



# West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 7.30pm Limpley Stoke Hotel, Limpley Stoke

**NB this was a temporary change of venue – April meeting will be at Leigh Park Hotel, B on A**

## Present:

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Gerry Barnes, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, David Edwards, Simon Steel, Tim Pullen, Peter Marshall-Bailey, Malcolm Bond, Ron Jones, Neil Soni, Robin Sewell, Bryan Hussey, Paul Marchant, Mick Marchant, Ray Buckley-Humphries. Guest - Jonathan Woolfrey

## Part 1

**Guest Speaker – Jody Armitage - Environment Agency Technical Specialist Fisheries**

Jody's talk was principally about the possibilities and practicalities of re-introducing grayling into a section of our stretch downstream of The Flume, having done a site visit in June 2022.

Jody had prepared a superb **PowerPoint presentation** which she offered to make available to Guild members and she recommended the definitive 95 page publication:

**European Grayling conservation, Ecology and Management 2018.** Please contact Roger if you would like copies of either or both emailed to you.

A few pertinent historical facts Jody had dug out for us:

- Grayling were introduced into the Somerset Frome in 1930.
- Grayling had been absent due to prior industrial pollution.
- The grayling introduced had come from the Hampshire Avon.

This is all significant because the EA only stocks where species are already established and as grayling vary over the UK best practice is that the same hereditary traits must be used.

Jody will keep us updated on progress. There will be a fuller account in our January News-Roundup

## Part 2

### 1) Apologies:

David Little, Richard Cripps, Andy Greatwood, John Sheppard, John DeCesare, Paul R-H, Russell Bond, Dan Perrett, Gordon Morse.

### 2) Minutes of February Guild meeting and matters arising.

Accepted without amendment. No matters arising.

### 3) Bank Work Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Roger thanked members who had come down – Stan & Jon J, Peter M-B, Paul & Edward Marchant and Simon.

We were fortunate with a dry day and managed some vital coppicing, pollarding and path clearing (special thanks to Peter with his brush-cutter). More details and photos in the January News-Roundup.

Roger also informed members that we plan to fit a combination lock on the gate at Snarlton weir end of our stretch, which will be more convenient for coarse members.

Evidence of Beaver spotted on beat 11 – photo of the tree felled there in the January News-Roundup.

Thanks to Mike Brewin for letting us know.

Also in the News-Roundup – photo of a 3lb 6oz Brown Trout caught June 2022 by a member of The Police Angling Club who have the opposite bank toward Snarlton weir.

**4) 2023 programme:**

- i) **Wed 12th April - Guest speaker: Andy Mears of Wessex Water**  
The focus of his talk will be The Somerset Frome.
- ii) **Wed 19th April - Chew Boat Day for The Chew Trophy**  
14 members so far taking part. Starting with a cooked breakfast at Woodford Lodge at 9am
- iii) **Wed 10th May - social fishing afternoon / evening at Mill Farm, Worton** with filleting demo etc. Gerry Barnes will liaise with Mill Farm
- iv) **Wed 14th June** – Activity for the meeting to be agreed.
- v) **May** – Agreed to hold a social fishing day at Bushyleaze lake, Lechlade, bank fishing for The Bushyleaze Trophy. Jon asked for a member to organize the day – please contact Jon if you could help.
- vi) **Wed 26th July** Coarse Fishing Week: Introduction session at Tellisford.

**5) AOB**

- i) The meeting voted unanimously to accept Gordon Morse as a new member.
- ii) Website hosting:  
Post meeting the Committee agreed to renew the Wix subscription for 3 years at a cost of £288.  
This will save £108 over the 3 years.  
Our domain name with ipage will cost £24 for this year but we will look to transfer our domain to Wix for next year.  
Simon will look into the procedure for this.

**Meeting ended 10.00pm**

**Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 12th April 2023 - 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**NB: Bar at Leigh Park is CARD ONLY**

