



Member newsletter

August 2024

Welcome, it has been a while since the last newsletter, so the new coarse season is well under way. I hope you are all enjoying your fishing despite the challenges that the Wye presents us with currently. The rather bizarre weather leaves us needing rain to get the river level up. Enough of my ramblings, let's update you on some club news.

Members' work parties

What a challenge we are facing to try and keep our club's waters in the condition we would like for all of you to enjoy. We have had several club work parties as well as some impromptu sessions, with a contractor taking on the battle of lower Weirend. The club is so grateful to everyone who attended, but we would love to see more of you. I need to say a huge thank you to yet another non-member Gary, who came to the recent session at Weirend. The club is so grateful that non-members have come along to help. With such enthusiasm, let's hope they decide to become members in the near future.

While the memory is fresh in my mind, here is a quick update on our last work party at Weirend on August 3rd. Despite previous efforts here, nature had done its best to undo all the hard work. The upper end of the beat was especially in need of clearing, along with tidying up elsewhere. Fortunately, we had all of the club's recently purchased strimmers available. Thanks to everyone who took the time to get signed off by Adrian, our health and safety guru, to use them. We also took the opportunity to clear a new swim; this proved to be more a challenge than we thought. Thanks to everyone that stayed on after the session to finish opening it up - Roger, you are a star! I should also thank Lyndon and Colin who turned up, despite carrying injuries, to help.



A snap of some that attended our work party in May

We have also attempted, during two previous sessions, to tame the growth at Benhall. The upper stretch remains a real problem which needs further attention ,despite everyone's fine efforts to date.



Challenge sums up exactly what we are facing to keep our waters in good condition this season. There will be more work parties announced shortly, please try your best to come along. Some of our retired members have even suggested a mid-week session. We need to have a serious think about what is the best solution to maintain the club's waters in good condition to ensure you all enjoy your fishing.

Club Competitions

After the success of the first event, John Cheyne is very kindly organising some more club competitions.

We are delighted to announce that we will be running another Members Only "Chub and Barbel Bash" on October 12th. This is a very informal and friendly competition which is a chance for members to get together, catch some lovely chub and barbel and enjoy our wonderful fishing in Ross. The format is roving on all of our waters with fish being photographed next to a measure on an unhooking mat. The members who catch the biggest (longest) chub and barbel will be taking the glory and winning a nice prize or two. If you would like to take part, you must register for free on the link below, where you will also find full details of the event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ross-on-wye-angling-club-chub-and-barbel-bash-12th-october-2024-tickets-948984286547?aff=oddtcreator>

John is also planning a Pike competition which is scheduled for December 14th. Full details to follow but please make a note of the date in your diaries.

As ever, we are all really keen to hear your views on any ideas for club events that you would like to see organised in the future. Just let us know. Email – rowac@dowling.xyz

Watershed - a new film about our relationships with the mighty Wye

Our club secretary Peter Richardson has been instrumental in the making of a new film about the Wye. I have watched it myself and it is a very thought-provoking film. Here are some words from Peter about it:

“Our beloved River Wye holds a special place in our members’ hearts, and of course, we are not alone. ‘Watershed’ is an engaging new film that combines breath-taking drone footage with heartfelt interviews to explore the many relationships with nation’s favourite river’ that are enjoyed, and suffered, by the local people who live with it.

The documentary was filmed and produced by RoWAC Secretary Peter Richardson and his wife Sue Ranger in 2023 when they worked for the Marine Conservation Society (MCS). Filmed between Chepstow and Ross on Wye, Watershed was first screened at public workshops held in those towns in January this year as part of a wider project to facilitate community input into local council initiatives to reduce negative impacts on the river.

The film features voices from along the Wye, including our own RoWAC Chairman Rob Leather, as well as several other familiar faces.”

