

# WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: <http://wwffg.t15.org/>

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### Guild Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November

Our thanks were extended to Mr. Andreas Topintzis ('the cannonball maker') for his talk on '*Chalk Stream Management*'. He is the General Manager of the Salisbury & District Angling Club; a Greek gentleman who now lives in this country. Ex - BP employee, and an avid and amiable fly fisherman. He explained, by way of introduction, that his family name [don't mention the Greeks and gifts thing] hails from ancestors whose trade was that of making cannon-balls! Not those little blighters who eat each other; but Greek natives who perfected the art of feeding big guns with heavy-body payloads! He explained that his fly presentation is, despite his ancient heritage, getting much more gentle and acceptable over the years.

I remember taking copious notes at the meeting; but, **don't panic!**, have since decided not to slavishly regurgitate the many environmental; bankside management; and best practice points he made. These designed to preserve and improve our fisheries. Many of the facts presented were, of course, not exactly unknown to us. But the conclusion I reluctantly came to was that unless we are prepared to collect our own data and evidence on water quality; keep catch returns; take on polluters and blinkered developers alike, and actively lobby local and Central Govt. ...we are lost. We are on our own folks! For no one else will do it for us. The EA and other official bodies have, demonstrably, neither the financial or political will to help us. This is largely down to lack of resources/funding of course. The EA will not accept anecdotal evidence; they require scientific data in order to help them drive things forward towards cultural and environmental improvement.

I should add this is not necessarily the view of our Committee!!, but my own reasoned conclusion from Mr. T's valuable presentation. Let us hope and pray I am wrong.....

*Courteney Fish*

## Guild Dinner - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015



The Guild Dinner was a great success as always, everyone enjoying the social evening, enhanced by the ever intriguing raffle and fun table quiz!

The food was even better this year, and Mikes table won the quiz.

### **Grand Raffle Results**

First prize (£100 Veals vouchers) - Bryan Hussey

Second prize (£50 vouchers) - Maurice Dyer

Third Prize (£25 vouchers) - Jon Jonik

**Gerry Barnes** was named as recipient of Chairman's award - The Vic Willcox Trophy.



### **Next Guild Meeting - Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

At the Shaw Country Hotel, Shaw - 7:30 for 8:00pm.

Quizmasters John and Richard will be in the Chair asking questions about..... well..... anything really but some might just have a fishy theme to them. This evening is always great fun and a good laugh so do try and come along!

## **River Frome end of season Report**

Based on 37 visits by the River Keeper and 20 Angler Returns by members.

### **FISHING CONDITONS IN 2015**

Good for most of the season, with only a few brief periods when rain had significantly raised and coloured the river. Being a spate river, heavy rain can change the Frome rapidly as between 5pm and midnight on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> September - the river rose 1 Metre according to the Environment Agency's gauging station at the Flume and the flow through the Mill went from 0.89 cubic Metres per second on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept to 5.0 cubic Metres per second by 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. At times however there was too little

rain because there was a period in mid-July, when the river was at the lowest level noted by this observer for several years, and the gravel bed and weed could be seen through the shallow water for most of its length, with some patches of river bed high & dry and sprouting weeds.

If there has been heavy rain, members are advised to check the Environment Agency's website which shows the current level of The Frome from data gathered at the Flume gauging station.

It can be found by Googling - 'River Frome Level Somerset Tellisford'.

### **STOCKING** - 12<sup>th</sup> June

Because we were still getting reports from our Coarse members that the rainbows we stocked in 2014 had (against expectations) over-wintered and were still being caught in April, the 2015 stocking was delayed by a month and changed to 150 (10" to 12") Brown Trout.

### **FLY-LIFE** - hopefully a useful guide for the 2016 season

Grannom appeared in good numbers (but not as prolific as in some recent seasons) this year around April 20<sup>th</sup>. In previous years they have appeared in quantity earlier in April. They seem to get anglers more excited than the fish. Mayfly were becoming prolific around 27<sup>th</sup> May (after first appearing around mid-May) and fish were rising freely to take them. However, by 2<sup>nd</sup> June only a few Mayfly were seen with the odd one around through to September. By 6<sup>th</sup> June blue damsels were the most common sight. Sedge were in large swarms on evenings in mid-July.

Besides damsels, an abundance of fly life of all species - sedge, olives, hawthorn etc. were noted on separate days around 5pm during the first week of June. After this initial surge they were evident but in much smaller numbers.

### **CATCHES**

Surprisingly and disappointingly the Angler Returns show that none of the 150 brown trout we stocked in June was brought to the net during the season (though some of the good fish reported lost may have been them). A number of very healthy and lively wild brown trout from 9" to 14" were caught. Oddly we didn't see any more of the rainbows either!

