



MILTON KEYNES Angling

Association

# newsline



For 2014 - '15

Society of responsible anglers founded in 1970.

Members of the Angling Trust and UOFA

## OH HAPPY DAYS!



● Roach over a pound going into the cut!



JUST some of the fish keeping MKAA members happy (left to right) ● Over 1/3 tonne of fish going into canal ● Danny Doyle & 20-9 Lodge 'ghostie' ● Connor Godfrey, aged 9, & 2-8 Tear Drops' perch on whip

Like so many fish in **MKAA waters** - WILLEN'S carp just keep getting...

# BIGGER AND BIGGER!

## This 43 is Willen's best. So far...

**G**listening in the camera flash Dean Seath's Willen common looks every ounce of the 43lb it pulled the scales round to.

It was the latest in a string of captures which had seen the water's - and MKAA's - record creep up from 39-10 (Sam Willis) to its new high over a period of 12 months.

But while Dean's fish had yet to be beaten at the time of going to press, a number of significantly larger fish (some mirrors) have been seen in Willen.

Dean is used to fishing all-year-round and coming up with the goods.

In the space of little more than a year he had



● At 43lb Dean Seath's Willen whacker is the largest officially reported from the lake. But there are bigger ones yet to be landed

## He's a STAR!

● Matchman Michael Buchwalder has good reason to punch the air - the former MKAA junior is about to trouser £5,000!

That was his prize for winning the national 2013 Drennan Knock-out Championship.

A whole summer of knock-out rounds had culminated in a two-day head-to-head against Lee Kerry, on a Worcestershire 'commercial', in which 'our lad' floored the bookies' favourite.

Great picture by on-the-spot MKAA committee man John Hewison ■

ALSO landed - among other other good fish:

- A 31-8 winter common from Teardrops
- A 9-2 tench from Caldecotte
- A 12-13 bream from Willen

*A Top Man on the banks is Dean.*

Willen may have moved firmly to the front of MKAA's big carp stakes, but it would be premature to write off the chances of Furzton or Caldecotte bouncing back into the title race.

Furzton's best reported fish is Mick Dowsett's 35-8 and Caldecotte's a 37-13 caught by Neil Richardson.

And, at the rate the 'supa carp' MKAA stocked into Bradwell a while back are growing, that water could be a contender, too, in a few years time.

*If you haven't done so, why not give them a crack? All four fantastic waters are available on day and season tickets ■*

**ZANDER MENACE** - pg 4  
Invasive alien species threatening the local canal and rivers - and what's being done about it.

**BITING BACK** - pg 8  
How to deal with the irresponsible dog owners who can spoil life on the banks

**LOCAL LAD'S TOP JOB** - pg 10  
Former MKAA officer now leading *The Tenchfishers*

**'FURZTON' FESTIVAL** - p 12  
Carp match back for this year's annual Willen Hospice fund-raiser

### WILLEN: DRONE'S EYE VIEW

See Willen as you will probably never have seen it before. For the best seat in the house go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkA3i8\\_INy8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkA3i8_INy8)  
A local man used a 'flying camera' to put the 5 minute clip on YouTube. Great for spotting gaps in the weed.  
Larger, missile-carrying, military versions are called 'drones'. Could be great for deterring rule breaking, that... Like

### NEW MINI FUN FISHERY

A new, small, 'commercial'-style fun water would have been open by now but for a failed grant application. Watch MKAA website & local tackle shops for progress ■



Want to know more - or BUY ON-LINE? Call 01908 270000 / 07759 129800 / visit [www.mkaa.co.uk](http://www.mkaa.co.uk) / see facebook

# Lodge Lake It can be all things to all people

One of MKAA's longer-established fisheries, Lodge is deservedly popular among match and specimen anglers alike.

And it is a firm favourite for many leisure anglers too, especially those happiest never knowing what they might hook into next.

It can, on the right day, give you a net-full of roach (an Angling Times league final a couple of seasons back saw numerous double-figure roach nets caught by those who knew how to fish it – on both match day and in practice).

*This July Ernie Sattler won an MKAA match there with 30-4-4 of redfins.*

Its heaviest recorded matchweight is 142lb! Don't expect to do that everyday. The shoals are notoriously nomadic...but well worth trying for!

Or it could be a near 30lb carp, a slab-sized bream, or a hard fighting tench.

On other days it can be gudgeon, big perch or crucians...or a so-called 'exotic'.

A cracking fun fishery, it is also an 'all-weather water' and has produced many carp topping 20lb in the depths of winter ■



● No Monday morning blues for Daniel Doyle – who kicked off his week with this 20-9 Lodge 'ghostie'

Photo by bailiff Ian Pledger



● Maver MK matchgroup's Pete Patton with part of a 57-6 catch

## Wolverton Mill

Wolverton Mill is two tiny stormwater lakes just over a dozen pegs between them.

Open all year, they are heaving with carp of all sizes up to mid-20s, plus crucians (and, curiously, loads of gudgeon) which can make it fun for all ages.

Have fun and keep it simple, this is NOT a multiple rods, bolt rigs and bivvie water ■



● Loads more fish for Lodge – this time courtesy of the Environment Agency

**FISHING LODGE**

- Fishing is from more than 40 permanent pegs. Depths vary between 2 and 18 feet. Most baits work at some time – and don't forget the pegs in the small 'pond' where the brook comes in. They can be great, especially in winter!
- TWO rods only, **traditional close season** (March 15 to June 15 inclusive) applies
- **NO parking on the H4 verge, and no night fishing UNLESS you are in the Night Syndicate – see below**
- In recent years MKAA has, as part of routine fishery improvements, added several hundred crucians, carp, and skimmer bream into Lodge plus – thanks to the **Environment Agency's** fishery team – more than 5,000 small silverfish ■

## Working to help keep fishery in shape



● Dico Rennie, 7 with a 'Mill mirror

### FISHING T'MILL

- No night fishing.
- No keepnets in the interests of fish welfare.
- Fishing only allowed from immediate vicinity of the concrete peg markers
- Stay away if you DON'T have a rod licence. Wolverton Mill is the first place EA enforcement officers (often accompanied by police) check on their numerous 'anti-dodger' sweeps of the city area ■



...and Reece Keane with an 11



● Lodge regular Brian Brooks gets back to catching after fallen tree was removed from the 'pond'

● The 'pond' on the inlet stream of Lodge – over towards the badminton centre site – can produce cracking catches, especially in winter. So it was a disaster for some regulars when, in February, burrowing 'creatures' toppled a far bank tree which fell into the pond and completely blocked a prime swim. Fortunately the Parks Trust had contractors

working in the area, and they had cut up the tree and dragged it back onto dry land within 24 hours of MKAA reporting the problem. Thank you Parks Trust. ● A mild winter and warm spring caused a real bankside vegetation growth spurt around Lodge, and with the June 16 opening day in sight many pegs were completely overgrown.



● An overgrown Lodge peg BEFORE Ian put in best part of a day's work

So with the consent of the Parks Trust, bailiff Ian Pledger spent a large part of June 14 whipping 45 pegs into nice, accessible, shape.

