

# WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD

# WWFFG



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

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

## **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER**

**WWFFG Meeting Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Presentation by Andy Burns the Chairman of Beckington Astronomical Society**

***The Transit of Venus - Astronomy and Fishing***

This was 'astronomy unplugged' as over the course of an hour Andy, despite an obviously vast knowledge of his subject, avoided too much depth and gave us a most entertaining presentation. A very keen astronomer with his own observatory in Spain ("excellent local wine, cheese and brandy") he has lectured all over the world and been on TV - The One Show in 2011.

His talk was tailored closely to his Wednesday audience and made a fishing connection with every little astronomical nugget he gave us. At one moment he was explaining why a red sky at night is truly a shepherd's delight and at the next trying to get us to grasp the notion that the universe contains at a conservative estimate 250 billion galaxies like our Milky Way and in each 250 billion starts like our Sun. He took us around the world with examples of how cultures such as Tahitians, Aborigines and American Indians, sea-fishermen and

sea-farers have used the stars to anticipate weather changes and explain natural phenomena. He told us why Gravity, the smallest force in the universe, has the greatest influence and why full-moons affect Salmon fishing.

He also paid us the compliment that we would have studied Greek Mythology at school so we all nodded in remembrance of our classics teachers as he reminded us about the constellations and how they were named after the story of Perseus beheading The Gorgon Medusa and then falling for Andromeda - chained to the rocks by her father as sacrifice to the sea monster Cetus. The aquatic connections he had found for us came thick-and-fast.

Andy also talked about Hershel's museum in Bath (a visit recommended) where Hershel discovered the planet Uranus. Everyone who has taken tea at Jolly's in Milsom Street understood when Andy made the connection between Bath and a syphilitic C17th Venice. Twenty-nine out of every thirty people seen in Bath is a visitor - and doubtless some from Venice who will take back a souvenir they didn't buy at Jack's.

*The Transit of Venus* made a fleeting appearance but Andy's talk was about so much more and we'd like him to return to tell us more about Bath or Venice !

*Thanks Roger*

**Please note** at November's Guild Meeting (Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>) we shall be holding an AUCTION of some of the late John Williams fishing tackle.

#### FULLINGBRIDGE VISIT...July 4<sup>th</sup>.

After a sharp shower around 4:00pm the weather improved and it turned out to be good fishing and not bad for the barbeque either.

Fishing started around 3:00pm and paused at the sound of the goosecaller at 6:30pm for a feast of 'burgers and bangers' at the lakeside. Beer tins were opened and discussions on fishing tactics began. Around 15 Members fished and found plenty of trout feeding on the surface but were not the easiest of critters to catch.

Favourite fly seemed to be

Hawthorn fly.



the *black buzzer* and the dry

Chairman John was due to

no trout fourthcoming so he tackled up and 2<sup>nd</sup> cast, as if ordered on demand,

give us a filleting demo but had

had a perfect trout for his demonstration! It certainly tasted good after being grilled on the Barbeque.

There was a new Trophy to be won, The 'Ron Douch Tankard,' for the heaviest 2 fish caught and a bottle of fishing plonk for the heaviest single fish.

Congratulations to **Roger H.** who won the contest with the first two trout caught weighing in at 3lbs.8ozs.

Many Thanks to Richard C. and David L. for inviting us to fish at Fullingbridge.

We look forward to this pleasant event again next year.

### **Stocking the River Frome**

Success! After failed attempts to stock the Frome in May, June and July, each cancelled due to flood conditions, we finally achieved it on Tues 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Thanks particularly to Richard, Stan, Robert and Andrew without whose help it would not have been possible, without risk of injury to either us or the fish.

The river was in excellent condition, slightly coloured with an abundance of insect life and full of fish fry. So we expect the 200 Rainbow and 75 Browns to thrive.



The weekend before we also managed, thanks to Jon and Andy, to clear the footpaths, beat access points and several tree branches which were either hindering back-casts or overhanging the best pools - right through to the flume.

