# The Sussex Angler



The Petworth & Bognor Angling Club Magazine www.sussexangling.co.uk

# Welcome to The Sussex Angler

It's always a pleasure to welcome new and old members and once again I'm sure there's plenty of interesting items that will catch your attention in this the sixteenth issue of The Sussex Angler, your club magazine.

As Chairman I enjoy meeting fellow anglers when I'm out and about and without fail everyone I come across always has time to have a brief chat provided I'm not interrupting their fishing. Listening to their tales of joy and woe gives me the feedback necessary to ensure we keep the club jogging along and we really do value hearing from our members, whether it's good or bad, it's of great value.

I can't think of any television programme that extols the pleasure of angling more than last year's "Gone Fishing" with Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse, two lovable characters that in my opinion sum

up the fun of fishing and the spirit of throwing yourself into a pastime that with most anglers goes right back to their childhood. Add in the banter between two anglers then it's no wonder it's been so popular, more importantly it could bring quite a few lost anglers back into the fold. I recall attending a fishing programme where two day's ground bait was fed into an estate lake that held massive carp, everything was set up properly to enable a well known expert angler to provide some good television of him landing a monster, it couldn't fail, the weather was kind, the swims carefully prepared, camera's at the ready, what could go wrong? Well simply the fish just weren't hungry, not a bite over ten hours, disaster! The funny side occurred when one of the cameramen. himself an angler, asked if he could have a quick cast before packing up then proceeded to land a thirty pound common





Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer

carp using a bit of bread from a left over sandwich. Just goes to show you can have all the gear and tackle, pick the spot to fish, have all the baits, be a pretty good anglers and blank....I'm none of the above apart from the blanking!

Our BBQ is back again this year, timed prior to the opening of the coarse river season on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> at Coultershaw. As previously we are holding a bring and buy tackle sale, which should encourage you to get your fishing tackle sorted and cleaned. You bring along anything you don't want anymore and hopefully it will be just



Les Heath strikes a bargain with Chris Exall at last year's tackle sale

what someone else is looking for. We'll remind you in advance of the date and I hope you will come along, enjoy some

food and drink, all on the house. We will ask for numbers closer to the evening just for catering purposes.

I must mention the work

undertaken by a dedicated number of volunteers to restore Cart Pond at Walberton, you will read more about what was done elsewhere, but a big thank you to everyone involved.

Brian Ede was someone who loved his fishing especially at our Hurston Lane ponds, sadly he passed away in November 2018 but in his will left the club a very generous sum of money in order we can maintain this lovely quiet fishery which we are fortunate to own. For those who fish Hurston we endeavour to keep this spot as natural as possible, something Brian welcomed. We get mixed views about Hurston which is a high maintenance water, some feel they would like well mown banks, others have opposite views so we do our best to maintain a balance.

I'm sure you now know Colin Smithson caught a National record Barbel from one of our rivers, well done Colin, you deserve our congratulations, but did you know the Rother also held the record Chub way back in the nineteen fifties, who knows what's out there, but any fish, big or small, any species is fun to catch....so enjoy your fishing and good luck.





## **Fishery Improvements**

#### **Hurston Lane**

We carried out a major trim on the willows that surround the Tench Pond last season. These were last done about five years ago and had grown to a point where they would become unmanageable. Although immediately after trimming they look quite bare it is amazing how quickly they put on growth. Further work has been done on providing platforms particularly on the Match Pond and the Tench Pond and with the legacy money we received from the estate of Brian Ede we can continue to maintain this fishery, striking that fine balance between natural surrounding and accessibility.

#### **Stemps & Cart**

Under less than ideal conditions a team led by Nelson finished the hurdling around the island on Cart Pond. There is still a bit more work to be done but we have hopefully stabilised the pond for the years to come. We stocked some Tench into Cart Pond last winter and although some have shown we were hoping to have seen a few more. We will perhaps give it another year to see if they establish themselves and then think about whether we should put some more in. There has been a lot of work done on the platforms on both Stemps Pond and Cart Pond replacing old wood with new but there is still more to do.

#### Coultershaw

A major project to establish the steps down into the mill pool swim was carried out in the spring, this now makes this swim much more accessible. Steps down to swims particularly in the first field were re-cut and timbered. Following the work carried out to put flow deflectors into the top section of Coultershaw, we identified an issue with the fourth swim in the wire which was an area that the EA had worked on. We reported this to them and after a couple of false starts they finally refurbished the swim in the autumn.

### The Granary

An increase in the weed growth has been noted by the team at the Granary and they will be working on ways to control this through 2020. It hoped that a combination of cutting, raking and

the introduction of the dyestuff that has proved successful at Hurston will give similar results at The Granary.



New steps to the mill pool swim at Coultershaw



The Sussex Angler - Issue No. 16

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### The Fisheries Team

#### **Coates & Shopham**

The trees planted at Coates continue to do well and we might need to start thinking about actually giving the willows we planted in the riffle area a trim over the next closed season.

#### Fittleworth

The wooden bridge over the first ditch is in serious need of repair or removal, there is the earth bridge slightly further up the ditch but this suffers in times of flood. An initial walkover survey was carried out last autumn as part of a feasibility study for tree planting at Fittleworth. As a result we have managed to secure some funding for this work and will be carrying out a more extensive survey along with the EA, Rivers Trust and farmer to identify suitable places for planting. At the time of writing it is hoped that the survey can be carried out to enable planting and fencing during the close season.

This work doesn't just happen, we have a dedicated band of bailiffs and a few regular volunteers but we also rely upon you, the members, to help out. The alternative would be to bring in contractors to do the work and that is expensive resulting in us having to raise the membership fees to pay for this essential work.

We organise a number of work parties, mainly during the spring months; those that attend will tell you that it is not all hard work and we always look to find tasks for all abilities.

Work parties start at 08.30 and run to around midday - we normally try to provide a sausage sandwich or similar. If you require information about a specific work party, please contact the bailiff for the particular water who will be able to give you more details. Bailiff details are on the water pages in the latest Handbook. We have occasional extra work parties, so please keep an eye on the website or facebook page.

You can find details of all the planned work parties on the next page.

If you have any general questions or queries with regard to our work parties please do not hesitate to contact: Mick Greenway on **07932 694876**, Steve Simmonds on **07794 699539**, or e-mail **fisheryofficer@sussexangling.co.uk** 

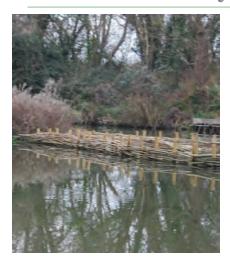
As mentioned an integral part of our Fishery Management scheme is our bailiff team. We have bailiffs that look after particular waters and other bailiffs have a more roving brief and are likely to pop up at any of our waters.

