

THE WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD

WWFFG



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

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



MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

**Guild Meeting - May 14th - Speaker - Roger McCartney
'Rod building with Roger'**

Although Roger said he was not on form, he gave us an excellent and informative presentation on building a rod to your own specifications; Roger handed out rod blanks, snake rings - showing the difference between hard chrome and titanium, the latter being slightly thinner and more pliable; the finest cork handles, in three shapes, and a selection of reel seats - ending up by passing round impressive finished rods.

You do not need to be an expert to build a rod - yet with Roger's guidance, help and advice the finished article will be unique!

All rod parts, indeed everything that is needed, will be supplied by Roger. Jon will hold a meeting with interested Members in September to record your rod specifications, which will of course be passed on to Roger for ordering.

It is envisaged this course will be held on one evening a week for five weeks, starting early November. It is estimated that Roger's charges will be **approximately £200**. This would actually be very good value. All rod components will be the best there is, including top quality British made blanks. You will be able to compare favourably your 'personalised rod' against any brand leader.

Building your own rod is akin to catching a fish on your own home-tied fly - you get a great buzz from it. Thoroughly recommended!

Fishing Sutton Bingham - 27th April. - Here are a few photos of Members enjoying the day. Looks a bit cold and windy!



Competition Results:

1st...Alan Kerr.....3 fish....6lbs.11ozs. Wins the Spinnaker Cup.

2nd .Maurice Dyer.....1 fish....2lbs.8ozs.

3rd...Roger Henderson.....1 fish....1lb.14ozs.

Alan also wins the bottle of great fishing plonk for the heaviest fish!

Congratulations!

LOOKING FORWARD.....

**Wednesday 11th June - Guild Meeting
'Bugs & Grubs Session'**

This will be held in the River Frome at William Arney's Farm - Langham Farm, located between Tellisford and Rode, **starting at 7:00 for 7:15pm** (rather than 8:00pm or we will lose the light)

Richard Cripps gave an outline of the session at the April Meeting.

Useful equipment which members are asked to bring:

- Magnifying glass
- Bucket (a couple of spare buckets would be helpful)
- Hand wipes or rubber gloves for protection against Weil's disease especially if you have any cuts.
- Wellies or thigh waders/chest waders if preferred.

Richard will supply the Plastic trays

Roger will e-mail a location/access map to all members, closer to the date
Postal Code BA11 6QL William's Tel. No. Tel:01373 830302.

Sunday 22nd June -

The J.TURK SHIELD is up for grabs. Our inter-guild competition at Avon Springs Fishery, Durrington on Sunday June 22nd 2014.

3 fish ticket. (£40). Fish from 10:00 am to 'weigh in' at 2:00 pm .

Then time for sandwiches and chat!



Information on these Lakes

Club Lake is five acres and is the larger of the two lakes.

The water is spacious and full of life. Club Lake is spring water fed, gin clear and stocked daily with a selection of rainbow trout ranging from 2lb up to double figures!

Willow Lake is three acres. It has two islands . The surroundings are picturesque and tranquil.

This lake again has a selection of rainbow trout ranging from 2lb to double figures! There is an abundance of insect life, excellent sedge, olive and mayfly hatches. **Willow Lake** is spring water fed, gin clear and stocked daily. It is dry fly, nymph and floating line only.

Average fish weight.....5.5lbs.

Best Rainbow.....12lbs.9ozs. Fish being caught between 5 and 9lbs.

Best Brown.....10lbs.5ozs.

Best Flies.....Damsel, Black Buzzer, Montana, Daddy-long-legs wet, PTN.

Tactics.....Floating Line, 12ft. Leader and slow retrieve.



Phone: 01980 653557

Sat Nav: SP4 8HH

Directions from A303 Countess Roundabout:

1. Take the A345 Marlborough Road from Countess Roundabout to the Stonehenge Inn roundabout - (Approximately 1 mile).
2. Take the last turning off, leaving The Stonehenge Inn on your left.
3. Continue down this road to find Rangers Corner Garage and Esso Station on your left.
4. Take this left at the small roundabout onto Bulford Road.
5. Continue down Bulford Road and take the third turning on the right onto Recreation Road.
6. Follow this road until you pass a swimming pool on your left and a playing field on your right. Just past these you will find the entrance to the fishery at the end of the road.



