

MILTON KEYNES Angling

newsin



Society of responsible anglers founded in 1970.

Members of the Angling Trust, UOFCA and CRT South East Consultative

Association









During 2016 MKAA invested heavily – in waters on YOUR card – with...

£8,500 of stock fish!

And there's still MORE to come

es – on top of all the fish already stocked into MKAA waters this year, MORE are set to follow!

It's about investing for the future: MORE small, fast-growing carp have gone into Caldecotte, and two batches into Furzton – that water's first 'new blood' since its initial mass-stocking.

Thousands of fish! And then there was the stocking and opening of our new Ashlands 'dads & lads' fishery, fish from which will go to other city lakes when they've 'grown on'.

The near future is likely to include some chub in Tear Drops 1, and possibly yet MORE tench into Bradwell, already a premier tinca water!

Watch this space! ■

PURPLE Patch!

Mark Blincow

Something for the

equalled MKAA's

coming winter, Sir?

chub record with this

fin-perfect 8-2 fish.

Another 8 was also

banked from MKAA

Ouse in 2015/16



So please help look after them

Fish theft is a CRIME. See it - REPORT IT!

Call 101 or (if large-scale theft is taking place) 999. Fishing without permission comes under the 1968 Theft Act, as does stealing fish, and is therefore a CRIMINAL offence.

PLEASE: when reporting to police quote code 116/11 to ensure the crime is logged correctly, which will mean police have to act on it. If not it MAY be seen as a civil matter and not pursued.

DON'T delay – please DO it when you see it happening..and don't wait until you get home (and tell us, too). Thanks

YOUR club - YOUR fish - YOUR duty!

Canal's brighter future – pg 4 1.5 tons of invasive species

removed, moves to boost roach, AND a new voice for angling!

ASHLANDS - pg 5

New 'dads and lads' type fishery near Bletchley – reduced 'winter' prices!

Willen South new pegs - pg 7
Fishing now allowed from in front
of the 'bandstand. Make the most
of it

NEW 'bucket' rule... – pg 8 Overnighting on MKAA waters? Then be properly prepared

RIVER BOOM - pgs 8 & 9

The Ouse is undergoing a silverfish explosion! That follows 10s & 10s of thousands of pounds worth of restoration work by the Environment Agency, Parks Trust and angling clubs

'NEW' river section – pg 11 MKAA has regained the Harrold Ouse stretch it lost (due to change of owner) some years back

 Pease DRY your nets & unhooking mats thoroughly – preferably in sunlight – before switching venues.

That simple step can help greatly reduce the risk of transferring deadly diseases which can wipe out fisheries' entire stocks!



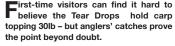


Newsline 2016/17 Page 2 MILTON KEYNES AA...

The Tear Drops can be magic places to fish



- Cameron Thody (above) aged 11 with his first-ever carp ves, it came from Tear Drops
- Jamie Boomer (left) is verv happy with this 2-7 Tear Drops perch
- Andrew Bostic (below) and 22-7 Tear Drops common - the 'Drops' hold carp into the 30s!



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 3lb perch are all part of the picture...as is the occasional 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

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.

The Trust also maintains the platforms and, in recent years, has done a lot of work cutting back shrubbery to open up swims



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
- Occasional major concerts at
- the Bowl can make the area as busy as central London. Best try elsewhere on THOSE days
- Access from two car parks off Davey Avenue (one of them at end of Garforth Place)



Wolverton Mill

Believe it or not Wolverton Mill's two tiny stormwater lakes. with just over a dozen pegs between them, are among MKAA's top three most popular dayticket waters!

Open all year, they are heaving with carp of all

plus crucians loads curiously. 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





Dave Colburn (top **FISHING T'MILL** right) with a 14-10 No night fishing or keepnets

- from the Mill
- Fishing only allowed from immediate vicinity of the concrete Young Kelsey Kean (right) with her first
 - Rod licence Make sure vou have one. Wolverton Mill is the first place EA enforcement officers (often accompanied by police) check on their 'anti-dodger sweeps of MK





Sometimes it pays to be a bit 'fly'...

Mill carp

Victoria Simons (far

right) and her first

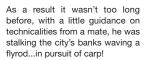
carp, again from

Wolverton Mill.

 Looking for ways to pep up your fishing experience? Then maybe Vince Ryan (below) has the answer.

Living in MK and too far from his Merseyside roots to regularly indulge his passion for seafishing - from a

kayak - he needed a way to make his local fishing a bit 'different'.



And it worked often enough producing chunky fish like the Caldecotte mirror pictured, to keep him at it throughout last summer.

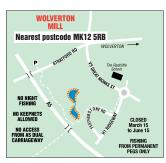
So far he has had 11 species on the fly, including pike, and has enjoyed himself so much: "It has become my way of angling life over the past 12 months."

OK, so it definitely isn't the thing

for busy, crowded banks, or those spots with more than their share of trees - but there are clearer areas which, on some days, you can have virtually to yourself.

Just keep a wary eye open for others, be they passers -by or anglers. Care is the watch-word.

