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# B.A.A. NEWS



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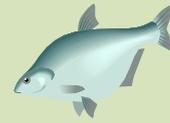
May 2015

## **Successful bid for River Wye fishery**

See Executive Update on page 4

## **Halfway through the close season! Not long to wait to get back on the rivers**

# Fishing news



## Coppice carp



Myself and a couple of colleagues and fellow members had a few hours at Coppice last week 9/4/15.

Had few carp between us with the biggest going to me at 16lb 13oz's.

Matt Maybury

## Coppice PB



Hi,

Only started fishing Coppice at the end of last season. Took the son Kevin on the 21/4/2015, he broke his pb twice with a 18lb 6oz very distinctive fish with a split tail and a 16lb dead he had another at 9lb and I had 3 fish but I think his smile says enough.

Jason Ellis

## How to catch at Mythe



Ron's 4lb tench



Mat's 3lb tench



The catch

Hi,

Not sure if you are interested in this type of info, but I thought you may be of interest to other members:

Date: 26.04.2015.  
Venue: Mythe Farm.  
Peg: 24 and 25.  
Anglers: Ron Lees and Mat Phillips – Quarry Bank, West Midlands.  
Tactics: Long pole to 13m.  
Hook Bait: Caster, sweet corn, and soft pellet.  
Feed bait: Fishmeal ground bait, 4mm pellets, caster and corn.

In a little over 6 hours, 60lb of fish were caught, tench to 4lb and bream to 6lb.

Regards

Ron Lees



# Executive update



## Reg Stokes memorial stone

The Reg Stokes memorial stone as reported in the April edition is now in place near to the surfaced car park in Stokes Wood at our Blackstone Fishery on the River Severn.

## Successful Wye fishery bid

The Association has successfully bid to purchase fishing rights on a stretch of the River Wye between Hereford and Ross. More details will be provided when the purchase process has completed and also added to the Where to Fish section of the website.

# Bailiffing

## It can be done!

Copied below is an Angling Trust article regarding a successful prosecution for illegal fishing.

### Illegal Fishing Lands Angler with £525 Bill and Criminal Record

A Knutsford man found guilty of fishing illegally at a mere has been fined £400.

On 9 November 2014 Joshua Egerton, 19, from 12 Churchfields, Knutsford was caught and later charged for illegally fishing at Booths Mere, a private fishery managed by Angling Trust members, Altrincham and District Angling Club.

Egerton appeared at Macclesfield Magistrates on 15 April 2015 and was found guilty for 'unlawfully attempting to take fish in water in which there was a private right of fishery'. He was also found guilty as he 'fished or took fish otherwise than in accordance with a licence by means of a rod and line'.

Egerton was he was fined £400 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £40 and pay costs of £85.00 to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Cheshire Police Wildlife Crime Officer PC Jim Day said: "Police are taking positive action to support both the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust to tackle illegal fishing in the UK."

Dilip Sarkar Angling Trust National Enforcement Manager said: "This is an excellent result and a great example of what we are all collectively achieving through the Fisheries Enforcement Campaign: raising awareness within the police service and beyond to the wider public, increasing confidence and intelligence - and all involved working together.

Cheshire Police have done a first class job with this - as too have CPS and the magistrates. This sends a very strong message out to would-be poachers: persist and you will get caught, be punished and have a criminal record. Times have changed - and all responsible, law-abiding, anglers welcome this."



# Fisheries report



## Nordley

Repaired a number of platforms on pool 5 and also did some tree work on this pool.

Dealt with the erosion in the bottom right of pool 4 and closed the gap between the platform and the bank in this corner.

Blocked the ditch which was allowing water from the horse manure heap in the field above pool 4 car park to run down towards the pool.

## Ladyham

Repaired pegs and steps and cut back trees.

## Bidford R/B



Built a bridge across the ditch by the stile between the two meadows.

## Ribbesford

Repaired pegs and steps in the section alongside the road.

## Ripple



Repaired pegs and steps.

In the pictures above, we thought the peg was lost as it was a near sheer drop down the bank due to erosion. That was until one of the Fisheries Team, John Flood build this really bespoke peg which should withstand the ravages of the Severn for a few seasons.



# Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the May 1959 and 1961 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

## Save Those Canals — For Anglers !

says JIM WHEAT



A LOT of people are assuming that fishermen, boat owners and hikers have a common interest in maintaining our old canals which are falling into disuse and disrepair. Our little Stratford-on-Avon canal is a case in point.

It is pretty; it runs from a large centre of population to a well-liked town of cultural and recreational interests; and, because the railway also follows its course quite closely, is easily accessible.

But these three interests are, I think, at variance; at least, two are at variance with one. Let's face it, the fisherman is essentially a lonely character. Even when match fishing he likes to preserve his swim from encroachment. He will fish all day twenty paces from his neighbours and still not converse with them. He is apt to be curt and discouraging to both friends and strangers who destroy his concentration or who stand and wave their arms about on the bank.

