

# WWFFG



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: <http://wwffg.tripod.com/>

## MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

**Our Next Guild Meeting** is to be held on **Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Malcolm Bond will give a presentation on '**Air rifles and the Law**'. Members can bring their airguns along for display - **BUT** - **guns must be kept covered during transit** (in a gunslip), and Guild members **must make sure that guns are not loaded or cocked**. If you do intend to bring a gun along please let Malcolm or myself know in advance.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** - Guild Meeting and Auction

THE AUCTION A 'gaveling' good time was had by all! Under the very able administrations of our stand-in auctioneer, Andy Moore, superbly assisted by Tim, who presented the individual lots to members. We collected £664! in total from the floor. A creditable turn-out for the event, an important evening, to auction off Tam's fishing items in aid of 'Help for Heroes'. We raised £438 for this fine cause. We also sold a separate few items of equal importance, contributed to the auction by David Little. We were honoured to have Tam's son Simon in our midst during the evening. Later, members left for home, clutching their own individual pieces of acquired gold. Richard with a fine Hardy reel, Andy a 8ft 6" Walker Bampton split-cane fly rod; William with two nice reels, John (a lovely Hardy fly-box) DC and Andy, with most of the rest.

But seriously, many members had an item or two, and thank you all for your generosity. Lastly, many, many thanks to organiser Mike, John W. and Andy and Tim, Simon and David, and all involved in making the evening the success it undoubtedly was.

*Courtney Fish*

**A few reminders of Club activities coming up shortly.....**

- **This Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Fishing at Bushyleaze Lake** for the D&J Ridout Shield. Four fish ticket. Fish from 9:30am to 4:30pm weigh-in. We are booked in. Hope to see you there!
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April is SKITTLES** and Buffet Evening at the White Hart, Atworth. 7:30 for 8:00pm. For Members, Family and Friends. Please book with Malcolm now.

### **Mole & Yeo Bank Management Day**

A total of 10 Guild members took part in bank management activity in deepest Devon over two Sundays in February, and we were blessed with dry and bright conditions on both days.



On the 12th, we managed to open up the bank adjoining the small field immediately below the main road bridge in Alswear. There are two good holding areas for migratory fish on this stretch, and with Maurice providing his 'virtual casting' technique, we were able to work out which overhanging branches to remove

in order to allow unimpeded his forward and back casts, without levelling the whole area. Seriously, though, we have been able to judiciously prune out a goodly number of large branches overhanging the river, making casting now possible, without removing too much cover. We have left the lower field untouched (the last 200 yards or so of our stretch), in order to continue to provide a buffer zone and fish resting area.

On the 26th, the second working party worked upstream from the bridge, and cleared new growth and re-growth that had taken place since the previous bank management activity undertaken by the EA (coppicing and pollarding) some 4 or 5 years ago. We now have half a dozen or so more easily fishable pools in the first big field above the bridge.

I'm sure we have made life a lot easier for any member looking to fish for sea trout this summer, and I'm also now looking forward to the capture of the first salmon on our stretch of river.

*Malcolm, Guild Fishery Officer - Devon Rivers*



It's the Environment Agency Rod Licence renewal time again on 1<sup>st</sup> April for the next 12 months. Good to see there is no price increase again this season!

£27 for trout & coarse (concessionary £18).

£72 for salmon & sea trout (concessionary £48)

As you know you can pay online at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/rodlicence)

Or call 0844 800 5386.

### **Bank Clearing Report - River Frome, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb**

This was a very successful session. We had a good turn-out and the seven members who took part significantly improved access and fishing for the coming season on several beats. There was no denying it was hard work but it was a beautiful spring morning and we had finished by about 12noon as planned and had just about enough energy to walk back up to our cars.



The improvements are:

- Two substantial stakes put in by the seat on the bend at beat 9 -Pomeroy, to help access on that slippery bank.
- A handrail made from a felled tree leading down the bank on beat 10 - Platform Pool, to replace the one which had rotted; so members can enter the river at the shallow section to fish upstream. Care is needed, but it is a big improvement.