It's not a new idea: there was time. wav back in the last century, when the national rudd record was a fly caught



If YOU can't be asked to **Take YOUR** Rubbish **Home - DON'T** come to MKAA waters!!!

Newsline 2016/17 Page 3THE VOICE OF ANGLING...

Bradwell Lake Come in, shut the gate...and

leave the **REST** of the world outside!

Pradwell's 'unique selling point' is that it is OURS! It is whollyowned by MK Angling Ltd - held in trust on behalf of MKAA's members.

And that means that – unlike our other lake fisheries which are all in public access parks – we do do NOT have to share our space with dog-walkers, cyclists, joggers, bird-feeders or anyone else who comes along.

It is PRIVATE land, so please shut the gate when coming and going, and we can all enjoy some great fishing in peace and quiet.

 Picturesque scenery, plenty of hard parking areas, and wheelchair-friendly paths linking them to more than a score of concrete pegs (in excess of 50 pegs overall) suitable for use by the nonambulant disabled are all part of the scene.

Bought and developed with the help of a national lottery grant, plus assistance from the Environment Agency, the lake is around 25 acres and set in a 40 acre site bounded on one side by MKAA's Bradwell canal section, and on another by a quarter mile or so of our own river Ouse.

Bradwell'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 1lb+ fish can be the norm on the right day. Perch (at least one pushing 5lb stocked) are present along with rudd, pike to 20+, chub, dace and even the odd gudgeon.

Tons of fish have been added to the maturing former gravel pit since MKAA took over, including a steady trickle of small tench which are now turning up as big ones.

MKAA's 9-10 record tench, caught by Matt Hodges, was a Bradwell fish.
 Scores of tench to more than 8lb plus bream into double figures have been landed over the past year, along with roach to 2lb+ and perch to 3lb+





GONE-FISHIN













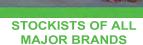
 BRADWELL: includes 1/4 mile of River Ouse (statutory

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The Grand Union through MK has some of the best silverfish stocks seen in years of working Britain's canals!

...IN AND AROUND...

That is the verdict of fisheries contractors who have been electro-fishing local sections.

This summer they assessed silverfish populations while removing zander – an invasive, alien, apex predatory species which had been spreading south from above Whilton.

And, working from Dodford through to Three Locks, they have removed best part of 2,000 Zs ranging from a few ounces to 11lbs – fish estimated to total in excess of 1.5 tons!

How many tons of silverfish they munched to get to that weight is anyone's guess. But the largest concentrations were in and

around off-line marinas north of MK...and many more Zs were found per mile north of Cosgrove (where roach were noticeably scarce) than south of it!

The work was jointly funded by the Canal River Trust's fisheries department and anglers: the latter including individual donations and those from clubs such as MKAA, Flore & Brockhall, Towcester, Tring, Luton and Northampton Nene, among others.



Working together for a brighter future!

A key objective was to halt further southward spread of the species, which is why clubs such as MKAA, Tring, and Luton helped fund it.

The move won't entirely eliminate Zs or prevent them spreading south again in the future...but it HAS dramatically set back their spread – also reducing their ability to get into local rivers.

• The Environment Agency site permit (spelling out which species CRT can and cannot legally keep in the canal) specifically outlaws zander and insists the trust must: remove them; ensure any caught are not returned; ensure anglers are aware that any caught must be removed.

So it is illegal to introduce zander – or to return them alive after capture (they should be humanely killed and taken away...just like Red Signal Crayfish). It is now also against MKAA rules.

 Anyone who wants to fish where there are still a lot of zander should try north of Whilton (now available to fish on a CRT 'Waterways Wanderer' permit) where some clubs have voted with their feet due to declining silverfish populations.

• Now the NEXT step – involving anglers working with CRT and the Environment Agency – is to improve roach-spawning habitats on the cut to help boost their populations!

The Trust and EA are likely to be putting in expertise and cash while the way for anglers to help is to volunteer their labour (nothing too strenuous).

Any takers? If YOU think you may be able to help please contact MKAA via info@mkaa.co.uk or call 07801 183381 or 07759 129800. Thanks ■



The Canal

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 pretty good 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 match catches (generally bream) and carp.

On better days – and it has lots of them – it can be a specialist's heaven with big carp, pike, tench to 9 and bream over 7, perch occasionally pushing 5, pound+ roach...and has hordes of smaller fish too.

Yes it has boats, but overall behaviour seems

 A NEW VOICE is emerging for those fishing local canals – AND other CRT waters the like of Drayton, Boddington and Tring reservoirs.

The CRT South East Fisheries Consultative Association was formed this year to represent the interests of clubs and groups fishing CRT waters in its south-eastern region which – stillwaters apart – includes the Grand Union, Oxford, Aylesbury and Northampton Arm canals.

It meets regularly with CRT national fisheries and angling manager John Ellis, and has been a prime mover representing 'stakeholders' – in formation of the Trust's South East Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan.

Just another talking shop?