Although our bailiffs are the eyes and ears of our waters they cannot be everywhere all the time, so if you see or hear anything amiss, then in the first instance you should contact the specific water bailiff and let them know. It is also useful to put a note in the Fishery Log Book.

We would ask that you cooperate fully with our bailiffs at all times.



# **Fishery Improvements**





Pictures from some of our work parties showing fencing round the island on Cart Pond, removing undergrowth from round the Tench pond at Hurston and building a fire at The Granary



Work Parties 2020					
Date Venue		Date	Venue		
29th March	Stemps & Cart	17th May	Stemps & Cart		
19th April	Hurston Lane	31st May	Stemps & Cart		
26th April	Coultershaw	7th June	Coultershaw		

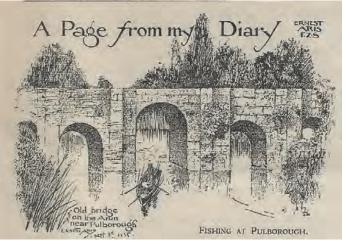


### **The Addison Archives**

Along with these diaries there is a big folder of press cutting and this from the Angler's News dated October 26th 1935 caught my eye. The author Ernest Aris seems to have been a regular contributor to this journal. I have reproduced the original article but also extracted the illustration and text to make it easier to read.



For some time now I have been thinking of paying a visit to Pulborough to the the Arun. I have heard wonderful stories of successful fishing there, but, they've always ended with 'Of course, I am speaking of nigh on thirty years ago'. Well the fish should have grown considerably during those years: really I must go. Kenneth - my son informs me that there is four days' leave owing to him. This decides me; there and then I make up my mind to go to Pulborough.



*Sept. 6th* - The eve of departure and its accompanying excitements. Not knowing the facilities for acquiring bait and profiting by past experiences we pack all that is necessary.

Sept 7th - Depart by car for Pulborough. Arrive 4.30pm. Hotel Arun <sup>1</sup>. Mrs Hawes. Tea. After tea, taking tackle, we set out on our tour of a inspection. We try a near swim and capture eight chub in an hour's fishing. <sup>2</sup> So far, so good. 8pm. dinner, and so to bed.



Sept 8th - A perfect day. Armed with the necessary tackle, and certain information gleaned from local anglers we set out to try our luck. We pass through the village on our way to the river. Pulborough is a delightful old-world village. 'Far from the madding crowd' - except for today for a fishing match <sup>3</sup> is

### **The Addison Archives**

to take place. We saw the arrival of the crowd, that's all: we are not in sympathy with community fishing. This is purely a personal equation. So we pass on. Hiring a punt <sup>3</sup> we proceed upstream to find some quietness and solitude. The river has fair stream, and at this season is rather shallow near the village. We spend a delightful day on a delightful river. We caught fish, mostly small We have yet to acquire more local knowledge. Dinner 8pm. Then to bed.

Sept 9th - off by 8am. The day is dull, the clouds heavy with impending rain, and an east wind prevails. On our way up river we pass two punts, the occupants showing us keep-nets containg many bream. As we proceed, the river gets wider and deeper, and there is little or no current. We pass under a beautiful quaint old bridge <sup>4</sup>, and just beyond this we settle down to fish.<sup>5</sup> The rain comes down and lasts with fair intervals for most of the day. We catch a few fish but of no size. Ken lands a small jack and an eel. The bag is mixed: Silver bream, roach, dace and gudgeon. Home in the dusk. Dinner and so to bed. We have not yet found the best swims.

Sept 10th - 8.30am finds us by the waterside. Our boatman offers to take us to a good swim one and three quarters of a mile upstream. <sup>5</sup> We appreciate his efforts and sit back to enjoy the delightful scenery. We arrive at the swim: the river is deep and wide and looks extremely 'fishable'. We have an hour or so fairly good sport and then the fish cease biting. Today we are not alone in our lack of fish. Others, too, voice their complaints. On the way home we decide to try a little dawn fishing. Our boatman agrees to bait a swim overnight and meet us at 3am. We quite overlook the fact that summer has passed and dawn is not until about 5am. Having arranged to be called at 2am we retire early full of great expectations.

Sept 11th - Barely got into bed (so it seemed) when with a knock on the bedroom door, the sleepy porter calls '2am' We quietly and quickly dress and tip-toe downstairs, a flask of hot tea and chunks of bread and cheese are packed ready to take with us. The moon is brilliant, but there is a heavy ground mist. A myriad stars peep out of the firmament. As we wend our way adown the lonely lane a solitary owl on silent wings passes overhead. The village folk are peacefully sleeping, and we feel like intruders in the tranquillity of the night. Flooded in moonlight and enveloped in the mist, the country seems like a world of cotton wool or some illustration from a book of fairy tales. We arrive at our tryst, half an hour too soon: so sit on a fence and partake of breakfast. (Later on we find bread and cheese proves indigestible eaten at 2.30am and gives one hiccoughs). It is very chilly and the mist is very penetrating. At long last our boatman appears to take us one and three-quarters miles upstream in the moonlight and gradually thickening mist. We arrive at the swim, our boatman departs to seek his bed, and so does the moon. All is deep dark night. We can scarcely see each other, we have no lantern, and

it is perishing cold. It costs us two boxes of matches to put up our tackle. (Burnt fingers rather add to the denseness of the mist). I wonder whether any piscator prepares under such difficulties. By sense of touch we bait our lines and cast into the darkness and await the dawn. Was ever such a blank outlook? We shiver. Would dawn never come? Again by



## **Selected by Steve Simmonds**

sense of touch we pour out hot grog (tea). Through the mist comes the cry of an owl. A rat splashes nearby adding to the eeriness of it all. A little later two ducks like grey ghosts pass overhead; and, we hear the plaintive cry of the plover. Comes at last the first peep of day. 'The stars grow pale; the dawn covers the heavens; mysterious night passes away.

We can just see our floats. We note with interest the rising of small fish (so early). A little later, though still very misty, my float dips and I net a roach. Is this the beginning of a great day? No!! Very little else occurs. Come 8 o' clock, brightly shines the welcome sun and we are grateful. So far we have had poor sport. The bream have not responded. Partly to restore our circulations we row a mile downstream to the mill race <sup>6</sup> where we creel some dace and gudgeon. It is a glorious day, alas, for us it ends at lunch time so far as fishing is concerned We have to pack up for home.

