



'WWFFG Mid Season Round-up' July 2019

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the First Edition of our biannual Newsletter. Whilst the website contains all the latest information about club meetings and activities, Colin and Robert have suggested we (they) have a go at producing a newsletter type communication with contributions from members, fishing outings, links to useful videos, latest tips on local venues, anything fishy related, occasionally a serious article but also humorous and interesting to read.

If you like it then for it to continue, we need your contributions - photos, recipes, fishing articles, jokes, anecdotes etc. and hopefully they will be included in the October edition. A big thank you to Robert and Colin for coming up with the idea and for producing this edition.

Jon
Chairman

This years Photo Competition theme is the 'Countryside' and your photos should be submitted to Alan Kerr (alankerr@sky.com) who will load them up on the website as and when he receives them.

As you know the photos will be judged at The Guild Dinner by our Ladies.

Just a reminder that there will be a social fishing day at **Bushyleaze Fishery nr, Lechlade on Wednesday 14th August '19**. Please let Roger H, know if you are interested in attending.

Next Guild Meeting at the Hotel will be on Wednesday September 11th - 7:30 for 8:00pm. At the Shaw Country Hotel, Shaw. Hope to see you there.

MAY 2019 The River Frome at Tellisford

These photos below were taken in the evening.

The mayfly are abundant all along and the trout and chub etc. are rising to them.

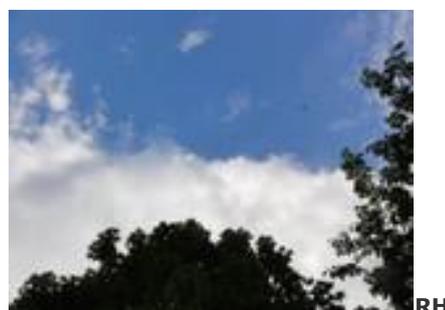
Several members have fished Tellisford in the past week or two and caught wild brown trout up to 17 inches, also our stocked rainbows, dace and chub on dryfly.

The brown trout in the photo was from beat 16 Sand Bar. It was among several taking mayfly under the line of trees.

The river level is falling quite rapidly to summer levels so conditions are excellent



Brown Trout, Tellisford



Mayfly

A snippet - **Al Logan** was down at Tellisford recently and saw a barbel belly-up sucking down mayfly off the surface. That must have been what one was doing when Maurice Tennehaus hooked a 13lb+ barbel on dry-fly a few years back at Tellisford.

Thanks to Members.....

Stocking at Tellisford Monday 20th May

Photo below is of Alastair releasing the last of 150 - 12"to14" strong and lively rainbows we put in between beats 1 and 9 Pomeroy - timed perfectly to coincide with the start of the mayfly hatch, so plenty to feed on. Mayfly were hatching and fish were rising to them as we stocked. The rainbows are triploid so sterile. Bibury Trout farm at Bibury have supplied our fish for several years. Thanks to Al, Paul and Jon for helping. The other photo shows why it is not a one-man job!



RH

New Ladder on beat 10 below Pomeroy Wood

Jon and Roger have put in an aluminium ladder on beat 10. This was always a popular spot to enter the river until we had a significant bank collapse during floods a few years ago. At summer levels the water will only be about 12" deep. The wooden stakes have been driven deep into the bank amongst the tree roots and provide useful hand-holds. It is a big improvement on the rope ladder we tried a few seasons ago.

However - members are advised to use with caution and satisfy themselves the ladder is secure as we don't know if the current will move it over time and change the angle into the river.



June 22nd 2019 - River Frome - Tellisford

"Give a man a fish you'll feed him for a day - teach a man to fly-fish and he'll starve to death".

Couple of photos below - river-side view of the ladder access we've put in on beat 10 below Pomeroy Wood.

The bottom of the ladder is firmly in a hollow in the river bed - knee deep yesterday - rest of river mid-calf so members need to use with caution as flow is strong.

