



West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 11th October 2023 7.30pm at Leigh Park Hotel, B on A

Part One - guest speaker – Trevor Harrap – The Avon Roach Project

Trevor talked about how he and his friend who he only referred to as 'Budgie', over a twenty year period, reintroduced roach to The Hampshire Avon. It was a fascinating account of how two people with a vision and on a mission, can achieve the extraordinary.

Trevor is a very engaging speaker and his talk was packed with jaw-dropping moments of human ingenuity, insights into the life cycle of roach (some new to science) and tips for how we could improve our stretch of the Somerset Frome to help fish spawning, which we will carry forward.

Part Two

Present:

Jon Jonik, Roger Henderson, Malcolm Bond, John DeCesare, Tim Pullen, Ray Buckley-Humphries, Nick Ridout, Richard Cripps, Ron Jones, Simon Steel,

1) Apologies:

David Little, Andy Greatwood, Neil Soni, Russell Bond, Gerry Barnes, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie.

2) Minutes of Sept Guild meeting and matters arising.

Accepted without amendment.

No one has come forward to organise a bank day at Bushyleaze, Lechlade.

3) Website update - new member's section – 'buy/swop/sell'

There are example items on the site. Please send photos of items with descriptions to Jon – jfjonik@gmail.com saying if there is a reserve price, donation to Guild funds or if the item is 'free'.

4) Forthcoming activities:

i) Christmas Hamper competition Sunday 19th November at Manningford Fishery

Gerry Barnes is organising. We need 20 members to have exclusive use. So far the following have confirmed:- Gerry Barnes, Peter M Bailey, Nick Ridout, Simon Steel, Malcolm Bond, Roger Henderson, Neil Soni, Tim Pullen, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, Maurice Dyer and Robin Sewell (12 members). Please email Jon – jfjonik@gmail.com

As always, although there is a £60 hamper to be won, the emphasis is on everyone having an enjoyable social fishing day and catching fish, so we will stop for a 'bring-your-own' communal lunch in the lodge which has a log-burner and hot drinks available + above average loos!

Anyone needing tips about fishing Manningford – please ask.

ii) Annual Dinner Friday 24th November.

21 members and partners have so far confirmed. Jon will send an email with the Menu etc asking for members to book places, pay via BACs if possible and make their menu selection.

The price includes a bottle of red and white wine for each table to share and coffee or tea for all.

There is a £10 subsidy per person.

The Guild Dinner is always a thoroughly enjoyable occasion - a smart but not too formal dress code.

The traditional 'table quiz' (thanks to Robert & Mary) is always a great icebreaker and helps to get everyone chatting.

The evening includes judging of The Photo Competition.

This years entries (so far) can be viewed on our website (password Fish) We need more entries please send to Roger – rogerhenderson@hotmail.com

The Fishing and XMAS Raffle will be drawn at our Dinner

5) Planning for 2024 – meetings and activities

- i) Fly-Tying at our January and February meetings
- ii) Several very good suggestions for speakers – River keeping, Carp fishing, rod-building and edible fungi identification, which the Committee will follow-up.
- iii) Malcolm Bond offered to organise another ‘Coarse Week’ in July

AOB

- i) ‘**Photography Competition**’ for judging at our Dinner on Friday 24th November. Please send entries to Roger – rogerhenderson@hotmail.com.. See this years entries on our website (password Fish).
- ii) **Trophies** – for heaviest Rainbow Trout, heaviest stocked Brown Trout and heaviest wild river Brown Trout. Please send photos with something to show scale or other form of corroboration to Roger - email above.

Meeting closed at 10pm

Next Mtg Wednesday 8th November at **Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

Part 1 - Guest speaker – Sue Everett – ecologist and land management adviser who writes regular conservation news columns for British Wildlife magazines. Sue lives locally and is an active member of Friends of The Somerset Frome with expert knowledge on the issues faced by lowland rivers including The Somerset Frome.

Part 2 - River Meeting – a summing up of the years fishing on our stretch of The Somerset Frome and planning for the 2024 season and beyond inc habitat improvement, access and stocking.

Grand Raffle Tickets on sale at meetings – £1 each - three prizes - £100, £75 & £25. Gerry B was thanked for preparing the raffle boards. The raffle will be drawn at our Dinner on Friday 24th November. If any member who can’t make the October and November meetings and would like some tickets, please email Jon jfjonik@gmail.com and he will record your numbers.

NB for new members - Leigh Park Hotel bar is card only (no cash accepted)