For those that yearn to fish at dawn, learn something from our experience (or should I say inexperience?) and profit thereby. We had tea with the wife who has come to take us home. Our fishing was not a great success but we thoroughly enjoyed our visit. We have bought experience and when we again visit this lovely old village and its beautiful winding river, we shall profit by this experience, and knowledge gained, and perchance shall have a different tale to tell.

#### Notes:

- 1. The Hotel Arun in Pulborough was recorded in the early 18th century, it closed as a public house in the early 1990's and was converted into town houses in 1999. The building can be found on Lower Street just by the pedestrian crossing
- 2. The nearest section of the Arun to the location of the hotel would be the point where the river turns from flowing west - east to north - south. In the area behind where the village hall is now situated
- 3. Fishing matches on the Arun in the Pulborough area were always popular with London Anglers. Reg Addison refers to them in his diaries. Special trains were put on to bring the anglers to Pulborough Station and take them back home at the end of the day.
- 4. The 'quaint old bridge' is almost certainly Stopham bridge by the White Hart which is characterised by the taller central arch. Although it would appear that there is some artistic license as the picture shows the top of the bridge being flat rather than gently curved.
- 5. I think they would have taken their punt / boat from the slipway by the old Swan bridge and therefore the two fishing spots mentioned could well be on what is now our Stopham stretch although the first might be just below it between the current road bridge and the old bridge. The second spot I suspect is the wooded section towards the top end of the Stopham stretch.



6. I'm not sure where the mill race would have been but suspect it could be where the island is downstream from Stopham bridge. The character of the river in this area changed radically in the early 1960's when it was extensively dredged.

# **A Short History of Fishing Baits**

Today when we go fishing, we generally take a wide range of baits with us. It's quite normal to find a tin of luncheon meat, a bait box of maggots, some sliced white bread and of course a good selection of the latest pellets or boilies. The last we see as the latest scientifically proved baits that are virtually guaranteed to catch fish, whatever the time of year. But as the poem below, written in 1613 clearly shows, we anglers are willing to try anything.

The Roach, the Bream, the Carpe, the chub and Bleik With paste or corne, their greedy hunger tame, The Dace, the Ruffe, the Goodgion and the rest. The smaller sort of crawling worms do best. The Chavender and Chub doe more delight, to feede on cheese and cherries red, Black snayles, their bellies slit to show their white, Or grasshoppers that skip in every meade, The Perche, the Tench, the Eele doth rather bite At great red worms, in field or garden bred. John Denny - `The Secrets of Angling'

#### **Maggots**

Alongside worms, maggots must be the longest serving bait in angling history. Unlike worms they were not exactly welcomed because maggots were associated with death and decay and where you found maggots you also found flies, great big bluebottles to be precise. Yet their ability to catch fish was uncontested and no self-respecting angler would be without a box of maggots for a days fishing. What was quickly realised is that not all maggots are equal. Bluebottles produced the biggest maggots, greenbottles the smaller and what they fed upon also dictated size and vigour. Therefore, it was no surprise that a few enterprising angers started to breed maggots and sell to the angling world.

In 1908 Jack Mason won the all England championship using a variation of maggot now known as squats, these were the larvae of houseflies and very small but clearly on this day highly effective. It became common practice, especially in winter, to use squats in the groundbait and a 'pinkie' (the larvae of the green bottle) on the hook. Coloured maggots were already known and by the 1890's anglers were using dyes such as Annatto, Chrysodine, Auromine and Rhodamine to create various colours such as red, bronze and yellow. It is a practice that lasted well over a century however some of

the dyes have been banned as they were deemed carcinogenic. Obviously left to their own device's maggots will quickly pupate and anglers realised that chrysalises (or as anglers call them, casters,) were an excellent bait, they seemed to pick out a better stamp of fish. The man associated most with their rise in



## **By Steve Penticost**

popularity was the great Benny Ashurst, who dominated match angling in the 1950's. As a maggot breeder his great secret was to work out how to commercially produce the 'sinker' which turned this bait into both a brilliant loose feed and a hook bait. The effectiveness of these casters became so powerful that match anglers simply wouldn't leave home without them. They were regarded as the supreme bait for canal and river bream and indirectly this bait led to a rise in popularity of ledgering and the creation of the swing tip which became highly effective on big open lakes.

#### Grubs

Maggots are not the only form of larvae that has been used as bait. Indeed, any type of insect or beetle larvae could and was used. One of the most popular, if not slightly hazardous to collect, were wasp grubs. At one point these had almost legendary status, the great Jim Bazley won two national titles at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with this 'secret' bait describing their effectiveness as 'Like plum duff amongst a lot of schoolboys'. Bazley also pioneered the use of macaroni which he secured to a treble hook and used in search of Chub and Barbel.

#### **Animal products**

Jim Bazley, he of wasp grub fame, was also a great believer in animal waste. Namely pith and brains. Pith was derived from a bullock's backbone and was boiled and cut into chunks, a sort of early form of luncheon meat and used in much the same way. The use of cow spinal products was banned in 2001, not surprising after the BSE horror. If the use of pith wasn't gruesome enough then another bait favoured by Bazley was boiled brains. These were cooked and mashed and then thrown into the water as ground bait. Apparently, Chub and Barbel couldn't resist. The thought of Mr Bazley taking over the kitchen to prepare these morsels leaves this author with every sympathy for the long-suffering Mrs Bazley.

#### Worms

Here's a bait we can all identify with and virtually free if you were lucky enough to have a garden, a lawn or a ripe compost heap. Fishing authors waxed lyrical over the individual merits and success of a juicy brandling or small red worm. But the highest praise was always reserved for the mighty lobworms, the ultimate big fish bait,

especially if that fish was a barbel. During the late 1800's and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century literally thousands were thrown into the Trent and the Hampshire Avon pre-baiting a swim in an attempt to find that record sized fish.



# **A Short History of Fishing Baits**

Jack Bailey a noted specimen fish hunter fished two or three big lobworms over such a baited swim, trotting an Eagle quill float on the Hampshire Avon. His reward was to set a new British Barbel record of 14 pounds and 6ozs taken in 1937.

