

## NEWBURY ANGLING ASSOCIATION



Founded 1878

**CHAIRMAN** - David Marshall

**VICE CHAIRMAN** – Dougie Hull

**SECRETARY** – Currently vacant

**FISHERY MANAGER** – David Priclor

**PROJECT MANAGER** – Paul Fatcher

**MEMBERSHIP SEC** - Dave Smith

**MATCH SECRETARY** – Henry Sadler

**TREASURER** – Martin Strike

**NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE EDITOR**  
- Martin Strike

See permit for contact details

Website - [www.newburyaa.org.uk](http://www.newburyaa.org.uk)

# NAA NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2022

Welcome to our latest quarterly newsletter.

Frosts are here as I write after autumn certainly brought much needed rainfall following the summer months as those washed out on Halloween will testify/ However river levels remain low at time of publishing, but hopefully the aquifers will be recharging and next year won't bring the droughts nor record high temperatures that hit our waters this summer.

This is the second newsletter to be emailed directly to members. However, of over 800 members we only have around 100 addresses, so if you're reading a paper copy, then please help us reduce our printing costs by emailing us your permission to add you to our mailing list.

Remember we'd like this to be YOUR newsletter, so please send in ideas for content, brags about your catches and photos old and new to us at [comms@newburyangling.org.uk](mailto:comms@newburyangling.org.uk)

We hope you enjoy this issue. Putting it together, it came clear that it was going to become a shameless tribute to that prince of the stream and everyone's favorite fish; the noble gudgeon. You lucky people...

The Editor

## AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

### Christmas stocking at Willows



Having moved some of the larger carp from Willows to other lakes earlier in the year, November saw the introduction of 52 bream in the 3lb bracket as part of our strategy to retain the lake as our premier mixed fishery. These were followed by 28 tench of between 6 and 7lbs which arrived at first light a few weeks ago and made for a spectacular sight. There are also another 22 tench round the 3lb mark due to arrive before year end. Our thanks to Jack of JS Fisheries of Moreton-in-Marsh for playing Santa and delivering them looking healthy and fighting fit.

## Winter Rules



A reminder that no prebaiting is allowed on any NAA water between November and March inclusively.

Following last year's experiment, members holding two-rod (Specimen) permits may again fish two rods at Willows between 1st November 2022 and 28th February 2023. This is to encourage more anglers in winter months where their presence on the bank may help keep cormorant activity down on this shallow lake. Note: this rule may be withdrawn at short notice

during periods of flooding on other lakes which may over-concentrate activity at Willows. Please check permissions on the website/Facebook/bank side noticeboard at these times before setting up a second rod. A reminder that BIVVIES ARE NOT ALLOWED on the Discovery Centre-side bank as there just isn't enough room for others to get round them with or without barrows. Of course this applies to all swims on any venue where a bivvy would restrict free access to others trying to pass.

## Disabled Swim Improvements

We applied for and received a grant from the Environment Agency to repair and upgrade our existing disabled swims, such as this one at Bellwood completed a week or two ago. We have started replacing the timbers with long-lasting oak, and plan to be adding non-slip surfaces as well as strengthening any metal framework where necessary. Those at Willows and Alders are due next. We also have one such swim at Knotts and another at Dobsons. We would very much welcome the views of our many disabled anglers as to how we could improve the facilities we offer. Please contact us on the address at the top of this newsletter with your suggestions of how we might make the fishing experience more comfortable and maybe attract more members.



## Looking ahead at Brimpton



Potential good news for river anglers as ARK (Action for the River Kennet) have plans for major improvements to several stretches of the river between Newbury and Reading, including ours at Brimpton. While their brief will be for the improvement of habitat for all wildlife as well as fish, we will certainly benefit and at their request have submitted our suggestions for consideration. Any eventual work will be completed in association with ourselves. We have no further details nor timescales at this time. Other work already conducted by ARK on our stretches include the Kennet below Hambridge where

selected trees were recently removed to create a better balance of light and shade to the river corridor. This was to increase the light for macrophytes (aquatic plants), but also allows us improved bank access. Have a look at their activities at [www.riverkennet.org](http://www.riverkennet.org)

Meanwhile you can see from the picture that the owner of the north bank has recently completed some significant cutting back which will improve flow and reduce a number of overhangs/snags.

## OTTER FENCING FOR PALLET'S

In the last few weeks work has been completed to secure another of our lakes from predation by otters. This is a significant investment partially funded by a £5,000 grant from the Angling Trust. As well as protecting fish from otters, it should also improve security by preventing access to the public from the canal and prevent the loss of larger fish into the adjacent River Kennet at times of flood. To encircle the lake and keep its boundaries within the restrictions as advised by the Canals & Rovers Trust took 625m of fencing. Of course, for the fencing to work, it needs all members to keep the gates shut at all times. Inexplicably we regularly find gates at other venues left open. Combination locks will be fitted, the number being printed on your permit as the same as the portaloos at Bellwood and Willows.



To supplement the fish population and make it a more popular venue for members, the club has purchased a further twenty-one mirror carp for Pallet's in the 15lb bracket – see below.

Ideally, we would increase the number of swims on the lake, but this is not practical due to its geography and the stretch of electricity power lines that run along the canal side bank.



During the installation, we were interested to see this comment about the fencing on our members' Facebook site : *As someone who's seen a venue wiped out (Hungerford canal) and fish we'd caught for 25 years plus since kids dragged out and left to die it's heart breaking. The work you are doing is forward thinking in protecting and enhancing the fisheries year on year.*

If anyone was wondering whether the expense and trouble of fencing is worth it, be aware that at the time the work was being completed, an otter-attacked fish in the 15lb bracket was found on the bank at Bellwood. A broken section of the existing fencing was discovered and fixed within 24 hours.

## At Your Convenience

We were made aware that the conditions inside the portaloos, particularly at Bellwood, were not acceptable. We contacted the suppliers and the operative whose job is to clean and restock the loos regularly has been replaced. And you thought your job was sh\*t! We think standards of cleanliness have improved, but please let us know if you find this not to be the case.

As a reminder, though we'd love to have a portaloos installed at other secured lakes, they are not allowed at sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, of which Thatcham Reed Beds is one.



## STOCKING AT PALLET'S

The day after work on the otter fencing was completed at Pallet's, we took delivery of 21 characterful mirrors of a variety of scale patterns to bolster its population and so ease pressure on the other lakes. Thanks to Cotswold Lakes Supplies Ltd for what we sure you will agree, are beautiful fish. Let us introduce them to you:



11lb



12lb 2



12lb 8



13lb



14lb 2



3lb 8



14lb 2



14lb



15lb 2



15lb 2



14lb 4



15lbs



15lbs



15lb 2



15lb 2



16lbs



15lb 12



16lb



16lb 2



16lb 8



17lb 4

Stunning fish, we're sure you'll agree. Let's treat them right, give them a chance to settle in and grow on.

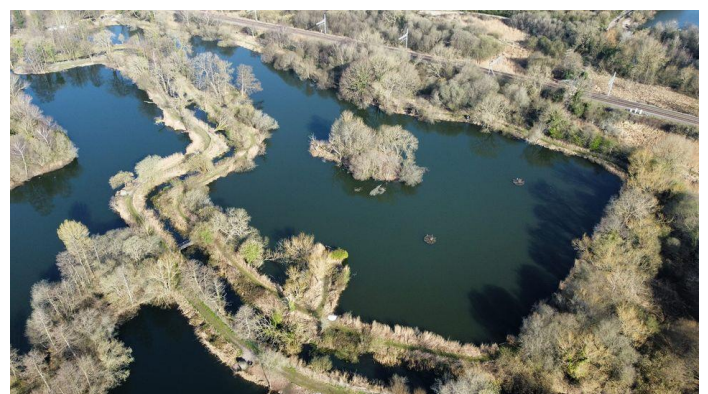
### HALF PRICE HALF SEASON PERMITS

Our popular offer of half-price tickets for the remainder of the traditional season is returning. So for that last minute Christmas present for your mother-in-law or local councilor, please note the following are now available:

Category	Half Season (1 <sup>st</sup> January – 15 June 2023)
Senior including ladies	50% off – Now £37.50
Junior (aged under 12)	Free
Junior (aged 12 to 16 inclusive)	50% off – Now £5.00
Pensioners (Concessionary rod licence)	50% off – Now £22.50

Please note – that standard joining fee of £10, and £5 charge for key purchase to the venue applies. There are currently no vacancies for Associate membership (ie for those living more than 12 miles from Newbury town centre), though we are happy to add your name for the waiting list to be reviewed in June 2023.

