

WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Next Guild Meeting - Wednesday February 10th.
Our Annual General Meeting.**

N.B. The March Guild Meeting will be **Thursday March 10th**.
We shall then revert back to our usual 2nd Wednesday in the month
for the rest of the year.

Guild Meeting Wednesday 13th January

A 'Winsor Wonders' Land

Rowdy, unruly, irreverent, noisy and downright good fun! That was the substance and tenor of our New Year's January Quiz. Aply, indeed masterfully controlled by Richard and John our two inquisitors, who had to deal with a bumptious bunch but were able to make it look like child's play. Diplomacy, and a tactful show of firmness when this was required. As indeed it was! Floor-raised Questions (when marking the team papers) like 'Does it have to be Himalayan Balsam?' Answer: yes it does, Upper Peruvian Mouse turd, or Transylvanian pickle nuts will just not cut it; the answer has to be Himalayan Balsam! My words I'm afraid [since I can't remember John's much more succinct and subtle retort], but you get the point I'm sure. Adjudication was called for in some measure!

We formed into four teams from the 18 members or so present. Each team to give themselves an appropriate, or witty, 'tag' or team name. New member Jack Welshman was welcomed on board and took part in the team mayhem. Nervous tension then set in, perhaps accounting for the hilarity that ensued whilst trying to answer some of the more difficult of the prepared questions on the exam sheets. As you are all well aware, we are

truly fortunate that this is a regular January event in our club calendar, and it was as good as ever. Really, really enjoyable.

For the record only, the team entitled 'Winsor Wonders' won the night but the real winners were indeed all of us present that evening. A lot of laughs, ribaldry and downright rude (but thankfully humorous) remarks flying round like the proverbial flak. And chocolates, as prizes. into the bargain! It remains my privilege to thank John Dixon and Richard Cripps for all their preparation and learned presentation of the quiz, and for their generosity in providing us all with yet another fun evening at Shaw.

Courteney

Twelve members joined in the first of our fly-tying sessions.

Here everyone is trying to replicate the techniques Andy showed demonstrating how to tie a 'diawl bach'.

If you have a free evening on Thurs 21st or Thurs 28th January and would like to come along to learn a new skill (equipment and materials will be provided) or refresh old skills you will be very welcome - there is plenty of room.

The sessions are at our usual venue -
Shaw Hotel, Melksham, from 7pm till 9pm.



MONITORING the RIVER FROME

If you were at the November Guild meeting and/or have read the write-up of our visiting speaker in the Nov/Dec newsletter - you will be aware (if you weren't before) how important it is for us to gather data on our rivers if we are to convince bodies such as the EA of the need to improve them.

The Committee has put several initiatives in place in recent years, such as Angler Returns, but probably the most important is our involvement in River-Fly Monitoring with the River-Fly Partnership as featured on a recent edition of Countrywise with Paul Heiney.

John Sheppard leads this for us and throughout the summer data on the invertebrates in the Frome has been added to the national database. The type and abundance of species indicates the health of the river.

Clubs such as Salisbury & District AC have several fly-monitoring teams and we would like to have additional monitoring sites on the Frome.

If you would like to be involved please contact John Sheppard

To find out more either Google - river-fly monitoring - or go straight to www.riverflies.org

Grayling Day on The Wylde at Sutton Veny, Warminster, Sunday

6th December Rain had slightly coloured the Wylde but otherwise fishing conditions were good apart from a blustery wind at times.

Thankfully the rain kept off until about 3pm when the day was due to end anyway. There was the odd hatch during the day. This year we were joined by some members of the Wellow syndicate. As ever, levels of success varied but some cracking grayling were caught and (not realising they should have been resting) brown trout up to 14" were also landed. The most success was enjoyed by Neil Keep (Wellow syndicate) who landed 18 grayling and 7 brownies. As ever on this water all the fish were in superb condition and returned. We are very grateful to Richard Cripps for arranging the day and for his guidance which maximised everyone's chance of success and enjoyment.

Postscript - Neil Keep has kindly agreed to be the Guest Speaker at our June meeting.

Good Grayling Flies.....



bugs



spiders



dries

A FEW SNAPS OF THE GRAYLING DAY ON THE RIVER WYLYE
6th December 2015



On (a fishing) line



As the saying goes: there's always a bigger fish!
And that statement certainly proved true for YouTube user Thomas Tran while trying to reel in a 20lb chinook salmon off the coast of Canada. See this dramatic footage.....Control & click.....

