



# B.A.A. NEWS



Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126

Email [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto:baajnw@btinternet.com) Website [www.baa.uk.com](http://www.baa.uk.com)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/BirminghamAnglersAssociation?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamAnglersAssociation?fref=ts)

December 2014



## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

## AND

## NEW YEAR



# Christmas closure



The BAA office at Hagley will be closed from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January, inclusive. The office will be back open as usual on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

## Looking for members

The Bell Otters Fishing Club based in Oldbury, West Midlands are looking to recruit new members (must be BAA members). The club is affiliated to the BAA and fish a mix of river, pool and canal matches on local waters. Anyone interested should contact Paul Pountney on 07534 453102 or [lilah89@hotmail.com](mailto:lilah89@hotmail.com)

## Bailiffing

### Watch out there's a bailiff about!

As the year comes towards the end and we look back over the past 12 months, we can report that Association bailiffs have checked almost 4,000 anglers on over 2,500 visits to different locations.

The summer months are the busiest time for finding people on the bank, but bailiffs carry out checks throughout the winter and into the close season too, maintaining a watch on our waters all year round.

There is always plenty more we can do as with such a vast area of water to cover it isn't possible to be everywhere, but we do our best. If you are interested in becoming an Association bailiff and want to give something back to your club, please contact the office and leave a message for me or email [baakgp1@btinternet.com](mailto:baakgp1@btinternet.com)

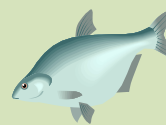
Thanks for your support.

Kevin Pearson

Superintendent Bailiff



# Fishing news



## Never too old



To enjoy angling, eighty four year old Dave Hawtin catches a carp at Coppice Lake.



## Something has changed at Coppice



Just a few words about Coppice, which seems to have changed, and it seems for the better. I have fished the pool since the BAA took it over and had some very good days there with the carp. I also like to float fish, which produced plenty of fish but mainly very small skimmers which to be honest got a bit boring after about two hours. However, over the last couple of months or so the fish have been a far better size and the small skimmers seem to have all but gone. Have these been netted and removed I wonder, or has there just been a good head of better fish put in, It was mentioned fish were stocked from a lake near Birmingham Airport. Bream/skimmers seem to be averaging at least a pound with October producing bream to 4lb 8oz, nice tench estimated at 3lb give or take and mid-November perch 2lb 10oz. [ photos attached, tench in a 24" net ] Not huge fish but a bag full of those in a day would be a good days fishing. River fishing being my main interest, this has given me renewed interest in Coppice.

Thanks,

Graham Beck

# Fishing news record

## for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
--------------	----	----	----------	--------	-------------	------------------

### Barbel

#### River Avon

Steve Evans	13	0	Marlcliff	Luncheon meat	09/08/2014	Sept 2014
Jim Clarke	9	5	Barton			Sept 2014

#### River Severn

Dave Hutton	12	2	Ladyham	Hair rigged Spam	27/09/2014	Nov 2014
Shaun Barrett	11	0	Arley LB	Meat	22/06/2014	July 2014
Gaynor Wade	9	0	Arley Harbour Inn			Oct 2014
Pete Jones	9	0	Ripple		27/09/2014	Nov 2014
Neil Perkins	8	14	Hampton Loade	Pellet		Sept 2014
John Snape	8	12	Arley	Double 8mm pellet	21/06/2014	July 2014

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	6	12	Coppice		19/06/2104	July 2014
Graham Beck	5		Coppice		mid-March	July 2014
Graham Beck	4		Coppice		mid-March	July 2014

### Bream

#### River Severn

Mark Webb	8	8	Lower Severn	Worm/caster hook bait		Sept 2014
Pete Jones	7	10	Birds Meadow	Corn		Oct 2014
Colin Townsend	6	0	Birds Meadow			Oct 2014

#### Pools

Graham Beck	4	8	Coppice		October	Dec 2014
-------------	---	---	---------	--	---------	----------