Not really. It has already helped ensure moves to stop southwards spread of zander were in the action plan AND became reality – and driven forward moves to bring more youngsters into our sport

Has so much to offer!

to be improving, and if you don't like them...go fish early or late when some cracking catches can be made.

There can be other nuisances...but the Canal River Trust – working in partnership with police and user groups such as MKAA – is really ramping up efforts to deal with antisocial behaviour and make the 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...and ENJOY.

PS: CRT has added thousands of pounds (in weight) of fish to MKAA's canal in recent years. The association has also added hundreds of small chub and fast-growing 'Supa-carp' as an investment in the future



• Right: Rob Stones with two of his canal catches. He says that an MKAA card & rod licence costing 18p a day is 'great value'. Hard to argue?

• Willards' staffer Sean Wilson with an MKAA-stocked, fast-growing, small carp





And here is one caught earlier – some 66 years earlier!

This magnificent 2-8 roach was, according to the label on the glass case, caught from what is now MKAA's New Bradwell canal section by a Mr G Hyde in September 1950.

Likely having spent many a dust-coated year in an attic or two, it surfaced on ebay and was bought by Ivan Truman-Childs who is determined to uncover its history and details of its captor. Anyone who can help can get in touch on 07584 676577



Brad'II Lake Brad'II Lake

Don't fume - call John!

 MKAA Canal Liaison officer John Hewison is a man of spirit – and needs to be!

Anglers have seemingly been on the back foot for too long in comparison to other canal users (odd, as we are the ONLY group, other than boaters, who PAY to be there) and John is 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...just talk to John.

He deals with the CRT and, if necessary, police, to try and reduce such events in the future – improving canal life for all except the idiots.

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 iohn@mkaa.co.uk



Newsline 2016/17 Page 5 ...MILTON KEYNES...

odge is THE top spot for some

ne of MKAA's longer-established fisheries, Lodge is a firm favourite for

If you are happiest never knowing what you might hook into next...it could be for you! It can, on the right day, give you a net-full of roach (double-figures at times).

This July Andy Jones won an MKAA match there with 68-15 of slabs - and he's certainly not the only one to have had to use multiple keepnets (no more than 40lb per net on MKAA waters!).

There are also near 30lb carp, hard fighting tench, big perch, crucians and even a audgeon or few - plus a few 'exotics'.

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

 Brandon Lake and Dylan sent the Lodge 'selfie' below, saying: "Will be back next year - great fishing here in Milton





- Fishing from more than 40 permanent pegs only. Two rods
- Traditional close season March 15 -June 15 inclusive
- NO parking on the H4 verge
- No night fishing UNLESS you are in the Night Syndicate.

FREE...but you have to commit to help bailiffing the water at nights (rota basis) as part of the deal

In recent years MKAA and the EA have added hundreds of carp and silverfish to Lodge, and the Parks Trust has made a lot of bankside improvements



Ashlands -

ASHLANDS - opened this year - is MKAA's new 'dads-and-lads' style dayticket carp fishery, between Stadium MK and Mount Farm industrial estate.

A ioint venture with the Parks Trust, it saw two of the four 'community lakes' off Marlborough Street just west of Groveway junction) stocked with hundreds of 1lb-3lb carp.

Fishing is open to anyone buying a ticket and obeying strict rules. Under 12s are free but must be accompanied by an adult. For others it is £2 a day (MKAA members) and £5 for non-members.

Main rules are simple: float-only; one rod at a time; no surface baits; no keepnets, or hooks larger than size 12; no using the bushes for anything other than bird-watching; fishing from permanent pegs only; fishing only between 8am and 8pm (8am-4pm from Oct 3 to March 31); and parking only in the signed-up car park.

The stocking was paid for with an Environment Agency grant through the Angling Trust, and when the 'fast-growing' carp have grown on they will be moved to bigger city lakes.

Parks Trust operations director Rob Riekie is pictured (above right) helping with the stocking, with MKAA's Phil Oxley, originator of the idea, Mike Reveler and Gary Maton



Swan Rescue!

ANGLER Ritchie Evans became a knight of the road on his way to work one Monday. Spotting this injured swan limping weakly around among swerving cars on the Bletcham Way bridge over Caldecotte, he performed like a pro to catch and immobilise it - using techniques he'd seen others use. Then he got it off for veterinary attention. Well done that man!



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Asu Beuteug Berrier Burier.

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Caldecotte, Furzton, Willen and Emberton too...

Caldecotte

Big water, big predators...

Caldecotte is probably the best bet on MKAA's card if you want big pike or perch!

With vast numbers of prev fish it grows big pike (30s have been caught) and HUGE Those perch really can be something else!

And Marcin Petelczyk is one who knows... as, strolling round with a lure rod, he landed a mega stripy (pictured above) which measured a full 46.5 cms - just over 18 inches - from nose to fork

He reckons that, hump-backed and full of



Those locating the shoals have been rewarded with some outstanding catches. On the right day 100 lb+ of big slabs is not out of the has added batches of small, question...and some years see several such catches.

right under your feet. It has produced MKAA's roach (3-0-0) and pike (30-4-0)

 The EA has spent thousands of pounds on fish breeding areas to boost overall stocks, and MKAA fast-growing 'Supa-carp' (another batch this year)





mark. And if that's the case then he may well have returned a new British

> Il things to all people - that's Furzton, heaving with fish of all shapes, sizes and species (except, for some reason, pike).