- A rope ladder secured further downstream on beat 10 where previous log foot-holds had rotted. This gives access to shallows from where members can work up and cover deep water on the bend. Members are asked to secure the ladder up the bank after use.
- Beat 14 - Riffle Run, cleared of over-hanging branches & shrubbery and opened-up to give access. This stretch now looks highly fishable and thanks to the work done we should be able to clear it of new soft vegetation on re-stocking day in May.

However we do still  
brambles and branches  
riverside path up to  
more stakes to improve  
stump and beat 7 Oak  
be able to do this on re-  
Thank you to everyone



need to clear the  
which cross the  
Pomeroy Wood and add  
access on beat 5 Manor  
Pool. Hopefully we will  
stocking day in May.  
who came down.

*Roger and Jim*

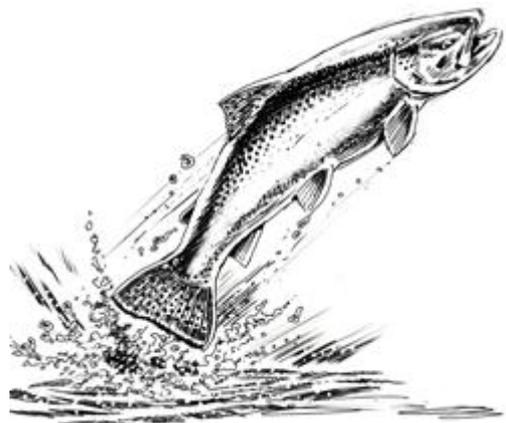
## Back to Basics

### **Trout flies**

There are thousands of different trout flies available, every fly fisherman has their own favourite trout flies based upon the season, water colours, species of trout being sought and trout fishing techniques used.

### **Rainbow Trout Flies**

The Rainbow Trout was originally introduced into the UK and also into New Zealand and Australia from the USA . The Rainbow Trout is used for stocking trout fisheries and for supplying the food industry. Mainly the Rainbow Trout remains contained in specific lakes, gravel pits, reservoirs etc. Escapees compete for food and habitat with Brown Trout. The Rainbow Trout will eat almost anything, from bottom-dwelling invertebrates, to fish and insects from the surface. As they mature they become increasingly piscivorous.



Rainbow Trout have a high growth rate, but tend not to breed in the UK, as they require warm water temperatures. Another reason for not breeding is that now, most farmed fish are usually triploid and sterile - these use all their energy input for growth rather than reproduction. Fishing flies for Rainbow Trout run from imitative flies like Caddis, Damsel Nymphs or Epoxy Minnow flies to impressionistic flies like GRHE and Pheasant Tails through to the Blob fishing flies and lure or streamer fishing flies which do not look like anything natural, but are fishing flies that trigger the Rainbow Trout's predatory nature!

**Brown Trout Flies** The Brown Trout is a natural species of fish found in many rivers and occasionally in lakes and fisheries where these may be stocked by fishery owners. Brown Trout are generally looking for flies that are imitative of the natural food found in their environment, it may be that a Blue Winged Olive or Caddis, Shrimp or Rhyacophila invertebrate nymph look similar i.e. they are imitative of the natural trout flies. Generally imitative trout flies must be fished so that they look 'natural' i.e. when fishing a dry trout fly such as a Blue Winged Olive, it cannot be dragged across the current by the fly leader, after all, natural Olive flies do not skate across the water.

Suggestive or impressionistic trout flies like the gold ribbed hares ear or pheasant tail, do not imitate any invertebrates or natural trout flies but appear to look and act like the natural food for the Brown Trout.

Brown Trout above 12" in size will prey heavily on fish, so try using a Woolly Bugger or Epoxy Minnow which are good imitators of small fish.