### Common Carp

#### River Avon

John Care	10	2	Wasperton	Double elips pellet	03/08/2014	Sept 2014
-----------	----	---	-----------	---------------------	------------	-----------

#### Pools

Dan Hancox	22	3	Coppice		26/07/2014	Aug 2014
Graham Beck	21	8	Coppice	Bread flake	mid-March	July 2014

## Mirror Carp

				<b>River Severn</b>		
Pete Jones	16	12	Ripple	Double red maggot	27/09/2014	Nov 2014
				<b>Pools</b>		
Paul Badger	16	4	Coppice	Homemade boilie	26/07/2014	Sept 2014
Kevin Smith	15	13	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	15	9	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	15	1	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	14	13	Nordley 2		31/05/2014	July 2014

## Chub

				<b>River Severn</b>		
Peter Wade	5	10	Arley LB			Oct 2014
John Morgan	4	13	Holt Fleet	Worm	30/06/2014	Aug 2014
				<b>River Teme</b>		
Brenda Williams	4	7	Lindridge	Trotted maggot	21/08/2014	Sept 2014

## Perch

				<b>Pools</b>		
Graham Beck	2	10	Coppice		November	Dec 2014

## Pike

				<b>River Avon</b>		
Jamie Gormley	15	0		ledgedered sardine	24/08/2014	Sept 2014
Spud	12	0		Float fished deadbait		Nov 2014
Harry Treadwell	9	0	Pershire	Float fished single maggot		Oct 2014

## Roach

				<b>River Severn</b>		
Neil Perkins	2	4	Hampton Loade			Sept 2014
Neil Perkins	2	1	Hampton Loade			Sept 2014
Neil Perkins	2	0	Hampton Loade			Sept 2014

## Tench

				<b>River Avon</b>		
John Care	5	0	Wasperton	Double elips pellet	03/08/2014	Sept 2014
Gordon Beardsmore	4	11	Pensham		31/08/2014	Oct 2014
Darren Imms	3	8	Bidford RB			Sept 2014
				<b>Pools</b>		
Graham Beck	3	0	Coppice		October	Dec 2014



# Executive update



## Ken Aske retires

Ken has resigned from the position of Vice President and retired from all further involvement with the Association.

The Aske family has a long tradition of involvement with the BAA.

Ken's father (George I think?) served on the BAA Executive Committee up until 1970.

It was in that same year when Ken joined the Executive, as one of two non-elected appointees, representing those "Associate" members who were not allowed to attend the quarterly delegates meetings. As ever, Ken wanted to represent the "rank & file" of ordinary members who otherwise would have had no say in how the Association was run.

In 1975 Ken became a fully elected member of the Executive committee. He remained on the committee until 1980 when he left for a short period, returning back in 1989.

In 1995, following the retirement of Jack Stubbs, Ken stood for election as Vice President and took his place on the top table in 1996.

In 2001 Ken took on the role of BAA Treasurer following the resignation of Tommy Turner.

In all, Ken has served the members of BAA, in one form or another for over 30 years.

## Removal of zander

It was proposed by K Pearson and seconded by S Wyton that: The exclusion of zander from bye-law C.3 (Removal of Fish Stocks) be removed. This proposal was approved by the Executive Committee. The bye-law has now been amended to remove zander from the exclusion. Zander along with all other coarse fish are not to be removed from BAA waters.

## Coppice portaloo

Following complaints that human excreta is being deposited around the pool. It has been agreed that a small portaloo will be installed in the car park area. A contract will be arranged with a portaloo cleaning company to regularly empty and clean it.





# Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the December 1958 and 59 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

## AFTER THE RAIN

by K.K.

WHEN I pulled in to a local petrol filling station, the attendant removed the cap from my petrol tank and remarked: "Another wet weekend." Then, observing my fishing gear on the back seat, he added, "but of course you anglers like it when it's pouring with rain."

