

WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: westwiltsflyfishersguild.com

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Next Guild Meeting - Wednesday 8th March. Speaker **Michael Heaton** will be adding to our knowledge of **'Water Meadow Restoration'**.

February Annual General Meeting

The thought of attending an AGM is one guaranteed not to get your heart racing. So it was a sign of dedication that close to twenty members attended to give approval of our accounts and vote in the Committee for another year. And.....applaud those who were presented with trophies. Several more members sent in their apologies - we hope that those recuperating from surgery are well soon and those on cruises or basking beneath a warm Sun feel at least a little guilty!

Jon, as President, summarised the 2016 season for us and reminded us of how many members contributed to the Guild's continuing success through taking on regular tasks or helping with activities. Members thanked Jon too for his pivotal role in ensuring that the Guild continues to thrive in its 4th decade!

Jon, rightly, made special mention of Alan Kerr and Stephen Keys - Alan for our new website & for streamlining membership administration and Stephen for moving Guild finances on-line.

Stephen has had to step down as Guild Treasurer this year due to pressure of work but we are very grateful to him for his commitment to the Guild, his dedication in ensuring a smooth transition - and training for Jon in the interregnum! Under Stephen's stewardship the Guild finances have been well-managed and our contingency fund has grown.

Jon asked for a member to take on the role of Treasurer.

Please step forward if it could be YOU.

The presentation of trophies reminded us of just how good some of our members are:

Jon Jonik - 8 fish for 19lb 8oz on Chew Boat Day, Chris Winsor a 7lb specimen Brown from Chew. Congratulations to all trophy winners - on a cold February night they whetted our appetites for 2017.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is the first time in our history (35 years) that we haven't had a Chairman and as your President I have stood in to cover the role temporarily and have produced this year's report.

Membership numbers have slightly increased and the Guild is in a healthy financial position due to significant reductions in expenditure and additional funds raised through our successful auction.

We have had some interesting meetings and entertaining speakers and I would like to thank Chris Winsor for looking after our guests who included Dr. Mark Everard and Steven Skuce. Thanks also to members Richard Cripps and John Dixon for the quiz and Andy Greatwood for the fly tying course. Two administration changes concerning membership and finance have produced benefits i.e. new membership cards, electronic methods of payment and we have taken advantage of online banking. Our membership secretary Alan Kerr has created and setup a new Guild website with password access for members. The site contains details of the Guild rivers, activities, our history and everything a member would want to get the most out of the Guild. Numbers were down for the annual dinner but it was a delightful evening and successfully rounded off with the Christmas and Fishing raffles. Gerry Barnes monthly raffles continue to raise important funds and he was rewarded this year by winning the Christmas Hamper competition at Worton.

Robert Eadie's excellent newsletter keeps us abreast of Guild activities, offers advice on fishing and venues and is an all-round entertaining read all made possible by member's contributions with a special mention for Colin Burbedge's Blagdon Bill & Courteney Fish's humorous articles.

Worryingly, our rivers continue to be lightly fished although Rod Humphries Mole caught salmon was the highlight of the season and John Sheppard's contribution to the River Fly Partnership on the Frome is of considerable value.

I thank the membership for their continued support and make special mention that the activities of the Guild are made possible by the commitment and diligence of our Secretary Roger Henderson, Alan Kerr our Membership secretary and Stephen Keys our Treasurer. We are very lucky indeed to have such support however, looking to next year, unless they are given more help it is likely that we will need to cut our cloth accordingly.

Jon Jonik - President

River Mole Bank Management - Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th March.

Mole & Yeo. We are planning a couple of days bank management work on our North Devon waters in the middle of March - for Saturday 18th, and also Sunday 19th, if people would prefer that day. If anyone wants to make a weekend of it, there are plenty of local B&Bs, otherwise you can just come down for one day. Please let me know which day you prefer, if you can only make 1 day.

As the season will have opened on the 15th, rods and reels could be packed, as well as loppers and saws !

As usual, we are coinciding our bank management days with the R. Taw Fisheries Association AGM and Dinner, which will be on the Friday (17th) - if anyone wants to go, the dinner tickets are £22.50. Please let me know, and I will send you the full details.

We would plan to start the work at 10.00am each day, and the focus will be on the stretch of the Yeo at Bish Mill.

More details and information from Malcolm Bond malbond1@btinternet.com



Crunchers

The trout cruncher fly, or cruncher is a great imitator of nymphs for rainbow and brown trout. They do look similar to spiders with a hot spot behind the hackles.