### **The Classics, March Brown**

The March Brown (*Trithrogena germanica*) is a river fly and one of the first flies copied by anglers. Initially it was thought to be widespread, but studies have shown that the true March Brown is much more localized. Very much a northern fly with a presence in the West Country.



- Hook; wet fly 14-10
- Tail; partridge neck or tail
- Body; hares ear fur
- Rib; gold tinsel, wire or oval in the smaller sizes
- Hackle; brown partridge neck
- Wing; hen pheasant tail or wing secondaries

### **Chew, Magnificent Chew**

Chew Reservoir nestles in the heart of the Mendip Hills, in the West Country. It is a seriously magical place. My drive there is perhaps second only to a pilgrimage. A fortunate pilgrim's trail to fish surely one of the best waters in Southern England. I have long held the contention that I get more pleasure in fishing this water than any other in my fishing year.

It is unquestionably a 'difficult' water. No sooner do you think you may have cracked its secrets, and perhaps know how to fish it, than it comes back and kicks you squarely in the teeth. Sometimes I feel lucky it aims so high. Producing for you, if you're lucky, a consolation fish or two, but all too often a blank outing. The resulting disappointment is profound, and invasive. It makes you grumpy, and rude, to your nearest and dearest! Believe me, I know. So does my wife, she reminds me. You get angry with the place,...inordinately so. You never want to fish there again. But yet, you have to lay the ghost..... I am reminded here of Gerry's recent e-mail to me which reads 'When the world says Give Up.....Hope whispers try it one more time. And so it is with Chew.

However, and fortunately, this is a two-sided coin. When Chew is on song, it is unbeatable. Absolutely unbeatable top-quality fishing. Fishing at its very best. Why else do we all keep returning to Chew? At its best, I have heard grown-men; (difficult, hard-bitten and unreasonable, ugly temperament men) chuckling and laughing amongst themselves, (and particularly when on their own! - a little worrying that) displaying absolute joy when playing and netting their catch. I know of few other things, legal and safe, that can achieve this degree of pleasure and enjoyment.

Already well-aired are the controversies Chew Reservoir has endured in recent years. Cormorants and pike come to mind, not necessarily in that order. This, under the watchful management of Bob Handford. Surely there is not a nicer, more-respected official than Bob, who has been at Chew as long as I can remember, and is known and liked by so many, in so many quarters of life.

As time marches on - as it does - in a world lurching, lemming-like, towards burn-out, it is sometimes helpful to consult the fishing diary to see the pleasure derived from outings. Mine records that in March 2011, we had the best opening

few weeks since records began. At both Chew and Blagdon, anglers were returning home eulogising about the day's fishing they had just enjoyed. Limit bags were almost the standard. And this continued for some time. Then in April, a record-breaking rainbow was captured in Chew's Herons Green Bay (14lb).



Other fine fish have followed. In November, on pike-fishing gear and bait, came the capture of a huge brown of 22lb. What other great fish may lurk beneath its waves? The fishing, though admittedly patchy at times, has been superb. But ignore the records, and the bigger fish. The average size rainbow encountered is between 2lb and perhaps 2lb 12oz and, given half a chance, will pull your arm off. They

are incredibly fast and strong, and fight like no other. Believe me, if you are in a boat, they will slew the vessel round with their power. No wonder people keep returning to scenic Chew.

In June and July, the diary shows 'fishing was mixed'. Extremely high winds and bright sunshine nullified the prospects of good fishing on some days. But on others, even in unlikely water conditions, it fished its veritable socks off. A recent competition event, where many boats were fishing around Denny Island, produced an average catch rate of 5.5 per rod, even in very difficult sunny and bright conditions.