Furzton

Its best recorded carp went 35-8 (PI FASE can someone send in species?) but 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

Other species include good chub, tench to more than 8lb, 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

Top: Stewar Cowling with 6-7 PB Furzton bream and, ahove, Rebecca Leak with 18-10 PB common

Willen Lake(s)

PECADES of carefully programmed stocking have made Willen - especially the south lake - MKAA's foremost big carp water.

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

In recent years the water's (and MKAA's) recorded best has been rising steadily and is now the 43-15 pictured right.

And still larger Willen carp have been seen - commons AND mirrors - so the current best is definitely beatable.

Significantly larger fish are almost certainly yet to come...with photos of a mirror, said to go 50lb, seen by some. No record claim

Most current south lake biggies are probably fish which have grown on after being stocked some 12 years back.

Paid for jointly by MKAA and the Parks Trust, they were part of a halftonne batch of 5lb to 15lb fish from Naseby Reservoir, which are thriving in Willen's fertile conditions.

Coming through behind them are thousands of fish (added at their 'tiddler' stage) with potential to grow even bigger: so-called 'Supa-carp' - from the same source also added to Furzton. Caldecotte and Bradwell.

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

At the time of stocking he predicted that, given good conditions. some could eventually grow to 'significantly' more than 40lb. Some are already into the very high 30s...

 Don't forget the north lake's carp. Stock density is much lower. it holds fish certainly into the high 30s...and is a much quieter. more tranquil, place to fish than the south lake.

> All that said. Willen is far from being a 'carp only' water! It has big shoals of bream. fish well into double figures, plus tench to 8lb+ and good rudd, perch and pike.

Its roach, went all 'elusive' for a while but have been showing again this year with good catches of 1lb+ redfins this summer on maggot-feeder to those taking the trouble to

 The park is sometimes used for sports and other mass-attendance public events

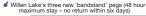
best avoided by those it is still a fantastic fishery!

Go try - and ENJOY!



FURZTON











People have always wanted to Parks Trust use of a blue dve fish from Willen's west (hotel) system to limit weed growth has bank. THIS year, thanks to Parks seen big improvements over the Trust co-operation, the dream came true with three pegs ■ Thanks to anti-social 'swimopened (ONE angler per peg) in hogging' for weeks at a time by a

ront of the 'bandstand' area. minority, MKAA had - for the first Sessions are limited to 48 hours. no return for six days, to give as length of stay limit. 18 months ago. ny folk as possible a crack at The new rule applies to ALL it. Make the most of it while

MKAA waters and is: Max stav of six consecutive nights at end of which ALL tackle including any of the group

tench which have even

been known to feed in

For many years a 9-6-0

Emberton tench held

The 'park river - and

the backwater

March 15 to June 15.

mid-winter

MKAA's record.

time in 40 years - to introduce a bivvies must be removed from the venue with no return permitted within 72 hours.

> Where groups are involved i applies to all swims occupied by

over by the town bridge in times of winter

flood - are deservedly popular and subject to the statutory close season,

Catch the autumn river right and you could

get a bumper roach net on 'the seed' Left: Phil Thompson with Emberton Park Ouse pike and, above; Paul Andrews with an EP 23 - one of a pair he had that

Emberton Park

Emberton 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 harrier controlled entrance gate, an atmosphere of peace, calm and security is the norm.

Four lakes (open all year) hold fair stocks of most common species -

vou can because everything will

likely change with proposed re-

development on that bank.

good carp, bream, some close to







ENJOY fishing with MKAA - but PLEASE leave no litter and cause no

ISHING THESE BIG LAKES (& BRADWELL LAKE)

Open all year round (except Caldecotte South)

Roger Stratton with 24-8 Caldecotte

nike. He had a similar-sized fish from

Willen a couple of weeks later

- You can use 3 rods on Caldecotte, Furzton Willen, Bradwell, and Emberton sailing lake (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 waters accessed on MKAA tickets & NO wading to 'place' baits or access out of bounds areas • WILLEN: CCTV-covered pay parking available. Pub on times vary) and toilets on site •
- windmill atop Caldecotte Arms pub-hotel which is a river is deservedly popular (statutory close season) in good place to park and to relax after your session
- FURZTON: Like Tear Drops, very occasionally public car parks

- CALDECOTTE: New in town? Look for replica
 EMBERTON: NO night fishing! The deepish 'park
- affected by major concerts at nearby National Rowl best check first. Angler parking ONLY in designated

• All are in public parks: best behaviour at ALL site - toilets, food, drink, etc. Other water sports on south lake, so please be tolerant and share the space...

