

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 3



THE VOICE OF ANGLING

South West Newsletter

Dear AT SW Member,

Welcome to the very first quarterly newsletter for Angling Trust members in the South West of England. These newsletters are planned to keep you informed of new developments in the South West Freshwater Forum, including the timetable for Forum meetings, together with national and local regional news items.

The first thing that the Regional Development Group would like to do in this newsletter is to wish all members a Very Happy New Year, and Tight Lines for 2013 !



Meet the Development Group

Who are we ? The AT Regional Development Group members are:

- Terry Fell – Regional Director
- Tony Allen – Chair
- Malcolm Bond – Secretary & Acting Vice-Chair
- Jody Armitage – Environment Agency representative
- Chris Klee
- Iain Turner

Our regional group is also supported by John Cheyne, the Angling Trust's Regions Co-ordinator.

We are always open to recruiting new members of the team. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Malcolm Bond on malbond1@btinternet.com

Next South West Freshwater Forum

Feb 23rd

Portbury Village Hall



THE VOICE OF ANGLING

Future Freshwater Forum Meeting Dates

May 18th SW Forum Plymouth Area Venue TBC	September 14th SW Forum Taunton Area Venue TBC	December 7th SW Forum Bournemouth area Venue TBC
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Next Forum Meeting Feb 23rd

Portbury Village Hall

25 High Street, Portbury, Bristol, BS20 7TW

Tea & Coffee served at 10.00am

Meeting starts at 10.30am

Improving the Bristol Avon and it's fish stocks

Speakers Will Include

- The Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) regarding their strategy and plans.
- The Environment Agency regarding the European Water Framework Directive, and how the Bristol Avon catchment is faring overall.
- Angling Trust Campaigns Update

Members' contributions

We would welcome any comments, issues or questions that individual members may wish to raise generally.

If there is a specific item that you wish to have discussed at the next Forum meeting as an agenda item, please let the secretary know **by no later than 16th February**.

An email is fine, to malbond1@btinternet.com, or by post to the Angling Trust Head Office, at:
Eastwood House, 6 Rainbow Street, Leominster,
Herefordshire HR6 8DQ.



As we are sure you will appreciate, the South West region does cover a huge geographical area, stretching from Cornwall up to Gloucester, and across to Dorset. The main challenge is to provide all members in the region with a regular opportunity to attend a local Forum meeting, to talk about local as well as national angling issues, and to listen to presentations on interesting and locally-relevant angling topics.

To date, the Forum meetings have all been held in Taunton, which whilst being geographically quite central, is potentially a long journey from other parts of the region. The development group has therefore decided to rotate the venue around the region, to enable a more local focus. Any member is, of course, very welcome to attend any Forum meeting.

Ongoing Key Issues

There are a number of significant issues that the Regional Development Group feels should be kept in the spotlight, although these will only be added to Forum meeting agendas as and when any updates or new information become available:

- Abstraction
- Access problems
- Fish theft
- Drainage
- Endocrine disruptors and their effect on river life
- Fish disease and fish movement
- Hydropower
- Invasive plants and animals
- Licence evasion
- Nitrates and other forms of diffuse pollution
- Over-predation



Angling Trusts Roy Retallick receives gift and vote of thanks from the SW Region

At the AT Forum meeting last October, Roy Retallick formally retired, and received a heartfelt vote of thanks, together with a gift. Terry Fell, AT's Regional Director, writes:

"Roy has been involved in angling administration for many years, both at local and national level. It's at national level that I know Roy best, Roy was a regular attendee at all NFA national events helping formulate many of the cornerstone policies which helped in protecting angling and the environment. On joining the Board of the NFA Roy became our representative to the EAA where he made many friends and took a central role for several years. This service to angling was recognised with an award from the European Council. Roy also took on the job of Regional Secretary for the South West providing a first class service to the membership. Roy was a main supporter for the forming of a new national body for angling which we now know as the Angling Trust.