To join, download an application form from the membership section of the NAA website at <https://newburyaa.org.uk/index.php/en/membership>. Complete the and submit with two passport photos and payment to the Membership Secretary at the address shown on the form, or take it to Tony at Thatcham Angling Centre, Sagecroft Road, Thatcham.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by David Marshall



I'm pleased to report that much good work has been carried out around the fishery in spite of the very wet spell we have had lately. Rain which came just in time to save our rivers from further damage.

The details can be seen in this newsletter and include the Otter Fence at Pallett's, disabled swims at Bellwood with the introduction of some good sized tench & bream into Willows and carp into Pallett's. These have been made possible by the continued strong number of members we have and grants from both the Angling Trust & Environment Agency. A lot of work has been carried out by our own members on working parties which is much appreciated.

I did say at the last AGM that we would hold an Open Forum to give members the opportunity to put question to the committee in person. We have decided to hold this after the formal business of the 2023 AGM in the spring. Full details will be sent out with the AGM letter.

In spite of various pleas, we have not received any interest yet in committee and officer positions but hopefully we will receive some before the AGM. We need YOUR help here if the club is to remain viable into the future.

We are looking to make further improvements to the fisheries next year and these include, rebuilding general & disabled swims at Rawlings Retreat, rebuilding swims at Bellwood, improvements to the track at Pallett's and general clearance at Widmead.

It is good to see that Muddy Lane is holding up following the work carried out by BBOWT which we contributed to. There are some areas at the top and bottom of the lane which will require further attention which BBOWT have agreed to repair.

A reminder that the Civil Service Angling Society exchange permit agreement remains popular with our members and gives the opportunity to fish a number of their venues as well as the river Kennet at Hambridge. The exchange ticket and full details are available at Thatcham Angling Centre.



We are indebted to a member of the public who thought we might be interested in having a 1883 permit they found, issued some 5 years after the NAA was founded. Apparently the 5/- price is equivalent to £16 today, and covered a time when the only waters for which the Association had fishing rights were the River Kennet from the town centre to Aldermaston and a short stretch of the River Lambourn. I have a collection of permits for most seasons since the 1950's but have few previous to this. Should you have any from this era please email us.

It just leaves me to wish you all greetings for Christmas and the New Year and thank you for your continued support during these difficult economic times.

# FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT

by David Prictor & Paul Futcher



Feedback has been good regarding the rebuilding of 66 swim on Dobsons, Collins, Knotts and Dixons this summer. The plan to cap these with (probably) gravel will continue once the disturbed soil within them has settled. Until then, we are aware that in heavy rains some of the freshly dug swims can get waterlogged, so please take care. There is also some clearing up to be done in some swims by work parties. You might like to hear that on several occasions, some nosey carp swam right up around our feet to where the work was being done to take a look – none of them disapproved, so we'll take it they were happy!

Talk about the rain, as much as it was welcomed, there were times when digging the trenches for the otter fencing at Pallet's you could have filmed a movie about the Battle of the Somme. Please note that the gate to Pallet's opens inwards. **PLEASE DO NOT OPEN IT OUTWARDS.** If you're not sure – look at the lie of the hinges before opening.

Winter is the best time for much of the maintenance work to be done. With the fish in Pallet's now protected, working groups have already started to improve airflow across the lake by removing some of the lower branches of overhanging trees. This will also reduce leaf drop into the water.

Working groups will take place on most Sundays until the end of March. Some local clubs make attendance at a number of these a mandatory part of membership. Though we prefer not to, and are very grateful for our dedicated bunch of regulars, with over 800 members, we would like to think that a few more could occasionally spend an hour or two to maintain their fisheries. Details of forthcoming working groups are posted on our members Facebook site in the week before each event. We are also grateful for the work of the Tuesday Club who generally meet at the Willows car park on a Tuesday morning and again, are always looking for more participants.



Thanks to Rob Allen for completing swim maps for Bellwood, Knotts and Collins. These are a welcome addition as they will ensure that all anglers will be aware of the boundaries of each swim, and which areas are out-of-bounds. These will be publicized on our members' Facebook page shortly and are already on the website in the 'Fisheries' section. They will also be shown on noticeboards due to be set up at Bellwood and the Knotts car park area.

We are aware of the increasing number of cormorants that are raiding our waters. We have an EA licence to shoot a maximum number each year (you may have seen Paul with his gun!) However, all licences have currently been suspended while a census takes place counting the number of birds after the prevalence of avian flu. Thus while you may continue to see numbers of cormorants regularly farming our waters, there is nothing practical we can do about it beyond trying to scare them off when we see them, and asking you to keep fishing the lakes to keep a human presence during daylight hours.

# HEAD BAILIFF'S REPORT

by Rob Allen



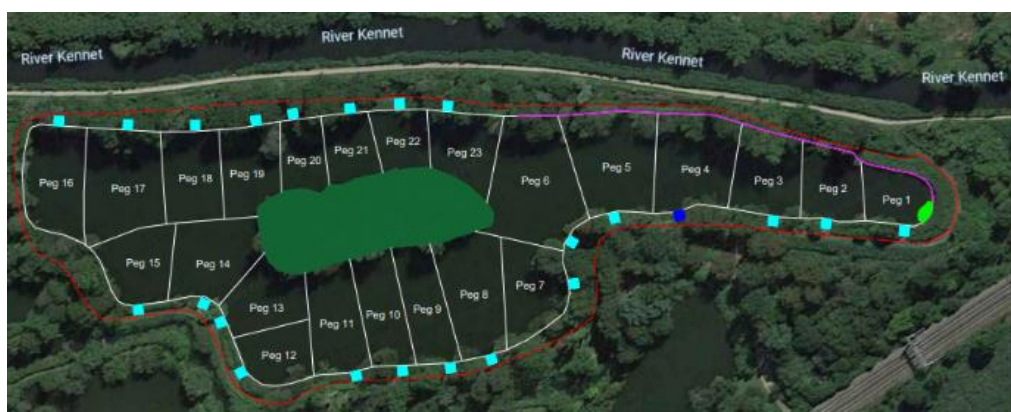
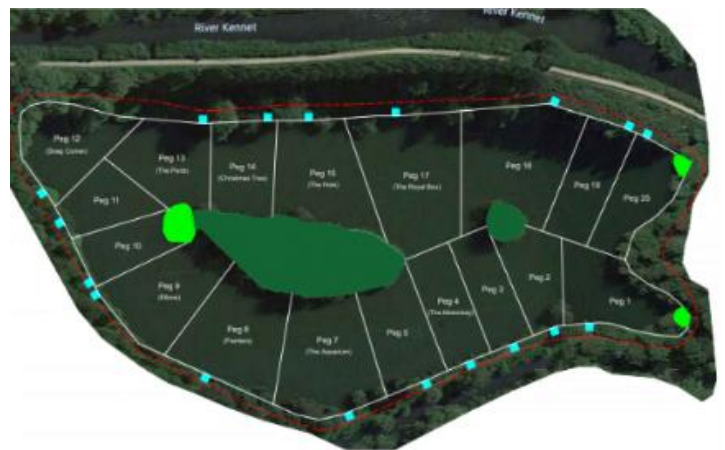
After losing two bailiffs during the three-month trial period, we now have a total of 14 official NAA bailiffs, all of whom have been issued with bailiff warrant cards and report books.

