

WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



New website : westwiltsflyfishersguild.com

Members of the Wild Trout Trust

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

**Next Guild Meeting - The Grand Tackle Auction - Wednesday 12th October -
Auctioneer Jon Jonik - Don't miss it! Great fun!**

AFTERNOON MEETING AT FULLINGBRIDGE

As always each year, Fullingbridge does us proud. On Wednesday 13th July around 12 Members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon and evening chatting and eating with an odd cast of the line in between! The weather just about held out, a light gusty wind spread across the lake. Fish were rising to surface flies but were mainly caught to a 'near the surface' fished nymph, green being the magic colour of the day.

Fancying the dry blue upright that John DC gave me, a handsomely tied fly mainly used on rivers, I had many offers but could not hook the pesky trout. It was only later on examination, that this scraggy fly turned out to be not only barbless but hookless!. May have overdone the nipping off of the barb!

At 6:45pm Gerry Barnes called us to his mobile 'pop-up kitchen' (very impressive!!) to announce that PAELLA with salad was ready for service! It was excellent food for the starving mob and TIRAMISU with cream was our sweet course - all homemade by Gerry. We would all like to register our thanks to Gerry for all his hard work and time spent catering for us.

We were all winners on the day - but not forgetting the fishing side of things - we had Champions as well. Extra skill was shown by landing the trout through the thick weed.

A mention must be made on the cracking rainbow caught by William Arney.

Thanks also to Richard C. for forcing back the trees and undergrowth and to the Fullingbridge Syndicate for allowing us to fish their picturesque lake.

Congratulations to the winners shown below.....

The 'Ron Douch Tankard'.....**John Sheppard** -- 2 fish for 3lb 8oz.

2nd..... Jack.....2 fish for 3lb 6oz.

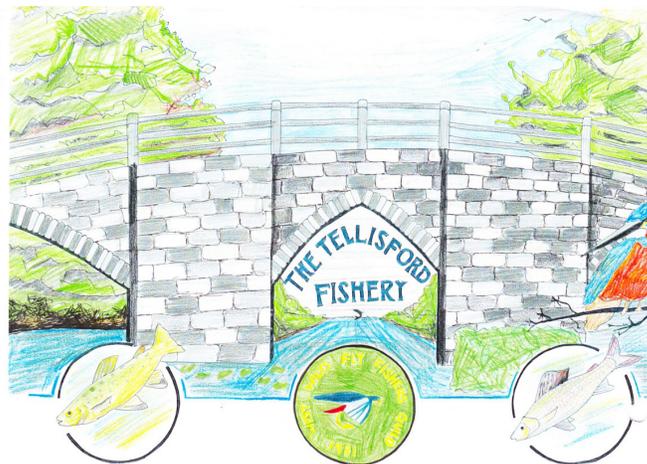
3rd..... Robert...2 fish for 3lb 5oz

Biggest fish caught by John - 1lb. 15ozs. Rainbow - wins a good bottle of fishing plonk.



The Guild's Photograph Competition. Please send me your photos. We want this competition to be even more successful than last year (20 plus pics) so please submit your photos based on 'Nature and the Countryside' to robert.is@trouthooker.net The pictures will be put on our website and judged by the Ladies at the Guild Dinner in November. There will be a Trophy and a bottle of wine for the winner.

The River Frome - notes on a small river and the Guild's involvement



Continued from June's Newsletter.....

The River Frome became a Guild water in 1997 and as the Guild's 'Second Decade' booklet shows, in those early days there was much to learn..."it is believed that chub, barbel, roach, pike and trout are present". The latter was from annual stocking by Bradford on Avon Angling Club in the 1980's. Although historically it had been a trout fishery, and was referred to as such in 19th Century literature - by the 1990's it had become "so slow that it had been heavily infested with water lilies and other stillwater plants, clogged with fallen timbers and flotsam and was almost completely shaded by bankside trees". By 2005, five years of hard work had resulted in "a much-improved appearance of potential trout-habitat and better access to the water. Water-lilies and their like have been replaced by ranunculas, gravels have been jettied, instream obstructions have been turned into features and natural light has been admitted to the water."

It was the questionable colouration and unknown fish population that prompted the Guild to contact the Environment Agency (EA) for assistance. In Feb 2001 the Wild Trout Trust arranged an 'advisory visit report' and the EA assessed the nutrient loading, algal/diatom presence and possibility of greater suspended sediment. In the same year Foot & Mouth disease struck and there was a total ban on fishing until June 2001. The EA survey yielded excellent results and the EA decided to stock the river with 425 juvenile grayling below the flume to see if they would naturalise. Ten years later good size grayling are still occasionally caught by Guild members and members of the Police Angling Club - coarse fishing from the opposite bank, down as far as Stowford Farm weir.

