



B.A.A. NEWS



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May 2014

Where have Stubbs fish gone?

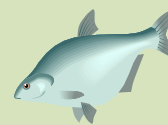
See Readers' letters page 11

"Fishing Without Permission" new code for reporting to Police

See Angling Trust update pages 15 & 16



Fishing news



Nordley carp & bream



Fished Nordley no 2 today 29th March, caught 3 common carp & 2 mirror carp. The fish looked in top condition and provided me with a fantastic days fishing.



Visited Nordley pool no 3 on 6th April and caught 3 bream up to 3lb and 3 common carp including this fine 12lb specimen. Another good days fishing on still water whilst waiting for the rivers to open.

Thanks BAA, Craig Cope

Kev's two visits to Coppice



Hi all Kev of Birmingham,

Got to Coppice at 6:30am on the 4th April for a 32 hour stint.

I had 2 carp off the top, after the 2nd the wind moved in and made the lake too rough, so went back on the in-line lead. By this time it was late afternoon, about 8-9pm and I'm in to another carp. All the others came in the night.

Off the top;
1st 8lb 7oz
2nd 13lb 5oz

the rest;
3rd 7lb 1oz mirror
4th. 7lb 10oz mirror
5th. 9lb 7oz common
6th. 7lb 6oz mirror
7th. 11lb 1oz common.



Kev and son (Liam) with a report from Coppice on 11th April. In the 13 hours we spent all the fish we had came off the top, not one bite on the leads.

4lb 1oz bream
10lb 10oz common
7lb 11oz common

7lb 5oz mirror
12lb common
12lb 5oz common.



Executive update



Bailiffing

Bailiffing statistics to date showed 303 visits being made, with 338 anglers checked and 22 removed. Bailiffs had been reminded about the permitted methods of fishing which are allowed during the coarse fish close season.

New member

It was agreed to co-opt member Mr James Macbryde onto the Committee, pending his formal nomination at the next A.G.M.

Ricoh Fishing Show

Despite a relatively poor turn-out of visitors to the show, the BAA stand had proved to be very attractive. Steve Wyton thanked all those who had contributed towards making the show a success. Other events were under consideration.

Match Reports

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

Companions AC
'King of the Cut'

Sunday 30th March

Botterham Locks, Bridges 40-42,
Staffordshire & Worcester Canal

		lbs	ozs	drms
1 st	D Gumbley	9	4	5
2 nd	D Mills	5	6	0
3 rd	J Smith	5	5	0
4 th	T Edkins	5	3	8

Report from - Dave Gumbley



Nature views



Spring on the Severn at Hallow

On Friday 11th April I walked our Hallow Fishery from the Camp Hotel downstream to the Worcester City boundary marker stone, surveying the platforms and steps to document what repair work was required prior to the start of the season on the 16th June. Other than clearing silt off the platforms and steps and reconnecting a few stranded platforms with the bank very little damage had been done by the winter floods.

It was a warm sunny day and I took the opportunity to photograph the new spring growth;



Lesser celandine



Dandelion



Sweet rocket



Sweet violet



Bluebell



Not sure, any ideas?



Silver maple



Willows planted to protect bank



Large tree down across Severn Way



Ivy needs trimming around car park sign



Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the May 1960 and 1961 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

The Lighter Side Of Carping

by ERIC J. TAYLOR

IMAGINE a bright summer morning at about 6.30 a.m. A Respectable Member of the Community is taking an early morning stroll and happens to pass close to a pond.

Hello, what's this? Somebody fishing? Bet he'll be glad of a bit of company. And clump! clump! clump! the Respectable Member approaches.

"Morning", A pair of blood-shot eyes set in an unshaven face turn towards him. "Any Luck?"

"No; had a couple of runs early on though".

The R.M. of the C. is a cricket fan and remains silent for ten minutes while he digests this piece of information. The angler meanwhile waits for the next one, which duly comes.

"You've got a bite!"

"No, I don't think so".

"Well your float's gone under".

"Has it? S'funny, I haven't got one on".

The R.M. takes a couple of steps backwards and gets ready to run for it. Then he slowly regains confidence and draws closer again. After all, he has seen fish caught here before. Good one's too—perch all of three ounces. He even knows the baits—the worms and maggots they were caught on.

A brief silence and then the angler reels in and places a lump of paste, golf ball size, on to a No. 2 hook.

"What's that you're using?"

"Paste"

A much longer silence, then;

"What time did you start fishing?"

"About 9.30".

"But it's only 8 o'clock now".

"Yes I know".

