

THE WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD



WWFFG



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: <http://wwffg.t15.org/>

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

November 12th - Guild Meeting.

The Guest Speaker this month was **Dr Mark Everard** - His talk was entitled "Aquatic biologist by training, Fisherman by nature".

The World's 1,000 Most Interesting Fish.

Mark's credentials had been well broadcast in advance of his talk so it wasn't surprising to have a packed-house. In the space of an hour Mark took us through the gamut of piscatorial evolutionary oddities from the smallest - the 7.9mm Childish Carp with no skull which is handy because it lives in a ph of 3 - virtual vinegar; to the largest - the 12.65 Metre Whale Shark inside which scuba-divers remains have been found.

We learnt more about how little we know about Eels - and that the Arctic Char is unsurprisingly a glacial relic....the Blind Fish navigates and finds prey entirely using it's lateral line...the Four Eye Fish can see above the water and below simultaneously....male Bullheads live their entire lives under the same stone (so replace any you move).

Fish after fish competing to be the most interesting.

Each fish species seemed to have evolved a more bizarre way than the last of ensuring that their eggs are fertilized and that the next generation gets off to a good start.

And was that X-ray of the unlucky chap, showing how the Wily Fish got its name, a spoof? - ouch!

Mark's was a fascinating talk delivered with humour and underpinned with solid scientific knowledge. Hopefully he will return to talk to us about his passion for coarse fishing. RH.

Fishing Report - Mole & Yeo - 2014

Fishing returns for 2014 were slightly up on 2013, with 11 members fishing the Devon waters for a total of 124 hours, i.e. c.21 days for an average 6 hours per day.

I will be posting the Return sheets to the Guild's Website Mole/Yeo page, so members can check details if required.

The total catch was 18 brown trout, best 15" (Roger Tranter, who also had a 12" fish the same day), and 1 salmon (13lb, Derrick Jones). Well done to both anglers.

As a local angler living in South Molton, Derrick reported that his fishing effort was unfortunately much-reduced during 2014.

In some months, extreme water levels did not help the fishing. Fred Scourse reported high water levels during his week in mid-May, and Steve Keys fished for a week at the end of August, with barely-fishable high water for most of that time. Most other anglers reported moderate flow and clear water. The exception was at the end of September, when Roger Henderson and John Sheppard reported very low water for their trip. Roger also recorded a profusion of water skaters (*Gerris* spp.), but trout don't like to eat them!

No bank management work by the Guild has taken place during 2014.

N.B. The Mole/Yeo bank management day will be Saturday 21st March. This is just into the new season, so members who go down to help will be able to fish for part of the day.

Discussions with landowners and the Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) continued during 2014, and the President and I are pleased to confirm that the WRT has finally carried out some bank repair work on the R. Yeo. We hope that this will be the start of an ongoing process, and we will keep members apprised of progress here. Photos of WRT's work will be posted to the Guild's Website Mole/Yeo page.

Malcolm Bond

WWFFG Devon Rivers Officer

November 2014

Guild Rivers Meeting Thursday 6th November 2014

Our annual Rivers Meeting is a very important item on the Guild calendar, and this year's was well attended. It is the forum for reviewing the data our Rivers Officers have collated from the Angler Returns, addressing any rivers issues and planning for the future. Malcolm and Roger produced detailed reports for the year and these with the Minutes of the Rivers meeting will be circulated to everyone - but to highlight the main points:-

Devon Rivers - Mole & Yeo - Malcolm

An improvement on 2013 - although approximately the same number of members had fished, they had more success and catches which included some good brownies and a 12lb salmon.

The West Country Rivers Trust (WRT) had carried out work on one badly eroded section on the Yeo. The Taw Rivers Association has carried out significant gravel cleaning of redds above Bosh Mill in preparation for this year's spawning.

River Frome - Roger

2014 had been a much better year than 2013 or 2012, with 32 of the stocked rainbows caught, some good brownies, a chub and a 3lb+ Perch. Our stocked rainbows were still there in good numbers at the end of the season.

Suggestions for improving access included - plastic piping over the barbed wire fence at key points, installing steps down the bank and aluminium ladders. It is hoped these will enable more members to fish in 2015.

The spring bank management day is scheduled for Sunday 22nd Feb.

In 2015 we will stock in May and July with 150 10"/12" rainbows each time

Guild Dinner - Friday November 21st 2014

Thirty three Happy Diners attended a most convivial evening at The Shaw Hotel. The tables were dressed with a Christmas theme including crackers and gifts for our Lady Guests and a table top quiz.

The food this year was of an extremely high standard enjoyed by all. Gerry Barnes raffle is always Awesome, Gerry has been running ALL the Guild Raffles since 1994 and his dedication and range of prizes never ceases to amaze us.. Thank You Gerry.

Mike Harris, our new Chairman, gave his inaugural Guild Dinner Speech - welcoming new members and thanking those who contribute to the running of the Guild. Robert was awarded The Chairmans Trophy.

The Grand Raffle Prize Winners are....