In 2002 a programme of riverbed cleaning was started with the intention of providing clean gravel bed redds to encourage the trout stock to breed.

Funded by the Wild Trout Trust the EA carried out a series of electric fishing surveys in 2001, 2003, 2006 and 2007 on the 100yd stretch downstream of Tellisford Bridge. The 2007 results showed - 7 barbel, 48 chub, 80 dace, 10 perch, 41 roach and 8 brown trout and the EA described it as an "excellent mixed fishery".

By 2003 members catch returns were described as "superb" as in 74 outings 161 brown trout, 64 rainbows and 72 grayling were caught (an average of 4 fish per visit), plus 49 chub, 8 dace and 2 perch. In that year it was noted that "fish rose freely to mayfly patterns and Adams and the mayfly hatch was prolific". Of that total Maurice Tennehaus alone caught 49 brown trout, 12 rainbows and 30 grayling in 17 outings (+ 15 chub and dace) winning him the Wilf Sleightholme trophy for 2003.

(The final instalment next month.)

Compiled by Roger

LOOKING FORWARD.....

Wednesday October 12th...Guild Meeting followed by the Tackle Auction - Master of Ceremonies Jon Jonik. Please send your auction form to Chris Winsor ASAP.

Sunday October 16th - Christmas Hamper Competition.

Fish from 9:00am to not later than 3:00pm. Members need to buy a '3 fish' ticket.

Please e-mail Alan Kerr to let him know if you intend to fish

The Venue is **Mill Farm Trout Lakes**, Worton, Nr. Devizes. Sat Nav: SN10 5UW

Remember to bring a picnic and a chair.

The Hamper is a **fabulous** prize which will be presented after the weigh-in. A bottle of fishing plonk will also be awarded for the heaviest fish caught on the day!

This is well worth a day out to try your luck - so do come along .

Sunday November 13th - Winter Grayling Fishing on the River Wylfe



Proof that the Ladies always catch the largest Salmon!



John and Kathy DeCesare, fishing the Tweed.

The picture shows my wife Kathy and me on a late sunny afternoon with three beautiful silver bars on the banks of the River Tweed. The day happened to be our 40th Wedding Anniversary. Fishing conditions were seemingly perfect but there was actually a severe lack of fish taking the fly that day - though the picture would suggest otherwise.

That morning started well with me hooking (second cast!) and landing an 8 pounder. This was followed by 3 hours of casting but without a single take. Then, just before lunch, the line zoomed off and after a lengthy and really powerful fight I landed my second - it was a beautiful 10 pounder with sea lice attached - it had just come in to the river system an hour or so ago.

At lunch, to my great surprise, the 5 ghillies in our group reported that my two fish were the only fish landed across the whole river system, no one else on the entire system was having any success that day

Back to the river for the afternoon session and being tired I asked our ghillie (Peter) to drop us off on to the Ferry Beat Island. The ghillie / boatman suggested taking Kathy to a beat known as Lady Pool (some $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile down stream) for an hours fishing off the boat to see if there were any salmon lurking for Kathy to catch. Off they went. I

stayed on the island and after a few casts sat down on the bank for a 5 minutes snooze. I awoke around an hour and half later and wondered how Kathy was getting on - so I called on her mobile but got her answer message. After several calls, I then called Peter (the ghillie) who always answers promptly - but again I got his voice message.

I was beginning to get concerned, as the Tweed is a big water and can be dangerous. About 30 minutes later Kathy called me - very excitedly indeed - she had just landed a big salmon and Peter was rowing her back to the island. About 10 minutes later they arrived. The 15 plus pounder bar of silver had taken over an hour to land and had taken all the backing line out, right down to the last 2 turns on the reel before it finally stopped and Kathy was able to slowing reel the salmon in!

Not only was it a spectacular specimen - it was the largest fish taken on the system that day.

John De Cesare

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To get us up to date.....

To: all River Members - Tuesday 5th July '16 - River Frome

The stocking went well; we introduced 150, 10"to 12" rainbows.

They were fine, vigorous specimens - with beautiful blue tinged colouring, as you can see in the photos. We put them in the deep runs & pools - Kingfisher, High Bank, Oak Pool etc. on beats 3 to 9 (Pomeroy).

Particular thanks to David Stone and Keith Johnston for helping i.e making it possible.

These are fish for the dinner plate, so don't feel obliged to do catch & release.

However a couple of superb brown trout were caught on this stretch recently by Jack Welshman and they are definitely to be returned.

Barbel have been spotted by members in the shallows opposite the wooden bench on Kingfisher beat. Some years ago one of our members - Maurice Tennenhaus caught a 13lb barbel on dry fly upstream of this spot.