I have long since ceased to instruct (even to cajole) the uninitiated into believing that pouring rain does not immediately provide conditions unsurpassed for the catching of fish with rod, line and hook. People seem to think that since fish live in water a high degree of humidity in the entire universe forms the acme of the fishes' delight. Consequently, every waking day is filled, or it should have been so this "Summer," with their never diminishing hunger for yet another feast!

So I offered no comment, but let in the clutch and proceeded on my journey of some six miles to the little weedy pond, half an acre in size, which is surrounded by oaks and willows at the end of a woodland belt.

Seven years ago I introduced into that pond eighteen yearling carp of similar stock to those that grow to such a prodigious size in the fertile waters of Redmire Pool. These carp of mine have grown in like manner, and I would probably be underestimating if I put the size of the largest at twenty pounds. But although I can at suitable times observe the fish, I have yet to verify their weight. Like nearly all big fish, they are wise to all blandishments. Children fish the pond for rudd, and pastes of flour and bread go in, but the carp completely ignore all bread offerings. Worms are immediately set upon by rudd or eels.

Potato, you say, that's the answer! Well, I think it may be—eventually, but for three summers now I have baited up a pitch with weekly consignments of boiled potatoes without the carp showing any enthusiasm

for the one which conceals my No. 2 hook.

Arrived at the pond on this rain-threatened Sunday morning, I tackled up (far distant from the bank side) and cast out in the old accustomed spot beside the leaning willow, and with myself screened from the pond by a tall willow-bush.

The place was unusually silent, but a tree-creeper piped thinly as if on a penny police whistle, a warning perhaps to other birds to take shelter from impending rain. Then, a pattering on the canopy of leaves and rings began circling the surface of the pond. With ever increasing power the rain fell until the entire pool surface was confused with the splashing raindrops, causing myriads of ping-pong ball sized bubbles to form and break with bewildering intensity.

I sat on a ground sheet in macintosh overalls gloomily surveying the scene of saturation. In the dearth of other interests my mind returned to the garage hand with his "nice weather for anglers!" Thinking back, I could not remember ever catching a fish of any species whilst rain was falling heavily, and in my time I have sat out some heavy downfalls.

What do the carp do in conditions such as these? I wondered. In shallow ponds such as this one, I believe they enter the thick weedbeds and lie doggo until the rain has passed. When they can repair to deep water I think they do just that. It's as if they are as uncomfortable in rainy conditions as we are.

But after rain—that's a different matter entirely. I thought of H. T. Sheringham's account of the capture of his and R. G. Woodruff's big carp at Cheshunt long ago in 1911: "He hoped that after the rain there might be a chance of a fish that evening." If you have never read that account

your theoretical knowledge of carp angling lacks considerable body. You will find it in Sheringham's own book on "Coarse Fishing," in B.B.'s "The Fisherman's Bedside Book," or if you meet Dick Walker he might recite it for you. He once obliged me with a rendering that was near to being word perfect!

After the rain the fish begin to move about. Like children freed from confinement within doors, they are eager to renew acquaintance with their accustomed haunts. They begin to quest about the margins and interest may even be taken in your proffered lob-worm.

After two hours the rain was still drumming down into the pond. Then came a welcome lightening of the sky and the rain was less persistent—finally it stopped altogether, and a watery sun broke through. Immediately life began again to move about the pond. A water-hen called "Itchett" came forth from where it had been sheltering under a bank side tangle and, flirting its tail, began to make course across the pond. A wood pigeon told me in uncomplimentary tones that I was wasting my time.

Then it happened. A bow wave issued forth from a weed-bed fifteen yards out and made steady progress straight towards the locality of my bait. For a few moments there was a tilting of the water as I gazed fixedly through the stems of the willow bush. Then the silver paper tell-tale, lightly folded on the line, moved forward two inches, and then stopped. With heart racing I waited on events. After five minutes my heart had regained its normal beat—and the rain had started once more. Half-an-hour passed and the rain showed no sign of slackening; presumably the carp had returned to its weed-bed. I packed my gear and departed.