It was with great pleasure that I presented Roy with the gift of an engraved centre pin reel on behalf of both the AT and his many friends in the region to mark his retirement as Region Secretary.

Roy has been a good friend to angling, and we wish him and his family every happiness for the future".

Roy will continue his role as Competitions Secretary.

Big Shoes !

At the October AGM, Malcolm Bond was elected as the new Secretary by those members present, replacing Roy Retallick. As well as being an avid trout and salmon angler, Malcolm also coarse-fishes, specialising in chub (PB 5lb 7oz) and dace (PB nudging the record, at over 1lb 4oz). Says Malcolm..

"Roy's are big shoes to step into, but I very much look forward to the challenge, and to help take the AT SW Forum to the next stage in its development. The rotation of the forum meeting locations, and the quarterly newsletters to members, will very much form part of that process".

ANGLING TRUST NEWS

Benyon rejects canoeists campaign

Angling bodies have been getting increasingly concerned at the conduct of the British Canoe Union (BCU) and Canoe England (CE) who are encouraging canoeists to defy the law and trample over anglers' rights. They have been promoting a 'Right to Paddle' campaign for several years and simply refuse to acknowledge the existence of limitations on navigation in civil law. The Angling Trust recently sought clarification on the canoeists demands from Fisheries and Natural Environment Minister Richard Benyon. The minister supported the Trust and strongly rebutted the notion of an automatic 'right to paddle' up every stream, brook and river in the country regardless of the impact on either the environment or other river users..... [FOR FULL STORY CLICK HERE:](#)



Angling Trust takes on BBC over otters

The Angling Trust has written to the BBC to complain about the inadequate coverage of the impact of predation on fisheries in the Springwatch programme about otters. The programme failed to deal with the issue of impacts on fish stocks of captive-bred otters, and their offspring. Particularly in light of increased predation from cormorants, over-abstraction, diffuse pollution and barriers to fish migration, all of which reduce the ability of fish populations to withstand predation..... [FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER CLICK HERE:](#)

Fishing for Life Strategy Launched

A strategy to get more people fishing and help projects that use fishing to provide support to people in need was launched by Angling Trust CEO Mark Lloyd and Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon at the Angling Summit in London recently. The impressive 35 page document is backed by information gathered in Britain's biggest ever National Fishing Survey and signals the start of a new chapter of joined up working between the huge number of organisations who work hard all over the country to promote angling and its benefits such as Get Hooked on Fishing and Fishing for Heroes[FOR THE FULL STORY CLICK HERE:](#)



County Action Angling Group (CAAG) and Angling Development News

Our CAAG Regional Officer is Dean Asplin. Dean writes:

Firstly, can I wish everyone a fish-filled New Year for 2013! Without a doubt 2012 has been a truly magical year for all sports! It has also been a great year for angling, as it has been the busiest year I have known so far in my role as the Angling Development Officer for the South West.

As most of you are probably aware, we (the Angling Trust) as a governing body are just coming to the end of our very first Whole Sport Plan, funded to the tune of approximately £1.4 million throughout 2009-12 by Sport England. We have come along in leaps and bounds since I started in 2009. I remember in 2009, where we had a relatively small impact with a South West participation of 205, with the majority of these taking part in Coarse angling projects. So we set about delivering a sustainable national and regional angling development infrastructure that included: a level 1 and 2 coach recruitment programme which was launched so successfully it delivered over 1000 newly qualified coaches nationally. CAAGs were set up with varied success across the country. 160 angling clubs were targeted to become ClubMark-accredited; there are now 18 ClubMark clubs in the South West region alone. Partnerships were formed between many different organisations, such as the Environment Agency, County Sports Partnerships and local education authorities to name but a few. Nick Payne was employed on a part time basis and has done a magnificent job of managing Devon and Cornwall.