Polo shirts, t-shirts and zip-up hoodies with the “NAA Bailiff” designation have now been purchased and will be issued to those bailiffs achieving their minimum permit check targets.

Several issues have been raised with members while conducting bailiffing duties which has been supported by the club’s disciplinary panel resulting, where deemed appropriate, in actions being taken against the individuals concerned in accordance with NAA rules and regulations. Of course, we would much prefer to have no incidents to report, but please feel free to call me on the number on your permit should you observe any incident you feel should be reported.

The team has space for two more bailiffs, particularly to monitor the rivers and canals. Please call me should you be able to help or would like to know more. Remember, a bailiff achieving the minimum number of checks is entitled to a free permit for the following season.

To aid bailiffs with peg numbers when checking permits, swim maps of Bellwood, Collins and Knotts have been produced and issued to the bailiff team. These will assist members with identifying swim boundary limits, no fishing zones, out of bounds areas, location of disabled pegs etc. They will increase anglers understanding of where they may fish and where they may not, from any given swim. These are available to all on the Fisheries section of the NAA website and will be put up in noticeboards in the Bellwood and Knott’s car parks.





On a lighter note, we think a few of us might have been hit by a freak tornado on Collin's. In already pouring rain at 2pm one afternoon a few weeks ago, the wind suddenly whipped up out of nowhere to 70 or 80mph. Debris started flying, bivvies were lifted and a few trees blown down. Fortunately, no one was hurt and within a couple of minutes the 'event' had passed. It was an experience, and one I hope no other NAA member needs to witness!

## MATCH NEWS & UPDATE

As we stand at the start of December, the match season has progressed with the various league positions as follows:

League	Current standings			Next match date	venue
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>		
Club Championship	Richard Faithful	Dave Smith	Henry Sadler	NA - completed	NA
Over 60's	Bill Bowsher	Richard Wiggins	Brian Pallet	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Avington
Over 70's	Brian Pallet	Dave Smith	Richard Wiggins	NA – completed	NA

Hearty congratulations to Richard Faithful for becoming Club Champion, which is open every year to all members. Having fished them as a kid when more than 30 anglers regularly contested, Richard went on to fish for Reading in the nationals and leagues. Thirty years on, he is back and has won the Club Championship for the first time. Congratulations as well to Brian Pallet after winning the Over 70's competition. Brian is also currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Over 60's though cannot overhaul Bill Bowsher who holds an unassailable lead with one fixture to go. Honorable mention to bridesmaids Dave Smith and Richard Wiggins who will surely come back even stronger next season!



Sadly, the number of participants continues to fall, generally speaking. This is a shame as matches are always good fun, full of banter with money and kudos to be won and lost. Please consider giving one a go and making up your own mind.



Two of our better supported matches take place in December each year. The annual Christmas match was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Entrants could choose whether to fish Bellwood, the river or the canal. The low-scoring match was won by Brian Pallett who had 5-1-0 against Dave Smith's 4-14-0. Mervyn Burrows was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 3-8-0. The hampers were won By Brian Pallett from the River, Henry Sadler won the Canal with about 11lb and Richard Wiggins won the Lake with a single Perch for 2oz! The New Year's Day Rover match will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – meeting at the Lamb Pub for a breakfast roll before moving to the K&A canal at nearby Enborne at 9am, then fishing from 10 til 2. This is your best chance of keeping your hangover away from the family.

Two of our four winter pike matches have taken place. The first, held in unseasonably warm temperatures was admittedly a bit of a disappointment, with only three small fish being caught overall. It hadn't cooled down much by the time of the second match at Bellwood. Berlinda Taylor won it with two fish of 7lb plus and 6lb plus, and Kev Richardson was

second with a 4lb 12, again only three fish coming out. This leaves the field open for the final two matches at Bulls Lock and Speen Moors, with all members welcome. The pike ARE in there – we promise. Don't let this rude boy laugh at you, come along and pit your wits against his bigger sisters at the remaining matches.



Matches to be fished in the remainder of this season:

01-Jan-2023	Sun	New Year's Day rover	Enborne Canal	New Years Day Shield	9:00	10.00- 14.00	
22-Jan-2023	Sun	Pike Match	Bulls Lock	Buckingham Cup Ben Smith Trophy	9:00	10.00- 15.00	
12-Feb-2023	Sun	Pike Match	Speen Moors	Buckingham Cup Ben Smith Trophy	9:00	10.00- 15.00	
06-Mar-2023	Sun	VENUE CLOSED	Enborne Canal (Up)			08.00- 16.00	Booked by Reed Thatcham AA
15-Mar-2023	Wed	Over 60's	Avington D	Field & Stream Cup	9:00	10.00- 15.00	
15/16-Apr- 2023	Sat/Sun	24hr Carp pairs match	Knotts		11:00	12.00- 12.00	
13/14-May- 2023	Sat/Sun	24hr Carp match	Bellwood		11:00	12:00- 12:00	

**GREEN** means open to all members

Remember, match schedules, reports and tables are updated regularly on our website.

With winter upon us, there's chance here for a final look at the sunny days of September brought these catches from Bellwood in the last 24-hour carp match.



# A GUIDE TO AVINGTON

by Dave Clarke

This stretch of NAA controlled water can be found in between Kintbury and Hungerford on the K&A canal. Access is from the club car park which can be found off the Hungerford Road (leave Kintbury village travelling towards Hungerford and look for a white metal post on the right, turn down a narrow lane and continue past the substation and over the canal bridge). Access to the car park is by padlock and so your club key is required. The carpark, while secure, is predominantly grass so beware it can be notoriously tricky in wet conditions. The downstream section can also be accessed from the car park adjacent to the railway crossing in Kintbury village, which has free parking.

NAA has approximately 50+ pegs in total in three sections. The first (known as Section E) comprises of the stretch from the downstream limit which starts at the wooden footbridge in Kintbury to the bridge at the car park. Then there's the wooded section upstream from the car park to Brunsdon lock (Section D) and the stretch above the lock which goes as far as the railway bridge (Section C) which is the upstream limit.



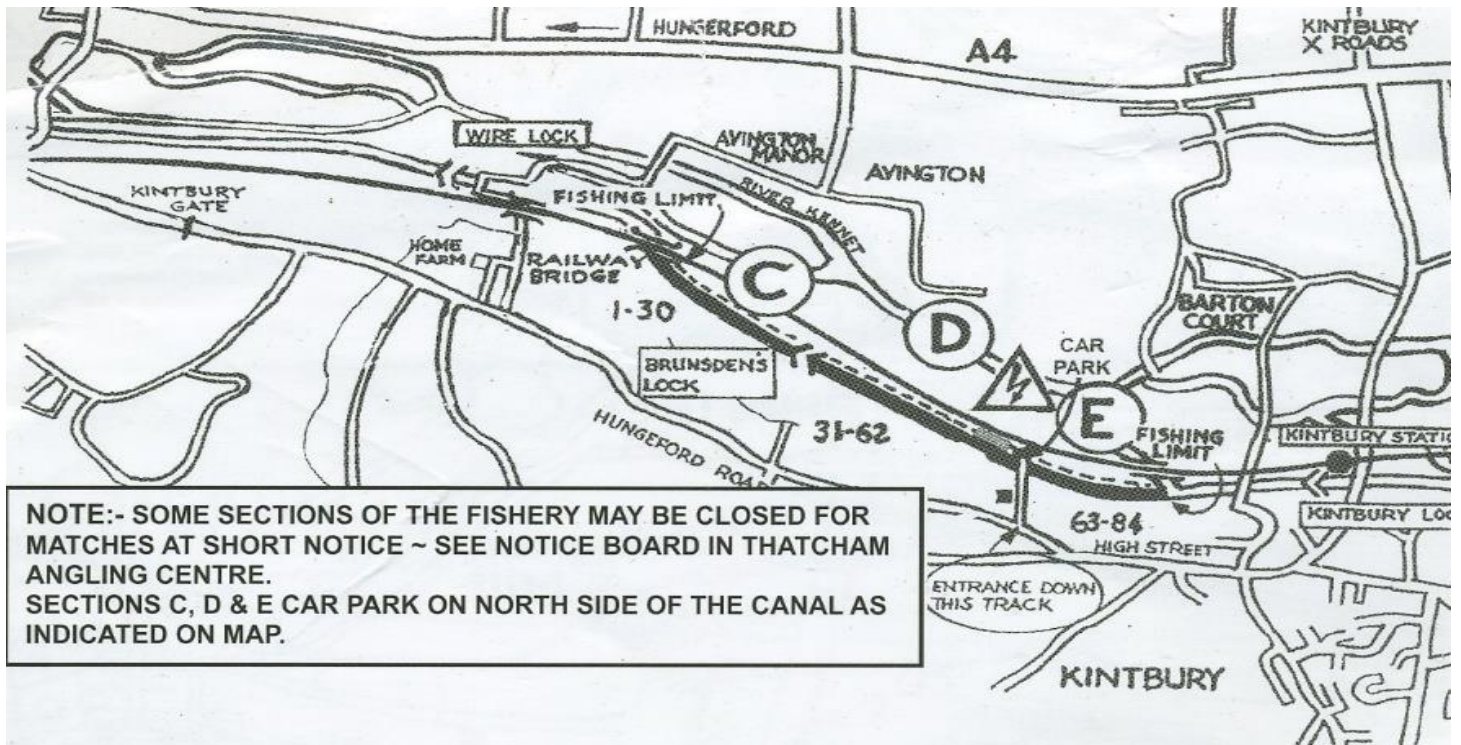
Section E is adjacent to the CSAS controlled stretch of the river in Kintbury village which incidentally can be fished as part of the card exchange with the Civil Service. Our stretch is characterised here by the wides at Kintbury which provides a scenic setting overlooking St Mary's church. The downstream limit at the wooden footbridge is where one of the Kennet carrier streams used to enter the canal, although I understand this has now been blocked off and does not flow anymore (this has been the case for the last 2 years to the best of my knowledge). My theory is that the fish