The sun climbs higher, the Resp. Memb. takes off his jacket and sits on it. His shirt may have been washed in Brand X, but to the angler it looks like virgin snow. A few desultory remarks pass between them on our chances in the Test (cricket not river) and the strength of beer in respective locals.

By 10.30 the fish have fled, the angler is yawning, and, having spent

all of four hours watching, the R.M. says "Well, I must be off. Don't know how you chaps have the patience for fishing!".

Yes, it's happened to all of us. But it is not always 'outsiders' who provide the most laughs; often it is anglers themselves. I remember a friend and I going carp fishing one night last year only to find as we staggered up the last rise on the approach to the lake that our pre-baited swims were occupied by two other anglers. They had caught a few small perch and rudd and did not look like leaving, so we had no option but to look for a couple of swims on the far bank.

It was getting dark when the other anglers packed up, and after a council of war we decided to make our way back and settle down in their swim for the night.

A few crusts scattered along the margin seemed to have effect, for it was not long before we heard a carp roll over. My friend promptly decided to change over from paste to crust but on winding in found his hook missing. Then, after tying on another, his line became entangled behind the pool and he spent a choice hour trying to unravel it in the darkness.

Eventually he succeeded in freeing it but on casting out found that his bait was no longer attached to the

line. Eventually he gave up in disgust and sat alongside me in the hope of being able to assist me in landing one of the huge fish that kept rolling over.

It would have been a miracle if I had, for as the dawn stole slowly across the sky my bait became clearly visible—neatly hitched over a bush about a foot clear of the water!

Some time after that incident I obtained permission to fly fish on a lovely trout stream but had hardly started when somebody on the opposite bank began shooting at the rooks with a .22 rifle. He was a poor shot, though. Although the trees were alive with young rooks, shot after shot failed to find its target. Eventually, after about 50 attempts, the marksman gave up.

It was whilst I was chatting to the owner of the water in the local and trying to fix up another visit that I mentioned the rook shooter to him. He remarked on the number of rooks on the estate that year and that they were a menace. "And ever likely to be", I said "if all the chumps who shoot them are as bog-eyed as the man I saw this morning".

"Ah, yes", he said, "that was me".

Somehow, I never did have the cheek to ring up for that second day's fishing.

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by 'TAG' BARNES

The GRASS SNAKE

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Amphibian

SOME years ago, when fishing for bream early one summer morning, I was startled by an agitated voice calling for my help. It was my father. And when I rushed along the bank to him I found him gripping his landing net in a defensive attitude as he watched what looked for all the world like some miniature prehistoric monster swimming towards him with its head and neck above the surface of the water.

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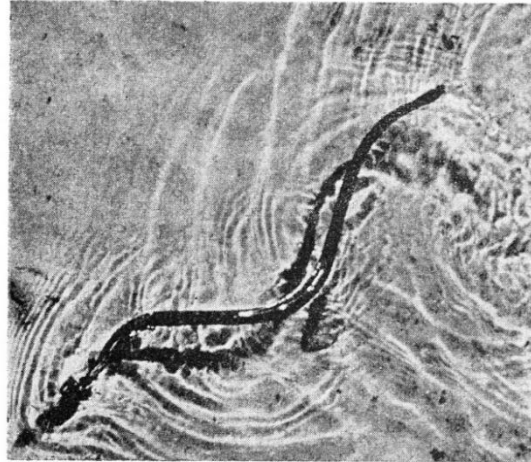
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No! it's not an eel, it's a grass snake swimming the stream

What was the cause of all the commotion? Nothing more than a harmless grass snake that had taken to the water.

Strange as it may seem, an angler is more likely to see a grass snake in water than he is on the bank. For these creatures are never very far from a pond, river or lake. They are quite good swimmers and have a style all their own — with about six inches of their head and neck clear of the surface.

Grass snakes share with other types of snakes another peculiarity: they can swallow objects larger than their own heads. They are able to do this because their lower jaw is attached to the skull by a sort of elastic muscle which acts as a hinge. This enables them to open their mouths to an extent that hardly seems possible.

They are thus able to cope comfortably with frogs, which form their staple diet, as well as newts, various kinds of insects, and fish, which are caught whilst swimming and brought ashore to be eaten.

Although they grow to four feet in length, the females being noticeably larger than the males, grass snakes are virtually harmless and have rarely been known to bite.

In fact they make excellent pets,

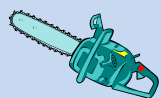
and I have had instructions from my young son to get him one this year when they come out of their hibernation.

They usually spend the winter lying under a pile of brushwood or an old straw stack, often in batches of three or four or even more. Once, in Derbyshire, I found a group hibernating in an old dry stone wall.

