

WWFFG



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Members of the Wild Trout Trust

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

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Quiz Night Wed 8th January 2014

The Annual Quiz always gets the Guild's year off to a good start and this year it was as raucous as ever. Quiz Masters Richard and John taxed us for an hour and a half with an eclectic mix of fishing related questions. A few easy ones to keep up morale but plenty of posers you felt you should have known but didn't - and a few you weren't too bothered about anyway. Curved balls were added to see if we cared about anything other than fishing. Which clearly we didn't.

We must thank Richard & John and acknowledge that while we were just stuffing mince pies over Christmas they must have been hard at it racking their brains for smart questions. Anyone who has done a quiz knows what a lot of work goes into sourcing the photos, writing the questions, and creating the PowerPoint slides.

After the results were announced, as a reward to top scorers and bottom feeders alike, it was chocolates all round. RH.

THE "LADIES NIGHT" DINNER - Friday 22nd November.

Another extremely successful and pleasant evening for the 23 Members and Families. The tables were laden with Ladies Gifts, Christmas Crackers, bottles of red, white and rose wines and the Table Quiz. The most popular dish served was the delicious baked fillet steak. Lots of noise creating a good and happy atmosphere!

After the speeches, it was time for the main raffle of the evening followed by the amazing prizes donated for the table raffle.

The Winners of the Big Fishing Raffle were....

- **John Sheppard** who won 'a day's guided fishing' with Jim Williams.
- The Orvis reel caught the eye of **Gerry Tinson**.
- **Brian Hussey** collected the landing net.

Congratulations to the winners!

Thank You Gerry B. for arranging the Raffle and indeed for organising the raffles throughout the year for our Guild Meetings.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is on **Wednesday 12th February** at the Shaw Country Hotel, Shaw commencing 7:30 for 8:00pm.

The Presentation to the Trophy and Cup winners for 2013 will take place after the AGM ceremony.

The list of Guild and Fishing Competition Winners are as follows....

The Henderson Trophy.....Gerry Tinson..... 8lbs.5ozs.

The Nyeford Trophy..... Roger Henderson..... 1lb.2ozs.

The Bill Avon Shield.....Maurice Dyer..... 8lbs.6ozs.

The Spinnaker Cup.....Cancelled due to poor weather.

The J.Turk Shield.....Maurice Dyer.....13lbs.

Chew Boat Cup.....Gerry Tinson.....22lbs.4ozs.

The Chairman's Vic Willcox Memorial Trophy.....Jon Jonik

Wilf Sleightholme Tellisford Shield.....Jim Wheel

The River Brown Trophy.....Jim Wheel

The Fullingbridge 'Ron Douch' Tankard....Jon Jonik....4lbs.3ozs.

LOOKING AHEAD.....

Wednesday February 12th - Annual General Meeting

Wednesday March 12th - Guest Speaker

Chris Muscat from Wessex Water will present us with a 'Whistle Stop Tour Of Water Supply In Wessex Water'.

Sunday 23rd February - Bank Management -

Calling all able-bodied members. If you can spare a few hours on Sunday 23rd February we would be very grateful. The floods have left behind the usual problems, although thankfully this year no bank collapses and the willow stakes we put in last year to reinforce sections have taken root and done their job.

We would also like to continue the coppicing work we started in 2012 down past the flume.

We will meet at 9.00 am on the bridge but if you arrive later we will be easy to find! Hand tools needed but chainsaws won't be necessary. We envisage the work will take about 3 hours, but all help appreciated.

Many Thanks. Hopefully see you there

Roger & Jim



DIY raft and large tree caught-up



a mass of plastic flotsam to be picked-up



Interesting!....'A Lost Fishing Club'. "The Houghton Fly Fishing Club".
1875 to 1892.

Please CTRL & click on the link for 'you tube' video, and turn the volume up.....8mins.

<http://youtu.be/pvBCOCnb4Hw>

2014 - TROUT FISHING Bristol Water

2014 promises to be an exciting season. With good numbers of quality fish available for stocking, with the return of Barrow 3 and with plenty of new ideas and initiatives, we hope that we can continue and improve on the fantastic sport enjoyed in 2013.

The dates for the trout fishing season are as follows;

Barrows Opening Day Saturday 1st March with season permit holders enjoying their special start day on Thursday 27th February.

Blagdon will open on Saturday 15th March.

Chew Valley starts one week later on Saturday 22nd March.

Season permit holders will be able to fish on 13th and 20th respectively. Sadly it looks as though Litton will not be available for the start of the 2014 season.

Closing dates for all the waters in 2014 will be 30th November

There will be a review of extending closing dates in future seasons.