You too can watch the film here - <https://vimeo.com/915213829>

Please let me know your thoughts on the film. Email – rowac@dowling.xyz

Young angler Finn

We've just had an update from Finn. As you know from a previous newsletter, Finn is new to river fishing and is gradually adapting his still water angling experience to tackle all the new challenges of flowing water, and the different species of fish he's been encountering. He's back out on the River Wye and has been enjoying some great early season fishing, and catching chub like these, using the tackle kindly and generously donated by ROWAC members at its recent AGM. We look forward to some more updates from Finn during his summer school holidays, when he'll be spending time outdoors discovering more about the Wye, working out how to catch river fish, and exploring the riverbank near to home with his fishing mates.



Our star of the future Finn with one of his catches

Good Luck and Tight Lines Finn!

Club water reports

I am delighted that Andy Bowkett got in touch to let me know about a great session on the opening day of the season at Weirend. What a day he had catching 12 barbel, top effort, congratulations.



The largest of the 12 that Andy caught, 8lb 10oz.

River conditions have rather improved over the last week or so, as has the fishing as a result. Club secretary Peter had a rather successful short two and a half hour evening session on Tuesday 27th August. A rather nice last cast special was his reward after catching a barbel and a lot of chublets.



Peter's hard fighting 9lb 8oz last cast prize

Please let me know how you getting on at the moment, it is so nice to share your successes, email rowac@dowling.xyz

Salmon update

Trevor Hyde, for those who don't know, is a trustee and an ex-chairman of our club. He has posted his thoughts on the disappointing salmon fishing on the Wye on the club website. It is worth a read and my heart goes out to all of our salmon members who have such a tough time despite their best efforts.

Link - <https://rossanglingclub.co.uk/2024/05/21/the-disaster-of-this-years-salmon-season/>

Pine Martens

Over the last few years my wife and I have been involved in the Forest of Dean Pine Marten reintroduction project. The project is just moving into its second phase as the successful initial project overseen by the Gloucester Wildlife Trust has finished. This project introduced a population of 35 Pine Martens into the forest from Scotland over a period starting in 2019. They are now well established and have successfully bred every year since.



© Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

<https://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/project-pine-marten>

The second phase is just starting under guidance from the Vincent Wildlife Trust. One of the great hopes of the project is that the Forest of Dean population will spread and connect with Pine Martens in other areas. There is already evidence that our Pine Martens have been very busy exploring well beyond their new home. A couple of examples being sightings in the Hereford area, and rather confusingly, a couple of males making the long trip around the Severn estuary through Gloucester and further down the south side of the estuary.

This is where I am asking for your help. I have to be honest the chances of you seeing a Pine Marten while you are out fishing are pretty low. However, should you see one please let me know. This is what the second phase is all about, monitoring movements, leaving the Pine Martens to do all the hard work for themselves. I am trying to think of what to offer as a bribe should one of you spot a Pine Marten and get in touch. Perhaps beer is the answer! As ever, the club is always keen to support conservation projects.

Email - rowac@dowling.xyz

The Wye monster mystery

Following on from the last newsletter, the monster mystery continues. After reports from Benhall and Weirend last season, I have a report of yet another incident this season. Quite what is stripping so much line and ultimately, breaking it, remains unsolved. I still have no real idea of what is going on. So, please let me know your thoughts, theories and any other incidents that you have. It is all a bit of fun really but it would be great to get an answer.

Email – rowac@dowling.xyz

Committee news

As I mentioned last time, the club has its five yearly rent review on our club water due next in March. It is still early days in the process, we will keep you informed on progress as the discussion develops with the Duchy.

A further update on access and the car park at Benhall. We had had reports that it had got rather overgrown, reducing the number of cars that could use it. We have had the car park professionally sprayed to clear it, and hope that this solves the problem.

As mentioned earlier, we are going to discuss ways of keeping our club's waters in the best condition for all members. We would really value your ideas, please share your thoughts via the normal email address: Email – rowac@dowling.xyz

Finally...

If I can help with anything, just ask. As ever, I would love to hear all about your fishing adventures.

Take care and tight lines

Chris Dowling

Email – rowac@dowling.xyz