Thank you Ian. He drinks Magners – if anyone is feeling that grateful... ■

## Lodge night fishing ban

Mindless behaviour by a tiny number of idiots has forced the Parks Trust (and MKAA as its tenant) to ban night fishing on Lodge for everyone EXCEPT members of a new night syndicate.

Ignoring warning after warning, those whose 'activities' caused the ban, habitually – seemingly deliberately – continued using bankside shrubbery as a midden.

Unacceptable in a public park, that brought the association, sport and our landlords into disrepute. If caught the culprits will be permanently banned from all MKAA waters.

**Now fishing between dusk and dawn on Lodge is ONLY**

**allowed for members of the night syndicate.**

That is open – NO CHARGE – to anyone with a record of decent bankside behaviour. Syndicate members (who carry photo ID) MUST commit to bailliffing the water at night on a rota basis.

Interested? Call 07742 078680 or email lodge@mkaa.co.uk

But, PLEASE, wherever you fish with MKAA, if you see loutish anti-social behaviour, please call a bailliff (list on page 11) or, in extreme cases, the police (101 unless it is an emergency).

**If we don't banish the idiot minority, bans will be brought in elsewhere...and next time it might be ALL FISHING (24/7) which gets stopped! YOUR choice.**

Thank you

### Promote your fishery or club!

- Colour brochures ● Leaflets ● Postcards
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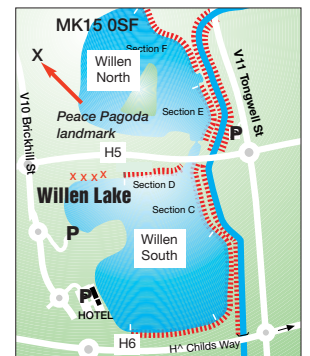
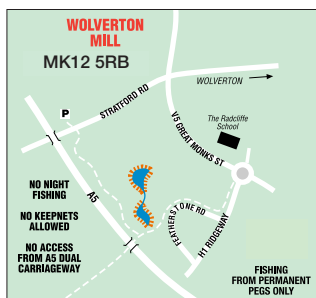
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# How big will Willen's carp grow?

**A** 50-pounder is very much 'on the cards' in the not too distant future – and that need NOT be the limit!

Over the past 18 months the water's recorded best has been rising steadily; through the mid 30s to 39-10, and then on to the 43 pictured right.

And still larger Willen carp have been seen – both commons AND mirrors – so the current best, which fell to Dean Seath in mid-May, is definitely beatable.

However, significantly larger fish are almost certainly yet to come.

Most current south lake biggies are likely to be fish which have grown on after being stocked some 10 years ago.

Paid for jointly by MKAA and the Parks Trust, they were part of a half-tonne batch of 5lb to 15lb quality fish from Naseby Reservoir. And they are thriving in Willen's fertile conditions. But behind them are fish with potential to grow even bigger: so-called 'Supa-carp'.

Again a jointly funded purchase, some 5,000 fish from five to eight ounces were added in 2006 and 2007.

The strain is the progeny of fish from two top Carp Society lakes, and was originally developed by fishery scientist Dr Bruno Broughton.

At the time of stocking he predicted that, given good conditions, they could reach at least 40lb in a little over a decade, with some eventually doing significantly better than that.

Given that seven to eight years on some are already in the high 20s and



● Current MKAA carp record at 43lb: caught by Starbaits/Tackle Hub-backed Dean Seath

Photo by bailiff Mike Reveler

early 30s...he probably wasn't far wrong.

● Don't dismiss the north lake if you want carp. Though all official stockings have been on the south, the species 'found' its way into the north lake 20 or more years ago.

Ten years back it was doing 20s. Now it holds fish going into the 30s. And it is a much quieter, more tranquil, place to fish than the south lake ■

**WILLEN** – two lakes totalling around 150 acres – is about more than carp alone, holding bream and tench to double figures, good pike, perch, and shoals of pound-plus roach.

Created some 40 years ago, and initially stocked with silverfish, it has been constantly evolving and maturing ever since.

And their growth rates prove that fish love it there!

It can be a dauntingly vast place to fish – but can also be magic! Go give it a try.

The north lake is far more tranquil than the south, and don't be put off by a big blow. If you can take the punishment then fishing into the wind off the east bank can REALLY pay off!

This summer, fishing catch and immediate release, two pals shared more than 300lb of bream on feeder and pellet in a breezy morning session – a catch including numerous double-figure slabs to just over 12lb.

### FISHING WILLEN

● Like most MKAA waters Willen is a 'public' water, available on day tickets which can be bought from bailiffs on the bank or from the boat rental shop next to the south lake hotel

● 3 rods permitted if you have a 3 rod ticket (and TWO rod licences)

● Open all year but NO keepnets allowed on south lake between March 15 and June 15

● No baitboats allowed on ANY MKAA water ■



● Jason Partlow - a 37



● Billy Scott: 42-12



● Sam Willis 39-10



● Steve Lindop 11-2 slab

Note the breezy chop behind Steve – ideal for Willen 'silvers'

# GONE- FISHIN

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# The Canal

# A 'grand' fishery getting ever better!

The Grand Union really deserves the 'grand' part of its name. When rivers and lakes are in flood, the cut is a 'banker' for some sport in all but the coldest, 'clear water' conditions.

But it can be a star the rest of the year, too. On good days – and nights – it is everything from a fantastic match venue to an out and out specci water...with a huge amount of leisure fishing potential in between.

On the coldest days it will usually come up with at least a few perch and gudgeon for those who just HAVE to get out and fish for something...and yes, ice-breaking on the cut frequently ATTRACTS fish.

It has produced numerous 30 or near 30lb



● Paul Jones with a January 20 from the Bradwell end – one of four doubles in a daylight session



● Sam Hussain with winter 19-8 from Fenny area. He'd only taken up fishing a few months earlier

match catches (generally bream) and carp – first introduced back in the early 70s – to 35lb. On better days – and the cut has lots of them – it can be a specialist Mecca with big carp, pike, tench to 9 and bream over 7, perch now pushing 5, pound-plus roach...and hordes of smaller fish for people of all skill levels.

Yes it has boats, but overall behaviour seems to be improving, and if you don't like them...go fish early or late when some cracking catches can be made

Yes, some dog owners don't 'scoop the poop' (see page 8 for how to bite back at any

## Don't stop – call John!

● MKAA canal liaison officer John Hewison is a man of indomitable spirit – and needs to be!

Anglers have seemingly been on the back foot for too long now in comparison with other canal users (odd that, as we are the ONLY group, other than boaters, who PAY to be there) and John has taken on the job of trying to improve our lot.

If, while fishing the cut, you are a victim of others' anti-social behaviour, don't get into a confrontation (sat on the edge surrounded by expensive, easily damaged, kit you are on a loser anyway) just talk to John.

He deals with the Canal & River Trust and, if necessary, the police, to try and reduce such

irresponsible dog walkers) and a minority of cyclists can at best be described as 'aggressive'.

