

Rossett & Gresford Flyfishers' Club - Newsletter - June 2024

I hope you are enjoying an excellent season on the River Alyn. The early months were frustrating with frequent rain pushing up the river level and therefore preventing fishing. We had a series of peaks - 0.911 on 10th March, 1.108 on 28th March, 1.188 on 9th April and the most recent 1.103 on 23rd May. All these readings are from the Pont-y-Capel gauge. There was some good fishing between 27th April - 12th May when the river fell to 0.4 or below and thankfully since the rise of 23rd May conditions have improved and the river has settled to summer level. It is pleasing to report that there appear to be trout in quite good numbers with fish of different sizes appearing in the catch returns. There seems to be a healthy number of Brown Trout in the 6" to 8" range which augurs well for the future. Grayling fishing recommenced on 16th June.

Annual River Walk - Saturday 11th May

The weather was very kind, and a good number of new members joined some of the Committee for the annual River walk which is an event for those who have recently joined the Club. After an introduction by the Chairman packs of flies kindly tied by Sean Barlow, Martin Harrison & Eddie Wilkinson with explanatory notes were given out. These flies are tried & tested River Alyn patterns & should help new members catch their first fish on our waters. We then walked upstream to the Two Bridges and some of the known fish holding spots and points of river access were explained. On returning to our meeting point an excellent BBQ cooked by Geoff Noakes was available and was much appreciated by all. There was also a chance to look at the results of a Kick Sample taken that morning which was overseen by Howard Stevens, Club President. This was a really enjoyable social occasion where thoughts on fishing, methods & entomology were happily shared.

Work Parties

We have continued to run the Work Parties when the weather, river level and number of volunteers have allowed. There was significant damage caused by the winter and spring floods and other high water events and some of the pools still have remaining timber obstructions which will be removed as soon as possible. The river bed has changed considerably at a number of locations along our waters so please wade carefully at all times. There is always a great deal of work required just to keep the footpaths and access points to the river open let alone dealing with the numerous trees that have come down due to erosion, saturated banks and high winds. The Club is indebted to those who freely give of their time on the Work Parties. There have been some new faces this season and it would be very good to see more.

Website and the Forum.

The Club News section of the website is updated on a regular basis and here you can read about the Work Party activities as well as other important news. It is very difficult to know to what extent members are enjoying the fishing other than by reading the entries on the Forum. We have a small number of regular contributors, but it would be good to see many more. The Forum can be used to enter details of Catch Reports but there are also many

other threads on club news, fly tying, river bank discussions, fishing discussions and other fishing exploits. It is a very useful source of a wealth of information from long term and new club members who are accomplished fly fishermen and fly tyers and more than willing to share their knowledge.

Club Secretary.

Gary Shawcross has decided to stand down from his role as Club Secretary and as a member of the committee. We are therefore seeking a replacement for this important position and would be glad to hear from anyone who might like to take on this important Officer role within the club.

I hope all members have success over the remaining months of the season and enjoy all that the River Alyn has to offer.

David Meadows (R&GFC Chairman)

The Alyn Catchment

We will try to inform members when events occur on our water and up-stream which may affect our fishing. Most of you will no doubt be aware that a pollution incident occurred above Mold which could have had very serious consequences. On the 30 April, after several explosions, a fire broke out at the Synthite Works and formaldehyde entered the Alyn. This chemical is extremely toxic to river life and indeed to humans and animals who come into contact with the water. As the Alyn enters the Dee above the drinking water intake at Huntington there was an immediate warning put out by the Welsh Government to keep out of the river and the NRW set about wholesale testing and sampling. This matter is currently in the hands of the NRW legal department so actual results are extremely difficult to acquire. However, although dead fish were found in Mold very little fish mortality occurred down-stream. We cannot find out what the effects were on the insect population but hopefully we will eventually.

Over the last few weeks Singret Brook, which enters the Alyn at September Cottage, has been polluted with sewage, sometimes by a red dye and even a light coloured substance. Several sources of sewage have been traced and action taken but some unidentified sources still exist. As a reminder, members must report all such incidents on the emergency number each and every time they are seen – 0300 065 3000.

Flintshire have just granted permission to construct a new 154 unit housing site at Rhyd y Goleu, just opposite the Synthite works, on the banks of the Alyn. That's about all our little river needs!!

Howrad Stevens (R&GFC President)

The Recycle Hub.

In May we opened a new section of the club forum, 'The Recycle Hub'

This section was born out of a number of discussions around trying to raise funds to engage some young people in the club whilst also enabling members to pass on unused fishing books and equipment to other members within the club. Based around a charity shop idea members can donate items and members can make a nominal donation for the item which will go into a slush fund for a forthcoming youth project.

We have had some considerable donations so far and even though the idea is still in it's infancy we have already raised £30 and have a dozen items listed and many more to list.

Thank you to all the people who have kindly donated items for this cause. If you have something you would like to donate or wish to bid for an item, please get in touch with Sean (Marford2) on the club forum.

Sean Barlow (R&GFC Treasurer)