which used to gather in large numbers below the bridge in the flowing water, have now spread out more thus improving the fishing in the upstream sections.

The last 12 months have seen an explosion in the small roach and perch numbers. The first few pegs near to the footbridge provide excellent perch fishing and have thrown up many double figure match weights over the years. It is possible to fish the waggler and feeder here to good effect. There is a good head of roach and skimmers throughout, and the pike are never far away. This section is relatively unfished, probably due to the towpath being quite narrow in places and it can be awkward and muddy. For this reason it is easier to fish rod and line or a whip here rather than a pole. This stretch also provides good sport for lure anglers. Traditional methods based upon a maggot + caster + groundbait approach work well, with worms coming into play for the perch. There are other good pegs further up towards the stone bridge especially where there are trees on the far bank.



Section D can be fished within easy walking distance of the car park. For this reason the first 4 or 5 pegs are popular and are characterised by a stream mouth which enters the canal on the far bank. Please note there are overhead wires here which cross the canal from the substation and utmost care must be taken to avoid the no fishing area marked by the Canals & Rivers Trust. The pegs here produce excellent roach fishing at the right time of year and double figure nets are achievable. There are also large perch which can be caught down the track or across under the trees in certain pegs. If you fancy a walk, the pegs further up in the woods are known for



producing skimmers weights and proper bronze bream that can run to 5lb. The potential of this stretch is excellent when you consider how good the fishing is downstream at Kintbury and upstream, at Dunmill, Hungerford. The pegs in this section have been cut in by the club to allow matches on this section and this season they have produced good weights with double figures required to win. The last two matches this year have been won with 12lb and 14lb respectively, with large perch figuring heavily.



Section C is the stretch above Benham lock and is a long walk from the car park. This would really only be accessible to those anglers prepared to travel light. To the best of my knowledge this stretch is hardly ever fished these days and is capable of throwing up some real surprises. The stretch immediately upstream of the NAA piece (above the railway bridge) is privately owned by the Avington Estate provides excellent fishing. It therefore makes sense that the NAA stretch is also good and I would be interested to hear of any of our members have any experience of this stretch. So in summary, the Avington stretch is largely underfished and has improved significantly over the last 12 months. So if you're looking for a quiet days fishing in a rural setting give it a go, you may be pleasantly surprised.

# HARRY CANES IT!

by Harry Louch



If you go down to the lakes outside of school term time, chances are you'll see Harry and Archie, and the likelihood is that at least one of them will be landing a carp. We hear so much about Gen Z preferring Minecraft to watercraft and keeping their streaming confined to Netflix rather than long-trotting, so it is heartening to see youngsters clearly getting so much from our sport.

Regular readers may remember Archie's story in the Spring 2022 issue (available on the NAA website), and now it's Harry's turn...

I started fishing with a rod and reel when I was 5 with my dad and grandad. I remember my first fish was a roach from the canal. It might have been no bigger than my hand, but I was buzzing. We started fishing at Frobury and Willows. Archie and I met in Year 7. Our dads knew each other, so we'd go fishing together and became great friends. Before long, I started to catch more than my

grandad, and I found that once I started to catch more, I couldn't stop going fishing!

These days Archie and I fish together. It means we get to socialise and catch big carp at the same time, and I can't see us ever stopping.

This year, Archie and I began our summer carp fishing campaign concentrating in the bays, where we felt we had the best chance of catching. We suffered a few blanks, but with each one we learned something new and picked up plenty of tips and information from other members.

Archie caught first, a lovely 18lb common, and shortly after I had a 14lb mirror, and we were on our way. After that, we had our first all-nighter which didn't start well when Archie had the first run and hooked into a big bream. He wasn't happy! I had a run about 3am and landed a superb ghostie known as Ed.

School started again so we had less time to fish, and it had begun to feel cooler too. We decided that the best time to get bites was during the daylight hours, fishing to the far margins or alongside reeds or under overhanging trees. Archie landed the 'No Dorsal' common at 20lb 4 and I had a 26lb 15 mirror. I rate this as my favourite fish so far. It had hardest fight I have known from a carp and its mouth was like a golf ball – massive!



Bellwood is my favourite lake as it's given me some challenges over the years, but has rewarded me a lot with some truly beautiful fish. The development of the lake has been brilliant to see and the rate that the fish growing is exciting and I look forward to it having serval 30s in there in the years to come.

Whenever we get to a lake, the first thing we do is go round with a bucket and look for signs of carp close in and then introduce some bait so that they get munching while we get our rods set up etc. We're sure this approach has resulted with more fish on the bank. Archie uses Slip D Ronnie rigs while I prefer simple hair rigs. I find most baits work, but I do like using Blakes Bait 12mm citrus power lifter pop ups.

Now as its coming into winter, the carp are starting to switch off a bit. We'll still walk round with a bucket but not put much bait out. I've found that if you can tempt them into them feeding the bites seem to keep coming. For example the other day my rod went off and I landed my new PB , but as that fish was in the net my other rod went off too and suddenly I was playing my second fish. Then we heard a couple of bleeps from one of Archie's alarms, and were now both playing fish. Turned out mine was a small common, while Archie's snapped off. He was gutted but that's just how fishing goes sometimes and you learn from your mistakes .That's one of the few downsides of fishing – along with getting my bait boat stuck and CATCHING BREAM. But there're the only things. When I'm out on the water I zone out of everything in the outside world and can focus on tactics. It's so relaxing and I can dream of catching a UK 40lber and one day being known for carp fishing.



Thank you so much for your inspirational story, Harry. It's really good for us old fogies to see the future of the club in such good hands. Note: When I suggested that he and Archie were NAA's very own 'Carl and Alex', Harry came back quick as a flash, "maybe... but we're younger!"

## TAILS OF THE UNEXPECTED

by Dave Taylor

My earliest experience of pike fishing was at the tender age of 13, feeling inspired after watching John Wilson catch an impressive pike in his 'Go Fishing' series on TV. My mate Wayne and I decided we wanted some of that action.