Neither is he noticeably pleased at the passage of a boat, particularly when the canal is built "narrow." The Stratford-on-Avon canal is so built. A boat, even a canoe, seems to take up all the waterway, especially when its occupants are in holiday mood and dawdle along, not necessarily enjoying the view only.

For various reasons an angler is apt to choose his swim near a lock or a bridge. And it is at these junctures that canoeists and dinghy owners have to make the most fuss. For one thing, the lock gates are nearly all broken and the bridge holes, if not ruined, are choked with brambles, saplings and weeds. Even if the passage is impossible no self-

respecting, intrepid descendant of Drake, Raleigh or Beatty will admit defeat. This, they seem to think, is how Livingstone got up the Zambesi, and will proceed to demonstrate on your swim.

Your morning—one out of seven. Your swim—twenty yards out of twenty miles. Your fish—gone!

These are the people who want the locks rebuilt—and to my perhaps ignorant eye the expensive item on maintaining this canal would be lock repairs. Ten shillings per angler per year, *ad infinitum*, is the sum suggested—a lot of money to spend for something he has got already and is likely to have for many a year.

True, some of the pounds could do with more water. A broken lock gate, with planks stove in, will let the water run to waste. Repair that, says the more water enthusiast, and we shall have deeper pounds, bigger fish and better boating.

Better boating, yes. But I doubt very much if we shall get bigger fish. The non angler is apt to react like a small child. A bigger worm on a bigger hook, a longer cast into the very middle and into the very deepest part will, he thinks, bring such a leviathan to view as never was seen before.

The Army has a word for it. But to this broken lock gate. Suppose we repair it. Will the banks stand the extra water? The Waterways Commission think not, apparently, for the overflow at the side of the gate has been augmented by a new one. **At a lower level.**

The boat fanatic wants an expensive toy—a ribbon of water that will not pay to carry freight but can be made to carry him at ten bob per

angler per year.

"But the weeds. What about the weeds stretching from bank to bank, choking the whole canal?" says Jolly Jack.

There's nothing wrong with weeds. Weeds mean fish food, fish hideouts; protection, especially for new hatched fry. We can fairly easily clear twenty yards ourselves: the boat bloke wants us to clear twenty miles.

And he would want us to clear all those twenty-year-old saplings and bushes that line the banks and give cover for us and shade to fish who like to feed on grubs and caterpillars dropping from wind shaken branches during the months of prolific insect life.

No, the only real benefit we could possibly appreciate would be another foot or so of water, and its cost would be so prohibitive as to make the slight benefit ridiculous.

The fishing from Lapworth, through Lowsonford, Preston Bagot, Bearley and Wootton Wawen could be better, but not much. Each year this stretch supplies one or more big 'uns to win a prize in the B.A.A. Specimen Fish Competition. Perch, tench, roach, bream.

It's not easy to find them but this we do know: With broken locks we know they have not gone up to the Happy Valley or down to Tewkesbury for the week-end. They are right there before us—somewhere.

And they will feed and bite, just as soon as this endless procession of hikers has passed. The leaders, the serious types, have passed; now for the lovers. And then in half-an-hour all will be quiet again.

Unless we get some long distance swimmers!

*Your Waterside Companions . . .*

by 'TAG' BARNES

# THE CROW— Gamekeepers' Enemy No. 1



**N**EXT time you go fishing and pass through a field dotted with scores of black-coloured birds, don't refer to them as crows. For the chances are that like so many others you have confused crows with rooks.

Rooks are gregarious; they love each others company and usually live together in colonies. They nest together, too, often in company with dozens of other pairs in what we all know as rookeries.

Crows, on the other hand, are solitary creatures. They prefer to travel in one's and two's, and at nesting time most pairs adopt a lone wolf attitude by building their home in a quiet, remote spot well away from human habitation.

The nest—usually built in a tree in an undisturbed wood—is similar in size to that of the rook but differs in that it is well-lined with wool. The four or five eggs, greenish in colour and mottled (although I have found unmarked eggs), are laid in April.

Young rooks with their black feathered faces are not easy to distinguish from immature crows, but should I observe more than half-a-dozen black-hued birds together I strongly suspect I am watching a group of growing rooks.

A surer means of identification—when dealing with adult birds—is the white patch a rook has around

the base of its bill. It gives the appearance of a bare face and enables one to differentiate between the two birds without difficulty.

Strictly speaking the crow, or carrion crow as he is sometimes known, is not a waterside bird and is perhaps not entitled to a place in



*This article is the last in 'Tag' Barnes' popular series of 'Waterside Companions'.*

*Next month he will start a new regular feature dealing with a completely different subject—specimen hunting.*

*'Tag' is a member of a group of anglers who specialise in catching big fish. Each month he will describe the preparations they make and the results they achieve during the coming season.*



this series; but these black scavengers can sometimes be seen scrounging along riverbanks looking for practically anything to fill their crops.

They are callous creatures and will eat either 'meat' or 'veg', alive or dead, with equal gusto. I have seen them swoop down and pick up bread floating on the water's surface, and Fred Taylor tells me he has watched them lift spawning rudd

from the shallows and fly off with them.

