

WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



WWFFG



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: westwiltsflyfishersguild.com

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

September Guild Meeting

Kevin Barber - Coarse Fishing - tackle and techniques

Kevin took us up a notch from his talk at our June meeting, going into greater depth on tackle, techniques, baits, river craft and the idiosyncrasies and preferences of the various coarse species.

Potentially a vast subject, Kevin kept it focused on how we fly-fishers could all make a start and achieve success at coarse fishing and he occasionally whetted our appetites with tales of how specimen fish are landed.

This was a no data-projector, no Power Point, no notes, hands-on talk.

A picture paints a thousand words, but tackle in the hand is worth a thousand pictures and for an hour and half that seemed like 20 minutes, Kevin showed us the kit to use and told us how to use it to its best advantage. A smattering of his tips below :-

On trotting:

- Whilst a centre-pin reel is made for the job a fixed-spool reel will do the job if it is filled to the rim so the line comes off easily as the float is carried downstream.
- It is possible to trot up to 50 yards.

- Use a float that carries some weight to minimise the effect of wind. An orange tip is the most visible with a thick black rubber showing above the water line because black is more visible at distance in some lighting conditions.
- Add the shot in a group with smallest top and bottom for a more hydrodynamic shape on the retrieve.
- Use size 18 hooks with a spade end for lightness. This allows the maggots to wriggle and look more natural.
- Start loose feeding maggots (6 or so at a time approx. every 30 secs) even before you set-up the tackle, to draw the fish into the swim. Use less feed in cold water. The more fish you attract, the more competitive they will be for the loose feed and less cautious they will become. Five minutes of loose feeding is likely to produce a fish first cast.

On feeder fishing:

- Depends on two things -
 - 1) Regularity of re-casting
 - 2) Accurate casting to build up a shoal in one spot and a competitive environment between the fish.
- Pick a distant target to cast towards each time.
- A range of baits to pack in with the bread damp crumb but fish love sweetcorn, maggots and hempseed
- Refill and re-cast the feeder every 5 minutes
- Use a tall rod rest to keep the line off the water where it would be affected by the current
- Fish soon become accustomed to the splash of the feeder and associate it with food.

For members who wanted to make a start in coarse fishing Kevin recommended as an all-round rod for most methods a *Twin Top Avon 12' 1.5lb test curve*. It comes with a quiver-tip top section and an Avon-tip top section.

We are very grateful to Kevin for putting together such an informative and easy to assimilate talk. It was a master-class and very generous of Kevin to pass on the benefit of years of experience hard-won at the riverside.

And apologies to Kevin for the line on one of his centre-pin reels being turned into a birds nest during the evening!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER COMPETITION

This year we are going to **Manningford Trout Fishery**.

The web address for this fishery is <http://manningfordtroutfishery.net/> and includes directions to the lake

The date for the competition is **Sunday 3rd December 2017**.

The Hamper will be awarded to the heaviest bag of 3 fish and a bottle of wine will be won for the heaviest fish caught on the day.

You can only win one prize so the winner of the hamper will not win the heaviest fish.

The weight will be on the **first 3 fish you catch**.

The fishing tickets will be purchased by you on the day and will cost £35.00 for 3 fish. Please let Alan Kerr know if you intend to attend.

River Members

Would All River Members please send in their **fishing returns** for the year as soon as possible so they can be analysed and assessed ready for a report at the Rivers Meeting Thursday 2nd November.

Calling all cups....

Would Members who were lucky enough to win a cup or trophy in 2016 please return them to Roger by the November Guild Meeting at the latest. He will then get the trophies engraved ready for presentation at the AGM in February 2018..

LOOKING FORWARD.....

Thursday 3rd November 2017 - The Rivers Meeting. 7:30pm at the Shaw Hotel. Will all River Members please attend. See notes page 7.

Wednesday 8th November 2017 - Guild Meeting - Speaker - Mitch Perkins with a topic entitled - 'Winterbourne.'

Friday 17th November 2017 - The Guild Dinner - Menu - page 8.