Perhaps next year the fine intervals will be long enough to offer better chances. Indeed I hope so!



*Your Waterside Companions . . .*

by 'TAG' BARNES



# THE REED WARBLER

## —The Bird That Sings To Order

**A**MONG the many summer migrants that arrive in this country about the end of April is a little brown bird, about the size of a sparrow, but not nearly as cheeky.

It is the reed warbler, a secretive bird, not very common in most

parts of the country except in Norfolk where the reedy areas of the Broads provide it with an ideal home.

Around mid-May it starts nest building — a fascinating business well worth mentioning.

The nesting materials consist of dried leaves, grasses and sedge and the nest itself is lined with fine roots, hair or feathers. It is deep and cup-shaped in appearance, for reasons I will explain later.

Before starting to prepare its nest the bird selects three or four growing reeds in which to build. The various materials used are then interwoven between the reeds so that the finished nest is suspended above the water.

It is interesting to note that as the reeds grow the nest is naturally moved higher and higher above the surface of the water. This is probably Nature's way of protecting the nest against summer floods.

The depth of the nest, referred to earlier, is also a similar sort of protection to ensure that eggs or young fledgelings remain safe when strong winds may lay the reeds almost flat on the water.

The song of the reed warbler is pleasant to the ear. Indeed, on

warm summer nights they have often been mistaken for a night-ingle.

They can be made to sing, too. When I was a lad I learned the trick of getting them to break into song by pitching a pebble into the reeds close to the bird. Unlike most other birds, which would quickly move away, the reed warbler invariably responded by singing its heart out — especially at the end of the day.

Another curious thing is that a cuckoo will often choose a reed warbler's nest in which to lay its egg. How such a large bird manages to negotiate the frail nest hanging on its slender, waving stems, is hard to imagine. It is possible that the intruder first lays its egg on firm ground and picks it up in its beak before placing it in the nest. Whatever the method it is certainly effective for young cuckoos are often found in the nests of the reed warbler.

Like most other true warblers the reed warbler is insectivorous. When the four or five young are fledged they thrive on spiders, gnats, water beetles and other creatures that abound among the tall aquatic plants the reed warbler calls home.

### NORFOLK BROADS



Novices Welcomed

FREE GIANT 80 page  
Colour Gay BROCHURE

500 Motor Cruisers, Yachts, Sea & Riverside  
Bungalows. Send 6d post for the ONLY  
comprehensive guide to Broads Holiday Hire

**HOSEASONS**

OULTON BROAD

#### EASY TERMS

- ★ THE FINEST TACKLE
- ★ EXTENSIVE STOCKS
- ★ THE EASIEST TERMS
- ★ FREE LIST —

**Joseph Sanley Ltd.**

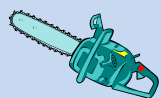
CHURCH HILL - NORTHFIELD  
BIRMINGHAM, 31 - Phone PRI 4630  
(opposite Northfield Station)

**Angling Free**  
AMIDST BEAUTIFUL SCENERY  
**at Fermoy**  
CO. CORK, IRELAND  
**on River Blackwater**

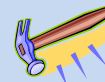
Roach — Dace — Perch — Pike  
Monster Eels

Apply to: J. O'SULLIVAN,  
PATRICK ST., FERMOY.





# Fisheries report



<b>River Severn</b>	<b>Work done in November</b>
Bushley	Cut back trees to make pegs in downstream meadow.
<b>River Avon</b>	
Chadbury Meadows	Burn up dumped food. Second cut.
Crothorne	Second cut.
Fladbury	Third cut.
<b>Pools</b>	
Coppice	Collect and remove litter. Repair inlet pipe from stream into pool.
Nordley	Pools 1-5; burn up timber cut down earlier in year. Pool 6; cut back bushes and trees overhanging pool.

