

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Meeting Wednesday 8th March 2017 - 7.30pm Shaw Hotel

Present:

Jon Jonik, Alan Kerr, Roger Henderson, Chris Holt, Don Reid, Ged West, Ray Buckley Humphries, William Arney, Richard Arney, David Griffiths, Chris Winsor, Margaret Fraser-Looen, Gerry Barnes, , Malcolm Bond, Keith Johnston.

Part 1

Guest speaker – Michael Heaton – Water Meadow Restoration

Michael is a heritage consultant living in Warminster and previously a WWFFG member. He is a recognised authority on water meadows and is championing their recognition as very significant civil engineering projects dating back to the 1600s which played a pivotal role in the Industrial Revolution. He gave a fascinating talk about their purpose, history and the restoration work currently underway to preserve this important part of our history. The nearest working example being within sight of Salisbury cathedral. See website www.watermeadows.org

Part 2

1. Apologies

Robert Eadie, Colin Burbidge, Russell Bond

2. Minutes of February Guild meeting and matters arising

Accepted without amendment.

3. River Frome - bank day update and access improvements

Roger gave an outline of the work achieved (more details in the March newsletter) and thanked Jon Jonik, Maurice Dyer and Stan Jonik for helping. As help was limited the effort was put into Beats 1 to 9 - from the packhorse bridge down to Pomeroy Wood, to prepare that stretch for the access improvements planned for the Spring. The materials – posts etc. needed for these improvements are being stored at Jean Sleightholme's – particular thanks to Richard Arney for organising and transporting the posts and rails to Jean's.

Members will be emailed with requests for help installing the posts, rails and steps as soon as dates have been arranged.

4. Forthcoming activities:

- **Rivers Mole & Yeo - bank day 18th/19th March**

Malcolm Bond gave an outline of the work planned for the top end of The Yeo and arrangements for the weekend. Work will start 10.00am Saturday 18th March. He will email members with details.

- **Skittles - Fri 21st April**

This will take place at our usual venue – The White Hart at Atworth. Malcolm will email all members with details including the menu options to pre-order food. Several members indicated that they intend taking part.

5. 2017 programme

The proposed changes / additions to our Programme were discussed and received support from the meeting.

Using the data-projector Alan showed the website for Holbury Lakes fishery – the venue of our social fishing day on Wednesday 10th May, which replaces our May evening meeting.

The updated Programme will be on our website. As a large proportion of Guild members have retired mid-week social fishing trips are an option in addition to weekends.

It was agreed that we should be mindful of school holiday and bank holiday dates when arranging social fishing events.

6. Membership update

Alan thanked members for the prompt payment of subscriptions. Approximately 45 members have paid to-date. This had made his and Treasurer's job much easier to manage.

7. AOB

- i) Alan Kerr was presented with the Chairman's Trophy, this year decided by The President. It is awarded to the member who has made the most significant contribution to the Guild during the 2016 season. The meeting congratulated Alan..

Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 12th April 2017 – 7.30pm, Shaw Hotel, Melksham