Thankfully, the maturing Canal & River Trust (which replaced BW) – working in partnership with the police and user groups such as MKAA – is really ramping up efforts to deal with anti-social behaviour and make the tow path a nicer, safer, place to be.

Give it a try. Go make the most of MKAA's 9.5 miles of local canal. Hopefully you will be pleasantly surprised ■

events – improving canal life for all except those who cause the problems.

*Sceptical? It can and WILL work if you give it a try and make that call.*

John can be reached on 07787 801189 or at johnh@mkaa.co.uk ■



## Over a third of a tonne of EXTRA fish

The local canal got its biggest stock boost in living memory earlier this year, with 730lb of prime fish – many of them roach of a pound or more – going in.

Valued at well over £5,000 the shot in the arm came courtesy of the Canal & River Trust's

fisheries team...adding 'cream' to what is already recognised as one of the best silverfish canal lengths in the country!

Some will not have seen a hook before, as they've come from canal sections in parts of the country where no one rents the fishing.

So C&RT brought them to MK. Nice!

● MKAA has also been improving local stocks, adding several hundred small but fast-growing 'supa' carp to replace fish dying of old age – and, this spring, several hundred small chub, hopefully winter 'bonus' fish of the future ■



● Pound+ roach 'moving in' with MKAA

## HALTING 'Z' SPREAD MENACE

It may look like something from science fiction...but the craft pictured is a state-of-the-art electro-fishing survey boat.

And it could be the saviour of local canal angling as we know it, writes MKAA chairman Trevor Johnson.

This spring the Canal & River Trust paid for it to work the cut from Peartree to Cosgrove lock, to establish just how far southwards zander have spread from north of that lock.



The first stage was clear, but 18 Zs were removed between Bradwell and Cosgrove. They were all small...but if left would have been the start of an invasive breeding stock.

This winter efforts will, hopefully, be made to remove zander found between Cosgrove and Braunston.

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH Zs**  
Nothing, in the right place...but that place is NOT the local Grand Union!

As the prolifically breeding alien species grow (double-figure Zs have been caught at Blisworth) they can hunt in packs, decimating shoals of smaller silverfish to a point where breeding-stocks of roach, dace, bream, gudgeon and the like, collapse.

Zs have long been established North of Braunston, where 'silver' fishing has declined so much that few people bother giving it a go.

The C&RT and MKAA are determined to try and prevent that happening here.

Especially as Zs could oh so easily get from the cut into the Upper Ouse – the very last thing that river needs when its silver fish stocks are on the up for the first time in decades!

Because of that very real risk the Environment Agency may get asked to help fund control.

If you should catch a Z, it is illegal to put it back (however small) just as it's illegal to return red signal crayfish.

C&RT national fisheries & angling manager John Ellis said that under the Import of Live Fish Act: "It is an offence to return zander to the water if caught. Therefore they must be killed."

● Below: immature Z looking like a very stretched perch. Even at that age it still has tiny, visible, teeth and should not be put back ■

Prove that **YOU** are a 'cut' above the rest!

First come first served!

### Individual Junior, & Adult Pairs Canal Championships 2014

On the Shropshire Union Canal – September 14th

- Juniors (12-16): **FREE** entry  
To be fished at Market Drayton
- Adult Pairs (17s & over): **£40** per pair entry  
To be fished in the Soudley area

It's set to be a great day, so don't delay, **DO IT TODAY!**

● email: sandra.drew@anglingtrust.net or call 01159 061301 for more details and entry forms



● CLOSING date for entries is August 15, 2014



# Tear Drops

# Small waters - big fish!

First-time visitors can find it hard to believe the Tear Drops hold carp topping 30lb - but anglers' catches prove the point beyond doubt.

Those fish were not deliberately stocked (though others have been, since). They, or their parents, were washed into the 'Drops as young 'uns when floods pushed them out of Furzton and down the

Loughton Brook.

But while big carp frequently make the headlines, there are shoals of other fish to be caught, and the lakes are ideal match and 'Dads (or mums) and lads (or lasses)' waters.

Good bream, tench - both to at least 6 or 7lb - pound-plus roach and bristling perch are all part of the picture...as are chub to 4lb+.

Winter flooding can see all four lakes become one, but each continues to exhibit distinctive characteristics. In winter the 'Drops can suddenly switch-on, producing stunning catches.

The 'Drops have benefited from thousands of pounds worth of silverfish stockings, some added in partnership with our Parks Trust landlord, plus injections of tench and small, fast-growing, carp ■



● Above: Bill Thompson with nice TD bream on float-fished bread  
Below: Connor Godfrey, 9, with 2-8 perch on 3 metre whip and maggots  
Centre: Callum Smith, 13, with 17-8 carp - his first ever



● Dean Seath again (he does catch a LOT of big fish) - this time with magnificent 31-8 Tear Drops' common

**FISHING TEAR DROPS**

- Fishing from permanent pegs only on lakes 1, 2 & 4 (lake 3 - working away from the National Bowl - is a non-fishing bird sanctuary). Two rods only
- Very occasional major concerts at the Bowl can make the area as busy as central London. Best try elsewhere on THOSE days
- Access from the two car parks off Davey Avenue (one of them at end of Garforth Place) ■



● Trees are good...but you can have too much of a good thing: especially when they are 'self-sets' which have, over the years, developed monster tackle-snagging branches blocking off peg after peg.

Early this year the Parks Trust brought in contractors Greenacres to ensure, at MKAA's request, that every swim on Tear Drops 1 & 2 was fit for purpose.

They did a great job and it should be several years before they need return. TD 4 will, hopefully, get similar treatment next year.

Thank you Parks Trust...and Greenacres ■

● Below: A big bough comes down on TD 1 (no more floats lost up that one) and, inset, gets chipped back onto the land



● Another Tear Drops stocking - 'giving nature a hand'

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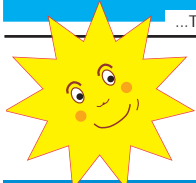
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# Bradwell, Caldecotte, Emberton and Furzton too...

## Caldecotte

Tench and bream into double figures, carp probably into the 40s, big pike, perch, roach and hybrids – 90 acre Caldecotte Lake has the lot.

Those who have located the shoals have been rewarded with some outstanding catches.

On the right day 100 lb+ of big slabs is not out of the question...and some years see several such catches.

Depth averages around 12 feet and the fish are often right under your feet. It has produced MKAA's roach (3-0-0) and pike (30-4-0) records.