WWFFG Trophy Winners - 2016

NYEFORD TROPHY - Heaviest brown trout

Chris Winsor – 7lb from Chew Reservoir

BILL AVON SHIELD - Heaviest rainbow trout

Gerry Barnes – 4lb from Mill Farm Fishery

The CHRISTMAS HAMPER COMPETITION - Heaviest three fish bag

Gerry Barnes – 9lb

The Tam Pearce CHEW BOAT CUP - Heaviest bag

Chew boat outing in May

Jon Jonik – 8 fish for 19lb 8oz

RIVER BROWN TROPHY - Heaviest river brown.

Jon Jonik – 16" (1lb 10oz) from the River Frome

The Fullingbridge 'Ron Douch Tankard' - Heaviest bag (first two fish caught)
at Fullingbridge BBQ event in July.

John Sheppard – 3lb 8oz

WILF SLEIGHTHOLME TELLISFORD SHIELD -

largest seasonal catch on the River Frome.

Jack Welshman

RON LONG MEMORIAL TROPHY - Annual Photographic Competition

Jon Jonik

VIC WILLCOX MEMORIAL TROPHY -

Guild member who in the Chairman's opinion has done most in the past year to benefit the Guild **Alan Kerr**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

TREASURERS REPORT
Annual General Meeting
8th February 2017.

I circulated a number of copies of the Guild's accounts and E mailed the membership with copies on 24th January so any queries could have been looked into prior to the meeting. This included the 2016 Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure sheet and the Bank Reconciliation sheet.

I am pleased to report that the WWFFG's financial position as at 31st December 2016 is robust and healthy. We had a significant in-year excess of income over expenditure for 2016 of £1762.95. Our current balance sheet assets as of 31st December 2016 stand at £6902.48 held as cash deposits (therefore minimal risk). This represents an increase to our Balance Sheet of almost £2000 or 40% over the last two years. The committee does not, therefore, intend to propose any increase to the subscriptions because we have sufficient reserves, which act as a financial cushion, against any unexpected drop in membership. I do not anticipate that our out-goings will be significantly greater in 2017 than they were in 2016. The money raised from subscriptions, which include Guild membership, joint membership, rivers and coarse fishing membership, fell by £35 during 2016. This was more than offset by a reduction in river fees for the River Frome of £716, a reduction in stocking fees of £232.50 for the River Frome, a successful tackle auction returning £311.40 and a saving on speakers of £141.79.

On the subject of the payment of subscriptions, I would remind everyone that they fall due immediately after the Annual General Meeting and ask you to please pay promptly to either Alan Kerr or Jon Jonik. I convey my thanks to those who have already paid promptly.

My thanks to **Annette Bond** for her work and forbearance in auditing and providing guidance on the Guild's accounts.

Gerry has done his usual sterling work managing the Annual Dinner and Monthly Raffles and has returned £301.70, after costs, to Guild funds. I urge you to support Gerry - as income generated from the raffles subsidises other Guild activities.

The Guild supports many fly fishing related and social activities. I think you will agree that any reasonable proposals for activities, not previously considered, will get a fair hearing by your Committee. Some activities are subsidised from Guild funds others are self-financing, but all are kept under constant review.

A good programme of events was held during the year, at a very low cost, supported by Guild members who stepped forward and gave their own presentations. During the forthcoming year a programme utilising a combination of member's presentations and outside speakers is being prepared.

The Committee proposed to the meeting that subscriptions shall remain the same as those in 2016; that is Guild Social Membership is £40.00; Joint Guild Social membership £45; Rivers'

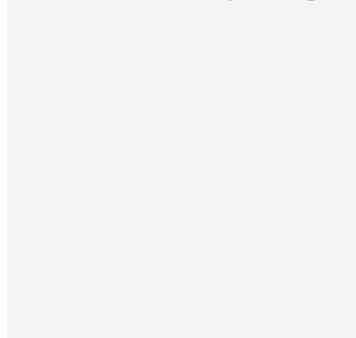
Subscription £70; and Coarse Fishing Subscription is £60. A member taking up both Guild and River memberships will pay a total of £110.

If anyone has any questions on the Guild's accounts for 2016 I am more than happy to answer.