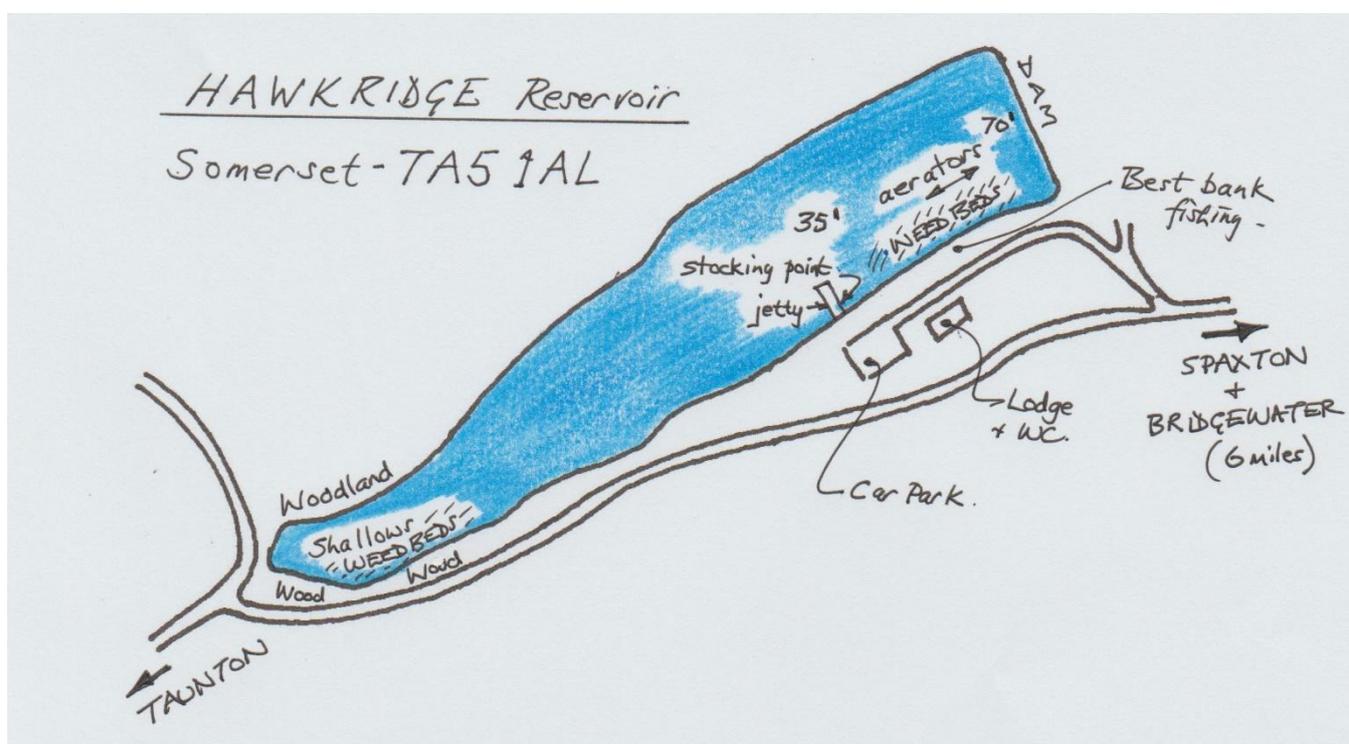


'Stairway to Heaven'

GUILD OUTING - June 12th - Fishing Hawkridge Reservoir

Hawkridge was a new venue to all of us on 12th June and although the website has some useful info there isn't a map. Generously a couple of regulars gave us some tips about best fishing spots, water depths, lines and flies. The map and tips below may be helpful to members making a visit:

Their advice for boat anglers was to fish the far end, where it is relatively shallow, over weed beds, using a floating line. This area is not accessible to bank anglers. For bank anglers the website recommends the bank in front of the lodge because the weed beds here hold fish. The reason for this is that new stock is put in from the ramp to the jetty and the fish hang around here and along the weed bank before finally finding their way out into the main body of water. New stock was put in during our visit and sure enough two regulars came along and fished this spot, landing fish after fish on quickly stripped lures. Although the reservoir is stocked with rainbows, browns, tigers, goldens, blue trout, arctic char and spartics the vast majority of fish caught on the day we were there were rainbows.



The advice to avoid the dam end was disproved by our experience because members caught ALL over the reservoir and the shallow end didn't appear more productive. The fish were near the surface and took a wide range of dries and nymphs inc diawl bachs, plus damselfly - the 'blue flash damselfly' fished fast and shallow being particularly productive.

Finally whilst rowing around the 30 acres is fine exercise, if you have an electric motor you'll be glad you took it, especially when the wind is blowing.

See also 'Club News' on our website.

Roger



Roger asks:

Can you spot the nervous frog?

(The frog is near the top sitting on a lily stem)

Ahh.....Memories.....

While fishing in the river at Kingston on Thames one evening back in the 1950s my float drifted slowly into the bank and very gracefully slid under the surface. I knew it wasn't a bite, I put it down to the current. I lifted it slowly from the water and low and behold, what was on the hook ? A gents gold signet ring!

Ged West.