● In recent years the EA has spent thousands of pounds on fish



● **Pristine 9-2 Caldecotte female tench – and yet another fine trophy pic for fishmaster Dean Seath!**

breeding areas to boost overall stocks, and MKAA has added batches of small, fast-growing 'Supa-carp' ■

## FISHING THESE WATERS

- Open all year round
- You can use 3 rods on all four waters (if you have a 3-rod ticket and TWO rod licences)
- Please see MKAA website / season ticket for areas fishing is allowed in, and for fixtures to avoid clashing with match bookings
- No bait boats on any water accessed on an MKAA ticket
- All are in public parks; best behaviour at ALL times, please
- MKAA season tickets allow free day-time fishing in Emberton Park (no night fishing).
- **BRADWELL:** includes 1/4 mile of River Ouse (statutory close season March 15 to June 15 inclusive) and is next to our Bradwell canal
- **CALDECOTTE:** No fishing south

lake March 15 to June 15. New too the water? Watch for the replica windmill atop Caldecotte Arms, good place to park

● **FURZTON:** Like Tear Drops, very occasionally affected by mayor concerts at nearby National Bowl – best check first. Angler parking ONLY in designated public car parks

● **EMBERTON:** 'park river – and the backwater by the town bridge in winter flood – deservedly popular (statutory close season on both)

Emberton Park car entry charges vary between £4 and £2.60. Check with MK Council on 01234 711575 re season car entry pass costs ■

## Furzton

Monster carp (venue best 35-8) through to chunky roach – Furzton is heaving with fish of all shapes, sizes and species.

Well-known for its carp (PLEASE can someone send in some pictures of the OTHER species?) it is also a cracking conventional match venue (5 hour record around 250lb in an Angling Times league final) – with huge shoals of bream – which also really comes into its own as a delightful pleasure fishery.

Other species include chub to at least 5 lb, tench to more than 8, perch pushing 4 and huge shoals of big roach.

It has hosted two world championships so far (veterans and ladies) and more than one 48 hour carp match has produced over half a tonne of fish. A steady wind usually helps ■

## Over 800lb!



● **FURZTON:** Pete Newell and Neil Richardson with the 50th carp of 52 – totalling more than 800lb – the pair landed in 48 hours last summer



● **Egidijus Kavaliauskas with a nice Furzton 24**



● **Skye Smith, 6, at Furzton with her first-ever fish (dad helped). Pic by bailiff Danie Grobler**



● **Bradwell Lake (left):** Bob Gale set out to be different... Finding everyone else bite-less with their backs to the wind one sunny afternoon, he set up facing it, and is pictured with part of a catch which included several tench to 8-4, bream to 8lb and perch topping 2lb

● **Furzton Lake (left):** Stefan Sadhani with another nice fish  
● **Bradwell Lake (above):** Paul Taylor with fighting fit 18lb snapper  
● **Bradwell again (right):** The picture does it nothing like justice, but Jon Pearson's bream was weighed and witnessed at 16lb!!!

## Bradwell

Bradwell Lake's big tench and bream (into double figures) can provide tackle – and arm – testing sport, while its fast-growing carp are now into the 20s... but do not dominate the fishery. There are big shoals of roach which can be elusive, but when you do connect, 1lb+ fish can be the norm. Perch (at least one pushing 5lb stocked) are present along with rudd, pike to 20+, chub, dace and even the odd gudgeon.

MKAA owns the 40 acre maturing gravel pit site which includes a quarter mile of Great Ouse and is flanked by part of MKAA's Bradwell canal section. Tons of fish have been added, along with car parks, access road, numerous concrete top pegs and access paths to wheelchair standard – the National Lotter helped.

● MKAA's 9-10 record tench, caught by Matt Hodges, was a Bradwell fish. Scores of bream from 8lb into double figures were landed this spring, along with tench to 8lb, roach to 1-8 and perch to 3-8 – catches mostly witnessed by bailiffs Sean and Sean Jnr Wilson ■

## Bradwell

● **Michael Ford and (inset) Michael Jnr with Bradwell tench of 8lb and 5-2**



## Emberton

Emberton Park has a water-side access road right round the inside of the 'park (please stick to the surfaced car parks in wet weather) and with a barrier controlled entrance gate, an atmosphere of peace, and security is the norm.

Four lakes (open all year) hold fair stocks

of most common species – carp into the 30s, bream close to double figures, and tench which have even been known to feed during January snow storms.

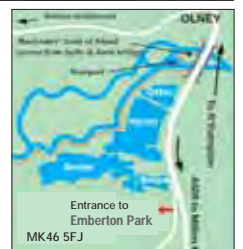
For many years a 9-6-0 Emberton tench was the MKAA record.

The 'park river – and the backwater over by the town bridge in times of winter flood – are deservedly popular and subject to the statutory close season, March 15 to June 15 ■



● **Paul Andrews with one of a pair of Emberton 23s he caught early this year**

● **Carpin' is an all-year-round joy for Ed Rainbow and Paddy Sheehah (below) who had this pair of Furzton 20s in darkest January**



Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 17:30  
Friday 08:30 - 19:00  
Saturday 08:00 - 17:30

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**RULE re fishing match venues!**

● If a match is booked (see list below) ALL anglers must be OFF that section by the preceding midnight. The ONLY exceptions are for evening events in which case you must be gone by 12 noon on the day of the match.

FURZTON LAKE					
20/07/14	ALL	0700-1500	21/12	ALL	0800-1400
03/08	A+B+C	0700-1300	01/01/15	ALL	0800-1500
03/08	ALL	0700-1500	27/09	ALL	0700-1300
17/08	ALL	0700-1500	11/01	ALL	0900-1500
20/08	A+B+C	0600-1600	25/01	ALL	0900-1500
22/08	A+B+C	0600-1600	08/02	ALL	0900-1500
24/08	A+B+C	0600-1600	22/02	ALL	0900-1500
25/08	A+B+C	0600-1600	01/03	ALL	ALL DAY
31/08	A+B	0700-1300	07/03	ALL	0900-1500
14/09	A+B+C	0800-1500	11/03	ALL	0700-1300
24/09	A+B+C	0700-1300			
26/09	A+B+C	ALL DAY			
27/09	A+B+C	ALL DAY			
28/09	A+B+C	ALL DAY			
16/11	A+B	ALL DAY			
22/02/15	A+B	ALL DAY			

WILLEN LAKE					
19/10/14	E+F	0730-1400			
08/02/15	ALL	ALL DAY			

TEARDROPS LAKES					
27/07/14	4	0700-1300			
03/08	2	0700-1500			
09/08	1+2	1200-1800			
13/08	ALL	0700-1300			
31/08	1	0700-1500			
06/09	1	ALL DAY			
21/09	1+2	0700-1300			
27/09	2	1300-1600			
05/10	4	0800-1500			
29/10	ALL	0700-1300			
04/02/15	ALL	0700-1300			

LODGE LAKE					
29/07/14	A+C	1700-2200			
03/09	A+C	0700-1300			
05/10	B+C	0700-1300			
12/10	D	0730-1430			
24/12	A+C	0700-1300			

WILLEN OUZEL					
25/01/15	ALL	ALL DAY			

WHITINGS FARM					
06/12/14	ALL	0800-1500			
07/12	ALL	0800-1500			
14/12	ALL	ALL DAY			

BRUSH MILL					
15/10/14	ALL	0700-1300			
09/11	ALL	ALL DAY			
16/11	ALL	0730-1430			
19/11	ALL	0700-1300			
06/12	ALL	0800-1500			
10/12	ALL	0700-1300			
21/12	ALL	0800-1400			
01/01/15	ALL	0800-1500			
07/01	ALL	0700-1300			
11/01	ALL	0900-1500			
25/01	ALL	0900-1500			
28/01	ALL	0700-1300			
08/02	ALL	0900-1500			
22/02	ALL	0900-1500			
01/03	ALL	ALL DAY			
07/03	ALL	0900-1500			
11/03	ALL	0700-1300			