With our heads filled with thoughts of catching a monster fish, an excited duo trotted off to Field & Stream Tackle Shop to purchase the necessary tackle to hook the elusive pike. This shopping trip was subsequently completed at the local fishmongers where we acquired 1/2 pound of sprats.

Early the next day, on a cold, frosty Sunday morning, precariously balancing rods, tackle and bait whilst steering our push bikes, we headed to Guyer's Lock, Enborne, in anticipation of landing a massive fish. We had it on good authority from Honest Ron that this was where the monster pike lived!

A couple of hours passed, and with the frost nipping at our fingers and no sign of any fish, we were feeling cold, hungry and a little deflated. Wayne reeled his pike bung up to the tip of his rod, leaving his sprat bait suspended half in, half out of the water. Off he went to the tea hut in Victoria Park and soon returned with much welcomed hot sausage rolls. As we tucked in, Wayne's rod lunged forward as a great big pike leapt from the water and snatched the dangling sprat, Wayne swiftly grasped his rod in anticipation of landing the thrashing monster a mere two feet from the tip!



Regrettably, it was a brief fight, ending with the skilful pike eluding Wayne's gallant efforts; the hook straightened, the fish was gone. Wayne had forgotten to set his drag!

Wayne never caught the angling bug like I did, and by the time we finished school he was no longer fishing. Me? I was hooked and have never stopped since. Here's a pike I caught a few years back on the main river at Speen Moors.

# GUGGS

## Introduction by Martin Strike (StMa)

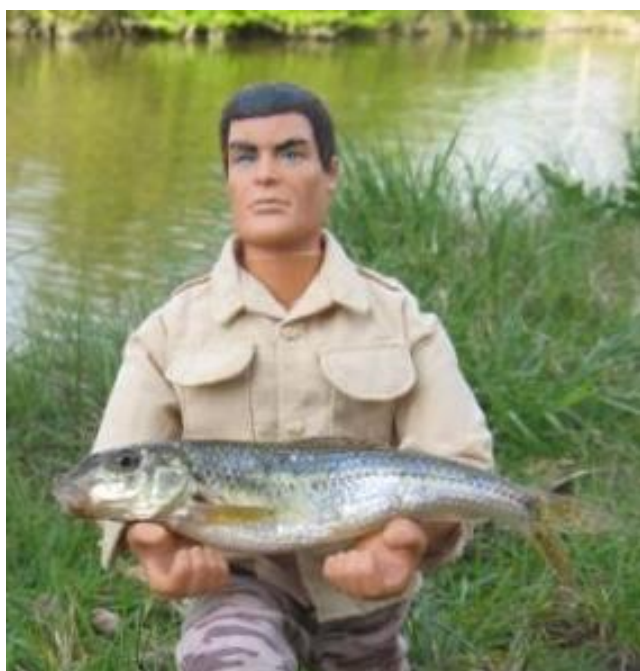
Ah, if only. If only beer was half price, X-ray specs really worked and pork pies didn't have that disgusting jelly betwixt delicious pastry and succulent meat. But most of all, if only the record gudgeon was 5lbs rather than 5 ounces. For if so, we would surely all turn our attentions to this regal and gentle fish. Only the tench rivals it for strobability, and no other fish sits so calmly in your hand, taking your admiring glances, ready for its kiss, knowing it will soon be carefully replaced in the shallows to devour more pinkies.

Yet as modest a fish it may be in stature, the gudgeon is loved sufficiently to merit the society in its own name. Over to Founder and Chairman, Neil Williams to tell you all about it...

We set GUGGS up in June 2009 because we were fed up with the media / social media obsession with carp. It was just meant to be a quick and gentle leg-pull aimed at the many local carpers but it has kept on rolling for over 13 years and we now have over 700 members. Very few of them are active members and a large number of them have probably forgotten about their membership! To gain entry into the Society, you simply have to catch a canal gudgeon in the presence of an existing member OR email us a photo that shows you with a canal gudgeon. It's free, you don't have to re-join every year but you don't get anything apart from your name on the website members list, and the warm glow from being a member of such a special Society. Once you're in, you have to do something pretty awful to be kicked out (or dismembered, as we call it) and in fact only one person has ever been dismembered.



Each member has a Society nickname made up of the first two letters of their surname followed by the first two of their given name, so as Neil Williams my nickname is WiNe. We have some crackers like CoMa (Martin Collins), FiDo (Douglas Fisher), HaHu (Hugo Hall), LaDa (Dave Lawson) and RuDe (Derek Rutland). So far we've happily managed to avoid finding either Ntanga Cuthbertson or Attilio Twiss catching gudgeon.



We use specialist scales to weigh our fish down to 0.1g, although some really anal members have scales that go to 0.01g. Any fish of 30g or more is classed as a specimen and can be given a name. The first letter of the name varies by year; in 2022 it's T and in 2023 it will be U. It's not easy to tell the sex of a gudgeon so for GUGGS purposes, gender is determined by the decimal portion of the weight; an even number means the fish is male e.g. 31.2 or 36.0, whereas an odd number means it's female e.g. 32.3 or 37.9. Our ultimate aim is for one of our number to catch a specimen to break the UK gudgeon record (currently 140g / 5oz) but we're not holding our breath on that one, and generally we're happy to catch them of any size. The biggest fish we've recorded was 50.8g clonker, named 'Oh Jesus', caught by PaRo (Rob Payne) on the Grand Union near Berkhamsted back in 2017. This year's largest, Tatiana, weighed in at 44.1g for me near Avoncliffe on the Kennet & Avon in June.

There's lots more Society-related info on our website [www.guggs.net](http://www.guggs.net), and our eMail address is [guggsmail@gmail.com](mailto:guggsmail@gmail.com). Tight lines ... or as tight as they get when you're catching gudgeon.

# NAA ARCHIVE

By Martin Strike



The on-line directory of the Newbury Weekly News and other local newspapers of the day has hundreds of articles about the NAA from the 1800s. The Association's formation came in 1883 when the Great Western Railway, who had bought the K&A canal as part of their plan to replace water transport with rail, sold them the fishing rights. Frankly, the GWR were not interested in paying for the canal upkeep that they were legally obliged to provide and reckoned that in exchange for selling the rights to a local angling association for a fairly nominal fee, the association might do this work for them. Some of the residents who had traditionally enjoyed unrestricted fishing, were aggrieved that they would now have to pay for what they considered their time-honoured right to fish and refused to buy permits. It became a much-vexed question whether the locals had a right to fish in the Kennet and Avon canal, particularly in the borough stretch between the Four Hatches at the corner of the then Cricket Ground (now where the river drops away from the canal in the town centre by the site of the old football stadium) to the White House (now the new Lidl on London Road). This was eventually came to a head when challenged in the courts some 10 years later. The following is taken from various newspaper articles of 1893, the hearing having taken place in front of a crowded court room.

## THE QUESTION OF FISHING RIGHTS IN THE KENNET AND AVON CANAL

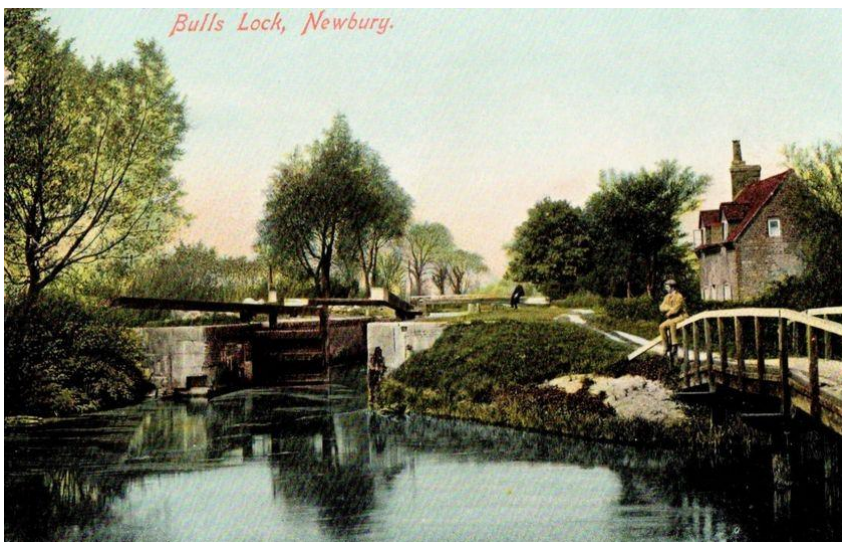
An important question of the right to fish in the Kennet and Avon Canal came before the Borough magistrates - Mr. Alderman Mason, Mr. Alderman Absalom and Mr. Councillor Midwinter, and presided over by the mayor, Mr. Councillor Jackson.