Grass snakes lay their eggs in summer in a manure or compost heap or any rotting material that will generate heat. The eggs, about an inch in length, have soft skins and are attached end to end in a string.

Two months or so later, depending upon the temperature and moisture of the nesting place, they hatch out into tiny snakes about six inches long.

Their diet during their first few weeks consists of small insects and worms. Then, as they take on their characteristic greenish-grey colouring with a yellow neck band at the back of the head and black markings fairly evenly spaced along each side of the body, their appetites increase, and that useful hinge in their heads enables them to tackle fully-grown frogs and fish of a surprisingly large size.



Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out work at the following fisheries since the last edition;

River Avon

Bredon



Repair of platforms, this was more difficult than expected as the river was high after recent rain (that will teach us to check the EA river levels website!). We also cleared a tree that had fallen across the footbridge between the car park and the field and fixed a wooden ramp on the field side of the footbridge to make getting a trolley across easier.

Fladbury



Rebuild of steps and repair of platforms in meadows 1&2 downstream of Jubilee Bridge. The work in meadow 2 is completed with work still remaining to complete in meadow 1.

River Severn

Ripple and Mythe Pool

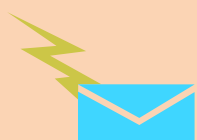
Repair and rebuild of platforms and steps damaged by the winter floods at Ripple. We also repaired damaged platforms on Mythe Pool.

Pools

Apperley



Cut back of trees and vegetation around pegs on pool 2. The majority of the pegs cleared were on the side of the pool furthest from the Severn, with a couple cleared on the side closest to the river.



Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to 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.

Hi,

Spud and I went to Stubbs today to repair some pegs but they were still under water, high water table.

We happened to have our fishing kit with us so we fished all day with ground bait and maggot, 4 rods out all day not a sucked maggot. There is a major issue with Stubbs we did not see a fish top all day. Using my polarised glasses over my phone lens to pick out this pike in the margins was about 8lb a female we think. I've also included a picture of a carp I caught at Stubbs on a previous visit.



Colin Townsend

Ed; we are looking for a source of silver fish for Stubbs, we don't want to put carp etc in there because of the cormorant predation issue.

Fish Legal

Media Release



Latest hydropower decision: angling rights to be sacrificed 'for the greater good'

A recent licensing decision by the government body tasked with promoting sustainable development and at the same time protecting the country's existing natural assets has thrown into sharp relief where its priorities may actually lie.

The first hydropower scheme on Lancashire's River Lune, one of the best salmon rivers in England, has been given the go-ahead by the Environment Agency (EA) at Forge Weir, even though it will significantly harm the local recreational fishery by diverting the majority of the river's flows through the turbines during the fishing season. Salmon and sea trout will either no longer lie in the 'depleted' pool or will be almost impossible to fish for if they do; downstream, they will be subjected to the large artificial 'return flows' from the hydro.

The Luneside and Forgewood beats at Halton, just upstream of Lancaster, together produce an annual rod-catch of some 150 salmon and 100 sea trout, over half of which are caught in the weirpool below Forge Weir, making it one of the best fishing pools on the river and indeed in the country. The angling rights in the weirpool alone have a probable capital value of over £500,000.

Fish Legal has been campaigning for months on behalf of its members to stop the development from being approved in its present form. In response, the EA simply stated that "angling in the Forgewood and Luneside sections of the weirpool would not be prevented altogether", that "it is unclear whether the fisheries would reduce in value and if so, by how much", and that in its view "the impacts would be outweighed by the benefits to the local community".

The scheme was approved just days before the EA published its revised 'Good Practice Guidelines', which would have prohibited the development from going ahead.

Anglers were largely excluded from the planning discussions except during the one month period when the Agency 'advertised' the application in late 2012, when a large number of objections were lodged. Anglers also provided details of the precise impact that the development would have on the fishing when the EA asked them for this information in March 2013.

There was no further communication from the Agency until just before Christmas 2013, after anglers discovered that construction activities had already begun. The Agency then produced a 100-page 'determination report' which it claimed demonstrated how the fishing concerns had been comprehensively answered. One reason given for granting the hydropower licence was that the developer would otherwise lose grant funding of £350,000 from the EU and other sources. The report claims that the impact on the fishery will be 'minimised' by a condition requiring that anglers are now provided with an access allowing them to walk over the hydro and into the 'depleted reach', where they will have to wade out a further 5 metres in order to avoid fishing near the new fish pass (as required by local byelaws). They were not consulted about this condition, which they view as both farcical and potentially dangerous.