The Somerset Frome at Tellisford.

The Frome is subject to flooding along its entire nine miles until it joins The Avon.

These photos give an idea of the extremes between Winter Highs...and Summer Lows....



The Packhorse Bridge at Tellisford from the footpath and viewed from beat 1 downstream



Oo0o0o0o0

IN THE PRESENCE OF GREATNESS - AND A NEW PAIR OF GLASSES

As we sat in the boat in Villice Bay, amidst a kaleidoscope procession of graceful and speeding swallows taking fly, I thought life does not get much better than this. We had arrived early doors for an afternoon's fishing on Chew, and before taking to the water had enjoyed a mug of steaming tea, and accompanying toasted tea-cake, in the Lodge restaurant [to settle our

nerves you understand]. More akin to an obligatory ritual if you really want the truth.

The usual search followed for a boat-net. Found a last, sorry-looking specimen tossed in the straggly grass by the rangers hut, urgently in need of repair (the net).. The mesh held together with a quick-fix length of stout fishing line. The 'repair' was not artistic. But 't'will suffice'. And aboard we went, rejoicing. Happy again to be on the water I guess, and the hoped for prospect of seriously-arched rods. I had over tea told Robert about a recent June visit where I had been lucky enough to get some of the lake's hard-fighting occupants. Wrong!!! - 'what a dumb thing to say', as John Gierach would probably add. Usual outcome of course with changeable Chew; we had little success when we later showed our flies the water. And this went on for some appreciable time. I will learn to keep my mouth shut (eventually).

A decision was made to try Herons Green Bay. A quick, if not frantic chug up from Villice to our favourite parts of Herons and we found.....just the same of course! And this (you've guessed it) went on for some time - if not ages. If you can visualise the appropriate 'emoji' then our faces were half-empty - 'South-bound', the frown lines stretching every inch down to our boot-laces. So, Not happy bunnies!



But I must tell you about these darned spectacles: a whim purchase on a recent supermarket trawl in Trowbridge. I'm talking magnification here, not prescription. A result of me being notoriously hopeless in finding my specs when I need them; I'd lost the blighters. Anyway, by way of boredom I suppose with the in-action, I reached in the tackle bag and tried them on. Well! Talk about The road to Damascus, what a transformation! Aghast I was! I could see everything around me, and **distant**, so very, very clearly. Almost as welcome encouragement, I noticed a beautiful, low rainbow had appeared to one side of a heavier cloud formation across the far-side of the lake - previously unseen! A tractor some miles away on the distant Chew hillside meadows had a driver with dark curly hair, and he needed urgent dentistry on his prominent, equally curly teeth. He had cheese and pickle sandwiches perched precariously on his bumpy dashboard! Well obviously I jest; but you get the point - hyperbole rules OK? It was that life-changing; a complete revelation. Hallelujah!

To cut to the chase, the Saul/Paul thing continued. The two-fold magnification revealed, clearly and definitively, that I was casting so much further - so much better, apparently half way across the Bay! Miraculously, surprise, surprise, the banks looked so much closer to the boat? Optical illusion I suppose.....? For reasons that will become obvious, it was definitely not a mirage.

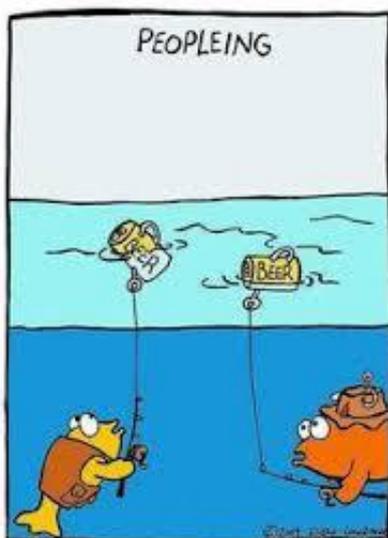
Aside, our fishing continued. I wish I could write here that we proceeded to empty the lake, and that the specimens we caught were twice the size of the norm in the prodigal net? But we hung in there. A later despairing move to a corner of the bay, close to a long bank of reeds, and perhaps buoyed by my spectacular change of luck, I felt a lot happier with our prospects. A hatch of darting damsel fly, resplendent in their green and metallic blue waistcoats, had been noticed and the 'smart-thinking' was that the emerging damsels would be queuing up to climb up the sedge and reed stems for their own transformation. Hopefully in so doing, attracting the unwelcome attention of the resident trout. Well, it did not work - so much for theory! We tried damsel nymphs and similar on the point, receiving as much acclaim in response as our last Eurovision Song Contest entry.

