

WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



WWFFG



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: westwiltsflyfishersguild.com

OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Next Guild Meeting - Wednesday November 9th - Dr Mark Everard will speak on the subject of 'Roach Fishing'.

New website launch - Guild Meeting - September 14th Alan Kerr gave an overview of the new website, starting with how to locate it on Google and how members can register. Malcom Bond will send Alan updated information on the Mole/Yeo and South West Rivers Trust reports which would be of interest to members.

It was agreed that a web archive of past newsletters would be a very useful resource as, among other things, they contain a wealth of fishing hints and tips which members could find very interesting. Plus we'd all get the chance to read the jokes again!

Alan was thanked for his work on the website.

Guild Meeting Tackle Auction - October 12th. Thirteen Members enjoyed an evening of mirth and great fishing tackle bargains auctioneered by Jon and recorded by Stephen. There were 97 lots with great bargains to be had - Colin even had a rod for £2 - what a price, mind you, the rod didn't have a handle. All in all a very enjoyable Meeting. Thanks to Jon and Stephen for their hard work in organising this event, not forgetting Chris W. who initially recorded and catalogued all the lots.

CALLING ALL CUPS...

Would Guild Members who were presented with their winning Cups or Trophies this February please return them to Roger at the next Guild Meeting. They will then be engraved for the 2016 Winners and will be presented at the AGM. February 2017.



Thursday 3rd November - The Rivers Meeting

Jon Jonik will chair the meeting as in previous years.

An Important Reminder to all river members to send completed angling returns, using the Guild form, (found on the website) to Malcolm Bond for the Mole and Yeo and to Roger Henderson for the River Frome - please do this as soon as you can so that the information can be collated and analysed ready for the Rivers meeting. All Members welcome to attend.



The River Frome - notes on a small river and the Guild's involvement



Continued from September's Newsletter. - Final Installment

About 2003 the EA decided that the Frome would be a good place to reintroduce otters. To do this it was necessary to remove the wild (and alien) mink population. This was done using dogs (lurchers) and the story is told that after two searches a total of 50 mink had been killed. Today sightings of otter are not unusual yet mink can still be seen near Snarlton weir. Their tracks are regularly found at the water's edge. In 2004 a 14inch grayling and 16inch brown trout were caught by Jon Jonik. Tim Pullen and Chris Holt both caught 2lb brown trout. Other catches included roach to 1lb, barbell to 6lb and bream at 5lb+.

Blanks seemed a rarity then but a member mused in Nov 2004 "if you are going to blank, Tellisford is one of the prettiest places to do it".

2005 was marked by the completion of what the Guild (and Wild Trout Trust) regarded as a controversial development - the hydro-electric project to generate power for homes in the Frome valley. Whilst supporting the principle of clean energy production, Guild members were concerned that it would have a detrimental effect on the ecology of the river. It was feared that diverting water through the leat to drive the turbine would greatly reduce the flow under Tellisford packhorse bridge and increase suspended sedimentation which would have an adverse effect on invertebrates and therefore deplete fish food sources. It is now known that sedimentation kills invertebrate eggs as it destroys the stickiness which keeps them where they should be - so they are washed away and destroyed. It has been observed and time has shown over the past five years that this section of the Frome has become heavily silted because at times of low water in summer it appears virtually static between the two leat junctions.

However, water-mills at Tellisford were first recorded in the Domesday Book in 1088 when two half-mills were listed. One mill with 7 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture and 1.5 acres of woodland was valued at 30 shillings (i.e. £1.50 - a bargain). One miller - Peter Crook built Vaggs Hill farmhouse in 1642.

It is thought the mill leat was first built in Saxon times.

May 2006 was described as being the wettest for thirty years, but in June member Doug T. and his guest still caught 27 trout and 10 coarse fish in 4.5hrs plus Doug noted losing a brown trout of more than 3lbs.

In that year the Wild Trout Trust arranged for a habitat advisory report recommending selective weed cutting, cleaning riverbed gravel and strategic positioning of Large Wood Debris (LWD) to encourage invertebrates.

