

# WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

## APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER

**Guild Meeting Wednesday 13th ...The Open Forum**

EN FORUM - OPEN SEZ ME [WITH APOLOGIES TO ALADDIN]

Our last Guild meeting, well attended, held another Open Forum where subjects piscatorial were raised and discussed. Witty, pithy, informative, thought-provoking, imaginative; amusing in parts, wide ranging, whacky and wonderful? Yes it was none of these. And yet I liked it and enjoyed the craic - as the Irish have it - derived from the evening. But as Mandy Rice-Davies put it 'He would say that wouldn't he?' having chaired the bally thing and all.

We too infrequently get the chance to have a chin-wag, and indeed to talk seriously about fishing techniques, tips and wrinkles, our own particular hang-ups concerning tackle or methods we use. Our own aspirations for the year ahead were broached; also the case of the mystery sighting of Batman - or indeed his Natural mouse counterpart - appearing in broad daylight, chasing, and endeavouring to capture, the Parachute Black Gnat used by one of our fishermen. This in March this year - and failing to do so thank goodness. The Chairman's own dilemma as to whether co-polymer or fluorocarbon leaders are best to use for presenting the dry-fly. All these and a few more; including a few minutes update on how fishing was going on at Chew and Blagdon this year. Incidentally, Andy Greatwood gave valuable feed-back on leader material. Essentially, and I paraphrase, it is 'horses for courses' on which material you use, but it is most essential that you dull the material down with Fullers Earth, or similar, to stop the reflective, rainbow-type effect that can happen when bright sunlight shines downward through the material. This is markedly more

essential when you tie a new leader on that has not been used before. You might even consider lightly rubbing the leader down to partially remove the sparkly, new shine from the material.

For what it may, or may not, be worth; my own observations derive from fishing dry-fly on a lake which has the mixed blessing of containing gin-clear water. Because of its clarity, you can often see fish - hopefully before they notice you. Should you drop a dry-fly lightly ahead of them, you sometimes have the magical insight of seeing them rise to the fly from depth. If it is the least bit sunny, and you have left the leader untreated [dulled], the fish may approach within two or three inches of it and then instantly shy away, often in a rather alarmed fashion. On a dull, overcast day you might get away with it, and secure a take - but not very often at all if it is sunny and you have left the leader untreated. I think the same thing applies on both still and running waters. Because of the greater surface movement on rivers and brooks, the leader may often be jostled more, and therefore 'dulling' may (arguably) be even more important.

Something we may debate further at our next such Forum perhaps? Or indeed any other points or questions that may arise meanwhile. Please keep us informed of how your fishing is progressing and/or any notable catches that you may wish to enter for our Guild Cups Competitions. Fish On; Fish Well mes braves!

*Courteney Fish*

### **E-mail from Jon J. describing the progress made on the Devon Rivers Bank Management Day**

Rod and I were joined by Richard which although a disappointing turnout we were able to make a good start by improving access.

Using blue water pipe to cover the two strands of barbed wire we've put 11 access/exit points on the lower stretch from Alswear New Bridge to the top of the second 'no fishing' section. We've also used the blue pipe to mark the boundary points of our fishing in the two sections that are not ours.

See attached photos (page 3) which are self explanatory. Pity I didn't get the one when Richard went for a dip!

I hope to get down again with Rod to start at Grilstone Bridge working down stream to complete the lower and middle sections of the Mole.

Using Rods 4x4 we were able to pull a fallen tree stump closer to the Bank which opens up what I think is a very good sea trout run - can't wait to find out!



*Jon.*



### **CHEW LAKE - EARLY SEASON**

The opening days of fishing on the lake proved to be excellent. Checking some of the fish return cards, some anglers were recording 30 to 40 fish per boat, only 8 trout can be retained, the rest to be carefully returned to the water.

At the end of the first week of April things have quietened down a bit with the fish proving a bit harder to catch mainly due to strong westerlys and sun.