It would be great to see 150 rainbows in the returns at the end of the season - they cost us £330.

Fishing conditions are excellent!!

Best regards and tight lines - let me know how you get on.

Roger



River Frome - 'Any method' Open Week June 24 - 30th From Roger

Kevin Barber and I fished beats 1 Bridge Pool, 4 High Bank, 9 Pomeroy, 10 Platform Pool and 11 Flume Pool, making good use of last week's clearing work! We didn't keep a precise record of the catch but 1 Pike, 3 Dace up to 0.5lb, 3 Roach and between 12 & 15 chub, inc two weighing respectively 2.75 lb and 3.5lb. Lost quite a few too.

But NO TROUT!

Trotted maggots on all beats except the flume pool, where we caught just chub using open-ended feeder and sweetcorn. We fished from mid-morning until 10.00pm. The weather was good - light cloud with the odd short shower. For me it was a coarse fishing master-class and Kevin was fairly convinced by the end of the day that if there had been trout there we'd have caught some. At beat 4 High Bank we tried maggot and sweetcorn at a range of depths up to 6' but still catching only the ubiquitous chub.



Dace from Pomeroy



Pike from Bridge Pool



Roach from Bridge Pool



3.5 lb Chub from Flume Pool

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Two beautiful trout caught by Jack Welshman - one from beat 3 kingfisher pool



Congratulations to Rod on recently catching his first ever salmon and even more special - it was on the Guilds section of the **River Mole**. Rod and I cleared this pool earlier this year. We removed a large tree stump using Rod's 4x4 and I **thought** it would make an ideal sea trout pool! well done! JJ



Fishy News

A caviar farmer's plans for a tiny village have outraged residents who fear the luxury food farm will spoil their rural idyll.

Ken Benning - the UK's only caviar farmer - wants to keep more than 200 five-foot long Siberian sturgeon on a new fish farm in the East Sussex village and harvest their eggs for the luxury dish.

But villagers in picturesque East Chiltington have complained the farm would scar the landscape, disrupt their country peace and drain water from nearby sea trout spawning grounds.

Mr Benning, who also owns online firm London Fine Foods, became the UK's first caviar farmer when he launched Exmoor Caviar in 2010.

He now wants to create another farm close to where he grew up

His plans, which are being considered by the local council, would see several large two-metre-deep ponds created along with outbuildings and a 36 foot high wind turbine on land he bought from his parents.

The caviar would be processed using Cornish sea salt and sold through a wholesale market to selected buyers.

But locals say plans to take 20,000 litres of water per day from natural resources will drain the water table so that native sea trout will no longer be able to use the local Winterbourne to spawn.

Since plans were lodged last month villagers have been erecting signs featuring 'cartoonish' fish, with the slogan 'Save Our Sea Trout.'

The Annual Members Dinner

will be held at the Shaw Country Hotel & Restaurant, Bath Road, Nr. Melksham, Wilts SN12 8EF on Friday 18th November 2016 - 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

The format for the evening will be similar to previous years; Ladies will judge the photo competition, there will be a table quiz, a fishing and a general raffle. The ticket cost of £30 each will be the same as last year, but does not include a glass of wine as it was thought more appropriate for members to purchase their own choice of drink.

Please send your menu choices for yourself and your guest(s) together with your cheque (payable to WWFFG)

To Stephen Keys, 16 Belfry Drive, Hullavington, Wilts SN14 6QW.

GUILD DINNER, FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2016 TABLE D'HOTE MENU - £30.00

Home Made Soup of The Day

*Pan Fried Goats Cheese served on a Salad of Leaves, Grapes and Walnuts,
drizzled with Honey*

*Sliced Smoked Duck Breast accompanied by a Passion Fruit, Apple and
Toasted Sesame Seed Compote*

*Home Made Stilton Filled Mushrooms breaded and deep fried accompanied by
a Grape Chutney and Salad Bouquet*

*Roast Lamb Rump sliced upon a Sweet Potato Puree with Fresh Mint and
coated with a Red Wine Lamb Jus*

*Fillet of Salmon with a Fresh Herb and Hazelnut Crust presented on Roast
Vegetable and Tomato Sauce*

*Breast of Chicken coated with a Pesto Butter Sauce served on a Rocket and
Spinach Puree, then garnished with Parmesan Pillows*

Fresh Fruit Salad

*Home Made Lemon Tart topped with Crushed Meringue and Lemon Sauce
and Served with Vanilla Ice Cream*

*Home Made Chocolate and Coffee Tiramisu with Tia Maria and Rum
Home Made Rhubarb Trifle
Cheese and Biscuits*

Filter Coffee and Mint

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