In the Guild's 'Second Decade' booklet Rod Cochrane expressed his hope that in the future "sunlight would still slant enticingly over tranquil pools in this rural idyll".

Compiled by Roger

This series has been Great reading. Thanks Roger.



LOOKING FORWARD.....

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

Grayling Day

Sunday 13th November at Sutton Veny, Nr. Warminster, Wilts

This has become a regular feature of the Guild calendar.

It provides a great opportunity to fish a pristine, private stretch of the renowned River Wylde - a classic chalkstream and we are very grateful to Richard Cripps for organising it for us. Richard knows the water well and will act as guide on the day to help everyone get the most out of the experience.



This Red Tag is a great dry fly for Grayling

The cost is £30 per rod, a real bargain. Roger will coordinate the day so please let him know if you would like to participate. Please let him also have your mobile No.

You will be sent full details including location maps and beat maps etc.



Friday 18th November - The Annual Members Dinner

At The Shaw Country Hotel, Shaw, Nr. Melksham. 7.30 for 8.00pm

The Grand Tackle Raffle, three prizes of Veals Bristol Tackle Shop Vouchers - 1st prize £100, 2nd £75 and 3rd £25 to be won. Buy your tickets for both raffles from Gerry Barnes at the November Meeting.

They will also be available on the night of the Dinner.

Would you please bring along a small gift as a prize for the General Raffle. Thanks.

For Coarse Fishing Devotees.



Tackle & Tips - bait

Try this unusual bait for attracting carp. Buy some strawberry spray and spray it on some chopped up cheese the night before you go fishing. The carp go mad for it.

The cheese will not harden and will become a perfect texture for hooking.

Two Contributions sent in by David L.....

'Ouch' An article in *The Times*, on August 25 2016.

"I've always said that swimming naked was a risky business for males. The nudist Herbert Fendt may certainly agree after going for a dip in the Kaisersee, north of Augsburg, Germany and feeling an agonising tug. A fishing hook had pierced him and he was attached to the end of a line. Terrified the angler would try to reel him in, he shouted: "Do not pull, do not pull!" But after he swam ashore they still couldn't detach the hook. He was forced to ride home on his bike before driving to hospital, where he says the doctor "could not suppress a small grin". If there's a German phrase for "it was only a tiddler so I threw it back", that fisherman's dining out on it."

Innis Fly Fishery, St. Austell



'On a recent visit to Cornwall, a friend and I intended fishing at Stithians. However, we got no reply or return call when we phoned to ask about the fishing, so we went instead to a fishery my friend had found on the internet, Innis Fly Fishery. This is an attractive fishery near the Eden Project, and with 3 lakes. We had a pleasant day there although only one fish was caught, and not by us! However, the returns did show that there had been good days, with fish up to 8 lbs being caught. The lakes were quite sheltered, which I think is more than Stithians would have been. I think that the fishery is worth a visit, and I have two tips:

1. It has very poor road signing, and is almost impossible to find. Use a sat nav
2. It offers 5, 3 and 2 fish tickets. At the entrance there is a notice board with

various bits of information on it. There is a box for returns attached to the post holding the board up. It is worth looking at the returns to see how many fish are being caught before you decide which ticket to buy. Good quality boats with fishing seats are available for hire.'

The fishery web site is www.innisflyfishery.co.uk

(the photos are from the fishery web site.)

I hope this is of interest.

David Little

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DAY - Sunday 16th October

After a cloudy, rainy start, on approaching Mill Farm the sun was shining and remained with us for the rest of the day. Mill Farm is really a morning fishery and if you haven't caught your 3 fish by midday - fishing becomes very difficult!

Nine Members took part and the fishing WAS challenging, with copious amounts of weed to contend with in the margins and further out in the lake.

Montana flies seemed to be the popular choice, although Chris Holt did manage to catch on a dry hopper. The sun continued to shine warmly and our companions were a family of swans, enjoying the day with us.