The final two months of the season should be excellent fishing and hopefully compensate for the dire conditions we've had to endure so far.

**Members are reminded to keep a record of fish caught for the 'returns' to Jim.**

If you are not a 'rivers' member but would like to try the Frome please let us know and we will arrange for you to come as our guest.

*Roger & Jim - Frome River Keepers*



### **Barbeque and Archery at Moorshall Farm - September 2012**



Firstly, I'd like to thank Brian Thornton and his wife Ruth, for suggesting this activity for the Guild - what a good idea! And as it turned out, it was a lovely summery September day, perfect for a barbeque and loosing some arrows. Brian's oil drums were put to sizzling use for our food - sausages and steaks to burgers and kebabs - Ruth kindly supplied desserts,

including a delicious Summer Pudding, so a very pleasant lunch was enjoyed by the WWFFG members and their friends and families in the lovely surroundings of Brian's field and former cow byre.

Then, preventing afternoon naps in the sun, the Archery Instructors brought out the bows and we started. There were several different types of bows: the classic Robin Hood longbow; a flatter, nicely patterned version; and some curved Mongolian style bows. The ladies present mainly used the classic bow, while the men tried all the different options. With three targets (one quite distant) plus a deer and a wildcat (never fear, both were plastic!) to aim for, the expert archers had very sensibly added pictures of fish to the round targets for us to aim for. Even so, many arrows went high and wide and headed for the hedge...

Maurice and Andy in particular showed potential (watch out for them on the riverbanks spearing fish with arrows), but everyone who had a go enjoyed it, no matter whether they hit the gold or not. It was a great chance to try out a new sport that many had watched in the Olympics. Maybe next time we can win a gold! Thanks Brian!

*Leila Eadie*



### The CHRISTMAS HAMPER Competition Day

Sunday 21st October '12

Mill Farm Trout Lakes, Worton. Nr Devizes. SN10 5 UW

We will meet at our usual venue at **Mill Farm Trout Lakes**.

Rods in at 9:00am fishing to 3:00pm on a 3 Fish ticket (£25).

**This Valuable Hamper** is certainly worth turning out for. Robert won it last year with 3 trout for 19lbs.,(woof!) So you'll have to keep an eye out! We will fish with just the single fly. The Hamper will be on display at the **Ladies Night on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>**. This is the last of the 'competition days' this year on the Guilds' Calendar so hope to see lots of Members on the day.

A bottle of good wine (fishing plonk) will be awarded for the heaviest trout caught. **GOOD LUCK**,

Please fish by the Rules of the Fishery.

### LADIES NIGHT DINNER & GRAND RAFFLE

Please support this Popular Guild Event held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October, send your Menu Choices and a cheque to Mike Harris as soon as you have decided .

If you need any Menu copies just email me - Thanks.

Grand Raffle tickets are selling very well already, so don't miss out on the chance to win 3 Fabulous Prizes.

The Draw for the Rod, Reel and Flies will be held at the Ladies Night Dinner.

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Two Trophies are still up for grabs:

**The.BLAGDON MUG** --For the heaviest fish from Blagdon during the 2012 season....

**The RIVER BROWN TROPHY** *For the Heaviest river brown trout caught during the 2012 season.*

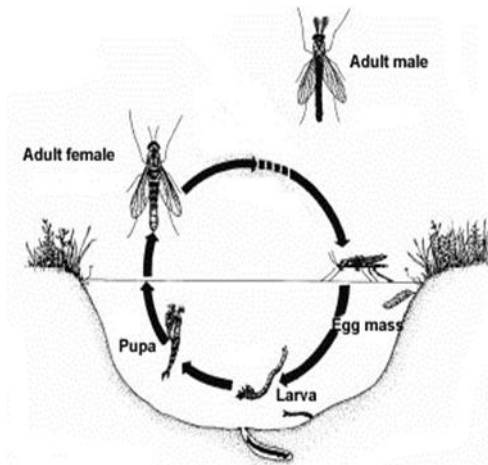
Please let me know if you have caught a large Blagdon Trout or a good sized Brownie from our Rivers. You may have won a Trophy!