JEAN HOLLANDS					
27/09/14	ALL	1200-1800			
02/11	ALL	0800-1500			
09/11	ALL	ALL DAY			
30/11	ALL	0730-1330			
06/12	ALL	0800-1500			
10/12	ALL	0700-1300			

01/01/15	ALL	0800-1500			
07/01	ALL	1200-1800			
11/01	ALL	0900-1500			
25/01	ALL	0900-1500			
08/02	ALL	0900-1500			
22/02	ALL	0900-1500			
01/03	ALL	ALL DAY			
07/03	ALL	0900-1500			
11/03	ALL	0700-1300			

**TOOMBES MEADOW**

10/09/14	ALL	0700-1300			
27/09	ALL	1200-1800			
02/11	ALL	0800-1500			
05/11	ALL	0700-1300			
09/11	ALL	ALL DAY			
30/11	ALL	0730-1330			
06/12	ALL	0800-1500			
10/12	ALL	0700-1300			
14/12	ALL	0730-1430			
01/01/15	ALL	0800-1500			
07/01	ALL	0700-1300			
11/01	ALL	0900-1500			
25/01	ALL	0900-1500			
08/02	ALL	0900-1500			
22/02	ALL	0900-1500			
01/03	ALL	ALL DAY			
04/03	ALL	0700-1300			
07/03	ALL	0900-1500			
11/03	ALL	0700-1300			

STONE PARK					
14/09/14	ALL	0800-1500			
23/11	ALL	0800-1500			
06/12	ALL	0800-1500			
14/12	ALL	ALL DAY			

**BRADWELL RIVER**

24/08/14	ALL	0800-1500			
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**CANAL**

24/08/14	2A-3A	0700-1300			
30/08	1B	1300-1600			
06/09	2B/3A	1200-1800			
07/09	1B	0700-1300			
14/09	1A/1B	0730-1430			
01/10	2B/3A	0800-1400			
11/10	11A/11B	1300-1600			
25/10	3B	1300-1600			
15/11	8B	1300-1600			
26/11	13B	0800-1400			
29/11	1B	1300-1600			
06/12	1A-2A	0800-1500			
07/12	1B	0800-1300			
10/12	15B	0800-1400			
14/12	1B	ALL DAY			
31/12	1B	0800-1400			
01/01/15	1A-2A	0800-1500			
04/01	1B	0800-1500			
07/01	1B	0800-1400			
11/01	1A-2A	0900-1500			
25/01	1A-2A	0900-1500			
28/01	14B/15A	0800-1400			
01/02	1A/1B	0800-1500			
15/02	1A/1B	0800-1500			
18/02	1A/1B	0800-1400			
22/02	1A-2A	0900-1500			
07/03	1A-2A	0900-1500			
12/04	1A-2A	0800-1500			
26/04	2B-3B	0800-1500			

**Your help for Willen Hospice**

● Big-hearted **Furzton Festival** entrants have raised well over £11,000 for Willen Hospice over the years, and last year saw £1,300 handed over

during MKAA's AGM. Willen Hospice has to be among the most worthy of worthy causes in town – so see page 12 for this summer's festival dates ■

**Bite back at 'bad' dog walkers!**

**Intimidation by dog - WE DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT**

The majority of waterside dog walkers control their animals in reasonable manner...

But those who don't – sometimes even deliberately using their mutts to intimidate or annoy other park/towpath users – are a real pain in the basket.

**WELL WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT AND TAKE IT ANYMORE!**

Even though Milton Keynes is woefully lacking in dog-related by-laws, and MK Council appears not to enforce national 'poop and scoop' laws...the law of the land regarding 'dangerous dogs' still applies – and can be enforced by the police.

You do NOT (thankfully) have to be bitten or injured for an offence to have been committed.

It is grounds for complaint if you genuinely FEEL threatened or intimidated by an out-of-control canine. What is control? Forget all that guff about 'he/she won't hurt you', 'she/he is only playing', 'she/he has as much right here as you...'

Ideally all dogs should be kept on leads in places open to the public, and muzzled (irrespective of size) if of a temperament inclining them to snarling, growling, biting or other 'threatening' behaviour towards strangers.

The person in charge of it/them should be able to immediately recall the dogs (if off the lead) away from other people and animals.

Different people have different reactions to dogs: and if one comes

near you in a manner making you feel apprehensive, and the person 'in charge' of it can't – or WON'T – get it away from you, they are committing an offence.

● POLITELY ask the person 'in control' of the dog/dogs to take it/them away from you. If they don't, or won't: try and avoid a confrontation. Bite your lip, wait till they've gone, and then call the police non-emergency line on 101 (only 15p per call even on a mobile).

● Report that you have been approached by an out-of-control dog – which made you feel threatened and uneasy – which the owner couldn't or wouldn't do anything to stop. Give a description of owner and dog/dogs.

● Ask for, and note, a report number: that puts it on the police 'system'.

They probably won't be able to do much about your particular case...but when reports from particular areas begin mounting up, it is a fair bet that the nice friendly PCSOs will soon be patrolling those areas and 'having words' with any irresponsible dog walkers.

● Remember: there are few bad dogs – but far too many bad owners.

● MK Parks Trust puts a lot of effort into encouraging responsible dog ownership in the parks...but there are those too ignorant or arrogant to be 'educated'.

Hence the need to encourage police involvement.

So don't just moan - PHONE! ■

**Roadside parking**

IN SHORT – it is best NOT to. It is a ticketable offence to park on any pavement/verge alongside a public highway in MK (so use the car parks in the parks).

This is enforced (by police & the highway authority) with particular vigour

on H5/H6 (Portway/Childs Way) in the vicinity of Willen Lake and on the V4 (Danstead Way) alongside Lodge Lake. Persistent offenders can end up in court. Also: safety implications mean any angler parking on the verge in those two areas in particular will be breaking MKAA rule 9, ie bringing the association into disrepute, and may have their ticket cancelled ■

**DANGER OF DEATH!**

Take care – **ELECTRICITY CAN KILL YOU!**

YOU don't have to touch a cable – just get near enough for the voltage to jump the gap!

So DON'T fish any closer than 30 metres (33 yards) to ANY cable.

Before starting to fish, look UP to check there are no cables nearby.



**POLLUTION**

If you see fish dead, dying or in distress, oil on water etc, please call Ray on **07768 446796** or another committee member – QUICK! AND Environment Agency Emergency freephone **0800 80 70 60**

**MKAA contacts**

WANT to know who's responsible for what, need help or want to give some feedback?

(all numbers 01908 prefix unless otherwise stated).  
 Chairman: Trevor Johnson 270000 (07801 183381).  
 Vice chairman: Gary Maton 07759 129800.  
 General secretary: Kevin Osborne 01234 713144.  
 Adult coaching/H & S: Ian

Greenhood 503587.  
 Match sec: Bob Valentine 674820.  
 Fixture secretary: Bas Brunning 222468.  
 Youth development: Nuala Gray 320007.  
 Head bailiff: Bill Bradshaw 677724.  
 Assist head bailiff/RD: Mike Reveler 07742 078680.  
 Fisheries/Water Quality: Ray House 07768 446796.  
 Canal liaison: John Hewison 227307.