> times of flood. MKAA season tickets allow free fishing...otherwise it is a council dayticket. Car entry charges vary (time of year) between £4 and £2.60. Check with MK Council on 01234 711575 re season car entry pass costs & blue badge discounts. Cafe (opening

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Making good the ravages of man...

Why?

Because our rivers had, literally, been 'going down the pan' for the latter half of the 20th Century!

Helped by alien species, 'predation', excessive industrial/agri pollution (new curses replacing out-lawed old ones), over-dredging and abstraction, massive urban development. increasing 'treated' sewage effluent and, latterly, climate change, have all contributed to what was pretty much a national decline.

As a result in the mid 1990s many river fisheries looked to have little future

●EVEN the EA's good guys have probably lost track of how many small barbel and other species it has released into the Upper Ouse and Ouzel over the past eight years.

However the number is likely to be topside of 60,000 - all reared at their Notts fish farm.

But stocking alone is not the answer. Fish are added when the habitat is such that they are likely to be able to found a self-sustaining population.

•Knowledge of what fish need has been increased by several years' post-graduate research co-funded by the EA, UOFCA and MKAA.

●In its day Adams Mill produced at least six UK barbel records in a row, until old age and predators helped decimate the biggies.

To bench-test theories in real life the EA, with MKAA help, set out to restore the fishery to

'Stone Age' approach...

Going back 10,000 or so years should provide a huge, longlasting boost to the Upper Ouse!

The Parks Trust has unveiled the results of a 20-year flagship

How?

wave a magic wand over, and many of their causes will - far from going away - get worse.

So the strategy of far-sighted people in the growing 'river restoration' movement has

Visible results?

It COULD be co-incidence...

but Upper Ouse silverfish stocks have been making a

big come-back over a handful

a REAL roll - with plenty of 10

AND iunior barbel, rarely seen

in the past, are being caught -

its 'national treasure' status.

This year double-figure

whiskers have been caught,

along with small ones, while

chub are there to 8lb plus

It is already being used as a

show-case with groups

invited to witness restoration

'bypassing' Stony Sluice (weir)

But a £20,000 (or more) Parks

Trust-EA project has restored

it as a breeding site and place

of refuge for immature fish in

This spring the EA found thousands of small dace and

mini-species in it, showing that

it is already fulfiling aspirations.

Putting the 'natural' - bends,

meanders, holes, and useable spawning gravels - back into

the city Ouzel has been the aim

of £10s of thousands worth of

700,000 tonnes of gravel..

project which is probably unique in the UK. A hundred acres alongside Whitings had seen the

Hanson company extract some

Then, in a Trust-inspired

environmental master-class - the

techniques and results.

dried up decades ago.

times of flood.

STONY back-channel

hordes of silverfish.

to 20lb nets this summer!

years, and appear to be on

The problems are too vast to

rivers help themselves: for natural life - including fish - to survive and flourish again. In this area that has been

been to find ways of helping

supported (frequently led) by the Environment Agency's rod licence funded local 'good guy' fisheries team, the Parks Trust, and local

up to 2lb. So there is every reason to believe some of the 1,000s of gudgeon-sized fish stocked by the EA in recent years are surviving, BREEDING and establishing a SUSTAINABLE population!

Too early to say the future looks bright? Maybe...but at least it NOW looks as though river fishing HAS a future!

Parks Trust. It appears to be working with some fantastic gravels, glides and sheltered holes. Back to when Milton Keynes

effort put in by the EA and

was just a village? Most restoration techniques are are modern variations on old ones.

They include:

- logs, rocks and boards used to divert river flow to clear out silted areas.
- 'Soft' reinforcing of crumbling (often due to tunnelling red signals) banks with willow and brushwood 'in channel' fences. Silt traps in them, naturally them incorporating renewed, strong, banks,
- High-powered water jetting to blast silt out of compacted gravel, enabling fish to use it again for spawning.

And they appear to WORK! ■

ditches and causeways.

hunter-gatherer times

pit was engineered to produce a

whole series of ponds, scrapes

Managed for a 'wild' state, it is

intended to replicate the long-lost

flood-plain forest landscape of

the Upper Ouse Fisheries Consultative Association which MKAA helped found.

angling clubs through UOFCA,

It is also increasingly supported

This page outlines just a few of the methods and projects involved so far ■



It won't be a fishery...but should become a very productive fishbreeding area which is set to drip-feed fresh fish life into the

river for decades to come. It is also a great place to stroll. Why not give it a healthy try? ■

New 'Bucket Rule'

IF you are planning to 'over-night' or 'long stay' on MKAA waters please be aware of a NEW rule effective from September 7, 2016.

It states: 'Anglers involved in night sessions on MKAA waters must, if requested by a bailiff, club official or Parks Trust staff, produce evidence that: they either have portable toilet facilities with them (minimum of bucket and plastic

liner bags) or the means to get to proper off-site facilities during hours when nearby toilets, such as pubs, will be closed. Anyone failing to comply must leave the fishery before nightfall.'

Please don't blame MKAA. The association has HAD to take this action (to protect fishing rights for all) because of the persistently foul behaviour of a tiny number of mindless morons bringing it, and angling, into disrepute.