There is at the moment, a phenomenal hatch of grey/black buzzer - the air is full of them, even in the car park at Woodford Lodge. There was a white car parked which looked as if it was heavily splashed with mud. Closer inspection revealed many hundreds of these flies probably attracted to the warmth of the car.

If you plan a visit soon, try floating lines with **black buzzers and black daiwl bachs** for the best chance of a few fish. The trout are simply gorging themselves on them at the moment. Don't dismiss dries if the opportunity presents itself. Black Bobs Bits would be a good option.

Sadly at Woodford Lodge the catering and restaurant department has closed and will, I am told, stay that way for at least a year. Obviously the fishing shop is still in situ.

So - no more pre-fishing breakfasts overlooking the lake. It's a shame - it is really changed there now and has consequently lost some of its atmosphere!

If indeed you enjoy a hearty breakfast to start the day off on a good note - a place to recommend is the Carpenters Arms at Stanton Wick (sat nav BS39 4BX) about 10 minutes from the reservoir - a very good and substantial breakfast served but a little pricey at £10. (worth it IMHO). Must book. Alternatively there is the 'Salt & Malt' at the Chew

picnic area open from 8:30am, full English breakfast with a drink, also costs a few pennies short of £10.

If you want to keep abreast of fishing news and details on the Bristol Reservoirs please log on to **our website** - click onto 'this month' page and scroll down to The Bristol Waters Report. This will give you all the up-to-date info you need for a days fishing.

Have a great season!

### *Chew Lake at Sunset*



### **THE CHEW BOAT CUP**

This competition is now being held on **Sunday 22nd June**, this date has been changed to avoid the May Bank Holiday weekend. We shall be fishing for the Chew Boat Cup and also a bottle of wine awarded for the heaviest single trout (pike don't count!).

If you haven't booked your seat for your fishing then please contact or e-mail Jon Jonik who is the competition co-ordinator for a place on a boat.

It is almost tradition now that we meet for breakfast before a great days fishing. I would suggest those that would like breakfast to meet at "The Salt & Malt" situated at the Chew Lake picnic area. The cost would be just under £10 and the café opens at 8:30am.

Boats will be pre-booked but please pay for your ticket on the day, mentioning at the Lodge that you are a WWFFG Member. Jon will give us a quick briefing at 9:45am on the lawn at Woodford Lodge when boat partners will be decided and boat numbers distributed. Please remember to wear a safety jacket (mandatory and supplied free for the day by Bristol Water). Check your boat for a net, an anchor and bailing bucket - just in case!

Fishing starts at 10:00am to weighing in at **6:15 pm**. Buzzers, Diall Bachs and PT Nymphs should find the fish. If the trout are feeding on the surface do not hesitate to tie on a team of dries, perhaps the Bobs Bits, Hoppers or Raiders picked out, should do the trick.

Whether we catch loads of fish (limited to 8 trout) or not, it's good to have a day out on the reservoir with friends, discussing tactics and putting the world to rights! Let's keep our fingers crossed that we will have a cloudy humid day with a gentle breeze.

### ***Mid-week fishing trips***

*At our April meeting, it was suggested that as many of us are no longer full-time 'wage slaves' (i.e., retired or semi-retired), it would be a good idea to start a group for those who are interested in mid-week fishing trips, possibly arranged at short notice to take advantage of the fishing conditions and weather etc.. These trips would be additional to the events in the Guild calendar already planned by the committee.*

*If anyone is interested in taking part, please let Malcolm know*

*In your email, could you please confirm the best phone number to contact you on, and an indication of which weekday days are likely to be best for you.*

### **On (a fishing) line.....USA.....**

There are some massive catfish out there, but when Lance Burgos felt a heavy pull, he was cautious.

Instead of hooking a fish, however, Burgos actually caught a massive alligator.