## The Fisheries Team



At Bushley, we were fortunate to get a passing dog walker to take the picture.



## Bushley



Long muddy track



Upstream meadow, steep banks!



Downstream meadow new swims.

## Chadbury Meadows



Large amount of dumped food.



Burn up.



## Coppice Lake



Litter collected at Coppice!



Water top up from stream now working.

## Nordley Pools



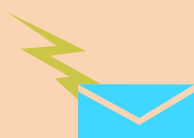
Burn up



Pool 1 late autumn



Pool 6 before and after cut back of vegetation along right bank (when viewed from bottom end of pool), remaining cut-back of right bank to be completed in December. This has been done to reduce risk of falling trees creating hole in bank and to get more daylight on-to the water to reduce the summer algae and improve the fishing.



# Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto:baajnw@btinternet.com) titled for attn of BAA News Editor.

When sending in a comment can you please let us know if you don't want your name included?

The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

-----  
I just wanted to comment on a couple of things really.

The first is the increase in membership fees this year.

While no one wants to pay more than they have to for anything I still regard (and often comment) that the BAA as the best value ticket in the country.

I also wanted to say that, as a member, I appreciate the effort that the volunteers of both the working parties and the committee put in to the club. It is far too easy to criticise, but often people do not realise how much work you all do.

Thank you!

Pete Lewis.

*Ed; thanks for your appreciation, I will make sure the Fisheries Working Parties and the management and Executive Committees are aware.*

-----  
Hi John

I am a BAA member who fishes Walcot and would like to offer some professional help (free of charge) if the proposed survey becomes a reality. I have 32 years experience as an environmental research biologist, initially in freshwater (6 years) and later in marine research (26 years). Although retired from research the scientist in me lives on and I have indulged my love of nature for the past 12 years as a professional wildlife photographer, and of course, as an angler since the age of 10. If I can be of assistance in any way please feel free to contact me – I will be glad to help.

Regards

Dr Howard Bottrell

EcoVisuals Picture Library

United Kingdom

*Ed; thanks for your kind offer, I believe Steve Wyton has already been in contact.*

Following the retirement of Ken Aske as Treasurer of the BAA it gives me an opportunity to pay my respects to him for the assistance he gave me on many occasions through the 1970s to 1990 when I used to organise junior fishing activities for schoolchildren in Sandwell.

He had a very hectic life raising finances and setting up the Starlets and to see the old coach with kids enjoying themselves off on a day's fishing was a sight to behold.

Only those that saw him driving this banger could appreciate the dedicated hard work that he put into these young adolescent youngsters.

To me though it was a different matter, when I started the Sandwell Junior Passport to Angling scheme in 1980 it was Ken, that I called upon to help put the loose ends together. He never hesitated to jump in his car and travel quite a distance to meet the kids, attend the occasional meeting and arrive on the bank to shake their hands.

There is a whole lot more that I could pen on this Facebook BAA page that would no doubt embarrass Ken a little bit because he never seeks any praises for what he has done in the past for very lucky kids.

Ken is very much alive, he has only retired from his love for the BAA and I am hoping that this short piece will inspire many anglers (including officials of the BAA) to pay their tribute to the work and attributions of Kens voluntary work through this widely read page, if only to say thank you Ken and those that can contact his past students, tell them he has retired because he is a modest man whom we all should applaud.

Happy retirement Ken

Ken Duffell (posted on BAA Facebook page)

-----

When fishing at Chadbury on 9/11/14 we found these two substantial piles of food stuff and assorted packaging that have been dumped on the lower BAA car park.