Arthur Lewis (previously the NAA's bailiff) and William Newport, two working men, were charged that they "did unlawfully and wilfully attempt to take by angling between the beginning of the last hour before sunrise, and the expiration of the first hour after sunset, on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, certain fish in certain water called the Kennet and Avon Canal, the said water not running through nor being in any land adjoining or belonging to the dwelling-house of any person being the owner of the said water, or having a private right of fishery therein, but in which the Newbury Angling Association then had a private right of fishery.

Mr. Charles Lucas appeared for the Angling Association, and Mr. Henry Creed, of Reading, for the defendants. In opening the case Mr. Lucas said that it was not the wish of the Association that this should be a vindictive prosecution, nor did they did they desire a penalty

to be inflicted in the ordinary sense, but they wished to assert their rights.

Charles Hedges, keeper to the NAA, was called and said on the 24<sup>th</sup> June he saw the defendants fishing about 25 yards below the Fourth Hatches. This particular piece of water being in the Association's rights, and having previously warned the defendant, he approached them in the company of a local police constable. He went to Newport and asked him if he had a ticket from the Association, and he replied that he had not. He requested him to take his line out of the water, but he refused. ad.





Lewis said he should go on fishing till he was summoned. P.C. Smith said he was with Hedges when he spoke to the defendants, and confirmed his evidence as to what took place.

Prosecuting, Lucas contended that there was no right in law for the defendants to fish. When the Angling Association was formed they obtained permission from the Kennet and Avon Canal Company to fish between Enborne Lock and Aldermaston Lock, for which they paid £1 per year (*£151.87 in 2022's money – Ed*). They now possessed the uninterrupted right to fish between those two points.

Mr. Creed on behalf of his clients, contended that they and all the inhabitants of Newbury had from time immemorial fished in the old river Kennet and contended that the public had the right of fishing in the Kennet from the spot in question. This being a *bona fide* claim would therefore oust the jurisdiction of the Bench as a right to fish could not be set up, as none existed in law. To demonstrate previous fishing practise, he called Robert Randall, living at 1, Caroline-place, who said that on 24<sup>th</sup> June he saw defendants fishing when the keeper came up. They were fishing about 20 yards below the four hatches, and that this was the old river rather than the canal. He had fished that particular spot for the past 20 years, and had never been interrupted.

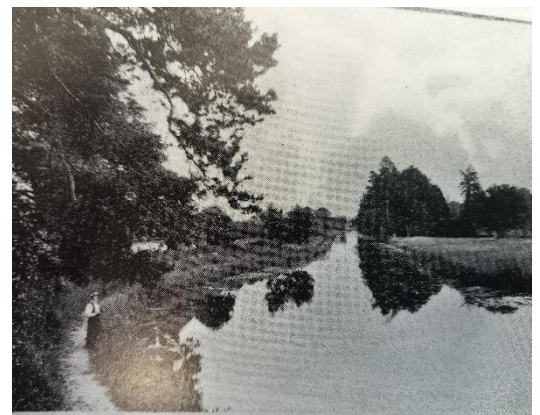
Alfred Joseph Keens, living in the London-road, said he knew the river well, and had fished at this spot 32 years. He was 42, and began to fish when he was ten and had never been interrupted.

Having deliberated, the Chairman said the defendants might have fished at the spot for years, but that did not constitute a right, and unless they got consent from the riparian owners on either side, they should not fish and they were doing wrong.

Mr. Creed asked that as the men thought they had a right, only a light fine should be inflicted, and Mr. Lucas on behalf of the Association having agreed to this. The Bench ordered defendants to pay 1s. each (*about £4 in 2022- Ed*) and 9s. 9d. costs (*about a day's pay – Ed*), and allowed them a week for payment.

The NWN editorial of the day did not agree with the decision, recording that, 'The two defendants in the case deserve some sympathy, for in contesting the supposed rights in the matter they appear to have suffered the loss of a couple of day's work, besides having to pay heavily for legal costs and assistance. Now we do not wish to reflect upon the Association, which has done good service to the borough in cultivating and preserving the fishing around Newbury at considerable expense and trouble, whereby it has greatly increased the attractions of our town to gentlemen desirous of enjoying this favourite sport, It would appear, however, that this has been done to the disadvantage of the working man, who after a hard day's toil may equally with his richer neighbours like to enjoy the pleasures of rod and line, yet has not the means to purchase fishing tickets. The decision is in all conscience an alarming one, stroking a blow at all free fishing in the borough, a result which we feel assured the town is not likely to quietly submit to.'

Looking back, this could be interpreted as a battle of the classes. With the arrival of the railways, it became a recognised pastime of wealthy gentry in London to travel into the country for a fly-fishing excursion. This was lucrative not only for the GWR who issued special 'fishing excursion' tickets, but the inns and hotels of the locations they visited. NAA, run at its inception by local dignitaries, being keen to grab a share of this pie for the town, promoted day tickets to its waters (then only the K&C plus the now 'free' stretch of the river Lambourn) in sporting gazettes of the day. This was in direct opposition to the interests of Newbury's working-class country-town inhabitants who had always enjoyed the right to uninhibited fishing.



# THE GUDGEON

By Chris Plumb

Traditional angling wisdom often purports that the perch is usually a young angler's first fish. I believe this is actually a 'Mr Crabtree-esque propagated myth and the real 'hero' of the young angler is being overlooked in the popularity stakes in deference to its better looking swim-mate! Perch may have been an early capture for those young-uns brought up on still waters but for those of us who cut their teeth on the rivers our first fish was more prosaic.



I'm talking of course of *Gobio gobio* – the humble gudgeon and propose its status in attracting youngsters into angling should be recognised by making it the first fish to make it into the Hall of Fame. Like many youngsters I was first taken fishing by my late father. My first fish was a roach – but this was no more than reeled in by me – my father having baited the hook, cast out and told me when to strike. I gravitated from that to sticklebacks and minnows caught in a net – but the first fish which actually sent a jangle of anticipation up the line – and which was all my own work – was a gudgeon. My contemporaries at primary school all had similar

experiences – snaffling gudgeon in the local Kennet side streams. A dace or roach made you a hero in the playground and as for a perch – well that was the stuff of dreams. Perch came much later. None of my contemporaries could claim perch as their first fish. For all of us, gudgeon were the launch pad to a lifetime of angling Adventure.

Later in one's angling career, gudgeon can often come to the rescue – converting a blank day into a one where you can at least go home with your head held high. Catch one and you're likely to get several – and providing you are not questioned too closely by your spouse – your status as "An Angler" is not diminished under your own roof. The conversation has been known to go something like this...

"Catch much dear? Wasn't the river flooded after all this rain?"

"Yes, it was a bit of a struggle – but a change of tactics and I managed to winkle-out a dozen or so!"

Here you hope will be the end of it – but if you're subjected to less than the mild dis-interest and get a supplementary, "Any size?" it's best to tell a small fib and say you forgot your scales or add that you "had a couple of good-uns" and change the topic pronto! (Though if you really want to 'push it' you could announce you caught a fish that was mere ounces off a British Record!!)