Less-aspiring fishermen like myself and my boat-partner Rob also enjoyed good sport a week or so later. On a sunny day in mid-July we were trying our luck at the back of Denny Island. Martin Cottis was also afloat that day, with clients. Martin, the Chew professional, and arguably one of the best exponents of fishing the dry-fly in the country, was on a drift nearby, and every now and then, predictably, was lifting into fish. We lesser mortals were struggling to some extent. Despite similarly having tried dries earlier that day. Perseverance is a virtue, it proves, and we kept at it, slowly and carefully retrieving our teams of buzzers, diawl bachs, and soldier palmers through the clear, shallow waters there. A hatch of fly became evident. Swifts and martins appeared immediately in their trail, their wings 'swishing' and cleaving the air. And maybe as an omen, we got lucky. From nowhere tangible, big solid takes grabbed our lines, and like a big, irresistible hand wrenching our rod-tips over, seemingly attempting to drag rod and holder into the wet stuff below, we re-acquainted ourselves with the reason we came here that day. We went home with enough fish, and fishing, to keep us happy. That, on an otherwise quite difficult day that we had been experiencing minutes before the hatch.

Out of such things, contentment is born. Hats off to Chew, the water, and thanks Bob Handford again for the wonderful facility you and your staff provide.

*Blagdon Bill*

**BRISTOL  
WATER**  
FISHERIES



NB. Blagdon opened on 16<sup>th</sup> March and Chew Lake on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012.

HAPPY FISHING...BOB

PS.



Two guys from Wiltshire are quietly sitting in a fishing boat on Blagdon Lake sucking down beer when suddenly Mel says, "I think I'm going to divorce my wife - she hasn't spoken to me in over 2 months."

Charlie sips his beer and says, "You better think it over - women like that are hard to find."

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Please print this page and pin to your notice board

## WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD

### Programme of Club Events

2012

	MEETINGS & SPEAKERS	FISHING & OTHER ACTIVITIES
<b>March</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> - Auction of the Late Tam Pierce's Fishing Tackle (C).	<b>Sun 25<sup>th</sup></b> - Fishing at <b>Bushylease Lake</b> , Lechlade. - Henderson Trophy. Fish <b>9:30am to 4:30pm</b> .
<b>April</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> - Speaker - .....Malcolm - Air rifles and the Law.	<b>Fri. 13<sup>th</sup></b> - <b>Skittles and buffet.</b> - (book with Malcolm). <b>Sun. 29<sup>th</sup></b> - Spinnaker Cup - Sutton Bingham. Fish 9:30am to 4:30pm.
<b>May</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> - 'A Night Out with Mr Hardy' [Fishing DVD provided by Gerry Tinson - 90 mins].	<b>Sun 13<sup>th</sup></b> - <b>Chew Boat Cup</b> - Fish 10:00 to 6:15pm - Please book now with Robert - (5Boats booked)
<b>June</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Meeting- Speaker - Either Jim Williams on 'River Nymph Fishing' or a Forum.</b>	<b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup></b> - J.Turk Shield - <b>Avon Springs</b> - Fish 10:00am to 2:00pm (Booked).
<b>July</b>	No Meeting	<b>Wed.4 th Fullingbridge Visit.</b> £15 Free BBQ. Fishing from 3:00pm to dusk. Demo by JDC on how to filet a trout.
<b>August</b>	No Meeting	
<b>September</b>	<b>Sunday 9th September</b> - An 'Archery Afternoon' and BBQ at Brian T's Farm. <b>12<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> - Speaker - Andy Burns on The Transit of Venus (C).	<b>Sun.23rd</b> - <b>Blagdon Bank</b> - Social Bank Fishing Day - Meet at 10:00am at the Lodge.
<b>October</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> - Speaker Either Jim Williams, as above, or a Members Forum	<b>Sun 21st</b> - <b>Christmas Hamper Comp.</b> - Mill Farm. Fish 9:00 to 3:00pm. (booked) <b>Friday 26th</b> - <b>Ladies Night Dinner</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b> - Wine Tasting -TBC	<b>Rivers Meeting</b> -Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>December</b>	No Meeting	

TBA = To be announced. TBC = To be confirmed. C= Confirmed