WHEN they are caught they will be banned

and their details passed to fisheries over as wide an area as possible!

Until then, please assist MKAA by complying with the rule. And any help you can provide in identifying the culprits will be appreciated, and help safeguard angling access to our waters.

If you see non-anglers causing similar problems around watersides/in parks, we'd like to hear details of vehicles, times etc ASAP, too, so that we can pass that information to our landlords.

Thank you

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 - or carrying a made-up rod to the water - look UP to check there are no cables nearby.

Remember: It's better to be biteless than lifeless!

On the CANAL PLEASE remember:

- Not to catapult groundbait when fishing opposite boats, and please DON'T loose feed decks/hulls with groundbait, it can cause paint damage.
- Use pole cup to feed close to boats.
- Not to bounce tackle off boats. Chipped paint costs money to repair and hooks in ropes can end up in hands.
- DO minimise noise, including bite alarms, especially when people on boats are trying to sleep, and be discrete when answering calls of nature.

■ IF a water is booked for a match (see season ticket or website) 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 match day. Please check BEFORE you fish!

MKAA contacts

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

(all numbers 01908 prefix unless otherwise stated). **Chairman:** Trevor Johnson 07801 183381 / 270000.

Vice chairman: Gary Maton 07759 129800.

General secretary: Kevin Osborne 01234 713144.

Resources Development Mike Reveler 07742 078680 **Fixture secretary:** Bas Brunning 222468.

Youth development: Nuala Gray 320007.

Head bailiff: Bill Bradshaw

Assist head bailiff: Shaun Tayor 07850 266829

Fisheries/Water Quality: Ray House 07768 446796. Canal liaison: John Hewison

Post: PO Box 3195, Milton Keynes, MK3 6ZY

email: info@mkaa.co.uk web: www.mkaa.co.uk

River Ouzel Is best yet to con

pounds worth of restoration work on the city Ouzel by the EA and the Parks Trust in recent years...this tiny river is set to get even hetter!

But it is a pretty good fishery right now!

Chub are just one of the 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!

You CAN fish the Ouzel 'pegged down' style, and catch plenty of fish on the right day.

But it is REALLY at its best as a 'stalking' water, yielding some surprising specimens to those moving around.

Some make the most of it by cycling from swim to swim.

The entire association length is more than five miles and can vield lots of fish in a day.

 Barbel could feature more in the future as the Environment Agency has been adding thousands of mini-whiskers in recent years

 MKAA access begins on the left bank (looking down stream) at the Fenny Stratford bypass, continuing to Manor Fields near Bletchley.

Then it goes on the left, redway, bank from the A5 dual carriageway, past Caldecotte Lake, Simpson, the OU and Willen Lake, winding its

See www.mkaa.co.uk for maps



Above: EA man adding a thou small dace on a day - this autumn when the Ouzel looked as clear as a

Helping ALL ages get in - or back - to fishing!

MKAA's angling coaches cater for would-be anglers of ALL ages - from cradle until they can, sadly, no longer make it on to the banks.

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

Thanks to donations from sources ranging from individual 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 (some co-funded by the Parks Trust) one-to-one tuition and programmes for schools and scout groups are all part of the team's scene.

 Those too mature to be referred to as iuniors or vouths - including would-be starters, 'returners', 'retirees', the longretired, and parents and grandparents looking for an introduction to the sport so they can share it with younger members of their families can also be helped...as can any existing anglers wanting to improve their skills.

So if you know anyone of any age who would like to try fishing, maybe even for the second time around, but needs a bit of help or confidence boosting, please point them to Nuala on 01908 320007



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01908 611489 adamsmillfarm@aol.com are subject to a legal close season - NO fishing March 15 to June 15 inclusive

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All English rivers & streams

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N1008

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...and for veterans

 Anyone of a 'certain age' – 55 and upwards – looking to enjoy fishing with like-minds out for light-hearted sport in good company, should try the 'Vets'.

They're an autonomous group doing their own thing, out most Wednesdays, and loving it.

With nominal pools adding to the fun, they visit 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 - depending on venue and prevailing weather rconditions.

A major benefit for some 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 Terry Valentine on 01908 565446 to explore the options. You don't have to be an ace angler - just looking to enjoy yourself!

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 One for the family album! Richard Purnell's shot of himself, his family and a nice Furzton carp shows that not all anglers are 'old geezers' and that, despite the solitary stereotype, our sport really can be a family affair.

Ever keen to share some of what he has learned and promote angling, he has also taken to making fishing videos.

Find him on YouTube

IT COULD BE YOU IN 2017

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 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 of subject, within FOUR weeks of it having been taken.
- 3) The winner will be chosen by MKAA executive officers (they and bailiffs CANNOT enter) 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 don't forget phone number. Good luck - enjoy your snapping as well as

Could YOU be in the frame NEXT year?

Thousands of pounds-worth of volunteer angler effort going into parks ITTER - rubbish - is the bane of anyone trying to enjoy, or look after,

the great outdoors!