#### Pulses & Seeds



**Tares** 

Most rivers and lakes were found in open countryside so it was no surprise that fish took a liking to various crops that might fall into the water. Tares were seen as a great bait for roach although many saw them purely as a summer bait. Basically, it's a legume, a small pea like seed that needs cooking before it can be used. Like hemp seed it is thought that fish mistake the seed for a river snail.

Hemp was probably the most controversial bait until

the whole boilie question arose. Hemp had been grown in the UK since medieval

times, indeed Henry V111 passed a law making the growing of hemp and flax compulsory, so valuable was its use in the rope and fabric industry. It was Belgian refugees during the First World War that introduced the idea of the seed being a fishing bait. It became so successful that match anglers thought it impossible to win without this bait and all sorts of magical properties were ascribed to its ability to catch fish. It was thought that once introduced to the swim it would transfix fish into ignoring all other baits. Sadly, the authorities of the day, seeing that hemp seed came from a cannabis



Hemp

plant decided to act and the result was that angling associations started to ban its use, no doubted supported by maggot breeders and other bait suppliers.

Today hemp is an essential part of the carp anglers 'particle mix' and there's no doubt it is a powerful holding bait. Certainly, no angler should leave home without some and don't worry there is absolutely no danger of catching crazy drugged up fish or finding

anglers spaced out on the bank. Yes, it's from the cannabis family but the one with virtually no trace of any psychoactive compounds.

Although hemp and tares are the dominate pulses other baits have their devotees. Maple peas are cheap and will catch most fish, more modern times have seen



## **By Steve Penticost**

chickpeas become popular and of course there is sweetcorn. It's not certain when this bait was first used but we know that it wasn't until the 1930's that the sweet yellow variety we all know became available for general consumption. The first angling mention was in the early 1970's when that the great angler, Fred J Taylor suggests them as an ideal bait for Tench. Around the same time Chris Yates started using corn at Redmire and you can read more about this in his book 'Casting at the Sun'. We now know that sweetcorn with its stunning colour and sweet taste will catch all fish from roach to the biggest carp. A bonus is that an unopened tin will last for years.

#### Pellets

There is no doubt that the most influential bait of the last 20 years has been the emergence of fish pellets. Originally, they came about around the end of the second world war in USA where commercial trout hatcheries abounded. Up to this point fish were fed on raw meat, usually horse meat, but a chap called John Hanson decided to create a dry version to make the process easier and a lot less messy. These high



Pellets are now available in a massive range of sizes and flavours

protein fish flavoured pellets transformed the industry and quickly spread to all countries who raised fish commercially. You can trace the use of a 'pellet' right back to the late 15th Century and a treatise entitled 'A Treatyse of fysshynge wyth an Angle' by Dame Juliana Berners; here the making of 'pellets' is described in the Barbel fishing section.

In August, and for al the yere, take the talow of a shepe, and soft chese of eche like much, & a lytel hony, & grinde or sta[m]pe the[m] together long & te[m]per it till it be tough and put thereto a lytell floure, & make it in small pelletes & that is a good bait to angle w<sup>t</sup> at the ground, & loke y<sup>t</sup> it sinke in the water, or else it is not good to this purpose.



However it didn't take long for anglers to realise that fish raised on pellets could be caught with pellets and anglers started to buy smaller quantities for angling use. Quick to see an opportunity the big fish meal producers such as

# **A Short History of Fishing Baits**

Copdock started to bring out ranges of small pellets, some helpfully predrilled for hair rigs. Initially flavours were linked to fish meal derivatives and fish oils. In the late 50's Haiths introduced Robin Red as a bird food supplement to improve plumage colour. Anglers in Essex came across this in the late mid 60's and started adding it to various bait mixes. At that time this was a big secret but eventually it got out and the 'secret formula' now forms part of some of the most popular baits being incorporated into a wide range of pellets, groundbait and boilies. I can attest that Robin Red certainly catches anything.

#### **Boilies**

Here we enter the newest controversy, the use of boilies. Many commercials and even some club waters ban the use of boilies for various reasons. But their use is not new:

In 1952 this recipe was printed.



Take a portion of breadcrumb, immerse in water and squeeze out moisture. Add self-raising flour and condensed milk and knead well. Tie up in muslin and boil for two minutes.

These early versions did not contain egg and effectively were a form of paste. However, there is no doubt that they were rolled into balls and used directly on the hook like modern paste.

The origin of today's boilie seems to stem from a Kent angler, named Fred Wilton, who alongside some close friends had a theory that he could vastly improve paste baits. He approached the whole creation from a scientific base concluding that high protein fish

meal-based baits would be so attractive to fish that they would know these foods were good for them and actively seek them out. They worked brilliantly but as these original boilies were soft, they lasted only briefly as small nuisance fish attacked them. The answer was to make them hard and this is where the addition of egg and



### **By Steve Penticost**

then the process of cooking them came to the fore and the 'Boilie' was created. These baits were a well-kept secret and 100% home-made. The arrival of the Hair Rig in 1980, allegedly invented by Kevin Maddocks, made their use even simpler and certainly more deadly and it was no surprise that by 1983 the first commercial boilie was introduced. Early flavours were Peanut Pro and Caribbean Cocktail.

Since then Boilies have become mostly associated with catching carp and now come in many sizes and flavours such as Tuna, Crab, Pineapple, Krill & Vanilla. Other variations such as buoyant baits (pop ups), slow sinking (wafters) and surface versions (floaters), have helped anglers catch lots of fish. The good news is that the shelf life versions last for ages.

There are of course many other baits that you could use but this article has not mentioned.

Bread despite its basic nature and lack of scientific background is still an incredible bait throughout the year. Back when I was young the ubiquitous Mothers Pride was the stuff to have and although this has died a well deserved death, sliced white is still available and cheap. Warburtons appears to be the brand of choice nowadays and this comes in a variety of thicknesses. In high summer no carp can resist (or wildfowl for that matter - so always be careful) a good sized lump of floating bread, leading to probably the most exciting form of coarse fishing possible. Punched bread in winter will always catch, making it the 'go to' bait on



Mothers Pride as it was in the 60's

freezing cold days and no greedy chub can resist a legered chunk of breadcrust fished over mashed bread.

Plastic baits, artificial baits, lures and of course other fish will have to wait until the next article.

There are no doubt many other baits I have missed out or not tried, but the lesson here is that whatever the weather or location there is always a bait that will catch you a fish, even if you have to wander around the dew covered lawn at night, woolly glove at the ready to play lobworm tug of war.