Only Gerry managed to catch the 3 fish limit. The results are as follows...

The Christmas Hamper was won by **Gerry Barnes** with a weight of 9lbs.8ozs

2nd Robert - 6lbs.6ozs.

3rd Colin - 5lbs.5ozs.

Well Done and Congratulations to Gerry

Chris Holt won the bottle of fishing plonk with his fine rainbow weighing in at 3lbs.15ozs. Many Thanks to Alan Kerr for arranging the Competition and to his wife, Janet for making up a Superb Hamper. Alan came round the lake offering mince pies topped with icing to everyone - a welcome, most apt and thoughtful seasonal treat.



October Hatches

Green Sedges or Rhyacophila will be hatching until Mid October on rivers and stillwaters. Buzzers will be all over the lakes as will beetles and do not forget the daddy longlegs and pin fry, fished along the margins of the stillwaters.



A variation of 'fry-bashing' flies

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION - FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2016

Our 2016 Guild Photograph Competition is open to all Members.

Please submit a recent photo, of anything to do with Nature and the Countryside to robert.is@trouthooker.net for inclusion on the website.

This is a light hearted Competition, so 'have a go'!

We have six photos so far, so please send entries by the 12th November.

Give the photo a title, and all photos will be displayed anonymously. We will supply a print of the photo for the Guild Dinner in November, so it can be pinned to a board for judging by the Ladies. You could also just bring a photo along for judging on the night.

The *RON LONG MEMORIAL TROPHY* will be awarded to the winner at the AGM next year.

FLY OF THE MONTH - The Diawl Bach



How to Fish A Diawl Bach Fly - (a favourite fly)

The Diawl Bach fly pattern can be fished on any line, from high floater to ultra-fast sinker, from just under the surface to very deep. Fish it up and 'on the hang' on a fast sinker or fish it slowly on floater - as you would a team of Buzzers. British fly fishing competitors use many combinations of nymphs and streamers, the most common perhaps being a Diawl Bach, suspended between two boobies or having a single booby on the point of the leader and using the Diawl Bach on the dropper. The chasing trout are lured by the booby, but when the retrieved line is stopped and the flies left to hang in the water, Trout will often turn and take the nymph.



The Diawl Bach flies can also be fished anywhere on the cast; often on the point, but regularly used on either the top or middle dropper as well. Your cast must be balanced, if using a Diawl Bach on the point make sure that your flies above it are not too heavy or too big in proportion with your tail fly or you will get your line tangled. The heavier fly on the point helps to get the flies down straight onto the



water as well as aiding turnover in the cast.

Some fishermen like to place a brash bright fly as a 'disturbance' fly on the top dropper with epoxy buzzers or Diawl Bachs behind them. The fish often follow the disturbance fly, but as they get near the bank see the more natural looking flies and reject the attraction of the top fly. If it is really windy just use one dropper,



remember the more flies you use the more tangles you risk.

Chris Ogborne and John Horsey have recommended fishing a team of three Diawl Bach with size 14 on top dropper, size 12 on middle dropper and a size 10 on the point. Larger Diawl Bach are used as deep water point flies.



Tenkara is a versatile, deceptively simple yet enjoyable fly fishing method originating from Japan.

There are no flylines, just a flexible 6-15 foot long rod with a furled tapered leader connected to the tip and a tippet attached to the business end with a fly. The fly can either be a standard pattern or a traditional Sakasa kebari (reversed hackled fly) with fish attracting movement in keeping with Tenkara tradition.

Seiryu 12ft:

A very good rod for all abilities fishing on medium sized rivers fishing for trout and grayling or most coarse species. The crisp 6:4 action makes the rod ideal for any traditional Tenkara method of fishing, in addition to 'western' style dry fly, nymphs, wet flies/spiders, and duo/trio-ing and Czech nymphing.