*Stephen Keys
Treasurer WWFFG*

EARLY SEASON

We hope the weather is improving. Early indications are that temperatures will be warmer and not really stay as cold as recently experienced. There are still superb Trout to be had, Stillwaters are producing stunning Brown & Rainbow Trout and rivers will be opening for Trout mostly in March (check local byelaws from the



Agency for your rivers)

Get ready for the rivers! Waterhen spider which imitates Large Dark Olive's which should be hatching from morning to early afternoon or use a Rough Olive or Large Dark Olive both in Size 12 which are good imitations. With March Browns starting to hatch on rivers, the prepared fisherman will be the one catching fish!



There will of course be 'buzzer fishing' on stillwaters. Flash Back Buzzers and Green heads, in a size 10, being the flies of choice when buzzer fishing. Indeed the first flies to try on stillwaters will be Buzzers! If we need to try lures then our favourite will be Viva Mini Lures, these work well with the black and green regularly producing fish or 'Red Head Cats Whisker JC Mini Lure' with its' Jungle Cock eyes providing stunning fry imitations as an alternative colour lures.

The changes come into effect in March 2017 with new licences valid from 1 April 2017

Coarse and Trout

Type of licence	Current price	New price from 1st April 2017
Full (April - March)	£27	£30
Full (concessionary) senior and disabled	£18	£20
Short term 1 day	£3.75	£6
Short term 8 day	£10	£12
Junior (12 - 16yrs)	£5	Free
3 rod licence	NA - new product	£45
3 rod licence (concessionary) senior and disabled	NA - new product	£30

Salmon and Sea Trout

Type of licence	Current price	New price from 1st April 2017
Full	£72	£82
Full (concessionary) senior and disabled	£48	£54

Type of licence	Current price	New price from 1st April 2017
Short term 1 day	£8	£12
Short term 8 day	£23	£27



Funding announced for major new wildlife project to reopen the River Severn for fish and wildlife.

A major new wildlife project to reopen the mighty River Severn has secured almost £20 million of funding - £10.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £6 million from the European Union LIFE programme.

The scheme will re-open the mighty River Severn and its major tributary for fish and wildlife whilst reconnecting millions of people and local communities with the lost natural, cultural and industrial heritage of this magical river.

This is the largest project of its kind ever attempted in Europe and will reopen the UK's longest river to all fish species, many of which became extinct in the upper reaches following the installation of weirs required to power the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s. The work will remove blockages and secure the long-term future of many of the UK's declining and protected fish species by substantially increasing access to important spawning grounds.

This includes historically economically vital species such as the now threatened twaite and allis shad - a species favoured in the court of Henry III, once abundant and famed all across Europe for its taste and quality. The project will also benefit other critically declining species such as salmon and the European eel - all species on which the communities along the banks of the River Severn were historically built.

Guild FLYTYING SESSIONS in January

Over the three evenings Andy demonstrated the techniques for tying three completely different traditional flies. The first session covered the basic principles of using the tools, tying the thread and tying off which we practised by tying the favourite **Diawl Bach** and Stick fly. Both use peacock herl for the body which for a simple feather is colourful and more importantly creates a life like shape and movement, hence it's popularity. The second week Andy chose the **Soldier Palmer** to demonstrate the use of seals fur/antron, ribbing and palmering and tying off with a hackle. Now we were getting serious and for the final week Andy selected a wet fly, the **Connemara Black**. This used all the techniques learnt from the previous two sessions and introduced tying a wing and a throat beard. It's hard to believe that the techniques learnt over only three sessions will set us on our way to tying almost anything we might want to use.

A massive thanks to Andy Greatwood who also supplied all the materials. Thanks also to those who attended. It's such an important part of fly fishing that we are thinking of introducing a fly tying workshop as part of our normal monthly meetings.

Jon



Diawl Bach



Connemara Black



Soldier Palmer

LOOKING FORWARD.....

March 8thGuild Meeting.....Speaker: Michael Heaton 'Water Meadow Restoration'

River Mole Bank Management -

Sat 18th and Sun 19th March. - Details on page 3.

Friday 21st April - Skittles and Buffet evening.



The Essential Loch or Stillwater Collection

Each collection includes renowned patterns to provide practical variety and includes flies such as the Zulu or Soldier Palmer, representative patterns such as the Greenwells Glory, March Brown or Woodcock and Yellow and flashy attractors in the form of Peter Ross, Kingfisher Butcher or Dunkeld. It is known as the Scottish Loch Selection as it is made up of traditional flies fishing for trout, however these flies will work anywhere and this is actually the ultimate wet fly bundle!

HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS

A true story from the pages of the Manchester Evening Times

Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Stafford station leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then the shaking driver said "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me."

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said, "I didn't realise that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."