# **Arun Angling - 30 Years Young!**



Arun Angling has been servicing the local angling fraternity for 30 years! In these 3 decades they have seen many changes throughout the industry, moved shops twice, and been fortunate enough to form friendships with many colourful characters who share their love of angling.

Greg Commented: I have been witness to the many positives this pastime has on people's lives, whether you enjoy a short visit to the river or lake or a longer trip into the night - being outdoors in nature is simply good for the soul!

This leads me to our primary goal as a fishing store - to facilitate and encourage your angling in any way we can. We pride ourselves on having large stocks of every bit of bait and tackle you could dream of, but if all you need to know is how to set up a simple float and keep things basic, then that's what we will help you with. After many years in this trade, I get a greater buzz and sense of job satisfaction when I hear of my customers triumphs out fishing as a result of our good solid advice than I would by simply making a sale. How we can serve you is of the greatest importance as this means greater enjoyment on the bank and hopefully leads to a life-long passion for angling.

On this subject I would also like to mention how focused we are in promoting angling to a younger audience. In today's technological world it is easy to lose sight of the great outdoors and its many benefits, sadly some children even by the age of 5 or 6 seem to be almost dependant on 'screen time' plus all the other distractions of modern life — What we do know is that being permanently indoors is not good for anybody - especially kids.

Encouragingly a very high percentage of children, when given the opportunity. love

fishing and being outdoors - so this is another major goal for Arun Angling - to help promote the benefits of fishing to children. We are focused on supporting local junior club events and in touch with other major influencers in our industry on a regular basis to help further this goal.





If you haven't visited them for a while, then please feel free to drop in anytime. The shop has undergone a refit over the past year and has been improved greatly in layout and use of space, this has enabled them to carry an even greater range of stock! They are always looking to improve the business and introduce the latest products. In addition, the staff are all highly experienced anglers that always try their best to be helpful.

Greg, Tim and Simon braving the cold on a rather chilly January morning!

#### New for 2020

We asked the boys to select a few new items that they feel will be of use to our members.

An ideal rod for the Rother or Arun with Barbel in mind, this rod is three rods in one

making it very versatile. It was designed to offer you a multi-purpose tool that covers the majority of specimen fishing situations. Each rod comes with a steely, powerful butt section, with 1.75lb, 2.2lb and Power Quiver top sections. The rod itself features a 2k carbon weave layer to add strength where it matters, along with a slimline cork handle and compact reel seat. It's medium-

fast action suits all styles of specimen feeder fishing and ledgering, with plenty of reserves to tame bigger fish. RRP £109.99 Our Price £99.99



**Korum Trilogy Triple Tip Rod** 



## New for 2020

Newly released in 2020 the Daiwa 19 Black Widow is a compact and lightweight free spool reel that will cover a whole host of specialist fishing applications!

Built with the signature Light Tough DS 4 body frame and fitted with the Tough Digigear CNC machined internals for consistent reliable performance for years to come. The spools are cut to the long-cast design with angled edges improving the release of line on the cast, getting you further, more accurately than ever before. On retrieval the slow oscillation cross wrap system loads line perfectly back onto the drum, giving incredible line lay. Our Price £69.99





Proving a very consistent bait for the Chub and Barbel locally the newly released Meat- Furter range from Dynamite baits has been a real winner. The range consists of Groundbait, Feed Pellets, Liquid Flavours and Specialised flavoured pellet hook baits.

**Dynamite Baits Meat-Furter Range** 

Korums lightest and most versatile brolly shelter to date, the shelter itself weighs just 2.2kg! The Pentalite features five carefully spaced graphite spokes to provide a lightweight frame with lots of stability. The shelter uses a short spoke brolly system on the inside, giving maximum headroom and minimum fuss when putting it up. No central pole required! The brolly also comes with two lightweight storm poles, including a unique tension peak design,

that flexes depending on which height

Korum Pentalit

**Korum Pentalite Brolley Shelter** 

you decide to have the shelter. Height can be adjusted by using the multiple pegging point options on the sides of the shelter opening. A superb system for day sessions and overnighters. Another great addition to the range of Supalite products. Our Price £99.99



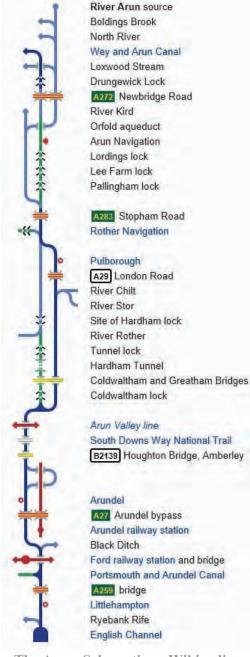
## The Arun - A Potted History

We're fortunate to have a couple of stretches of the Arun to fish. For the new angler the Arun has never been easy which in a rather sadistic way is part of it charm. Frankly a lifetime can be spent trying to understand its moods such as seeing the up tide hurtling past and then wondering why your float is going the other way, but the quality of the fishing has never been in doubt. But, as we sit there trying to avoid the large amounts of flotsam sailing past, give a few minutes thought to this remarkable little river for it has an illustrious history.

We start in Chichester around AD 43 when the Romans came back to have another go at invading Britain. This time they stayed and quickly explored the area we now know as Arundel and gazed upon the powerful river that flowed past. Today we know this river as the Arun but during these early times the river was unnamed, and it wasn't until nearly 100 years later when the name Trisantonis was mentioned by a Greek geographer named Ptomely. The best interpretation of this word is 'trespasser or wanderer' and when you look at the current course and its meandering journey across the Sussex Weald it's not hard to see why.

Another theory is that it was also called the Arnus (meaning 'to flow') and from this the word Arun was possibly derived. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century it was known as the Tarrant and today's Tarrant Street in Arundel reflects this connection. However, by the late middle ages, as Arundel grew, it was commonly called the

Arundel River and this, in its shortened form of Arun, has remained ever since.







## The Arun a Potted History

The Arun is the longest river in Sussex which is not saying much because it only stretches to around 37 miles, a veritable dwarf compared to many. What it lacks in size it certainly makes up for in power because; due to the exceptional tides in the channel, it quickly cemented its place as one of England fastest rivers. So powerful is the tide that the river is tidal for nearly 25 miles only stopping at Pallingham Lock. Six to seven metre tides are not uncommon and when this coincides with winter rain or spring tides widespread flooding can easily occur. Just ask the residents of Pulborough.

