me sane, by mid-April, I was starting to feel the pull of the sea again. The only thing stopping me was the endless East winds that made Spring feel like winter was lasting for ever!

Eventually, I gave in and arranged a trip to Brighton Marina with my pal Jack. Online reports were favourable with many plaice being caught from the Marina wall. The only day that we could arrange was on a set of small tides. We proceeded to spend the next eight hours biteless, sat on the harbour arm with various aromas wafting past, as the pier attendant strutted past periodically and telling us stories of the countless monster bass he had caught that week.

Next, I set up a session with another pal Andy. We spent a day at Samphire Hoe. The intention was to fish live baits for bass. The problem was we could not catch any live baits. I'm not one for hours of casting mackerel feathers, I use a

different method. I cast out a breakaway with a rotten bottom and large bead above it (the same is my zip slider rig for bass). Then slide a float fished set of feathers down so it hangs in the tide. The action of the waves works the feathers, saving the angler from arm ache. This method tends to winkle out a few mackerel when the fishing is slow. All we caught

that day was two mackerel, but they were jumbos of about a pound each. The fishing wasn't great, but the company and banter was good.

The next week I was fishing Samphire Hoe again, this time with Warren 'The Rays' Hayes. Unlike myself, Warren can cast an exceptionally long way and fished one rod at distance all day. Peeler crab was his chosen bait. He caught a 1lb 8ozs coal fish, a 5lbs thornback ray, a 2lbs 14ozs ballan wrasse, a 1lb 8ozs codling and several small corkwing wrasse on his small scratching rod. I ended up with one coal fish just shy of two pounds and ten mackerel caught on the zip slider method. We did fish two live baits all day without a bite.

The 16th of May was my birthday so a few of us met up at Samphire, it rained all day! With the exception of two dog fish to Andy's rods, the five hours or so were fishless. Today I fished Folkestone Warren with Warren Hayes and we fished prime peeler crab into the surf all day and again remained fishless! The North Kent Coast is fishing very well with Reculver producing lots of good hounds and some very nice bass so maybe a trip there in the near future will bring a reward! *As mentioned, a shorter article than normal this month, but not as sweet as I may have liked!*







**T**he weather is still not 'synched' with the time of year yet, water temperature is pushing 10 degrees, but this isn't good for a lot of reasons. The biggest is the peeler crabs and this has to be one of my worst years with all the NE winds and gales making it very hard work. I like to have at least one freezer full to the brim for my customers on the Lady Ann of Ramsgate, but this year I have maybe 200 so we will have to change things around.

I have been sourcing my own bait since I had Lady Ann seven years ago now and I immensely enjoy being skipper with my favourite bait being the local yellow tails. My tool is a 22mm bait pump from DSB bait pumps, very strong as I am a bit heavy handed, well just heavy really! On a good tide, I usually get around 300 which I dry and roll and over the years I have been learning tips from people on the best way to do the worms to make them last. However, if you are not able to source your own bait Fisherman's Corner at Ramsgate or Saul Page on Facebook will be able to help you out with both crab and yellows.

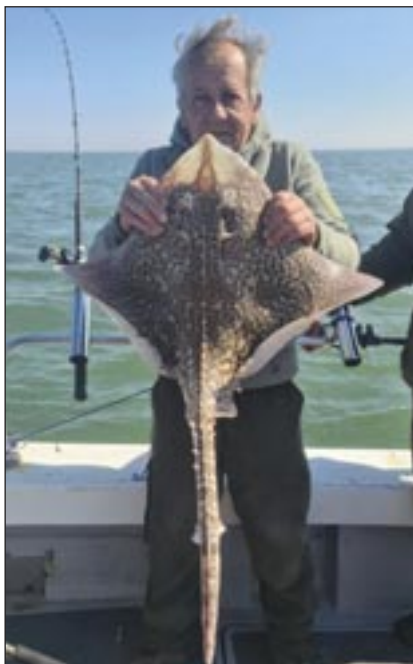
On a brighter note, we have started to see some larger smoothounds, obviously 'pupped up' (pregnant) so we try to put those back and now we have started tagging as well which is good and will enable us to see how good the stocks are and how they migrate. Fish have been caught up to 16 lbs, my biggest last year was 19 lbs so a 20lbs fish is a must this year! Tackle for this type of fishing is 12 to 20 lb class rods and flowing trace with 40 lbs hook line, a 4/0 Koike wide mouth hook and I personally prefer the pennel 2 hook rig simply because of bait presentation. I use a 2/0 Tronix circle hook for the top hook as it is very strong. Other rigs include a bolt rig with the same 40 lbs hook line, same hooks, a pulley rig, same hooks and even a Sheppey rig. Bait is peeler crab, but hard backs work just as well as long as the water is clear. Remove the two back legs so they cannot bury in the sand. I like to push the hook just through the side of the shell so you don't kill them. Live prawn is another killer bait! I like two on so they click together underwater, but you have to watch the rod continuously as its usually one bite, then bait gone. Yellowtails are another good bait for them and give a good chance of a bass.

Talking of bass, we have been struggling to see any numbers of the bass as usually at this time off year we find a few shoals of migrating bass up to the 4 lbs mark on feathers and lures. My lure of choice is a 200g Dexter wedge, just don't lose them as they are very expensive! Coupled with the blue Shakespeare rubber, if u can get hold of them, these are my go to feathers. I don't know why, but they are dynamite! Bottom fishing for bass is much the same as hounds, but I like to use a long hook length of up to 12 ft for the rips or rough ground. Bait can be live prawn, yellows, squid, bluey, cuttlefish or peeler.