Sunday 3rd December 2017 - The Christmas Hamper Competition. See above

Using Grayling Fishing Flies Through Autumn & Winter

The grayling is a game fish but it has a different closed season to trout. It means we can fly fish for grayling over winter on rivers when we cannot fly fish for brownies. The grayling provides great sport and can be both challenging and rewarding for the fly fisherman. With its big sail it produces a very different fight when hooked. Dry fly fishing is decided by the availability of insects and the attitude of the grayling to surface feeding. If grayling are not rising do not expect them to come to the surface. Choosing a grayling dry fly is not difficult if there are naturals simply match the hatch. Wet fly fishing or czech nymphing is the most successful technique for grayling. The Baetis nymph, Rhyacophila Larva, and cased caddis are all direct imitations of the most frequently found river nymphs.

FISHING on LINE

Fish recorded singing dawn chorus on reefs just like birds

Here's the link to an article about the fish dawn chorus. It doesn't sound as pretty as the bird version but worth a listen.

Control & click.....

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2106331-fish-recorded-singing-dawn-chorus-on-reefs-just-like-birds/>

Sounds rather odd to me! Why would you want to kiss a fish?! <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/12/paramedics-save-man-after-whole-fish-jumps-down-throat>



TWO MORE PHOTOS FOR THE GUILD PHOTO COMPETITION !



'Is that a fish or bread for the ducks?'



'Old Man of the Woods'

We still need a few more photos for the Competition. Please send them to Alan Kerr at alankerr@sky.com The photos will be judged by the ladies at the Guild Dinner on Friday 17th November. The prize will be a bottle of wine and the 'Ron Long Memorial Trophy.'



What is Upstream Nymphing?

Simply put, Upstream Nymphing is casting against the current, so that your fly drifts back towards you, in to the waiting mouths of your esteemed quarry.

Why?

There are a few reasons, to be honest:

1. Approaching from downstream, with the current taking some of the noise (or vibration) and sediment that you kick up, away from the fish will provide you with a stealthier approach.
2. A trout has a rear facing blind spot of about 30° - not much, though it's certainly worth knowing about. Given that stealth is one of the first things that anglers are encouraged to give consideration too, the benefits of this are fairly obvious; the lower your chances of being detected, the higher your chances of a catch.
3. You'll be closer to matching the hatch, as those fish that respond to nymphs are less likely to respond to dries which may otherwise be outside their feed depth.

Bragging rights! To perform this technique most effectively, you'll utilise the exact same stealth, presentation and casting accuracy skills that you've developed in other approaches, though will need to refine them further by enhancing your ability to locate your target with little visual queue from surface feeding trout. You'll also improve your under-water presentation (which you won't be able to see after it connects with the water surface) along with take detection; you'll need to feel the take, instead of relying on your fly visually disappearing beneath the surface, and will need to see the difference between your rod tip moving due to environmental / angler factors, and that of a take. There's plenty to learn, and I think it's only more than reasonable to associate this technique with highly skilled anglers.

To: All 'Rivers' Members

Below is the agenda for the annual 'Rivers Meeting' - Thursday 2nd Nov - 7.30pm - Shaw Hotel, Melksham.

This is always a vital meeting to formulate the Guild's action plan for 2018 and beyond in order to provide what members want and to use Guild funds appropriately. Please come along and influence the decisions made.

Crucial to this is 'catch-returns' - ideally using the pro-forma on the River Frome section of the website.

Alternatively an email with the basic facts - species, size, number, date to Roger Henderson - rogerhenderson@hotmail.com for The Frome and to Malcolm Bond malbond1@btinternet.com for the Mole/Yeo would be greatly appreciated. Returns by 28th Oct please so Roger and Malcolm can incorporate them in their river reports.

West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild

Rivers Meeting Thursday 2nd November 2017 7.30pm Shaw Hotel, Melksham

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2016 Rivers Meeting (attached) and matters arising
3. River Mole/Yeo:
 - i) Returns 2017
 - ii) Report



There are many stillwater flies imitating beetles. With over 4,000 aquatic and terrestrial beetles in the UK these are taken opportunistically by trout. Chafers particularly are found in the upland areas. Chafers or coch-y-bonddu which is the Welsh chafer. Chafers are about 1cm long and are brown with shell like wings. These are blown from deciduous trees and bushes on windy days in considerable numbers where they get gorged upon by trout.

Some trout develop a taste for aquatic beetles often small, only 5mm long, these can be seen swarming like buttons on the surface of still and slow moving water

The GRAND Fishing Raffle Tickets - £1

1st prize.....£100 Voucher to use to buy fishing tackle

2nd prize.....£50 Voucher

3rd prize.....£25 Voucher.

Tickets can be bought from Gerry at the next Guild Meeting or on the night of the Dinner.