**CANAL FISHING CODE OF PRACTICE**

**ANGLERS PLEASE:**

- Catapulting groundbait is BANNED opposite boats at Bletchley Boatyard (Willowbridge).
- DON'T loose feed decks hulls with groundbait, it can cause paint damage. Use pole cup if you want to feed close to boats.
- DON'T bounce tackle off boats or tap them with pole tips – chipped paint costs money to repair and hooks in ropes can put innocent people in hospital.
- DO minimise noise, including bite alarms, especially when people on boats are trying to sleep.
- Do be discrete when answering the call of nature

THIS code is agreed with Canals and River Trust (formerly BW) for the benefit of all with special reference to where boats are moored opposite...ESPECIALLY on the Boatyard!

**ANGLERS AND BOATERS**

- DO behave reasonably and courteously at all times.
- DON'T leave litter or light fires.
- PLEASE DO keep children and dogs under control.

**BOATERS PLEASE:**

- DON'T when moored run engines or disturb the water in any way while people are fishing.
- DO keep to the

# River Ouzel ...a superb 'stalking' water



● Andy Bird was well made up at catching this 6lb PB chub from the Ouzel

Yes – you CAN sit and fish the Ouzel 'pegged down' style, and catch plenty of fish on the right day.

But the tiny river is REALLY at its best as a 'stalking' water, yielding some surprising specimens to those who rove from swim to swim carrying the minimum of gear.

A master of that particular art is MKAA vice chairman Gary Maton (pictured right) who gets the most out of any time available by using a bike to duck and dive from swim to swim.

He has been known to cover the entire association length – more than five miles – catching up to 30 chub in a day.

Chub are only one species present. Cracking dace, roach, gudgeon, big perch, pike to 20+, and even the odd double

figure barbel can also turn up, along with occasional bream and rudd!

● Barbel could become more of a feature of future Ouzel catches, as the Environment Agency has added tens of thousands of mini-whiskers over the past three or four years, which EA fishery officer Alex Malcolm is pictured doing, below.

### FISHING THE OUZEL

MKAA access begins on the left bank (looking downstream) at the Fenny Stratford bypass in the south and continues to Manor Fields near Bletchley.

Then it goes on the left, redway, bank from the main A5 dual carriageway, up past Caldecotte Lake, past Simpson, and past Willen Lake, winding its way to the M1 in the north east.

Visit [www.mkaa.co.uk](http://www.mkaa.co.uk) for additional information and maps ■



● Gary Maton with 2-1 Ouzel roach – a superb fish by any standards!

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**  
All English rivers & streams are subject to a legal close season – **NO fishing** March 15 to June 15 both dates included

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Milton Keynes MK16 8LT  
**01908 611489**  
[adamsmillfarm@aol.com](mailto:adamsmillfarm@aol.com)



## There to be CAUGHT...

● The camera may be steamed up by the pouring rain, but there's no doubting that the 13lb+ fish held by an EA fishery worker (right) is a barbel. It was one of several good doubles – plus others – found during a survey of **Adams Mill** last August.

So much for armchair critics' claims there are no whiskers left in that stretch.



But barbel, stocked by both the EA and MKAA, can be found in many reaches of the **Upper Ouse**, and the 12-pounder (left) was found during an EA survey of **Whitings**.

The same investigation last summer also turned up chub to 7lb+, pike over 20, good bream and numerous mini-barbel – thought to be survivors from various EA stockings ■

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Competition  
WINNER!

**Could  
it be  
YOU  
in the  
frame  
NEXT  
year?**

● A superb moment of a very special day for Derek Brown: that's his 'selfie' with a 6-13 Wolverton Ouse chub which won this year's £100 MKAA photo competition prize. And it shows the 'other-worldly' look of a man who - after 55 years of trying for a 6-pounder - has bagged TWO in a single trip! There is also a heartening tale behind the snap. Banned from the banks by illness for many months, Derek persuaded docs to let him have just one day on the water before the season's end...and what a tonic that turned out to be!

**IT COULD BE YOU IN 2015**

ANYONE (season or day ticket) is in with a chance of **winning £100** if they submit a picture of their - or **someone else's** - catch or fishy moment, to MKAA.

It doesn't have to be a huge fish, massive bag or even include fish...just a good picture illustrating the magic of our sport.

It should capture that special moment which transforms ordinary pictures into something special.

**RULES:** 1) It must have been taken on an MKAA fishery (Emberton, Letchworth & Oxford shared waters included for this purpose).

2) Send it with **FULL** name, address, phone number, and description, within **FOUR** weeks of it

having been taken.

3) The winner will be chosen by MKAA executive officers (they and bailiffs **CANNOT** and their decision will be final on all matters.

4) MKAA will have the right to publish pictures submitted and may retain the image for future use.

If 'hard copy' please send your entries to: MKAA, PO Box 3195, Milton Keynes, MK3 6ZY. You can also email electronic files (**DECENT size JPEG format is best**) to: pictures@mkaa.co.uk if using digital...but PLEASE send full-size files and a phone number.

Good luck - enjoy your snapping as well as your fishing ■

**WHAT...a rod licence - ME?**

WHY are anglers expected to produce their rod licences when buying an MKAA season or day ticket?

● It's the law that anyone aged 12 and over fishing with rod and line in England must have one.

And 'dodgers' being caught by the numerous Environment Agency and police checks on its waters does not help the association's public image - neither does the culprits turning up in court and getting fines of up to £1,000 a time, plus criminal records.

● As the vast majority DO buy rod licences (helping fund EA fishery works) the scroungers who don't are taking a free ride on everyone else: **and THAT is NOT on!**

**IT IS NOT JUST A TAX**

Money from rod licence sales helps fund EA fishery teams' work - and in THIS area they are the **REALLY** good guys!

*It's a common, false, folk-myth that they are ONLY involved with river fisheries.*

● They do stillwaters, too. Plenty of the fish (or their ancestors) in local lakes today were put there by the EA (500lb of silvers in Lodge winter before last, is just one instance).

● They provide a hugely valuable resource in terms of technical/scientific expertise, assess lakes' stock levels, advise on stocking, and are frequently found up to their chests in slime and mud when fish rescues are needed (usually due to pollution and or de-oxygenation).

● And, of course, they do do rivers - on a

scale which, thanks to their seemingly unflagging determination and dedication, goes way beyond what could reasonably be expected given their small and diminishing budget and workforce.

◆ Constantly working to improve the Ouse and Ouzel: physically getting into the rivers (often in winter) to re-establish gravel spawning beds and enhance the aquatic environment to promote fry survival, are all part of the picture.

◆ So is negotiating behind the scenes with landowners to try and reduce damaging run-off of agricultural fertilisers and pesticides.