And when it comes to angling in particular, who in their right mind wants to sit and fish a tip?

An AWFUL lot of litter gets dropped or dumped in MK and its parks...and it has been publicly reported that, in ONE WEEK this summer, 666 bags - THREE TONNES were cleared from city parks.

Worst spots had included the Campbell. Willen and Ouzel parks.

Perhaps, with the fag-end of the school holidays coinciding with some of the best weather of the summer, it was always going to be a bad week, especially in the most popularised areas.

But it is not just ONE week. The Parks Trust (custodians of the parks) is spending some £300,000 a year - 50 per cent up on three years ago - clearing rubbish!

Many will wonder, in light of those figures, how they can keep on keeping the vast majority of our parks looking so clean and inviting for the vast majority of the time.

And some are aware that the Trust would have to spend even more if it wasn't for two groups, one of which is its bands of willing volunteers.

The other is all those anglers and club bailiffs taking their own rubbish home.

By Trevor Johnson - chairman, MKAA

routinely clearing their swims as per MKAA rules, AND going the extra mile to clear areas of bank each time they visit a water.

Most may only clear relatively small amounts...but it all helps - and equates to many thousands of pounds-worth of volunteer ANGLER labour being invested in MK's parks each year.

good apart, most do it because they KNOW that all litter - from WHATEVER source ending up at the waterside is wrongly assumed by some to be from anglers, bringing us ALL into unnecessary disrepute.

That it may have been driven down the banks by wind, washed up by floods, dropped by passers-by or left by picnickers. impromptu drinking groups or barbecue

And, as you can't explain that to people you don't get to talk with, the ONLY way to protect our public image and, in some cases, our access to waters, is to leave nothing of our own and clear everything we find - taking it away and disposing of it in a proper

Thank you all those already doing that. May your actions continue as anglings' norm

But please DON'T...

Please DON'T be one of those misguided but presumably well-intentioned - people who bag-up rubbish...and leave the bags on the bank or in the nearest car park.

That can cause damage to birds, animals and people...and, often wrongly blamed on us, does no good at all for angling's image. PLEASE take it away and dispose of it properly. If it's YOUR stuff, and you don't have capability

to take it home, maybe you shouldn't have

brought so much with you in the first place?

In one on-going series of incidents someone - we don't yet know if they are an angler or not - has been haunting Tear Drops off and on for quite a while, collecting park litter, bagging it, and leaving it where it can cause all sorts of problems.

In one night's visit they filled, or brought with them, three bags of rubbish and left them on a previously clean peg (below).

Yet no-one was fishing the 'Drops when a bailiff had checked at dusk...nor when another checked in the morning

If you should meet this 'phantom angel',

please ask them contact MKAA or the Parks Trust for help in disposing of their collections.

Thanks again



Take care of yourself

Nationally, very few waterside visitors end up with Weil's Disease, but one MKAA member was unlucky enough to do just that a year or three back.

Thankfully, with the help of an incredible medical team, he survived what turned out to be a life-threatening experience in which his organs had begun to fail.

The disease can be acquired through contact with rats' urine (though they may not be the only animals to carry it).

To minimise the already small risk of similar trauma, the advice is to keep hands, eating, drinking and smoking utensils/materials clean or away from your mouth. Wash your hands after contact with the banks or foliage

Getting out of town

he waters around Oxford are The waters around oxions and 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.

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 (and NOAS can fish our canal and Bradwell Lake on production of their club card).

Some other Oxford and District AA waters 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) NOAS waters.

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 footnath 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

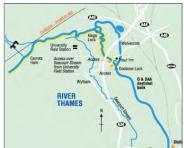
(see OS

O O 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 Hythe Bridge Street in Oxford, north to Bullers Bridge in Yarn Lane, Kiddlington and Plough Inn at Wolvercote good access points for first time visitors



OLLUTIO If you see fish dead, dying,

in distress, oil on water etc please call Ray on

or another committee

member - QUICK! AND **Environment Agency** Emergency freephone

0800 80 70 60





Newsline 2016/17 Page 11 ...PUTS INTO THE SPORT.

Upper GREAT Ouse in... silverfish explosion!

or a handful of vears now the Upper Ouse has been evidencing steadily-increasing silverfish stocks and this summer it showed itself to be on a REAL roll!

Now it is producing roach, dace, bleak, perch and chublets on a scale not really seen for the past 20 or 30 years.

And while big barbel are still fairly scarce, there are signs that some of the thousands of iunior whiskers stocked by the Environment Agency are surviving, growing...and may be successfully spawning!

A miracle of nature? Possibly...but more likely due to nature being given a helping hand with restoration of spawning sites and habitat improvement work begun a decade or so by the EA's local fishery team good guys (working in partnership with local clubs and, more latterly, the Parks Trust as well).

Whatever the reason, this year's abundance of double-figure silverfish nets right round through Stony, Wolverton, Bradwell, Adams, Ravenstone and beyond - shows there is some great lightish-tackle fun to be had.

ig fish or small - MKAA's Upper Ouse increasingly has them all, including 8lb chub, double-figure barbel, and perch to at least 4-9!