The river itself seems to start in the forests of St Leonards, a wooded area in the high weald northeast of Horsham. There, multiple little streams known ghylls join to create the river. The area was famous in the middle ages for iron smelting and many of the streams were dammed to create huge hammer ponds that helped power the iron works. So important was this industry, especially as they produced many of Henry V111's cannons, that later during the English Civil War parliament quickly moved to secure the area to ensure supply. This industry continued for some years until the use of coal replaced charcoal as the means of heat and this, alongside the effective destruction of the great woods of St Leonards ended iron ore smelting as a viable industry in this area.

From these great ponds the Arun continues on its way past the county town of Horsham, where it's joined by a second stream known as the North River and then meanders all over West Sussex, picking up flow from other minor streams such as the Hornbrook, the Kird and the Stor. At Hardham the Arun is boosted considerably by the Western Rother which ends its journey after rising in Hampshire.



Hardham Weir where the Rother meets the Arun



## **By Steve Penticost**

Finally, it passes by its namesake town at Arundel, through the flood plain at Ford and discharges into the sea at Littlehampton.

However, this final destination has not always been the case..

In the middle ages the river entered the sea at Lancing, joining the River Adur at this point. But the effect of the estuary being blocked by shifting shingle banks pushed the river westwards, first to Worthing, then to Goring, onto Ferring and finally, for the moment, to Littlehampton. The Adur incidentally went the other way to Shoreham where it remains.

The Arun despite its size and ferocity has also been a strategic river, especially when the Dukes of Norfolk, took over the castle and lands at Arundel. The 12<sup>th</sup> Earl, Henry Fitzallan, built Arundel into a port and at its height was responsible for a huge volume of trade. Vessels up to 100 tons could manage the journey up to Arundel from the sea at Littlehampton. It was not until the advent of the train that the port declined and what trade there was moved to Littlehampton.

Trade has always been the main driver for the area, huge quantities of wool and farm produce were in great demand and it was not surprising that during the canal boom of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Sussex got into the act. The key man here was Lord Egremont, the owner of Petworth House, who as a major landowner saw the benefit to connecting the Arun to the Wey and then onto the London ports. The result was the creation of the Wey & Arun Canal. Interestingly, he also explored the route west and for brief time the Portsmouth & Arundel Canal was in places using parts of the Western Rother for navigation. Sadly, the new rail system doomed the canals to failure. The Portsmouth and Arundel Canal Company folded in 1855 and the Wey & Arun Canal closed in 1871.

The good news is that today a wonderful group of volunteers are busy restoring the Wey & Arun Canal with nearly 3 miles now navigable with the ultimate aim to connect the Sussex section to the Wey section at Shalford. near Godalming.

As for the Portsmouth and Arundel Canal we can still see and fish over 3 miles of it at Chichester, the only surviving section still left.

For Petworth and Bognor members the River Arun has always been famous for huge Pike and river Carp, massive hauls of Bream have been landed from along its tidal length. Big Barbel, Chub and specimen Roach also regularly turn up. Summer can be

challenging as millions of Bleak attack everything, but come the autumn the river can bring you that dream specimen. If you have never tried to fish the Arun, then give it a go. You never know what will turn up when the float dips or rod tip rattles.



### Volunteering with the Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative

Some of you may have already heard of the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative which is administered locally through the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT). As someone who had recently retired and fished the local rivers, I was of course interested when I first heard about it at a meeting organised through ARRT. I had already become involved in an associated Oral History Project facilitated through Arun and Rother Connections (see other article) and coincidentally during the course of this project I met someone who was already actively engaged in monitoring Riverfly on a section of the Rother, so this sparked my interest even further.

The Riverfly Initiative was looking to recruit volunteers through local angling clubs and offered a way of volunteering which would enable me to combine my hobby with a worthwhile project concerned with the health of my local rivers. The initiative is a national one run by the Riverfly Partnership which describes itself on its website as:

a dynamic network of organisations, representing anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant authorities, working together to: - protect the water quality of our rivers; - further the understanding of riverfly populations; - and actively conserve riverfly habitats. The Riverfly Partnership is hosted by the Freshwater Biological Association.

When I heard through ARC that they were facilitating a one day course aimed at local anglers and run by the Riverfly Partnership, I jumped at the opportunity to take part. Information about the Initiative and this course is reproduced here from the Partnership's website.

The Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (ARMI), as it is known, is an initiative that facilitates regular monitoring of river water quality by trained volunteer monitors at river sites across the UK to complement the more detailed work carried out by the UK environment agencies. Trained monitors regularly visit freshwater sites across the UK to sample for the target 8 invertebrate groups. A scoring system based on the invertebrate quantities allows any major pollution events to be detected, and then reported to local environmental body contacts quickly. The one day ARMI workshop provides standardised training in Health & Safety, biosecurity, site selection, sampling methodology and equipment, identification and recording of the 8 ARMI target invertebrate groups, acute pollution detection and reporting.

When I arrived at the local venue to be used for the workshop, I was surprised to see so many volunteers, not all of whom were from angling clubs, although I did see a few anglers whom I already knew. The training consisted of some theory in the morning session which I found very interesting. It emphasised for me how little I really knew about the invertebrate population that can be found in our rivers and which provides one of the valuable food sources for our fish both coarse and game. The abundance and diversity of these invertebrates provide important



### **By Peter Foster**

indicators of the health of a river. I shan't go into the detail of the riverfly population here except to say that monitoring focuses on three key groups of riverflies: the up-wing flies or mayflies, caddisflies or sedges and stoneflies. In all there are 278 species of these three groups. In addition, freshwater shrimp (gammarus) are also counted in the sampling, as they, too, are an indicator of the water quality.

After some training on aspects of health and safety, participants had some practical outdoor training which involved actually getting in the water (a local on-site stream) and learning the technique of kick sampling which is the tried and tested method of collecting samples.



The picture shows Seeseana Wright, who is a project officer with the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust, working with Dr. Richard Osmond from a consultancy called Roslyn Ecological Limited kick-sampling on the river Ems.

Picture courtesy of Seeseana Wright



In the days and weeks following the workshop it was a matter of liaising with the local co-ordinator, identifying and being allocated a suitable site and also being issued with the necessary set of equipment.

It was not long before I was able to carry out my first survey with a trainer and another volunteer, who just happened to be the river keeper for the

### Volunteering with the Anglers' Riverfly Monitoring Initiative

estate which owns the stretch of the Rother which I and fellow club anglers regularly fish. The fact that on our first monitoring visit we found a good selection of upwing fly larvae as well as numerous freshwater shrimps is encouraging for the future. Let us hope this trend continues.