The Rod was won by new member *Ged West*

The Reel was won by our events co-ordinator *Gerry Tinson*

The Special Box of 50 Flies, were tied and kindly donated by *Andy Greatwood* and were won by *Trevor James*.

The Photograph Competition proved very popular with 23 outstanding pictures displayed for judging by our Ladies. The worthy winners were 2 of *Maurice Dyer's* entries entitled 'Nesting Moorhen' and 'Orangetip Butterfly'. To see the full Gallery go to our Website - home page and follow the link. **All in all a grand evening!**

Update of Membership Secretary e-mail address

The contact email address for Alan Kerr, our new **Membership Secretary**, and for all future enquiries, is: alankerr@sky.com



CHRISTMAS HAMPER COMPETITION - Sunday 19th October 2014

Competition Entrants



Alan with the top fish



RESULTS....

Robert Eadie...7lbs. 13ozs Winner for the 2nd year of the Hamper, largest brown trout to date is Robert's 4lb 10ozs...

Well done!

Alan Kerr.....6lbs. 12ozs , heaviest fish 4lb 12ozs and winner of the wine.

Well done!

Jon Jonik.....5lbs. 15ozs Well done!

Manningford Fishery

The end of season Christmas Hamper competition is always a popular event and this season was as good as any, with a change of venue we were all a wee bit apprehensive, but reports from other fly fishers regarding Manningford were good - so the choice was made. Gerry and Maurice thanked all those who supported the day and were pleased so many members took part. Although the fishery is a smallish one, we could see fish moving which is always a good sign.

The onsite facilities were good and there is a pleasant eating area should anyone wish to picnic. The weather was with us apart from a blustery wind, but we all coped admirably with that. We dispersed in all directions to apply our wits against that formidable adversary the Trout.

The fishing got off to a slow start but it took time to find that suitable fly that would prove a killer. There seemed to be no one fly that was the trout's fancy but an early take on a dry daddy-long-legs proved to be a winner for Rob, with a cracking brown of 4lb 10ozs to add to his weight to take the hamper, but as always with our sport nothing is lost and Alan soon was in the contest with a super rainbow of 4lb 12ozs which he dapped on the surface using a muddler, to add to his weight to take the bottle of wine.

Our chairman was not to be outdone and rallied back with a weigh-in of 5lb 12ozs to come a gallant third. As I said there appeared to be no one fly to tempt the trout, rumour had it that the trout had seen many a lure so it was an imitative fly in the end that was catching. All in all a rather pleasant day was had by all.

Maurice & Gerry T.

Grayling Day on The Wylde at Sutton Veny, Warminster, Sunday 16th November

The recent rain had slightly coloured the normally 'gin clear' Wylde but the flow and height hadn't been affected so although obviously more challenging, prospects were good. Nine Guild members took part and although not everyone caught, the tally for the day was 60 fish netted - grayling and brown trout, with around twenty fish lost before the net. Some caught grayling and didn't see a brown trout, others caught brown trout and couldn't find the grayling. Some caught both. Several of the brown trout Gerry T caught were over 2lbs (see photo below) and Roger H's best grayling measured 16" to the fork of the tail (photo below). Interestingly the techniques used were as varied as the members with

dry fly, tungsten beaded nymph, duo nymph and New Zealand style all bringing results. All the fish were in superb condition and returned. It was a privilege to have access to such a fine stretch of chalk-stream and we are very grateful to Richard Cripps for arranging the day with the owner, guiding us to some prime spots.



R.H

LOOKING FORWARD....

January 14th 2015 Guild Meeting - John Dixon has devised a very fishy Quiz. Always a great night with lots of laughter!

FLY TYING SESSIONS - Meet at the Hotel at 7:00pm



THURSDAYS, January 15th, 22nd and 29th

Tapered Leaders

The ideal leader for a dry fly

A tapered leader is the most efficient way of transferring energy from the fly - line and continuing the magic curl of a cast, enabling the fly to drop gently to the water presenting in a true life like manner. Tapered leaders come in different lengths from different manufacturers, if you need longer add a stronger butt section to your leader, for example if fishing for really spooky large fish you would add a 3 or even 6 foot extension of monofilament to the butt so that the fly line is well away from the fly. As an extreme example 15 foot extensions were once added to tapered leaders making 27 foot leaders for Golden Mahseer in India with 10lb tippet....they can be spooked very easily when they see the fly-line!



While in Inverness recently I visited the local museum. In their sales shop, this display of jewellery made using actual fishing flies caught my eye! I was hooked. What a good idea someone has had. Look at the prices demanded. It would seem that fly-tyers can not only catch fish with their home-made works of art, but could also make a handsome profit by selling some as adornments to the fashion conscious. Earrings ...£30. Brooch... £30. Brooch with anchor....£45.



As we have no Newsletter in December, the Guild Committee and Organisers would like to send their Best Wishes to you and your Family for an enjoyable Christmas and a Prosperous Healthy and Happy New Year.

HAPPY FISHING.....BOB



P.S.

I am no cook. But I can follow the directions. Which said to let the bird chill in the sink for a few hours.



Merry 
 *Christmas*