But something in our water, as they say, told us there were fish there. A Daddy Longlegs, ginked up, was tied on the point, this hanging up a couple of red Diawl Bachs on the two droppers employed. The usual floating fly-lines. And suddenly we were into fish; big fish too some of them (gloves and specs off at this stage I'm very pleased to say). A slow, at times painfully slow, retrieve was required to get the lightning pulls that came in response. At which stage **all Hell** was let loose, and the powerful hand from below the waterline was tearing the fly-line irresistibly through the wet stuff, often ripping it through the surface and leaving hiss and spray in its wake. To resist this awesome power and enter a tug-of-war would have meant certain separation. With a shallow layer of water under the boat, the rainbows were travelling 'miles in minutes' away from the boat - laterally - often enough into the backing. No depths to dive into. Several, via their spade-like caudals, waved bye-bye to us. Superb, hard fighting fish. The term 'greatness' would somehow not be out of context.

To spare the reader chapter and verse of our saga (and potential boredom) we had a good day. An afternoon in which doom [Mr. Mainwaring] and despair were definitely sighted in the rear mirror. Within our machinations however, I became aware that my boat partner was contacting fish way ahead of my own progress. Both using the same method; similar flies! Apart from the seven fish he landed, he had (on a poor day) contacted or lost seven or eight others! I rest my case - which is now tinged a slight, but friendly, green.

A great afternoon session in which we had at least two or three rainbows over 4lb. and twelve in the boat; seven of which were safely returned. But the joy and elation, the consoling 'therapy' derived, overrides all. And will stay long indented in the memory bank. As to the glasses, I usually need 2.5 not 2.0 magnification [as these were] for close work/reading. They are German made, and were purchased in Lidl for the exorbitant price of £1.99. SpecSavers eat your heart out. And to return to the subject, 'Greatness' was, in my humble opinion, exhibited in the boat that day - in expertise. And it was not from my boat thwart.

Courteney Fish



Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE)

How to avoid tick bites

Try to avoid being bitten by ticks in places where TBE is found, even if you have been vaccinated.

To reduce the risk of being bitten:

- cover your skin while walking outdoors and tuck your trousers into your socks
- use insect repellent on your clothes and skin - products containing DEET are best
- stick to paths whenever possible wear light-coloured clothing so ticks are easier to spot and brush off

How to spot and remove ticks...

Tick bites aren't always painful. You may not notice a tick unless you see it on your skin.



Always check your skin and hair after being outdoors
Ticks can sometimes be very small and hard to spot.

To remove a tick safely:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers or a tick removal tool. You can buy these from some pharmacies, vets and pet shops.
2. Grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible.
3. Slowly pull upwards, taking care not to squeeze or crush the tick. Dispose of it when you have removed it.
4. Clean the bite with antiseptic or soap and water.

The risk of getting ill is low. You don't need to do anything else unless you become unwell.



PS. A LOVE STORY

This 80 year old woman was arrested for shop lifting.

When she went before the judge he asked her,

"What did you steal?" She replied. "A can of peaches."

The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry.

The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can

She replied 6.

The judge then said, "I will then give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce sentence, the woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something.

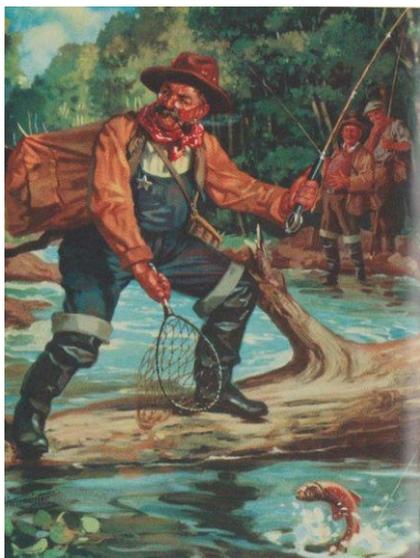
The judge said, "What is it?"

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas".

PPS.

On the van of a Plumbing Company: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

Hope you have enjoyed this first Round-up. To keep it going please send your thoughts, ideas and contributions fishing related to Robert at Flyfishing007@gmail.com or Colin at blagdonbill@btinternet.com



'The Tangler'



'Worm Vs Dry.... '

Late News....



WHAT A BEAUTY!

What a Cracking Brownie - weighing in at 5lbs.12ozs.!
Charles Freemantle caught this fish at Avon Springs on the 11th June,
It should be a firm contender for the Guild's heaviest
Brown Trout Trophy!