Neither are they satisfied with just bread and fish. Crows have been known to kill weakly lambs, and on one occasion I watched them tearing to shreds a stinking rabbit carcass.

Sometimes a single pair of crows will raid a thriving rookery to rob it of its eggs, completely ignoring the protests from the residents; at other times a pair will work their way systematically across a meadow stealing eggs from plovers' nests. Rubbish heaps, sewage farms and the like are also visited by crows in their quest for 'savoury' tit-bits.

It is little wonder therefore that keepers of game are constantly on the look-out for the black marauders that show no compunction at all for pheasant or partridge chicks. Yet despite the fact that carrion crows have been trapped and shot by keepers for centuries, they still take their annual toll of the eggs and young of game birds.

This long and unceasing war against them has resulted in crows becoming highly intelligent creatures gifted with extreme cunning. The old expression 'crafty as a crow' is certainly not without meaning. But despite its evil reputation, its wicked ways and its viciousness, the crow still makes an interesting addition to the wild life one encounters at the waterside.



# 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.

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Dear Sir,

Following my letter to yourselves regarding the Nordley No. 6 pool, and your subsequent posting of such along with your reply on the on-line newsletter (for which I thank you), there are a couple of points that I would like to make in reply.

It is true that crucians and tench do not fare well in waters where there is an abnormally high stock of Common Carp. However, I feel that you have missed the point here somewhat. The reason that I have suggested stocking the No. 6 with crucians and tench is that there are very few, if any carp present in this pool at present. This means that it is a virtual 'blank canvas', and any tench or crucians stocked will have the best chance of thriving without any competition from common carp. Indeed, it is well documented that the best fish to stock with crucians are in fact tench and rudd, as the three species happily co-exist without any hybridization and to some extent exhibit different feeding patterns.

Secondly, you state that true crucian carp are difficult to obtain. I find this strange, as a quick ten minutes on the internet provided details of numerous Fish Farms the length and breadth of the country that supply true crucians. Most of these supply fish that have been DNA tested and are certified and authenticated as 'pure' crucian carp, some even supplying fisheries with the help of the EA. This brings me on to the fact that I also find it hard to believe that the EA would in fact be obstructive in any attempts to create a water where only true crucians, tench and Rudd were being stocked with no Common Carp. Surely if there is a danger of a demise of 'true' crucians, then any attempt to create a properly stocked and planned water, which consequently will add to the country's dwindling stocks, would be encouraged?

It is refreshing that the BAA are represented at the EA/Angling Trust presentations, and for that I congratulate you, but as these bodies are pushing for the return of small water environments perhaps now is the time to strike while the iron is hot and consider Nordley No. 6 as a candidate.

I thank you for your interest in this matter, and please do not feel obliged to reply to this letter either in person or in the on-line newsletter, as there is no need. I have had my say and made my point (hopefully). I will just say that it is commendable that members have a chance to correspond with the BAA to air their views and get a sensible response.

Finally, here is a link to The Crucian Website which you may find of some interest, it contains interesting facts regarding crucian carp, and also has a section on creating and managing waters ideally for crucians. : [www.crucians.org](http://www.crucians.org)

Thank you for your time,

Yours Sincerely

Barry Davis

*Ed; Barry thanks for continuing the conversation regarding crucians.*

*Subsequent to your original letter, the Environment Agency put out a request to Angling Clubs etc offering crucian carp to stock suitable waters. The purpose of this is to try and stop the decline in number of these fish and to also develop a substantial population of crucians that could eventually be 'cropped' to stock additional waters in future.*

*Partially as a result of your original letter and similar feedback from other members and members of the Fisheries Team. We responded to the EAs request suggesting Nordley Pools 5 and 6 as potential locations for stocking with crucians. This would require the removal of carp and crucian hybrids and the reduction in population of roach and perch. As we would be required to carry out the removal and transfer of these fish this is not something that we could do in the near future due the demands of our existing and new fisheries workload. We have therefore added this to the list of potential future activities.*

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John.

Hi, do the BAA still have the water on the Teme at Leigh, which included the oxbow lake? Reason for asking is that the access road is now unavailable to vehicles - has been signposted as a private road with no access for anyone, which would make it rather difficult to get to the water. I just went to go up there and have a look for some likely pitches ahead of June, only to find that there is no longer any access to the venue.

Regards  
Tim Jauncey

*JW: Thank you for the information. Yes, we do still control the fishing at Leigh and the ox bow lake. We will look into the access problem.*

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John.

I was fishing at Uckinghall Pool on Sat afternoon. The two swans which have raised young there for the last few years are in residence and are sitting on eggs. Yesterday another swan landed on the pool and was immediately set upon by the resident male. A battle commenced and the newcomer was badly beaten up, held under water and drowned. A dead swan is now floating on the pool. Anglers get a lot of bad press from birdwatchers, walkers etc and should any bad press land at your door re the dead swan at least you now know what went on and that association members were not to blame.

Mike Cooper

*JW: Thank you for the report.*