My involvement with this initiative's work has not only added to my knowledge of life beneath the surface of our local rivers but has actually enhanced my angling experience, particularly when it comes to fly fishing, a branch of the sport which I have previously had little experience of, being mainly confined to fishing commercial trout fisheries. This recent added awareness of the different stages of the life cycle of riverflies has, for example, brought a new dimension to selecting which pattern of fly to choose.

Thanks to funding from the ARRT, Riverfly Monitoring continues in our area. I certainly hadn't heard of Riverfly Monitoring before becoming involved, and I suspect many others haven't either, so if this article has sparked your interest, just go to the initiative's very comprehensive website at <a href="http://www.riverflies.org/">http://www.riverflies.org/</a> and have a look. If you want to know more about the situation in our area and are perhaps contemplating being part of it, then please contact Seeseana Wright, who is the project officer with ARRT responsible for Riverfly work. She can tell you more about the project and the training workshops which will be starting up again this Spring.

Contact Information

E-mail: ses.wright@gmail.com

Mobile: 07854 721902





Riverfly is just one of the projects that ARRT are involved in at the moment. There will be further tree planting on the Rother at Fittleworth, a comprehensive survey of areas of both the Arun and Rother and it is hoped that through a combination of ARRT and the EA we might get funding to tackle the Himalayan Balsam on the Rother, which continues to be an issue.

As a charitable trust ARRT are always looking for funds so they can continue this valuable work which really benefits our river fisheries. You can become a friend of the trust for a very modest £25 per annum, you will receive regular updates on the work and projects that the trust are involved in. Visit https://arrt.org.uk/support-us/ for more

projects that the trust are involved in. Visit https://arrt.org.uk/support-us/ for more information

If you would like learn more about ARRT and the work it is doing then check out their website - https://arrt.org.uk/



# **Anglers' Oral History Project**

A few years back when Arun and Rother Connections (ARC) was being introduced, I became especially interested in one of the projects it was setting up i.e. the Oral History Project, the aim of which was to "capture local people's memories [and] further our understanding of how the landscape and rivers have changed over time". ARC was looking for volunteers to interview people from various backgrounds who had connections, either through work or leisure, with the rivers Arun and Rother. As an angler who regularly fished the rivers and as someone who had spent the last dozen or so years of his working life doing in-depth interviews as part of his research work, I was particularly interested.

I quickly volunteered and soon afterwards found myself part of a small team undergoing training by an oral history professional about the aims of the project, interviewing methodology, recording techniques and so on. As a result of the project, over the next two years many interviews were done and written up, illustrated with photographs and most importantly voice recordings were lodged with the West Sussex Records office as a permanent record and resource. Participants were also given a copy of their own recorded interview as part of their own family history to pass on as they wished.

After the project came to an end, I felt that I'd like to do something similar but focusing on anglers, particularly older ones, looking specifically at how they got into fishing and how their lives as anglers have evolved over time, the changes they have seen in fishing and the environment, and also the relationship between their hobby and their working and family lives. Interviews would be conducted along similar lines to those in the ARC project i.e. one to one preferably face to face, recorded for posterity.

If this is something that interests you and you'd like to know more about participating in this small-scale pilot project, please contact me initially by email at pfxlmi@sky.com.



Peter Foster

### **Match Scene**

#### One of our regular matchmen gives an update on what is happening at the matches

Looking back through the results and reports for the back end of last season the weather seems to get more mentions than anything else with poor conditions probably deterring all but the most ardent match anglers. We decided to move a match from the canal to Stemps after one of our regular canal anglers really struggled in a practise session. Despite these setbacks there were one or two highlights. The first match of 2019 produced a top weight of 40lb plus for Vince Herringshaw from peg 1 on Stemps Pond.



Vince in action on Peg 1

The 2019 - 20 match season started in May with Keith Hughes as our new Match Secretary. Keith had organised a variety of still water matches to kick the season off (because of course the rivers were closed). We had a mixture of mid week evening matches and Sunday matches which were on our own waters with a couple of away venues thrown in as well. Highlights were some good weights from Passies and Petworth Park with venue specialist John Ritter again showing how well he knows the water. We did not seem to ever



Jon Ritter scores yet again with a good net of Bream at Petworth Park

at Petworth so there were no really big weights this season but plenty of fish were caught from all round the lake.

Our river matches consisted of the evening series at the start of the season on the Rother and this included a match visit to Coates which all agreed



quite catch the weather

## By Matchman

was worth the trip. A summer match on the Arun produced good weights whilst a winter match produced the odd better fish and some wet feet. Unfortunately we had to cancel our day match at Coultershaw due to the conditions.

We have match fished all the ponds at Hurston in pretty much all conditions and there is a definite theme whichever pond you are on - prolific during the summer months but harder as it gets colder. We have a nice portfolio of away waters that are generally fairly reliable through most of the year and have had good matches at Passies, Bernies, Stanbridge View and Sumners, although Sumners is not the easiest place to book!

On the social side of things we had a well attended BBQ match at Stemps and Cart and chef Dave did a sterling job keeping everyone well fed. The Chris Humphry Barbel fish-in was fished in fairly adverse conditions but despite this we had a winner in Peter Marsh and the participants raised over £200 for charity.



Cody with his fish from Chichester's Long Lake

Our Three Counties Team had an enjoyable season although we didn't rattle any cages. Highlights were the matches on Chichester's waters where young Cody stepped in and across the two matches weighed in more than 60lb which is more than your writer achieved in five matches despite having his biggest match fish ever; a carp of around 13lb from New Pond in Midhurst. We hosted on the Rother at Fittleworth and at Stemps & Cart and our visitors complimented us on both venues, so many thanks to those that help look after our waters.

At the time of writing we have a few matches of the 2019 - 2020 season left. The tables are dominated by three anglers with Keith, Mick and Phil filling top slots in all the major trophies. We have a break from mid March until May when next seasons matches start.

Match fishing is a great way to learn about our waters and those that take part are always willing to help out new a giving it a go check the fixtures in the back of your handbook

comers, so if you fancy giving it a go check the fixtures in the back of your handbook and come along and join in. For a good proportion of the matches you can just turn up on the day but on certain waters and for away days it is really useful to know how

many are going to be at the match so the right number of pegs can be made available and in these case we ask that you book in, all the details will be in your handbook. Finally for those that don't fish matches please remember to check to see if a water is being used for a match - you don't want to get there only to find that water has been booked and is not available.