Hamon 13ft

The Hamon is a big river, bigger fish rod, especially if there is a chance of a larger than 'normal' sized trout or grayling. The 7:3 action is crisp and precise for such a long rod. The length of the rod makes it ideal for 'western' style fishing applications such as, duo/trio-ing, Czech nymphing as well as more traditional 'Tenkara' methods. Sakasa Kebari Flies are traditional Japanese reverse hackled flies, the reverse hackle pulsing in the water to give a more realistic impression of "life" in the lure.

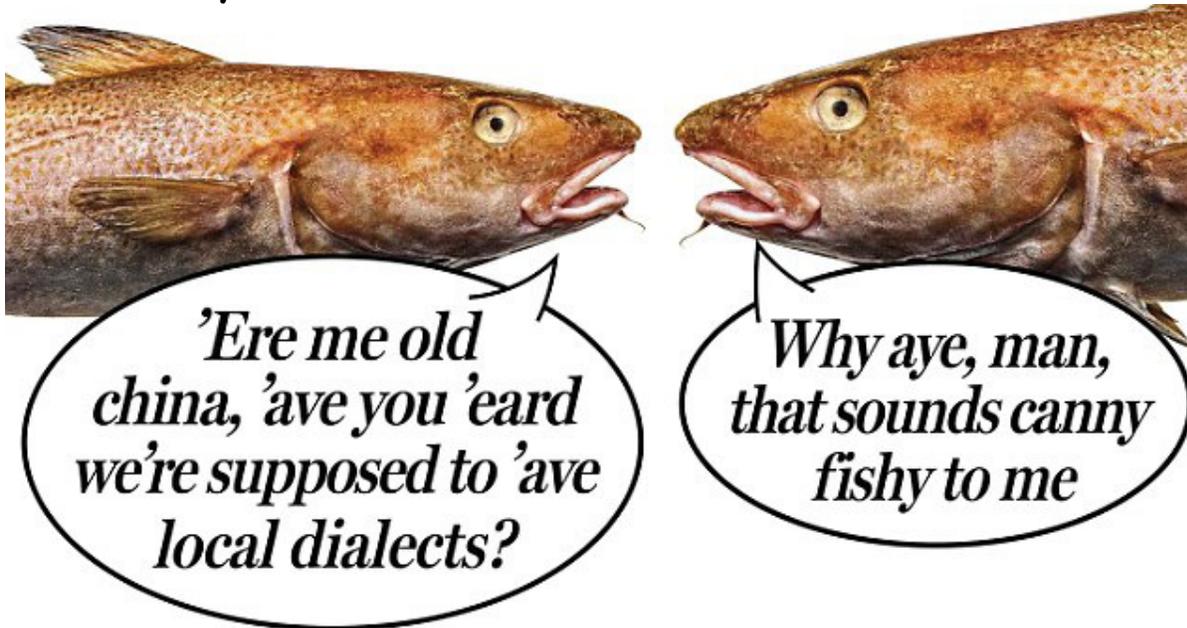
A clip from 'youtube' on how to cast a Tenkara Rod - control & click..[https://youtu.be/ NItUPXb_WY](https://youtu.be/NItUPXb_WY)

Set of 3 Flies in a Corked Glass Bottle



HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS. That sounds canny fishy! Cod found to use a range of different accents when they 'speak', depending on the waters they are from



- Researchers used underwater microphones to compare the 'chatter' of fish in different regions
- The study by Exeter University researchers found a range of distinctive regional accents
- It is thought fish may struggle to understand each other if they are forced into colder waters because of climate change
- 'We need to understand this' says lead researcher Professor Steve Simpson.

If anything, you'd expect them to stick to estuary English...?

But cod actually employ a range of distinctive regional accents when they 'speak', scientists have discovered.

Just as Britons who live in certain parts of the country talk alike, fish may develop dialects.

Recordings are being scrutinised for patterns in the thumps, pops and growls made by the fish as they establish territory, avoid predators and perhaps most importantly, chat-up potential mates.

The work could help shed light on whether southern fish will be able to understand their northern counterparts if they are forced to seek out the colder waters they prefer because of climate change.