Our holdings start at Passenham Meadow, switch banks at 'Stony Sluice' (the weir back of Stony Stratford's Ousebank Way) and run on downstream to the Watling Street (V4) bridge, skip DATS' section and then include Wolverton Mill, Whitings and Stone Park.

Then we have the Ouse back of Bradwell Lake, Adams Mill (which still holds the nation's barbel record), Ravenstone and, as of last September, a new section between Olney and Harrold. Oh yes, and an MKAA season ticket gives access to a splendid section back of Emberton Park.



Passenham Meadow is the MKAA section furthest upstream, running from Passenham 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 Wav) on the opposite bank. 'Out of town' and lacking formal footpaths.

The usual species apart, Brush Mill is known for producing some big chub and bream most years.

Below the 'Mill and also on the right hand bank looking downstream is Hollands Field and then Toombes Meadow. Both have produced perch to well over 4lb and, on occasion, 30lb match-nets of stripeys.

Below Old Stratford river bridge (V4 Watling Street) 'Stony Main' is no go unless you have a DATS' card.

Wolverton Mill & Whitings: the latter has produced barbel to 19-4... Better known for huge chub, big bream, perch, roach and pike.

Stone Park is the length below Haversham road bridge and is good for big chub.

Ouse back of Bradwell Lake, a section with good, chub, dace, roach and bream.

Further downstream 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.

On downstream at Ravenstone Mill the Ouse holds some superb barbel - doublefigure fish reported last season. Also some good chub, bream, pike, dace and perch.

Great for walking and stalking but bank can

be a bit 'jungleish' summer. Upstream of the weir occasionally yield's big carp ■

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



Mark Blincow equalled

MKAA's 8~2 chub record (set by

an Adams Mill fish in 2011) with

this fin-perfect beauty from the

Stony-Wolverton area last year.

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

chomping on the smaller crays.

Please note: NO day tickets or night fishing on Ravenstone, Adams Mill, or Harrold

Jake Stratton's 4-9 Ouse perch (right) may not be the mother of all stripeys...but has probably laid 10s of thousands of eggs in her time. It is also likely MKAA's river best (so far)





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f you are looking for some river a bit wider and deeper than that around Stony and Wolverton, MKAA has regained a stretch of Ouse near Harrold (no daytickets).



Vacant for some years (since the big CEMEX sell-off) it had previously been jointly tenanted by MKAA and two other clubs. Now we have exclusive

All the usual species including some big bream. Be advised, the bank can be a bit jungleish in summer, so be prepared to make

Access via two farm tracks (please do not bock) off the right hand side of Lavendon to Harrold road (going from Olney).

Limited parking, and tracks can be muddy in wet weather





Bigger and better maps in MKAA's season card and on our website @ www.mkaa.co.uk

And now for a selection of BIG winners...



MKAA's biggest winner, by far, is Willen Hospice – which has received more than £15,000 in recent years.

That money has gone in through the MK (Furzton) Festival thanks to its bighearted anglers and sponsors.

And this year's events have already put ANOTHER £3,000 in the kitty – with more to come!

A great big thank you to everyone contributing, and to the Parks Trust for allowing use of all Furzton's banks



- Above: GoneFishin organises, and helps sponsor, the festival carp, float-only and Frank Swan memorial opens and their Richard Swan and Martin Tracey had the biggest fish in last year's carp pairs.
- Left: Ray Baker (centre), Alan Ford and Geoff Ringer were top three in this year's Ken Ball memorial open (the

• HOT-rod Phil Wintle (right) has to be the ultimate medal magnet – having just collected his THIRD 'national' gold.

Fishing the Division 1 with MKAA's Matchgroup on the tidal Trent, this year he collected a

section winner's medal

And that goes nicely alongside the Division 1 outright individual winner's medal he picked up with the 'Group two years ago...AND the Division 3 top individual's gong he earned with Towcester back in '88.

All that has to make him one of the most 'decorated' men in modern national history...and be the equivalent of lightning striking three times in the same place!

 ANOTHER man with more than a few medals is stalwart of the local scene, Terry Lancaster – pictured (below) in Rome with long-time England boss Dick Clegg OBE.



high points in Tel's life-long match-fishing career!

 BOTH regulars on the MK scene, Michael Buchwalder and Pete Patton (below, left) took time



out to fish this year's five-day Lough Muckno festival in Ireland. No stranger to big wins, Mike took overall top spot with more than 50lb while, in his first Muckno visit, Pete won the day two match with more than 250 roach for 16lb, was fifth overall, and gleefully trousered 1,800€ for all his trouble ■



£8,000 stock boost!

GIVING members good value for money is what MKAA tries to do.

And as part of that it has put more than £8,000 worth of fish into local waters this year - a big investment in future sport.

Almost half of that went into stocking Ashlands with the rest split between Furzton and Caldecotte.

The latter got another thousand half-pound 'Supa-carp', while Furzton received a similar number plus several hundred 2-3lb fish ■



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