All of these working partnerships and this angling development infrastructure has led to 2012 being the best on record with a huge

success throughout the South West. I am pleased to announce a total participation of 3018 all of which had an opportunity to experience what angling has to offer. For those statistically-minded folk out there this can be broken down to the following categories: 195 participants took part in school to club link programmes, 1579 coarse angling, 860 game angling and 384 Sea angling - amazing stuff I am sure you will agree!.

Well the good news does not stop here! The Angling Trust has recently been successful in obtaining an increase in funding for the new Whole Sport Plan 2013-17, as well as developing the new Fishing for Life strategy in partnership with the Environment Agency plus other key partners. The new Whole Sport plan will look to build upon the existing development infrastructure, as well as now encouraging more adults participation so please get in contact if you are already or are thinking of running some programmes like this.

This all adds up to very exciting times for future angling development programmes. I am looking forward to really pushing angling forward over the next four years to see what can be achieved into the future. I also look forward to working with all the coaches, angling clubs, schools, community groups and key partners, as without you we would not be able to achieve the high targets we set ourselves, so thank you for your support over the last three years, and here is to the next four!

Competition News

For your diaries - just to let everyone know that the 2013 SW Regional Championships will be held on **Sunday 2nd June** on the Kennet & Avon Canal. More information will be sent in due course to all clubs.

Roy Retallick

Devon & Cornwall Update

Nick Payne is the County Angling Officer for Devon and Cornwall. Nick writes:

My role is to support anglers and angling clubs in the two counties, to provide opportunities for new anglers to try the sport, to develop the coaching resources available locally and administer the Club Mark scheme, which Dean has mentioned. I was also tasked with re-establishing the Devon County Angling Action Group (CAAG) which had not evolved as was hoped for originally and setting up a new one for Cornwall. These county Angling Development Forums are now working well and meet about 4 times a year. Each now also has its own Facebook page, so if you are interested search for "Devon Angling Development Forum" or "Cornwall Angling Development Forum" on Facebook and link up with us.

My first few months were spent to trying to make contact with key partners and personalities in the far south west and to ascertain what anglers themselves wanted from me. This was a time consuming exercise due to size of the area and the different issues confronting our coarse, game and sea anglers. I have also been involved in several events to encourage interest in the sport including the Devon Games to Inspire which were staged in July and a number of individual events linked to National Fishing Month including the Newquay Fish Festival.

Plymouth and District Coarse Fishing Club and Paignton Sea Anglers have both successfully completed the ClubMark accreditation which will significantly enhance their success in pursuing funding opportunities in the future. Two other clubs in my area are expecting to be awarded their certificates very shortly and a number of others are actively working on theirs. Would you like to discuss what ClubMark might have to offer your club with

me?

I have also managed to secure approval of the facilities at Roadford Lake to provide more local coach education for those wanting to become registered angling coaches. Details of this year's courses are now published on the Angling Trust website.

One of my other achievements has been to establish a new fishing club for young people for the first time in a multi-deprived community in Camborne. This area has some of the most extreme levels of child poverty in the whole country. Establishing the club has been supported by Cornwall Council, the local police, the Environment Agency and the Cornwall Community Foundation. The Agency and Foundation have both committed considerable funding and other assistance to enable the club to equip a new tackle library and enjoy several days fishing in 2013 with the input of two registered angling coaches. The club members are now enthusiastically planning their programme of fishing trips for the coming year.

Finally, please make a note in your diary for the forthcoming South West Fly Fair at Roadford Lake on 9th March 2013. This event is being organised by the South West Lakes Trust and the Westcountry Rivers Trust with input from myself. It's a new concept for our region and if successful we are hoping that it will become an annual event to kick off the new season. Angling celebrities such as Charles Jardine, Chris Ogborne and Gary Champion will be there giving presentations on all aspects of fly fishing whether game, salt and predator.

If you wish to contact me about any aspect of my work or how I might assist your club, etc., my mobile number is 07850 774857 or email me at: nick.payne@anglingtrust.net

All the best to 2013 !