◆ And so is the EA national fish-rearing station near Nottingham. Over the past few years tens of thousands of its baby barbel, chub, dace (and some roach, too) have been stocked into the Upper Ouse and the Ouzel - fish which will hopefully survive in sufficient numbers to breed future, healthy, self-sustaining populations.

◆ Again, that is only part of what the good guys do. They also work in partnership with clubs like MKAA and its landlord the Parks Trust - developing projects which can range from re-opening ancient channels as fish shelters in times of flood, to piloting natural methods of restoring banks damaged by flood and crays.

**They have to be worth EVERY penny of anyone's rod licence fee.**

Go discuss ■



**Top national job for a local lad**

● Former MKAA assistant head bailiff Ian Peacock now has an even bigger responsibility: having become chairman of national species group *The Tenchfishers* - www.tenchfishers.com

The society (open to all and in its 60th year) acts as an information exchange for 'all matters tench'. As part of his new role the semi-retired telecoms engineer is set to help ramp up its activities in promoting the popularity and well-being of both tench and fishing for them.

While with MKAA (now a life member) was, among other things, a prime mover in the acquisition and development of the association's Bradwell Lake.

And, even back in the 90s, he was a tench fan and deeply involved in establishing a healthy seed-stock of tincas in Furzton.

He's pictured with a 9 caught out of town. Thanks in part to his efforts...there are plenty of larger ones in at least four MKAA waters today ■

**Getting out of town...**

The waters around Oxford are something special and, generally, only an hour's drive from MK.

But please be on your best behaviour. **They are made available to MKAA SEASON TICKET holders courtesy of North Oxford Angling Society and MUST be treated with the UTMOST RESPECT.**

● The Thames, Cherwell, Seacourt Stream and even the Oxford Canal have characters of their own, and the arrangement for MKAA members to fish these NOAS waters helps make your association card a winner.

There are also Oxford and District AA waters which can be fished on dayticket. **Want to know more? Call NOAS's Andy Crisp, on 01865 53800.**

● MKAA members can NOT hold matches on NOAS waters (unless by prior arrangement) and **NIGHT FISHING is NOT allowed** on NOAS waters.

**POLLUTION**  
If you see fish dead, dying or in distress, oil on water etc, please call Ray on **07768 446796** or another committee member - **QUICK! AND** Environment Agency Emergency freephone **0800 80 70 60**

If you use them please be a good MKAA ambassador...you are a guest on someone else's patch.

**CHERWELL** (approx 1 mile)  
Access West bank from Marston Ferry Link Road B4495 (see OS map for route from A34

Peartree interchange) from either cycle track or footpath shown; downstream of bridge (access from bridge) one meadow, upstream three meadows. East bank: upstream two meadows above Victoria pub; and downstream to park boundary fence opposite Wolfson College.

**THAMES** (approx 3.5 miles)

Access from Wolvercote to Wytham road bridge (see OS map) park in the Wolvercote Bathing Place public car park (river downstream can be fished on ODAA day ticket).

Parking NOT allowed in Trout Inn (great food) car park unless with specific permission of landlord. Access to King's Lock end from 'University Field Station' (see Seacourt Stream map) and top end of Pixey Meadow via bridges over the lock and King's Weir. Parking alongside A34 and crossing that road on foot is NOT recommended.

**SEACOURT STREAM** (approx 3.5 miles)

Access from Wolvercote to Wytham Village road bridge (see OS map). East bank: NO fishing opposite far bank houses (south side of bridge) and NO fishing in first meadow (north side of bridge).



Access also from track leading to University Field Station. Follow road from Wolvercote into Wytham and turn right, take track towards UFS, park on verge just BEFORE notice board (no parking or turning beyond it). Walk across field to stream. Crossing bridge over stream gives access to Kings Lock/Kings Weir Thames area.

**OXFORD CANAL** (approx 4.5 miles)

Fishing towpath side from Hylthe Bridge Street in Oxford, north to Bullers Bridge in Yarn Lane, Kiddlington and Plough Inn at Wolvercote good access points for first time visitors ■



# The Upper Ouse...

Rain, rain go away – we'll catch fish another day! That's a polite version of what so many anglers were muttering last winter as the Upper Ouse was way out of its banks weekend after weekend.

*But for those persistent, lucky, or skillful enough – the river still managed to do the business!*

Before the rains set in, matchanglers in particular were awash with low double-figure nets of roach, dace, chublets and bleak, especially around Stony Stratford.

After the deluge it was case of snatching chub – up to almost 8lb – good perch (one man had a 6lb tench), solid bream, pike and, in the case of one or two secretive types, the odd barbel.

Passenheim Meadow is the MKAA section furthest upstream, running from Passenheim



● Stewart Harris: 7-2 on paste in 'pellet skin' cups

village (park inside gate by Parks Trust Grazing sign – please don't block farmer's access, and take care, it is a dangerous bend) to overlap with *Brush Mill* (access through from Ousebank Way) on the opposite bank. 'Out of town' and lacking formal footpaths, it is as near Mr Crabtree as you can get.

The usual species apart, *Brush Mill* is known for having thrown up some big bream in the past.

Below the 'Mill and also on the right hand



● Rob Buckner 7-6 on home-made 'stinky cheese and garlic' paste

bank looking downstream is *Hollands Field* which runs on into *Toombes Meadow*. Both have produced perch to well over 4lb and, on occasion 30lb match nets of stripeys.

Below Old Stratford river bridge on the V4 Watling Street, 'Stony



● A 6-13 chub from Stony on pole and breadpunch for Bob Gale

Main', is no go unless you have a DATS' card, until you get to the top of *Wolverton Mill & Whitings*: the latter has produced barbel to 19-4 but is better known for huge chub, big bream, perch, roach and pike.

Below there, starting at the Haversham road bridge, is *Stone Park* which used to hold the association's chub record at 7-12-0 (until an 8-2 came out at *Adams*).

Below there, there is a short break before MKAA tenure starts again on the *Ouse back of Bradwell Lake*, a section with good, chub, dace, roach and bream.

● Downstream at *Ravenstone Mill* the

Ouse still holds superb big barbel – double-figure fish reported last season...and it's a fair bet there are larger ones yet to be caught.

There are also good chub, bream, pike, dace and perch. Great for walking and stalking. Upstream of the weir can yield big carp washed from riverside lakes.

● *Adams Mill* still holds the UK record barbel title (taking it SIX times on the trot) – an incredible 21-1-0 fish from the days when MKAA had to run the water on a syndicate basis. It still has double figure whiskers and huge chub.

● MKAA's river match record is 78 lb of slab-sided bream to 7-13-0.

● The abominable red signal crayfish inhabits the Upper Ouse, *despite regular trapping*, but on the upside, some fish species grow very large chomping on the smaller crayfs.

● On ALL our river sections please watch out for undercut banks and, if in the water, sudden drop offs into unexpectedly deep holes.

● Please note: NO day tickets or night fishing on Ravenstone or Adams Mill ■

## CONTACTING MKAA's BAILIFFS

● MKAA's bailiffs are friendly folk trying to help everyone who is NOT prejudicing the welfare of fish and wildlife or otherwise tarnishing the association's name by rule-breaking and or behaving badly.