Control and click.....[Fisherman finds a terrifying surprise at the end of his line](#)

### **LOOKING FORWARD....**

**Guild Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> May. Speaker will be David Cram - 'Tales of fish and fishing from around the world.'**

**NB: New Date - The Guilds CHEW BOAT Competition - Sunday 22<sup>th</sup> June - Boat fishing on the reservoir**

**oOoOoOoOoOo**

**PS - A reminder that if you would like to increase your knowledge of river fly-life / invertebrates etc and possibly help the Guild with some river-fly monitoring you may like to attend this conference described below:**

**BART Riverfly Conference 2016 - Saturday 7th May in Calne, Wiltshire.**

This conference will present the opportunity to hear about the future of Riverfly monitoring, to discuss current progress and to learn more about how habitat diversity affects invertebrate populations. Useful for those already monitoring, considering getting trained or simply with an interest in our aquatic environments.

Speakers including the Environment Agency, Riverfly Partnership, Severn Rivers Trust and University of the West of England.

Tickets and more information available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bart-riverfly-conference-2016-tickets-20034345266>

**EXCITING UPDATE!**

BART are pleased to announce that top angling author **Professor Mark Everard** will be attending the conference for a 'meet and greet' session and to sign copies of his range of books which you may bring along or purchase on the day. Mark Everard, a noted specimen coarse angler, is an author, scientist and broadcaster with extensive involvement in the worlds of environment and sustainability, angling and music.

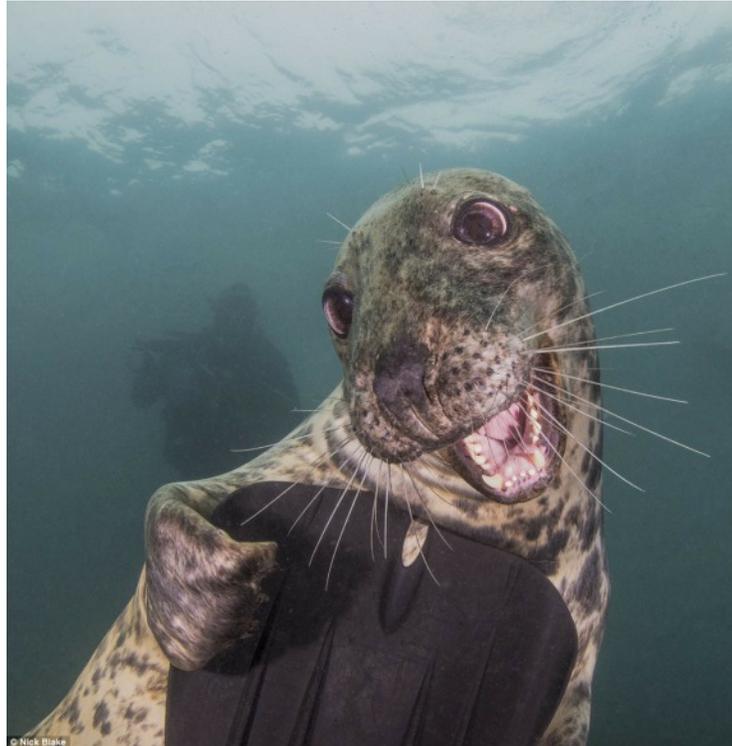
Professor Everard will be our Speaker on the November 9<sup>th</sup> Guild Meeting  
His Subject will be 'Roach Fishing'.

000000000000000000000000

**BUZZERS**

Scarlet	Very effective at dawn, dusk or dull days	
Orange & Yellow	Best on bright days	
Green	Coloured water and bad light	
Luminous Buzzer & Sparklemet Lumi Buzzers	Best 1 hour before dawn and deadlly 1 hour before dusk	
Flash Attack	Use anytime of day	
Silver Flash Back	Use anytime of day	

**WILL YOU GET OFF MY FOOT!!!**



Playful: This snap, title 'Hello Cheeky', is of a curious seal off the coast of Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel and won Nick Blake a gold medal

**Here is a photo** taken of me with a huge cod...Yes, It's definitely me as you can see.... Well all right then ..... It's Action Man posing with a smallish cod.



HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS.