So why don't gudgeon get the credit they deserve? Is it their size? Small for sure, though they certainly punch above their weight when it comes to a scrap – more so than the average roach to befall a 10-year old's rod and line. I suspect the reason is that they're not good lookers. No stripes, no silvery scales, no red fins, no bronzed flanks – just a mud-coloured bottom dweller. However, the next time you make acquaintance with Mr Gobio examine him carefully before dropping him in the stream. Not just a mud colour is he? Some very subtle hues – and who wants silvery scales when you can have pale blue spots?!

So horray for the gudgeon, and its willingness to be captured by the average primary school kid.

## FISHY BOOKS

With the nights drawn in and the weather keeping some of us indoors, we thought we'd recommend a few piscatorial titles for you to buy yourself, your loved ones or even your wife and children this Christmas.

Professor Mark 'Dr Redfin' Everard may already be known to you for his entertaining articles in the Angling Times and other periodicals. His many credentials include Visiting Professor at Bournemouth University, Associate Professor of Ecosystem Services at UWE, Ambassador of the Angling Trust, science adviser to Wildfish (formerly Salmon & Trout Conservation UK) and the Mahseer Trust and also Trustee of the new charity FIN (Fish in Need). He is also the scourge of plump roach everywhere and author of a number of splendid books, including:



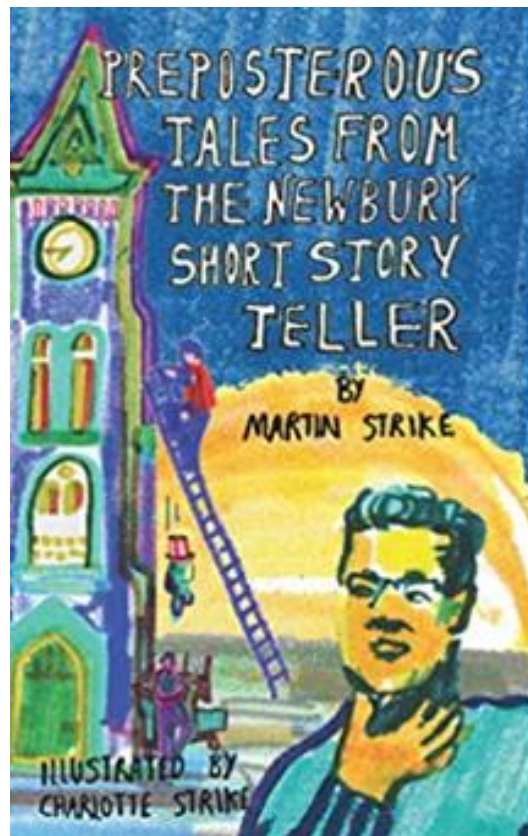
- [Silver Bream: Britain's most neglected freshwater fish](#)
  - [Gudgeon: The Angler's favourite tiddler](#)
  - [Ruffe: The spikey little freshwater ruffian](#)
  - [The Complex Lives of British Freshwater Fishes.](#)
- All via: <https://www.routledge.com>
- [Burbot: Conserving the Enigmatic Freshwater Codfish.](#)
- via <https://www.5Mbooks.com>

I can vouch these to me wonderful books. I loved the Gudgeon title, the perfect tackle bag companion on days when the fish seem reluctant to bite, and having recently ordered *The Complex Lives of British Freshwater Fishes* confirm this to be a beautiful 'coffee table' book with amazing photos mainly by Jack Perks to supplement an informative yet entertaining content – highly recommended.

While on the plug, the Editor shamelessly promotes his own book – Preposterous Tales from the Newbury Short Story Teller available from Amazon and no good booksellers anywhere. No fishing links either, but 16 humorous short stories set in an alternative Newbury where inhabitants are often bitter, twisted or just plain bonkers. Whether you are a Newburian or not, you are invited to read of debacles at the Newbury Model Train Enthusiasts Society, egg rivalries, the pratfalls of a hypochondriacal antique collector and the unlikely effects of drinking dishwasher water. It's got more twists than the Kennet & Avon canal, not that that has any twists. Please note that 10% of books price will be donated to the Daisy Garland Charity which supports children with drug-resistant epilepsy and their families

[Preposterous Tales From The Newbury Short Story Teller: A collection of humorous tales : Strike, Martin, Strike, Charlotte: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

For those reading a printed version of this newsletter who may wish to purchase any of these books, please access the direct links via the e-version on the NAA website.



# JAKE'S TAKE

By Jake Harriss

The Editor turned up at Willows one winter afternoon to find just one other angler. 'I've had six,' said Jake, as coolly as the December air. I shivered in the afternoon sun and asked him how he approached his winter fishing, and so an article was born. Over to you, Jake...



Winter for me is the best time of the year to get out fishing, the fish are generally at their highest weights and the lakes are much quieter. It pays to get to the lake just before sunrise to try locate the fish as at this time of year as I find them showing themselves and giving their location up.

My 5 top tips for fishing in winter:

- 1) Location Location Location
- 2) Don't put much bait out and fish for a bite at a time.
- 3) Keep it simple, don't over complicate things.
- 4) Make sure you have suitable clothing.
- 5) Don't be afraid to visit local runs waters (ie 'easier' venues where a number of runs in a session can be expected).

Fish tend to hold up in the deeper areas of lakes during winter months as the deeper parts of the lake are generally the warmest when it's cold, this also depends on the actual depth of the lake. If the lake is shallow then 90% of the time they shut down where the fish almost become dormant during the colder months. The deeper lakes tend to have better winter form as they stay a couple degrees warmer for longer as it takes longer to cool down. The down side to this is during spring the water will take longer to warm back up again so the fishing will be as poor. A shallow lake during the spring will warm up quicker. Don't be afraid to walk the lake during the day when you're fishing as all it takes is to spot some fizzing or a show to change your session from a cold blank to a reward for braving the cold.



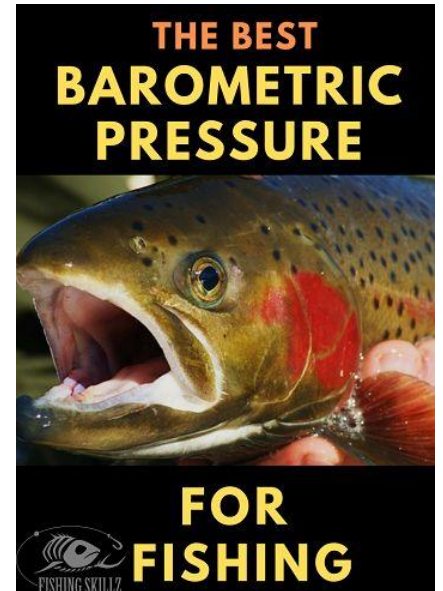
Keeping it in the family, members of my family visited to see how I was getting on today. I think this counts as my lovely niece Mollie's first fish!

# IN THE AIR TONIGHT

by Martin Strike

What would it be like if there was no atmosphere? I can name several pubs in the Newbury area where you can find this out for yourself, but what effect, if any, does the atmosphere have on fishing? We've all heard that air pressure can affect fish behaviour, but do we know how? I thought I'd investigate.

Firstly, for the science bit, I contacted the Met Office. They told me that while air is light at ground level, the 300 miles of air above us pushes down with a force of about 15 pounds on every square inch – that's the equivalent to having a few decent carp on your head. (It would be even more for big heads, but of course we don't have any of those in NAA). Average air pressure at sea level, ie the mass of the air above any given point, is 1013mb. Tap your grannie's barometer and get a figure below this and you're in low pressure, and above it would be considered high. But air pressure often varies place to place and hour to hour based on temperature and what the jet stream is doing 6-10 miles overhead. Low pressure forms when warmer, lighter air rises and cools, and the water in it forms clouds and possibly precipitation. Thus low pressure systems are usually linked to wind and rain, while generally speaking, high pressure squishes air down and prevents clouds forming, and is associated with calm and clear weather. Frosty weather and those crisp winter days are nearly always high-pressure days.