WWFFG WEBSITE

Please don't forget to visit the newly updated '**Mole & Yeo**' web page. Even if you are not a River Member there are some interesting items just a click away. Go and 'tickle a trout'.



WWFFG Summer Coarse Fishing Fun Day

on Sunday 29th June 2014 between 9.00am – till dusk.

Hoping to build upon the modest success of last year's event, we will once again be holding a coarse fishing 'fun' day on the River Frome.

As before, this event is open to all members, including our coarse fishing permit holders, so you do not have to be a 'Guild + Rivers' member to take part on the day - Although, as ever, you are always welcome to upgrade your membership at any time!!

So, why not dust off your coarse fishing tackle, and come along and join us for a great day's angling.

There is the opportunity to catch a real mixed bag of coarse species (bream, chub,

dace, grayling, perch and roach, etc.), and either float, feeder or leger tactics will catch fish, with the winning method tending to depend on the river conditions - But please, no spinning, as it is a highly mobile method that will disturb your fellow anglers. Readily available baits, such as maggots, casters, worms, groundbait, hemp, luncheon meat, bread, pellets, etc., can and will tempt fish.

We will be fishing on the lower stretch of our water, between the concrete flume and Snarlton Weir, and hope to provide parking in the narrow paddock adjacent to the bottom field (one with tin hut in it), subject to ground conditions + cattle movements.

For those not wishing to walk too far, the deeper waters running alongside the bottom field can be a good place to throw out a keepnet and build up a swim. As with last year, I will cut back the worst of the nettles + cow parsley to provide four or five decent swims in this field.

The type of water above the bottom field can vary from shallow glides to deep pools, and is generally more suited to a mobile approach, so you are advised to travel fairly 'light', if that is your preferred method.

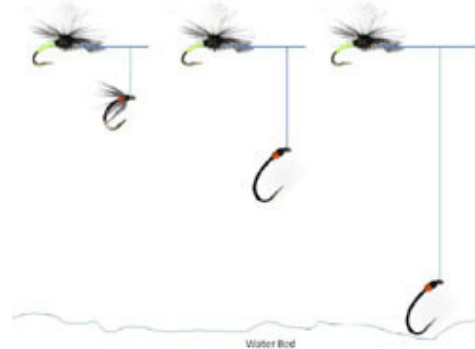
Please bring a packed lunch + a flask of tea or coffee to keep you going. And don't forget a hat + suntan lotion to protect you from the blazing June sunshine - We can live in hope!!!

Can anybody who is interested in taking part please get in touch as soon as possible, so that I can get an idea of the numbers involved. Also, let me know if you need to borrow any tackle, as other members might be able to assist, or act as your 'buddy' if you have never coarse fished before.

Andy Moore

One method of using the Buzzer..... Trout buzzer on a New Zealand Rig or Dry Fly Drifting

Using a larger buoyant fly in New Zealand, they developed a fishing style where a fly like a buzzer fly is tied to a tippet then attached to the hook bend of the large supporting trout dry fly. This technique is superb when utilising a highly buoyant fly like a heavy hackled klinkhammer, a buoyant caddis or suspending the buzzer using a foam fly.



A favourite is a caddis dry fly on rivers, or a trout stimulator on lakes. The Trout buzzer can be used as part of a team of flies at the depth fish are feeding, to search for Brown Trout.

On rivers and streams - using a New Zealand rig with a buzzer is superb, as both the buzzer and the supporting buoyant dry fly act as lures and simultaneously present flies at surface and underwater, catching trout at all stages of feeding. The top dry fly also acts as a bite indicator for when the buzzer has been taken.