## 🦟 Better Use of Buzzers 🦟



As evenings grow darker in the Autumn, the Green Buzzer is deadly but UV does affect feeding of trout. Check the chart below for recommended Buzzer colour as selection can make a big difference according to the light conditions

<u>Buzzer Colour.....</u>	<u>Daylight Most Effective In .....</u>
Scarlet	Very effective at dawn, dusk or dull days
Orange and Yellow	Best on bright days
Green	Coloured water and bad light
Luminous and Sparkle	Best 1 hour before dawn and deadly 1 hour before dusk
Flash Back and silver	Use any time of day



Possibly the most underestimated flies in the fly angler's armoury are the humble buzzer flies that imitate a midge in its nymph stage ready to emerge into an adult. Starting life in muddy water as a bloodworm or chironomidae which is blood red in colour and changing into the midge as an adult. When ready to emerge it ascends to the surface of the water. This is when we use a trout buzzer to imitate this stage of the midge's life. Using small buzzers does work as a natural buzzer pupa can be just a few millimetres long. Believe it or not these little flies just 5 to 8 mm long can account for bagging huge trout, the reason is simple, they think they are eating something natural.

September Stillwater Hatches	Size	Activity Levels	Recommended Flies
Midges	5 to 15mm	Heavy Feeding	<u>Buzzers</u> , <u>Bloodworm</u>
Caddis	5 to 30 mm	Regular Feeding	<u>Caddis Flies</u> like <u>Black Caddis</u> , <u>Caddis Natural</u> , <u>Caddis Natural</u> , <u>Elk Hair Caddis Brown</u>
Mayflies inc Olives	2 to 30mm	Heavy Feeding	<u>CJ's Duck's Dun Olive – (Charles Jardine)</u> <u>Humpy Black</u>
Damsel & Dragonflies	10 to 50mm	Light - Sporadic feeding	<u>Demoiselle</u> <u>Crippled Damsel Foam</u>
Crustaceans	5 to 15mm	Light - Sporadic activity	<u>Flashback Hare's Ear</u> <u>GRHE</u>
Corixa	5 to 10mm	Regular Feeding	Corixa
Fish	20 to 80mm	Intense Feeding	<u>Muddler Minnows</u> or <u>Epoxy Minnows</u>
Terrestrials	5 to 40mm	Heavy Feeding	<u>Terrestrials</u>
Daphnia	2 to 5mm	Light Activity - sporadic Feeding	<u>Dunkeld</u>
Snails	10 to 20mm	Regular Feeding	<u>Bibio</u> , <u>Bibio Blob Trout Fly</u>

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### FISH TAILS from the United States

US reports a huge catfish caught by a lady in UK.....

<http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/blog/34435/enormous+120-pound+catfish+landed+by+a+5-foot-2+woman/>

Hump back Whale that jumps into the boat!

<http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/blog/34443/angler+photographs+humpback+whale+that+almost+jumps+into+boat/>



HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS. #The police officer got out of his car as the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. 'I've been waiting for you all day,' the officer said.

The kid replied, 'Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could.'

When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.



#A truck driver was driving along on the freeway and noticed a sign that read: Low Bridge Ahead. Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him and his truck gets wedged under it. Cars are backed up for miles.

Finally a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, 'Got stuck, huh?'

The truck driver says, 'No, I was delivering this bridge and I ran out of gas.'



#It was mealtime during an airline flight.

'Would you like dinner?', the flight attendant asked John, seated in front.

'What are my choices?' John asked.

'Yes or no,' she replied.

#A woman customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer.

**Tech support:** Are you running it under windows?

**Customer:** 'No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine.'