One of my colleagues on another charter boat had a few mackerel yesterday, what a great sign! Well done Bob, these are a must for the younger angler (and older ones like me!) as you have got to love a full house of mackerel on light gear! They are great healthy eating or for bait for later trips and any feathers will do as long as there is good water visibility. If it is a hot day keep them in a bucket of salt water and gut and head them is my advice and then place in to a cool box. The skate are hit and miss with big numbers some days and lower numbers on a bad day, still worth a punt though. It is always nice to see a bend in the light rods with a flowing trace with 6/0 Koike hooks on a pennel rig and 50 lbs hook line around 6ft in length. For uptiding I like a long pulley rig with the same hooks. Bait can be herring chunk with tail and head being best sections. Squid is



**Captain James**



another good bait but be warned its high on the dogfish menu! Bluey is another great bait, just use a chunk or cut in half and always provides a chance of a decent bass. Mackerel and even live prawns are also good.

Well hopefully we have covered most of what is about and if you fancy a day afloat come and join us on team Lady Ann of Ramsgate where everything supplied. Just walk on and fish! We have a separate toilet facilities on vessel for our lady anglers, so no excuses! Do come and show the boys how to it is done!"

**Tight lines and see you all soon, Jason & Dawn**

**If you fancy a day afloat with Jason on the Lady Ann, give him a call on 07966 273650.**



## OUT AND ABOUT WITH ANDY by Andrew Cook

### A super Sheppey session!

**W**ell what can I say? It's fair to state that I've broken a few of my PB's - most of one species caught in a session, except whiting and dogfish of course and fewest bait changes without landing a fish.

It was back over to the Island for an afternoon session, I had to keep it local and short as I had things to do earlier that morning. However, this time I decided to fish a mark that takes a bit of 'yomping' to get to and for that reason it's fished much less than Barton's or Ship On Shore.

I was on the mark at midday after a quick stop to collect a sandwich, Tesco's cheese triple today, it filled a hole but that's about all! Water was pretty flat, but well coloured and with a gentle onshore breeze switching between NE and NW. It was the usual two rod set up, one alternating large ragworm and bluey and the other loaded with live peeler, I was really after an early hound or two, but I thought I'd hedge my bets.

Twenty minutes passed and I was considering a bait change just to see if there was any crab activity, then the rag rod started nodding. First chuck and I was in! A few minutes later and a small ray of around 2 1/2lbs was landed. It is always good to get the first one early as hopefully there may be others about. I rebaited with rag and sent it out, five minutes later and I'm retrieving the crab rod when I noticed that the rag rod was going again. This time it was a much better bite and resulted in a larger ray of 4 1/2lbs and it really put up a good scrap.

The next two casts saw two more rays, one to bluey and one to crab. It was turning into a good day! A quiet half an hour ensued which allowed me to eat. I had just finished my lunch when the crab rod went again and I was into another fish. Twenty yards from the shingle and the other rod was going as well so I quickly landed the first fish and leaned into the other one. Result, with two rays on the shingle at the same time, one of which turned out to be the biggest of the day just touching 5lbs.

Bang on HW, (15:45) and another bite resulted in my 7th ray of the session. It was a big tide and I had about three feet of shingle left. I was cut off, but I had an escape route up the slope behind me. The rag rod went again but it was a different bite this time. I thought it may be a schoolie, but it turned out to be what I think is my biggest shore caught pouting! I put rag out again, five minutes later and a real rattler of a bite resulted in a big slack line. I reeled up and felt the fish, this one was a bit

more lively so I was not surprised when a perfectly conditioned bass of around 2lbs slithered onto the shingle.

An hour or so of quiet ensued and the weed started to become a pain. On the flood there was lots but it was all five yards out. As the tide started to ebb hard it began moving offshore and most casts resulted in a pulled lead and a fair bit of weed on



the line but I saw it through. Remembering what a good Sheppey angler had told me, I decided to fish until a little after 2 hours of the ebb, and I'm glad I did because as the weed finally disappeared, I landed another three rays in succession. That was 10 for the session, plus the bass and the big pout. Nothing that was going to break the scales, but the combination of regular fish, a strong tide run and plenty of weed and my back was aching so I decided to pack up for the long walk back to the car.

All in all a really good afternoon, not just for the fishing. The solitude had allowed me to gather my thoughts as I had had a fairly hectic couple of weeks! Good luck if you are out over the weekend!"

**Tight lines, Andy**

### HASTINGS report courtesy of Hastings Angling Centre

Long spells of very unsettled weather has greatly reduced boat angling with few opportunities to get out and when the boats have fishing has been pretty poor. The cold spring has meant that summer species are slow arriving this year. The crabs were peeling a full month later than last year. It's been a really poor start to the season afloat with many boats reduced to fishing for wrasse over the inshore reefs just to get some action.

The rough weather has meant that the stale May rot water of April has been thoroughly stirred and some good fishing is now to be had from the beach with lots of bass and dogfish about along with some good rays and some smoothhounds finally arriving.

Prospects for June, in the boats this is prime time for the smoothhounds with tope and rays as well. Bass should be on the wrecks now with lures and live baits the main methods. Plaice will be well mended now and well worth catching. The first black bream and mackerel in numbers should appear. Turbot drifting on the banks.

On the beach we can expect bass on rough days and smoothhounds on calmer evenings to baits. If the water clears out then lures for the bass. If we get a nice calm spell then mackerel may be about.





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