River Frome - Environment Agency survey the Flume Pool Wed 7th May



The Flume below Pomeroy Wood was installed by the EA in the late 60's and is the main gauging weir on The Frome, monitoring river height and flow. The survey of the pool is to assess the degree to which the river bed has been scoured, the extent of bank erosion and to see if the flume itself needs repair. The RC survey boat in the photo is equipped with sonar and GPS positioning. It has just passed the deepest point - 4.8 Metres. Even at the edge of the pool they measured it at 2.0 Metres. A member of the Police Angling Club landed several good Chub and a 4.5lb Bream from the spot in the photo.

The initial assessment by the EA is that work will be required to the island, the banks and the flume itself. The good news is that they intend to consult with us so that the pool remains a good fishing spot. They will be sending us the full results of the survey.

Roger

'SUNSHINE AND HAIL - EGYPTIAN DUCKS AND RAINBOWS' AN EARLY REPORT ON CHEW RESERVOIR

The rather bleak day started off cold - Thursday, 27 March 2014. The frost-crystal symbol appeared on the dashboard when setting out from home for Bishop Sutton, then Chew Stoke, and a somewhat daunting Chew Reservoir. Once there we slipped quite gratefully into the warm of

Woodford Lodge; quickly ordering one full-English breakfast, two steaming mugs of coffee, and a sausage and bacon butty. Purely medicinal of course, to fend off the cold.

Several other 'boatmen' were evident in the car-park, tackling up their rods; some noticeably from the Principality, with their rich sing-song accents. And an excited presence of 'being there'. And some while later, we made our own way to the water. The air was absolutely full of hatching and darting buzzers on the gravel path from the car to the boat-jetty, slightly claustrophobic, and so many you feared you might breathe them in; and certainly unexpected in the given temperature. It was suddenly and optimistically warm as the shafts of broad sunshine found their way through an otherwise grey and cloudy sky. We were at Chew again, after five or six months, and it felt **good**. Good to be back. But what were the prospects of good sport?

An early, comforting sign of Spring was the surprise presence of a single family of Egyptian Geese - an early brood. Note not a Goose or gander, but - what-else? - a Mummy, Daddy and no less than four little fluffy black ducklings travelling in an Armada with their proud parents. They have to be careful as plenty of marauding gulls were around the lake. Related to the Shelduck, and unusual for ducks/geese, they nest in trees. Tall ones. And the chicks have to bungee jump out of the nest to the ground, when they part the nest. Oh! And I forget to tell you they don't have a bungee rope! Haven't evolved that far yet; but they bounce well. Not an awful lot of trees around the Pyramids, so no wonder they got a plane over here. Quite a rare sight, the Egyptians. I have never seen any before - I must get out more.

Loaded and in the boat, we pottered off to the Lodge side of Denny Island, trying to shelter from a raw, and invasive East wind across the lake. And much as we tried, cast, and prospected the waves, we did not catch. Little change there then. We tried a few other likely spots, cast a few hundred times or more, and found scant encouragement. But we know Chew. We know it often does precious little to help the aspiring fly-fisher. So we just lived in hope. We tried not to become dispirited by the turn of events - Oh No. We consoled ourselves that we were doing our bit for Conservation (we were certainly not reducing lake stocks) and in a spirit of bonhomie we were leaving the fishing for future visitors in an increasingly fit and healthy state. God bless us!

And then this resolve went all wrong. On lifting the flies and absent-mindedly hanging the flies at the end of a retrieve, a marauding kamikazi rainbow threw itself upon the hook and shortly afterwards came to the net. One duck avoided [whilst on the subject of ducks]. A change of boat position later, Rob lifted into a fish and our net was twice-blessed. Shortly

afterwards he skilfully hooked another! These were stocked fish, not over-wintered, but they fought like crazy and refused to come easily to the net. We certainly did not proceed to take a boat-full, but we managed to get a buoyant total of eight sizeable rainbows into the boat by the end of the day, returning two. We almost invariably use floating lines only, in conjunction with a long leader, so we concentrated our efforts on searching shallow water for (hopefully) feeding fish. Feeding or not; we were at least assured that way they must be able to sight our flies, and not be travelling some five feet below our offerings (in that layer of depth) and reluctant to come up to intercept our flies. We had periods, all too short, of warming sunshine but mainly it was overcast and cold. And then three or four short-lived but chillingly cold bouts of hail - the hard white stuff pinging and bouncing off the thwarts, the lake surface itself, the rowlocks [love that word], the wooden seats and, lamentably, US!