All permit prices will increase in 2014. Here are the main permit costs for next season. Full details will be available on the BW website.

| <u>Boat</u> | <u>Chew Valley.</u> | <u>Blagdon.</u> | <u>Litton.</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Day | £37.50 | £32.50 | £70.00 |
| Afternoon | £32.00 | £27.50 | £50.00 |
| Evening | £25.50 | £23.50 | n/a |
| <u>Bank</u> | <u>Chew Valley</u> | <u>Blagdon</u> | <u>Barrow</u> |
| Day | £19.00 | £23.00 | £16.00 |
| Afternoon | £16.00 | £18.00 | £14.00 |

Salmon Season - Hurrah!

So at last the salmon season is upon us! For over 60 years the Kenmore Hotel and the village of Kenmore have hosted the traditional opening celebrations on the River Tay in Perthshire, this being the oldest celebration held within the UK for a fishing event.



So are we ready? What flies should we use?

Early Season should see the use of larger flies, green being the predominant colour. There are two key Tube flies recommended currently, with raising and lowering water levels - the *Monkey fly range* would be ideal, as these have interchangeable heads, allowing different weight flies simply by swapping the conehead for another of heavier weight. The green monkey can be used, which works better early season with the hot orange or yellow fluorescent conehead which shows better in coloured water or with a black, silver or gold conehead for clearer water.



The alternative would be Sunray Shadow, available as a regular tube fly with a plastic tube for maximum size and mobility which as an unweighted fly, can be used again with the green body.



True Tales of Poachers from T&S 1972

'Gin and trout (no ice)'

Sunday morning as I was looking upstream, I saw a long-handled landing net come poking out from a tall bed of sedges.

Down into the water it went for a brief moment, then up it came with a fat trout. It happened again, then a third time. I was amazed.

Then I noticed a fellow upstream at the bridge - a poacher well known to me - throwing something into the river.

"Must be two of 'em working," thought I. So off I went to fetch my head-keeper.

He went to the man higher up and I surprised the one with the landing-net, and a bag containing eight large trout. He was a lad aged about 11. The other fellow was his father.

We found by tasting the dough which we took from the pocket of the old poacher, what an artful trick they had been playing. It had been soaked in gin, containing juniper to give it a good flavour and attractive to the fish, and it had stupefied them. No wonder the lad found it easy to net any fish as it came drifting past !

'an orange peel lure'

Some years later I again met that lad who had scooped up trout intoxicated by gin soaked bread, and he had grown into a handsome fellow, and like his father he had become a clever poacher. Sure enough I found him early one Sunday morning having just landed a 16lb salmon.

I took the fish from him, saying: "if you are caught again it means a summons, I suggest that you try your tricks up at Longham".

Now at that time nobody took much interest in that part of the river.

Anyone might be seen there. In fact two of my rods had spent a long day

and failed to find a fish. Besides, it was not considered 'good taking' water.

Odd it may seem, but my ginger-headed poacher went up to this water a day or two later. He took two salmon in the morning and two more in the afternoon. Not satisfied, he went back in the evening and got his fifth salmon. He told me the lure he used was a roll of orange peel inside a scarab jacket! The fish were 25lb, 24lb, 18lb, 18lb and 11lb.



Red Mark Syndrome and Puffy Skin - *not you, the fish!*

Caught a trout recently looking a bit grim and inedible?

If your freshly caught rainbow trout has a red rash or raised areas of scales it may be showing the symptoms of one of two rapidly spreading, but non-lethal, skin conditions - 'Red Mark Syndrome' or 'Puffy Skin'. To find out more we asked our fish suppliers and looked at what the Environment Agency was saying on-line.

Both can look very unsightly when we are used to seeing fish in prime condition, but the flesh can still be eaten although commercially the price of the fish is affected because they would not look right on the fishmongers slab.

Red Mark Syndrome (RMS) was first identified in Scottish rainbow trout farms (brown trout are rarely affected) around 2003/04 and has now officially spread to 60% of fish farms in the UK. Anecdotally it is said that it is in fact endemic throughout the UK.

Whereas Puffy Skin (PS) is associated with bad water and stress (though this is not definitive) there is no agreement on what triggers RMS. It can be treated with antibiotics which suggests it is an infection. Generally fish with RMS and PS continue to feed and grow normally. Conversely, for rainbow trout it seems RMS is triggered by cold water (below 12 Centigrade). It may be that both RMS and PS lie dormant until triggered by environmental conditions, because fish will recover after about a month if they are moved to ideal conditions - good quality water, low-density stocking and low-stress - no handling.



Warning - don't search for 'puffy trout' on Google images - scarey! RH



HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS. **Speeding**.....

Waiting in Croydon to catch speeding drivers, a Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 MPH.

Says he to himself: "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seats and three in the back...wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly...Twenty-two miles an hour!"the old woman says a bit proudly.

The Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that A22 is the road number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask....Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken, and they haven't made a sound this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We've just come off the A120."



THE BRIDGE at TELLISFORD - Early January 2014 (RH).



The first evening of the Fly-tying sessions - January 16th (AK)