### **Our Rivers**

#### River Arun - Watersfield

The river shows many facets along the one mile stretch at Watersfield. Depth and flow can vary greatly from swim to swim. In general terms the top section starts relatively shallow gets deeper and then shallows up again. The mid section is very difficult to fish due to a combination of reeds and low lying ground, although there are a few really interesting swims to be found. The lower section tends to dry out on the inside in places as the tide falls but find the deeper glides and you will be in to some serious fish. Virtually at the end of



our stretch there is a gem of an inside line gravel run. Roach, Dace, small Chub and Perch can be caught all through with Skimmer Bream liable to show virtually anywhere with the odd big Bream as well. There are also big Barbel, Carp and Pike here.

### River Arun - Stopham



This stretch of the Arun above Stopham bridge is approximately one mile long and although still tidal the conditions are quite different from Watersfield. We have had reports of excellent Roach fishing with plenty of fish in the ½ to 1 lb bracket and specimens approaching 2lb,there are good numbers of Bream and Chub as well. There are some good sized carp with fish to certainly 15lbs and quite possibly

better, we have not heard of any Barbel on this stretch but there is nothing to suggest that they are not around. Of particular interest during the winter months is the size of Pike with fish approaching 20lb.

Fly Fishing is permitted on both these sections of the river.



### **Our Rivers**

#### River Rother - Coultershaw

Probably the most well known stretch of the Rother. This stretch of approximately one mile offers a rich variety of fishing. As well as the Barbel for which it has become famous there are quality Chub and Bream on this stretch together with all the other species that you would expect with some fish at specimen or close to specimen size there are even a few double figure carp which give as good an account of themselves as the barbel.



### **River Rother - Shopham**

Immediately below Coultershaw and offering similar opportunities. There are fewer Barbel on this stretch but more Chub and this is probably our best water for Grayling. The section is on the north bank both above and below Shopham bridge..



This is our longest section of the river running for approximately 2 miles on the south bank from Shopham bridge to just above Fittleworth bridge. The variety of fish on Coates is unusual with double figure Carp, Chub to 6 lb and Bream to 8 lb being supported by a good head of Roach, Dace, Grayling and Gudgeon with the odd Barbel as well.





#### River Rother - Fittleworth

The lowest of our stretches and offering the north bank for just over a mile and approximately half a mile of the south bank. There are plenty of Chub, Roach and Dace to be caught with an increasing number of Bream, Perch and Gudgeon. This stretch also produces the odd very big Barbel.



Fly Fishing is permitted on Shopham, Coates and Fittleworth

### **Our Still Waters**

We have 8 individual waters on 5 venues ranging from the beautiful estate lake at Petworth Park to tranquil farm ponds at Stemps & Cart.

**Hurston Lane** Our Hurston Lane fishery consists of three ponds with something for everyone. We are continuously building the stock at Hurston Lane and introduced further Roach at the start of 2019. Weed is partially controlled using a blue dyestuff here so don't be put off by the water colour.

**Tench Pond** Stocked with mainly Tench, Crucian Carp and Rudd this pond fishes best during the summer months, however recent introductions should improve winter sport





**Middle Pond** Although considered to be mainly a Carp venue with fish to 20lb. There is also a good head of Rudd, together with some big Perch and Bream in this pond.

**Match Pond** The Carp feed all year round and the Roach, Bream and Tench are prolific during the warmer months and seem to be a bit more active over the winter compared to previous years.





Chichester Canal We enjoy several miles of fishing on the Chichester Canal. During the warmer months good mixed bags of Roach, Rudd, Perch, and Skimmer Bream supplemented by the occasional larger Bream or maybe even a Carp can be taken from almost anywhere. In winter the fish tend to move up towards the canal basin and this becomes one of the prime spots as it remains ice free for all but the hardest winters. The basin is also particularly noted for its pike during the winter months. The Skimmer Bream stocked in 2015 seem to be showing more regularly now. Although there is not much evidence of the Tench.



### **Our Still Waters**





**Stemps and Cart** One of our most popular fisheries which provides excellent all year sport.

Stemps Pond (left) is stocked with Common Carp, Roach, Rudd, Bream and Perch. Cart Pond (right) is stocked with Carp, Tench, Roach, Rudd and Skimmer Bream. Over the last year or so we have worked hard to re-instate the island in Cart Pond. And earlier this year we stocked around 200 Tench into Cart Pond

#### **Petworth Park Lower Pond**

This glorious 7 acre lake set in the picturesque grounds of the Petworth Park Estate holds a good stock of Tench, Bream, and Crucian Carp. Pole, waggler or feeder tactics all prove productive and with light but regular feeding mixed bags exceeding 70 lbs are



not uncommon. Bream are generally in the 3 lbs to 6 lbs bracket with some fish approaching double figures, the Tench go to 5lbs and Crucians to 3lbs!

The Granary A lovely secluded lake set on farmland with a stock of mainly Carp and Rudd. The Carp run from a few ounces to 20lb and Rudd up to a pound have been caught. The Perch that were introduced a few years are now showing regularly and there is evidence that they had bred in the water, so we should soon have a good head of Perch alongside the more familiar Carp and Rudd.





### NOTICE OF AGM

The club will hold its Annual General Meeting The White Swan, Chichester Road (A27) Arundel BN18 0AD on

**Thursday 19th November 2020** 

at 7.30 pm

Please submit any motions or matters for consideration in writing to The Club Secretary (postal address or e-mail address as per your handbook) by Tuesday 1st November 2020

# **Interested in Joining the Club**

Fill out a membership form and send it with the appropriate fees and photos to;

P&BAC

PO Box 151

Arundel

**BN18 8DR** 

Or join on the spot at the following shops;

Arun Angling, Angmering	01903 770099	
<b>Littlehampton Angling Centre</b>	01903 715190	NEW
Petworth Book Shop	01798 342082	NEW
Prime Angling, Worthing	01903 821594	
SAS Chichester	01243 531669	

Membership Fees for 2020 - 2021				
	Membership Type	Full Year	Winter	
	Full Adult	£107	£73	
	Family (2 adults & 2 children under 18)	£189	£121	
	Senior Citizen	£65	£45	
	Intermediate (aged 18 - 24 inclusive)	£65	£45	
	Registered Disabled	£65	£45	
	Junior (aged 13 - 17 inclusive)	£25	£12	
	Juvenile (aged below 13)	Free	Free	
	Associate (non fishing)	£2	£2	