We fished very close in to the reeds with a mixture of flies, but Cormorants and small, conventional green and black Montanas proved useful, and helped us **not** to return home fishless. It was a hard day at the office but very satisfying, in as much as you felt you had achieved something by actually contacting fish. And as everyone, and Bob Hoskins used to say, 'It's good to stay in touch'.

Quick, 'Phone home' and see if they want any fish.

Courteney

River Flies

May and June sees our sport at its best, large hatches of Ephemeroptera including Pale Wateries on rivers from May onwards, Iron Blue Duns, Caenis and of course the Mayfly becomes extremely prolific. Trichoptera or Sedges see hatches of Green Sedges (Rhyacophila) and Cinnamon Sedges plus regional flies like Welshman's Button and Grannom.

Stillwater Flies

Lakes will see Hawthorn flies, an absolute delight, as this gangly legged fly gets blown into waters as it is a poor flyer. Black Gnats, 5 to 8mm long are avidly fed on by trout and of course we will see regular emergences of the Buzzers or Midges - so buzzer and F Fly or Mosquito flies should be in your fly box, along with a good selection of micro flies.



There is a vacancy for a treasurer for the Guild since I took on the role of Chairman.

The person taking on this role would

- Accept payments coming into the Guild made by cash or cheque.
- Pay any incurred expenses by cheque.
- Keep a record of income and expenditure on an Excel Spreadsheet.
- Submit the accounts for Audit annually.
- Attend up to ten Committee meetings a year; attend one AGM a year and provide a financial summary of the accounts; and any EGMs called when their presence is required.
- Make deposits to the Bank Account, be a co-signee of cheques and generally manage the Current and Deposit Accounts.

To give some idea of the commitment required, in 2013, as treasurer I

- Dealt with 31 incoming cash transactions and received 64 cheques all transactions totalling £6036.
- Settled incurred expenses by issuing 47 cheques totalling £6069.
- Made 10 bank deposits. The bank is Barclay's Bank, Southgate, Bath, but deposits can be made at any Barclays Branch

The Excel Spreadsheets are straight forward and our Auditor, Mrs Annette Bond has simplified the task by linking an Annual Income and Expenditure page to other pages, so that the Annual Income and Expenditure builds itself as the year progresses.

If it is in my capabilities it is within anyone's capability!

I am prepared to support anyone who takes on this task and as Mrs Bond has been very patient with my efforts she will happily help if needed.

As a Committee we have decided that where there is nothing contentious on an agenda, we will conduct a meeting by email and have successfully done that once already this year.

Could you as Guild Members please consider this - and could one of you step forward to fill this vacant position on the Committee?

Mike Harris - Chairman

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Any fool can catch a salmon." Can he? This class of person does occasionally, but the really expert salmon fisher will kill twelve fish to the other gentleman's one. How is it that in the case of four men fishing for a week, and changing beats in rotation, one will have fish every day, while the others never get a pull?

"Chance," the sceptic will say. Not a bit of it - it's better knowledge of the fish, and better methods of presenting the fly. Keep your hands down, fish deep, and your line always taut. *John James Hardy. Salmon Fishing 1907*

HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS. FROM A ROLLS-ROYCE STAFF MAGAZINE

Sometimes it DOES take a Rocket Scientist!! (true story).

Scientists at Rolls Royce built a gun specifically to launch dead Chickens at the windshields of airliners and military jets, all travelling at maximum velocity.

The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

American engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the Windshields of their new high speed trains.

Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the American engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken shot out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's back-rest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Yanks sent Rolls Royce the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the British scientists for suggestions.

Rolls Royce responded with a one-line memo-

"DEFROST THE CHICKEN." !!!!!