Now that the scheme is to go ahead, Fish Legal will be checking that the licence conditions are properly followed, including by not permitting heavy construction activities to take place during the salmon migration season (although it believes that this has already been allowed by the EA), and by making sure that the fish passage and counting requirements are rigorously adhered to by the developer, to minimise the impacts on the salmon and sea trout stocks of the river as a whole

Local anglers are furious about the decision and the process by which it has been reached.

Alan Jackson, whose family owns Luneside Fisheries, said:

"As riparian owner of one of the two beats affected, I am staggered that the EA have not thought to contact me with respect to how the hydro will affect the weir pool. I supplied my contact details to them as requested but no one, other than the Lune & Wyre Fishing Association, has had the courtesy to contact me about it. One would have thought that as the water flow through the weir pool - our most productive pool - will be completely changed for more than half the season, and that I and my syndicate may not be able to fish it in October when the majority of fish have historically been recorded as passing through, someone from the EA would have been in touch. It is absolutely outrageous."

Andrew Kelton, Fish Legal solicitor, said:

"The Environment Agency has handled this proposal with an alarming disregard for ordinary democratic principles. Its position was at first that it did not need to take fishing (ie. property) rights into account when making this decision, and then that the relevant legislation justified the harm to those rights 'in the community interest'. In our view both positions are contrary to the basic legal principle that the State should respect and not violate individuals' rights unless any such harm is clearly justified by statute and fully compensated for - neither of which has been the case here."

He added:

"The fact that one of the two fishery owners (who is not a Fish Legal member) belatedly reached a financial settlement with the developer does not alter that fundamental issue of principle. We hope that the shoddy way in which anglers have been treated in this case will not be repeated, and that the new Good Practice Guidelines will ensure proper protection for fishing interests whenever future hydropower projects are being considered. Regrettably, in the meantime the Forge Weir hydro will have to serve as an object lesson in bad process."

Mark Lloyd, Fish Legal's Chief Executive, said:

"Fish Legal's team have worked tirelessly on this case for the past 18 months in order to resolve this situation in the best interest of Luneside Fisheries and other River Lune members of Fish Legal, but because of evidently determined official resistance, and the fact that one of the two fisheries directly affected is not a member, they faced a very difficult challenge. This kind of situation where anglers' rights are ridden over roughshod by the authorities and a private developer is a clear example of why more individual and club members need to join the Angling Trust and Fish Legal to support our work fighting for fish and fisheries. Call 01568 620 447 to sign up now."

Angling Trust central to the Game Fair's new look House of Fishing

The Angling Trust will be playing a prominent role in helping to organise this year's House of Fishing at the Game Fair at Blenheim Palace under the new regime headed up by the CLA's Head of Fishing, Chris Ogborne.

[The Game Fair](#), (18 -20 July) is to host the UK's largest fishing event and fundamental changes in the fishing village involve a revised layout and a totally fresh approach to demonstrations, allowing visitors to get up close and personal with the experts.

Some of the UK's top demonstrators and anglers will be showing off their casting skills, tricks and techniques and sharing the secrets of their success.

Based at the House Of Fishing the [Angling Trust](#) will be organising its largest ever stand with fish tanks, displays, videos and a host of material covering the Trust's campaigning work on behalf of Game, Sea and Coarse anglers. There will be an opportunity to talk to Chief Executive Mark Lloyd and the Trust's Campaigns Chief Martin Salter. We will also be running a fundraising raffle on behalf of our partner charity Get Hooked on Fishing along with other attractions including a fish fighting machine.

The House of Fishing will include an advice centre, a specialist fly tying station where youngsters, newcomers, and novice fly anglers can come to tie their first fly. Angling Trust Ambassador John Bailey will once again be playing host in the special seminar area to a fascinating and informative array of speakers.

Martin Salter said: *"I have no doubt that this year's House of Fishing will be the biggest and best yet. We are working closely with Chris Ogborne to make sure that it is packed with demonstrations and talks covering all angling disciplines from some of the best anglers in the country. Whether you are a novice angler or an established expert, if you are after a bargain or just want to talk fishing, there will be something of interest for every angler at the Game Fair."*

As part of a concerted effort to help youngsters into country pursuits, entry into this year's CLA Game Fair will be FREE to those aged 16 and under. Tickets are now on sale and can be booked online at:

<https://yourticketbooking.com/gamefair/p/2523/book>

CLA Game Fair Head of Fishing, Chris Ogborne, added:

"We are absolutely committed to helping and encouraging the next generation of anglers. In addition to this major concession on entry, we shall also be featuring many new initiatives at this year's event. Young anglers of all abilities will enjoy the special fly tying areas, the bait casting, and the comprehensive demo programmes. Instead of just watching, they will be encouraged to 'have a go' and to try their hand. With the concerted help of the Angling Trust, the Fly Dressers Guild, GAIA and many others, our hope is that we will be bringing many new faces into the fantastic sport of fishing."