They can also witness weighing of fish for MKAA record claims. Senior bailiffs and their normal areas of responsibility – though they are authorised to cover ANY MKAA water – are as follows

Furzon (F), Tear Drops (TD) & Canal South: R Earnshaw 01908 372271  
 F: T Bassnett 07932 323102  
 F: TD, Wolv Mill & Stony/Wolv Ouse: T Mason 07759 666012  
 TD & Lodge (L): R Jolley & H Havens 07718095206  
 TD & L: I Pledger 07960 630840

Willen Lake+Ouzel: S Denny 01908 663853 & M Reveler 07742 078680  
 Caldecotte Lake+Ouzel & Central Canal: M Harper 01908 668557  
 Bradwell Lake: Ouse & Canal North: S Wilson 07817 393963 & S Wilson Jnr 07854 1397273  
 Ravenstone/Adams Mill: S Taylor: 07850 266829  
 Wolv Mill: P Oxley: 07519 140570  
 Head bailiff: W Bradshaw 01908 677724  
 Assistant head bailiff: M Reveler 07742 078680.  
 There are other, warrant-card carrying, 'roaming' bailiffs, and ALL MK Parks Trust rangers are also MKAA bailiffs ■

## Something for the 'older' angler

● You don't have to be a 'real oldie' to enjoy outings with the 'MK vets' – just aged 55 or over (no upper age limit) and looking to enjoy fishing with a bunch of like-minds out to have a laff and enjoy some light-hearted sport in good company.

'The vets' have been going best part of a decade now, and are an autonomous group doing their own thing and loving it.

Generally their activities consist of weekly Wednesday matches with nominal '1960s' pools on waters far and wide.

Few go to every fixture, most picking and choosing which events to attend. Generally most matches attract 30 or so people from a pool of 60 or more.

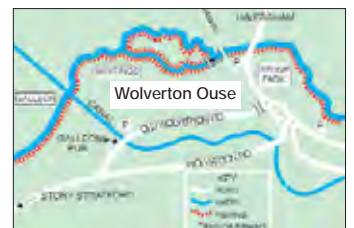
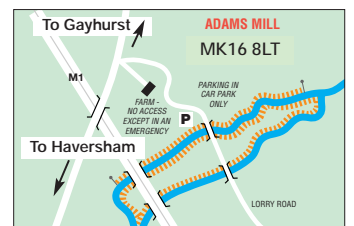
One benefit is the security of having others with you, especially if you have health issues, or feel a little uneasy fishing alone on certain banks.

Interested? Call Ian Greenhood on 01908 503587 or Terry Valentine on 01908 565446 to explore the options.

You don't have to be an ace angler – just looking to enjoy yourself! ■



● Vets' champ Dave McLennan



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**MK Festival 2014**

**Ken Ball Memorial Open**

Aug 20: (over 55s) call: Terry Valentine 01908 565446

**Match for the Disabled**

Aug 22: call Brian Sapsford 01908 608944

**Float Only Open**

Aug 24: call GoneFishin 01908 313158 and also for the

**Frank Swan Memorial Open**

Aug 25 (bank holiday Monday).

**Ladies' Open**

Sept 6 - Tear Drop 1: call Nuala Gray 01908 320007 & also for

**Young People's Open**

Sept 27, Tear Drops 1 & 2

**36-hour Carp Open**

Sept 26-28, call GoneFishin

# Can you help raise 'loadsamoney' for hospice THIS year?

Carpies rejoice – following last year's absence of such an event, this year's Milton Keynes Angling Festival is set to include a 36 hour carp match.

And the Saturday of that (September 27) is to also see the Nash Tackle roadshow putting in an appearance – everyone invited.

It used to be called the Furzton Festival, but that changed as the load was spread onto other MKAA waters.

Whatever the name it raised £1,300 for Willen Hospice last summer – and the series has now produced more than £11,000 for that worthiest of worthy causes.

The 2014 menu include all the long-standing favourites such as the veterans' Ken Ball Memorial Trophy. Paul Hamilton (pictured) won last year's match, which attracted friends of Ken from far afield.

And – thanks to the popularity of last



year's inaugural event – their is a re-run of the 'float only' open for those fancying a traditional match without big leads, spods and the like.

*It is all in a good cause, and the fest looks set to include something for just about everyone*

## Never too young - or too OLD to learn!

MKAA's qualified angling coaches now cater for would-be anglers of ALL ages – from cradle to, er, well, until they fade from the banks.

At one end of the scale Nuala Gray leads a small team of youth development coaches.

Thanks to donations from sources ranging from individual anglers and local tackle shops to the Environment Agency, they have all the kit and bait needed to give youngsters from the age of three upwards both taster sessions and coaching.

Mini-matches, come and try sessions, one-to-one tuition and programmes for schools and youth groups are all part of the team's scene.

A 'mature' angler himself (he

has even won a vets' match or two) qualified coach Ian Greenwood specialises in helping those in their late 'teens through to the realms of great-grandparenthood.

Would-be starters, 'returners', 'retirees', the long retired, and parents and grandparents looking for an introduction to the sport so they can share it with younger members of their families, are all within his remit... as are any existing anglers who want to improve their skills.

So if you know anyone of any age who you think would like to try fishing, please point them to Nuala Gray on 01908 320007 on lan on 01908 503587 or 07775 518866

## AWARD WINNERS

A 'mystery shopper' from the *Tackle & Guns* trade mag was well impressed with staff at Wolverton's *GoneFishin* during a visit one day last summer.

So much so he or she gave the emporium their vote as the 'top tackle shop in the Milton Keynes sub-region'.

*Willards* – the tackle, guns and fireworks store in New Bradwell – was voted joint winner in the shooting section

**TAILENDER:** No names...but we could all learn from a Bletchley lad roused from his pit by grim-faced police knocking his door at 5.30 one winter morning.

Seems they'd checked his car...and found the windows covered in swarms of big flies – on the INSIDE!

Their jobs so often involving the truly horrific, they went door-

knocking to see if the vehicle's owner had been seen alive of late.

They came up with a red-faced geezer explaining that he'd left a couple of pints of maggots in the car (it hadn't been used for a while) and that the lid must have come off, allowing them to escape and hatch out in their thousands, and...

Doooh!!!

**THE BEST OF BRITISH, LADS:** On August 8 & 9 city lad Terry Lancaster and Northampton's Joe Roberts (an MK Festival regular) should be in Italy as part of England's world veterans' champs squad on a river which can need a 50 gramme pole float! It will be Terry's SIXTH England cap

Much of the local angling community was in mourning in April following the death of Geraldine Haynes who, with husband Brian, had run MK Angling Centre for many years.

The pair (pictured) had closed the shop – where she'd been an ever-popular face behind the counter for two decades – eight months earlier to start a well-earned retirement.

Some 200 people, many of them anglers, attended her funeral and MKAA expressed heart-felt condolences to Brian and to Geraldine's family. She is missed by all who knew her

The Bletchley shop re-opened this year as The Tackle Hub



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