Lawrence Bretnall

*Ed; Thanks for letting us know. We were ahead of the game this time, our Fisheries Team members who cover the Avon had already found it and as you can see from the Fisheries Report section it has been dealt with.*



## EA TO CARRY OUT STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THEIR WATER MONITORING

Fish Legal has welcomed the Environment Agency's commitment to carry out a strategic review of its £44 million national water monitoring programme, to ensure it is fit for the future and to address serious shortcomings with the current approach, as had been highlighted by Fish Legal in a lengthy series of correspondence over the past two years. The review will begin early next year and the Angling Trust will also now be involved in that process to help ensure it delivers for anglers.



Fish Legal highlighted (among other issues) that:

- The European Commission criticised the Environment Agency in its 2009 assessment for failing to identify the reasons why more than 75% of water bodies in England and Wales were failing to meet European standards for ecological status, which has led to a lack of remedial action being taken;
- The current system used by the Environment Agency to monitor water quality using spot (or "snapshot") samples taken during the daytime does not capture water quality issues accurately on its own;
- Longer term trends as water quality changes are not reliably identified by the spot sample system;
- Biological monitoring of invertebrates by the Environment Agency is not detailed or rigorous enough and often fails to trigger more detailed local investigations.

The Environment Agency's confirmation that it will review its programme of work has been welcomed by Fish Legal's Head Solicitor William Rundle, who has been running this campaign:

*"We are pleased by the Agency's commitment to a strategic review of its monitoring programme, and we will be pressing for fundamental improvements as part of this process. It is vital not only for the interests of Fish Legal member clubs and fisheries, but also for the health of all aquatic wildlife, that the Agency's monitoring regime is more reliable and cost effective. We believe improvements can be made that would enable better regulatory action and environmental protection."*

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust & Fish Legal said:

*"Given the current pressures on public funding, it is more important than ever that a £44 million programme of monitoring should deliver the high quality information needed to take action confidently to halt the decline of many freshwater fisheries and to restore them to good health. The current methods gather a great deal of data, but their practical application is often questionable. We welcome the Environment Agency's strategic response to Fish Legal's constructive challenge."*

# Match Reports

If you want to report the results of a contest you have organised on BAA waters, please email details.

**Blue Ball AC**                      **Sunday 10th August**                      **Cleeve Prior 5,6,7,8, River Avon**

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>drms</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	B Wellings	1	11	12
2 <sup>nd</sup>	G Price-Hunt	1	6	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	K Young	1	1	0

**Blue Ball AC**                      **Sunday 21st September**                      **Marlcliffe, River Avon**

1 <sup>st</sup>	P Mason	9	12	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	P Wedgbrow	4	1	6
3 <sup>rd</sup>	J Matthews	1	15	0

Reports from - Brian Marsh

**BAA Executive Contest**                      **Sunday 26th October**                      **Mythe Pool**

1 <sup>st</sup>	D Gumbley	6	12	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D Webb		12	0
3 <sup>rd</sup>	G Price-Hunt		8	0

Report from - Dave Webb

**Halesowen RBL**                      **Sunday 2nd November**                      **Pershore, River Avon**

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>drms</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kevin Clarke	40	9	0	Peg 19, five barbel to 8lb and five chub on maggot feeder.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mark Traves	15	3	0	Peg 1, chub, dace and roach on stick float and maggot.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lawrie Mulheron	14	15	0	Peg 12, chub to waggler and maggot and a 4lb tench on the pole with worm.

Report from - Lawrie Mulheron

22 anglers fished.

<b>Cradley Heath Labour Club</b>		<b>Sunday 9th November</b>			<b>Gothersley, Staffs &amp; Worcs Canal</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Adrian Chowns	15	11	0	Peg 12, below Rocky Lock, chub to 4lb and perch to pole fished worm and caster. Adrian also had £100 from the bonus peg.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Billingham	8	8	8	Peg 8, above Rocky Lock, roach on pole fished bread punch and caster.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stewart Mulheron	8	5	0	Peg 13, below Rocky Lock, chub and roach on pole fished worm and caster.
Reports from - Lawrie Mulheron				17 anglers fished.	