Changes in air pressure can affect the sinuses in our heads that can lead to congestion and migraines, as well as the air pockets around our bones that give joint pain joints ahead of bad weather. But what effect can it have on fish? The answer is probably quite a lot. Since being underwater makes things seem lighter, a modest change in air pressure can change their whole environment. Most coarse fish have a swim bladder, which can best be described as a thin sausage skin inflated with air which allows them to stay at specific depths without using too much energy swimming. The fish's swim bladder adjusts to the pressure and allows it to ascend or descend. If a fish wants to sink deeper down, it will empty some of the oxygen from the bladder, thus making it less buoyant. If the fish wants to rise to the surface, or just rise higher in the water, it will inflate the swim bladder with more gas. Many fish do this by swallowing air (those 'priming' roach and bream for example) whilst others such as perch have gas glands. Clever stuff.

High air pressure compresses their swim bladder making fish feel comfortable, whereas when pressure is low, the bag puffs up and inflates, making the fish slow and lethargic. Ever seen a pack of crisps on an aeroplane? A similar effect happens to a fish's swim bladder on low-pressure days. To a fish, an inflated swim bladder will feel like a bloated belly does to a human, though they can expel the air as bubbles or using their gas glands if the change is not too rapid (as unfortunately is the case when some sea fish, like pouting and wrasse, are winched quickly from deep water). Not great, right? Some scientists liken it to divers having the bends when they move too quickly toward the water's surface. That fast pressure change can be life-threatening for divers, so it makes sense that it can also impact fish and is why they want to move around to get rid of the pressure in their bellies.

This change is thought especially pronounced in small fish. Fish that are naturally tiny may feel the effects of pressure changes more easily than those that are larger. Incidentally, swim bladders are what you get when you

drink your favourite pint of Guinness, Foster's or Strongbow as booze companies use them under the anonymous name of isinglass, in production. Nice.

A steady bout of low air pressure can mean fish are less likely to feed and take refuge in deeper water as they progressively react to the pressure change, though after some period of adjustment they adapt to the 'new normal' pressure status. This exodus will help them relieve their discomfort and assist them become better balanced, too. The deeper they swim, the more pressure is around them and the more comfortable they will feel. In shallower water, such as our canals and, say Willows lake, there is only so deep they can go, which may make them harder to catch after a rapid drop in the barometer.

So should we be modifying our fishing to take advantage of this?

Generally, fish in summer seem to prefer to feed in stable bouts of high pressure much more than low pressure as, aside from allowing us nicer weather to sit in this may also be due to a link with higher temperatures. The reverse may be the case in winter when high pressure results in clearer skies and frosty night that drop the water temperature, suppressing feeding. On low-pressure days, anglers should have much better success bottom fishing. Knowing where the deepest spots on your venue are will offer you a key advantage. You'll also want to add feed less. The fish will tend to hunker down and only eat sporadically, so it's best not to fill them up with too much ground bait. But, again, give the fish time to adjust their swim bladders and they adapt to the new conditions.

NAA wants to make life easy for you. Here's an at a glance air pressure chart for fishing based on research. Pair this up with a reliable barometer or a fishing app such as [Fish Angler](#), where you'll also get loads of good information geared to helping you catch fish.

Air Pressure	Conditions and outlook	Fish Location	Fish Feeding Behaviour
Low	Blustery, wet and generally unsettled often with high winds	Deep in the water column.	Sporadic if at all. If lure fishing use sinking lures on a slow retrieve
Average	Fair	In all areas of the water column	A good time to test different lures, baits, and fishing techniques
Rising	Wet and unsettled, turning to mild conditions	Starting deep, coming higher in the water as conditions improve	Starting slow and increasing in intensity
High	Mild conditions, with good visibility and still air	In all areas of the water column	Consistent feeding, perfect conditions. If lure fishing use a faster retrieve
Falling	Calm conditions become more unsettled	In all areas, retreating to deeper water as the pressure drops	Starting strong, tapering off with the arrival of bad weather



A quick falling barometer when the weather is rapidly going downhill will bring the best of all fishing situations. What happens to the fish is they begin to feel this change in pressure and start to feel uncomfortable. They can tell this pressure change is coming so before they rest on the bottom and sulk, they feed up – because they have no idea how long the low pressure is going to last.

After a rapid drop in pressure it will usually go flat for 24-48 hours when the fish will be hard to catch. But, again, give the fish time to adjust their swim bladders and they adapt to the new conditions.

However, nature doesn't always play by easy human 'rules'. Although you can predict the feeding and behaviour habits of fish by observing weather and atmospheric conditions they may not play ball. Trout, for example, don't seem to be affected by changes in air pressure, while pike are like living barometers - they know the day before that a changing weather front is on its way. These conditions can really spur them into a feeding binge, especially if it is a steady pressure fall. This explains those days when it seems all wrong – bright, clear and sunny – and you catch loads of pike. They have felt the weather change coming.

This is all very good, but I thought I'd check out with some people in the know to see what they think. If anyone knew, it would be the previously mentioned Prof Mark 'Dr Redfin' Everard, who wasn't so convinced: "I'm not aware of much scientific research on fish movement in response to air pressure. That said, at least one study found a link with perch though this was much finer than the effects of water temperature and light intensity, although another study found no correlation with activity in rainbow trout. In the void of



hard evidence, we anglers of course have our anecdotal observations and pet theories. These are based substantially on skewed observations when our busy work and family diaries allow us to get out on the bank, not to mention avoiding the worst weather when air pressure is most variable. My own observation is that most of my really big roach have come before or during lousy weather when saner people are hunkered down at home! This suggests a link with low air pressure but without a scientific control and a high degree of replication to sift the facts from the 'noise'! But I think this is all part of the mystery and allure of this crazy sport, which keeps us thinking, experimenting and pursuing the kind of 'active impatience' about which angling legend Richard Walker spoke as a major factor in refining our approach. At the very least, 'The air pressure was all wrong' is yet another of those convenient excuses to roll out when returning from a less than successful trip!"



Hmm. For a counter view I stopped Brian Sylvester, revered Town Crier of Newbury in the street. "Oh Yez, oh yez," yelled Brian, "What are you asking me for? I've never been fishing in my life. Air pressure? I've no idea, but I do know about *heir* pressure. With three children of my own, I can vouch for the existence of the many pressures from my heirs: from the moment of conception to the end of one's life. The little darlings continue to make their needs known to this day. Despite the known advice for about-to-be-weds -, DON'T! Similar advice might

be given to prospective parents. However, we are committed by nature to 'Go forth and Multiply!' so who am I to contradict this?" Thanks for that, Brian.

I then turned to WiNe of GUGGS who I thought was bound to have spoken to a gudgeon or two in his time. I was right. "I have questioned many of my recent catches about how air pressure affects their feeding patterns," he told me, "but the universal response was 'Just put me back in the water and give me more pinkies'. As a control, I also tried questions about tyre pressure, blood pressure and the Queen / Bowie song 'Under Pressure' but the answers were still the same."

### Conclusion

Air pressure for fishing, while an important factor, is only one part of the puzzle. The weather itself, as well as the season, air temperature, water temperature and, if you read the Summer newsletter, the position of the moon may also have a bearing on your success rate. Fish are looking for that ideal blend of pressure, water temperature and oxygen level with optimal light penetration.

Use air pressures to guide you, but most importantly, read the water! If you see fish on the top in high pressure, try to get them feeding on the surface, or fish shallow. This also goes the other way. If I get down to the lake during a spell of low pressure and don't see signs of activity in the upper layers, guess where I'll be fishing? — on the bottom.

## THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

We hope you found something of interest in this newsletter. Of course, should you feel your style of fishing is under-represented, please let us know, or even better, pen us an article for us to include in the next issue.

So, keep well wrapped up on the bank, everyone, and we'll see you at the New Year's match.



Last word has to go to Harry Louch who along with his wonderful article sent this evocative picture of him as a child with, I suspect, more than a gudgeon on the end of his line. They don't make rods like that anymore. It's a great picture that will hopefully remind many of us of happy far-off days fishing – in the sunshine.

Here's to Spring

The Editor

[comms@newburyangling.org.uk](mailto:comms@newburyangling.org.uk)