The river has a thriving population of chub throughout its length with large shoals of 5"/7" fish spotted and individual specimens up to perhaps 4lb seen in July when the water was particularly low. Some good chub, perch and a few dace were also caught on fly.

Hopefully our Coarse members will now catch the brown trout that the Game members didn't!

Let us know if you do please.

Looking forward to the 2016 season

Roger Henderson - *Frome River Keeper.*

## Editors Note

Much Appreciation to all those who have had an input into our activities this year, be it large or small contributions.

Particular Thanks to our River keepers Roger and Malcolm.

Thanks also to all our Contributors who 'feed' the Newsletter so well over the year.

Keep sending in your items for 2016!



## CZECH NYMPHING

French or Czech fly fishing is a technique that uses heavy Czech nymphs. It is based on short, repetitive casts, dead drifts and a deeper fly presentation. The leader hangs under the tip of the fly rod, which the angler holds with an outstretched arm, while the fly is guided through the run and is often called "high stick nymphing."



A typical fly-rig in Czech nymphing includes three nymph flies of different weights. The technique uses Czech nymphs, also known as Bobes. The nymphs, made to imitate fresh water shrimps or caseless larvae of sedge flies, are tied on gammarus or shrimp hooks.

The current Czech nymphing craze owes its origin to competition fly fishing. Over time it has emerged as a popular and effective fishing method in Europe. Some more traditional fly fishermen might look down on it, though, because they have their individual preferences and admire the splendour and heritage of classic dry fly fishing.

## SO HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Approach a pocket or pool carefully. Make a short cast upstream at roughly 45 degrees from your position. Immediately the fly sinks to the river or stream bottom, raise the rod tip high and follow the line downstream through the drift. As the fly starts its drift, lift your rod tip high. Don't allow slack line to gather and drag in the surface film. Let the drift continue across your position and lower the rod tip as it continues the downstream movement. At this point in the drift, if you employ a "Leisenring Lift" as the fly passes your position you can greatly reduce the drag that may be created by mismanaged or under-managed slack fly line.

Fly fishing with this little technique will definitely improve your skills. Hooking a fish this way is actually fairly simple, because reduced slack and drag in the fly line sharpens an angler's strike-sensing ability. At the slightest tug on the line, lift the rod tip quickly and confidently. This style of fishing means that hook sets are simplicity itself. To be completely effective in your practice of the technique, you should go for a specific fly rod. Recommended is one with more length as it allows the angler to access lies further out-stream. The extra length also affords you better line control for the ultimate drift.



The Black and Lime Cats Whisker, a good fly to use at this time of year on stillwaters.



## LOOKING FORWARD

**N.B. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015:-**

'Grayling Day' Sunday 6th December on River Wylde, Sutton Veny Nr Warminster

### Fly Tying in January

**Fly-tying dates are Thurs 14th, Thurs 21st and Thurs 28th January 2016**

7pm till 9pm. In our usual back room at Shaw Hotel. So far seven members have signed-up to join Andy Greatwood, including some with no previous experience, which is excellent.

**The River Frome early spring bank management day is Sunday 21st February**

**2016.** Meeting at Tellisford packhorse bridge from 9.00am working until about 12 noon but longer if anyone can stay. I always say members can come when they like and leave when they need to.

**No Meeting or Newsletter in December.**



**THE GREAT GUILD PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**  
was judged at the Guild Dinner. The Ladies decided the Best of the 22 Photographs  
was photo number one submitted by..... **John Sheppard**

John wins the 'Ron Long Memorial Trophy' for his photo of  
**'Mallard and her chicks'.**



*Congratulations John, a great photo.*



## TROUT ON MOLE

**Chris Winsor's 16" wild brown trout** - caught on the River Mole, on a stretch above The Guild's water, in September. His best ever Brownie from the Mole. Chris has deservedly won the 'River Brown' trophy this year!

Weight approximately 1lb 12oz.



**CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS !**



The WWFFG Committee wishes Members and their Families A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Healthy and Peaceful NEW YEAR !  
Happy Fishing and Tight Lines for 2016!.....BOB.

PS. BRITISH HUMOR IS DIFFERENT

These are classified ads, which were actually placed in U.K. Newspapers:

**FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.**

8 years old,  
Hateful little bastard.  
Bites!

**FREE PUPPIES**

1/2 Cocker Spaniel, 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

**FREE PUPPIES.**

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.  
Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

**COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.**

Also 1 gay bull for sale.

**JOINING NUDIST COLONY !**

Must sell washing machine and dryer £100.

**WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE .**

Worn once by mistake.  
Call Stephanie.

**FOR SALE BY OWNER.**

Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes.  
Excellent condition, £200 or best offer.  
No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.