Code for Theft of Fishing Rights 116/11 Quote this Code to the Police If You See "Fishing Without Permission"



IMPORTANT: Code for Theft of Fishing Rights: 116/11

Quote this code when reporting incidents of Fishing Without Permission to the Police

Read why below...

Fishing without permission is a Schedule 1 Theft Act 1968, and therefore criminal, offence. It is not the Environment Agency's (EA) responsibility to deal with this but that of the police. Understandably, this is not an area of law in which police officers are generally trained, so the Angling Trust are in the early stages of liaising with all 43 forces to educate officers regarding their responsibility. To date, we have concentrated, due to VBS and Operation CLAMPDOWN 2 (OCD2), on forces in SE England, all of which are engaged on joint VBS/EA/police patrols in that region and in support of OCD2. Indeed, a Hampshire Police officer recently checked, purely coincidentally, one of our Area Coordinator's licenses; this was very encouraging, but unfortunately the police's overall understanding remains inconsistent. In an effort to resolve this, last year the Angling Trust uploaded the 'Elementary Guide to Angling Law & Fisheries Enforcement' to the Police Online Knowledge Area (POLKA) - making this simple guide available to every police officer in England. This, however, relies upon an officer searching that database for information, so the upload is not a cure-all. We now, however, have one - and hence why we need your help.

Every offence which the police are duty bound to deal with has a unique Home Office Code. We now have the Code for Theft of Fishing Rights: 116/11. If, therefore, anglers quote this when reporting incidents, the police will understand that they must deal with the matter, rather than misinterpret the situation as a civil matter and/or attempt to pass the job over to the EA. Provision of the Code will mean that from the initial stage the call taker will understand that this is a police matter, and police officers responding can check the relevant instructions.

Finally, and in addition to the good news above, we have had a recent result with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). One of our fishery owner members was the victim in such a case of fishing without permission, which the police duly processed, but at court the CPS lawyer completely misunderstood the Theft of Fishing Rights offence and discontinued those proceedings. Acting upon our advice, said member complained to the CPS. Gerry Wareham, the Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, recently acknowledged the error, apologised, and instructed all CPS lawyers to proceed with such cases - and if in doubt liaise with Andrew Vaughan, the Lead Prosecutor. This really is a major step forward.

Dilip Sarkar MBE

Fisheries Enforcement Manager
Angling Trust

Fishing news record

for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
Barbel						
River Avon						
Kevin Day	14	0	Middle			Feb 2014
George hands	8	8	Marlcliff			Jan 2014
River Anker						
Martin Woodroffe	13	2		Superglued halibut pellets		Jan 2014
River Severn						
Matt Maybury	10	4	Blackstone	Maggot	07/03/2014	Apr 2014
Chris Manns	9	3	Knowle Sands	Double super-glued 12mm ellipse pellets		Apr 2014
Bream						
Pools						
Kevin Smith & Son	4	1	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014

Common Carp

				Pools		
John Wylde	19	4	Coppice	Coconut banana pop-up boillie	01/03/2014	Apr 2014
Harry Treadwell	19	0	Coppice	Hair rigged strawberry boillie	27/12/2013	Feb 2014
Steve Middleton	19	0	Coppice	Corn		
Kevin Smith	15	2	Coppice		31/01/2014	Mar 2014
Kevin Smith	12	5	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014
Kevin Smith	12	0	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014
Craig Cope	12	0	Nordley 3		06/04/2014	May 2014
Kevin Smith	11	11	Coppice		31/01/2014	Mar 2014
Kevin Smith	11	6	Coppice		31/01/2014	Mar 2014
Kevin Smith	11	1	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014
Kevin Smith	11	0	Coppice		10/01/2014	Feb 2014
Kevin Smith	10	12	Coppice		10/01/2014	Feb 2014

Mirror Carp

				Pools		
Matt Welch	17	0	Coppice		17/11/2013	Dec 2013
Matt Welch	14	7	Coppice		17/11/2013	Dec 2013

Chub

				River Severn		
Chris Manns	5	1	Knowle Sands	Bread flake		Apr 2014
Chris Manns	4	14	Knowle Sands	Bread flake		Apr 2014

Pike

				River Avon		
Jim Clarke	10	5		Paternostered sprat		Jan 2014