Table Raffle - Tickets £1 each - If you would kindly remember to bring along a small prize for this raffle on the evening then that would be great.

WWFFG Annual Dinner to be held at the Shaw Hotel, Bath Road, Shaw, Melksham, SN12 8EF, Friday 17th November 2017, 7.30 for 8pm.

Please make your choices from the menu attached and contact Jon Jonik with your names including guests with your menu choices.

Tickets are £25 per person which includes a bottle of red & white per table and gifts for the Ladies.

Please make your cheques payable to **WWFFG** and send to

Mr Jon Jonik, WWFFG Treasurer,

16 Pound Lane, Semington, Wiltshire BA14 6LP

Alternatively pay electronically Barclays Sort Code 20-05-12 A/c 50964581 using your name to identify the payment

No later than 3rd November please as the hotel needs notice of menu choices and the numbers attending.

The Christmas and fishing raffles will take place as normal as will the judging of the photo competition.

We will also have our now traditional *Table Quiz* to add another dimension to the evening.....

GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU - £25.00 per person

* Starters *

Home Made Vegetable Soup finished with Cream and Chives

A Gateau of Avocado and Atlantic Prawns bound in a Marie Rose Sauce
and served with a Ribbon of Cucumber with Picked Salad Leaves

Pearls of Sweet Melon and Orange Segments coated with a Honey
and Vanilla Creme Fraiche sprinkled with Pomegranate Jewels

A Large Portobello Mushroom topped with Spinach, Tomato and Onion Chutney
glazed with Goats Cheese partnered by Picked Salad Leaves

Buffalo Mozzarella, Tomato, Prosciutto Ham and Rocket Salad
finished with Pesto Dressing and Black Pepper

* Main Course *

Roast Sirloin of Beef accompanied by Yorkshire Puddings and Red Wine Gravy

Fresh Roast Turkey Breast accompanied by Home Made Sage and Onion Stuffing
Chipolata with Bacon and Fresh Chestnuts

Steamed Fillets of Fresh Plaice rolled with White Crabmeat
served with a Tomato and Dill Butter Sauce

Venison Sausages served in a Home Made Yorkshire Pudding
with a Red Onion and Juniper Gravy

Cauliflower and Stilton Cheese Twice Baked Souffle
garnished with Candied Walnuts and Fresh Chives

The main courses are all served with a selection of potatoes and fresh vegetables

* Dessert *

Fresh Fruit Salad

Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce

Home Made Baileys Cream Profiteroles accompanied by a Milk Chocolate Sauce

Home Made Lemon Meringue Cheesecake

Cheese and Biscuits

*** Coffee and Festive Stollen ***

**HAPPY FISHING...BOB
PS.**

Ice Fishing

It was a cold winter day, when an old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line and began waiting for a fish to bite. He was there for almost an hour without even a nibble when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice not too far from the old man and dropped in his fishing line. It only took about a minute and WHAM! a huge Salmon hit his hook and the boy pulled in the fish. The old man couldn't believe it but figured it was just luck. But, the boy dropped in his line and again within just a few minutes pulled in another one. This went on and on until finally the old man couldn't take it any more since he hadn't caught a thing all this time. He went to the boy and said, "Son, I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You have been here only a few minutes and have caught about half a dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rrrarm." "What was that?" the old man asked. Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rarrm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you are saying."

So, the boy spit into his hand and said, "You have to keep the worms warm!"

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Two fishermen were walking down the street with two salmon each under their arms. Two of their friends were walking in the opposite direction, see the lucky fishermen and ask, "How did you catch those?" "Well Michael here holds my legs over the bridge and I grab the salmon as they swim up the river. We got four salmon! A great days fishing!"

So the fishless pair look at each other and agree to give it a try. They get to the bridge and Sean calls to his friend, "hold my legs now Paddy". Well, he is hanging there upside down for thirty minutes when he suddenly cries, "pull me up, pull me up!!"

Paddy asks, "do you have a fish Sean"?....

"No" replies Sean, "there's a bloody train coming!!!"

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Going to my water one morning, I found two lads about to start fishing. When I asked if they had permits, one of them ran away, me after him.

After a chase of nearly a mile I came up with him. He produced a permit for that very day.

Puffing and gasping, I blurted out "Then why did you run away?"

"Cause my mate ain't got one".

Slowly I retraced my steps while nearby a wood pecker uttered a raucous laugh.