<https://youtu.be/OAAiykhrfA>

Here a Fisherman narrowly avoids being speared and is knocked to the deck floor as 350lb blue marlin leaps from the water and onto his boat.... Control & click....

<https://youtu.be/x2K5nK3WjIY>

LOOKING FORWARD.....

Wednesday February 10th Annual General Meeting.

Guild Membership Subscriptions will stay the same as they have been for the last few years. Guild - £40. Joint - £45. Guild & Rivers - £110.

Sunday 21st February - BANK CLEARING on the River Frome -

Meet Roger and the gang at 9:00am at Tellisford Bridge. If you can't manage 9:00am then please come along when you can to help clear some of the winter debris from the banks. Only if the weather is dry - we plan to have a bonfire on the bank and bake jacket potatoes! So come along!

Sat 19th & Sun 20th March - River Mole BANK MANAGEMENT.

Malcolm suggests Members could come down just for the day, or stay over and do both. Please check with Malcolm for details.

IZAAK WALTON's definition of true angling -

"O, SIR, doubt not but that angling is an art; is it not an art to deceive a Trout with the artificial fly? A trout! That is more sharp-sighted than any Hawk and more watchful and timorous than your high mettled Merlin is bold?angling is an art worth your learning: the question is rather, whether you be capable of learning it? for Angling is somewhat like poetry, men are born so: I mean with inclinations to it, though both may be heightened by discourse and practice; but he that hopes to be a good Angler, must bring a large measure of hope and patience, and a love and propensity to the art itself; but having once got and practised it, then doubt not that Angling will prove to be so pleasant, that it will prove to be like virtue, a reward to itself."

WWFFG Trophy Winners 2015 - The following Members

will be presented with their Trophies at the AGM on Feb 10th 2016

1. NYEFORD TROPHY. Heaviest brown trout caught

John Sheppard...4lbs.13ozs 2nd July Blagdon.

2. BILL AVON SHIELD Heaviest rainbow trout caught

Robert Eadie4lb 12oz (Christmas Hamper comp at Mill Farm, Worton).

3. SPINNAKER CUP Heaviest bag caught at Sutton Bingham (From the 2014 competition) - **Alan Kerr**.....6lbs.11oz.

4. The Tam Pearce CHEW BOAT CUP Heaviest bag Chew Boat Outing

Chris Holt....10lbs.

5. RIVER BROWN TROPHY Heaviest river brown caught

Chris Winsor - 1lb 12oz From River Mole.

6. THE FULLINGBRIDGE 'RON DOUCH' TANKARD - Heaviest bag at Fullingbridge. **John Sheppard** - 3lbs.8ozs.

7. VIC WILLCOX MEMORIAL TROPHY Guild member who in the

Chairman's opinion has done most in the past year (2015) to benefit the Guild **Gerry Barnes**.

8. RON LONG MEMORIAL TROPHY Annual Photographic Competition

John Sheppard.....



9. WILF SLEIGHTHOLME TELLISFORD SHIELD largest seasonal catch on the River Frome. **Roger Henderson.**

10. CHRISTMAS HAMPER COMPETITION - Mill Farm Fishery, Worton
Heaviest bag **Robert Eadie... 12lbs.**



In the spirit of the Guild's mission to inform as well as amuse - next time members have their fishing disturbed by a group of any of the following they'll know the correct term to use:

SWANS - a HOST

CORMORANTS - a GULP

HERONS - a SIEGE

BEAVERS - a COLONY

OTTERS - a BEVY

Now - what's the name for a group of CANOEISTS ? Suggestions please

RH.

THE WWFFG 2016 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

As we go from Winter to Spring please keep in mind our Photographic Competition. Details of the theme, terms and conditions will be shown on the homepage of our website soon.

Roger has launched this years comp with this one below. (Good one Roger, but sorry, not precisely what we are looking for!!)



HAPPY FISHING ...BOB
PS.

Wonderfully British.

In a train from London to Manchester, an American tourist was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment.

"The trouble with you English is that you are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us. Look at me... I'm me! I have a little Italian in me, a bit of Greek blood, a little Irish and some Spanish blood. What do you say to that?"

The Englishman lowered his newspaper, looks over his glasses and replied, "How very sporting of your mother!"



Assorted Salmon Flies