

# WILD TROUT TRUST

## News Update Spring 2021

### Wild Trout Trust Postal Address Change

Our PO Box address will cease to exist at the end of April 2021.

With immediate effect, please send correspondence to:

#### Freepost WILD TROUT TRUST

This is a complete address and affixing a stamp does not save the Trust any costs but if you would like to help, please pop your stamp inside the envelope and we will use it on outgoing post.

### Annual Spring Auction 19-28 March

This is our main, annual fundraiser, with over 300 fabulous lots of fishing, shooting, tackle, books, art and experiences to suit pretty well every pocket. You can bid online via the WTT website or by post. The printed catalogue with postal bid form accompanies this newsletter but an illustrated catalogue and details of any late lots are at: [www.wildtrout.org/auction](http://www.wildtrout.org/auction).

Lots will close sequentially throughout the evening of 28 March starting at 5pm. NB: This year, the auction will run on the WTT website ([wildtrout.org](http://wildtrout.org)) and *not* on eBay as in the past.



### WTT Events in 2021

It seems likely it will be some time yet before indoor events with large groups will be safe, so we will not be holding our usual Annual Get-Together in the Spring. With so much disruption to work and travel we have also decided not to run the Conservation Awards this year. However, we are hoping to run the events detailed below:

#### Three-Fly Challenge 19 June

One of our annual fundraisers and now in its eleventh year, it is a really great day among friends at Meon Springs, Hampshire, brilliantly organised by WTT volunteer, Neil Mundy and the excellent staff at the fishery. You'll fish more-or-less competitively for some tremendous prizes, including a Sage rod and elegant trophies. It is a tournament that will test your skills using three flies (one at a time) and will be provided on the day. Points are awarded according to the fly used and the weight of the fish caught. A raffle and auction will be held at lunchtime.

Tickets cost £110 including breakfast, cooked lunch, a 4-fish ticket and flies. Book online at: [meonsprings.com](http://meonsprings.com) (if you booked and paid for last year's cancelled event, your place is confirmed for this year).

Further information from Neil Mundy: [ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk) / 07964 379988. Closing date for entries is 15 June and the event will be confirmed (or not) at the start of May depending on Covid circumstances.

Neil is also running the Fishing for Forces Cast & Blast day at Meon Springs on 17 July – contact him for details.

#### Autumn Grayling Weekend

We hope to run an autumn grayling weekend again this year; date and details yet to be arranged.

The Autumn Newsletter will not be out early enough, so information and how to book will be emailed to those that have opted in to receive notices of events by this method. Please contact Christina in the Office to update your email preferences or to register your interest in this event.

## WTT Draw Results 2020

Huge thanks to Sage, The Peacock at Rowsley & Haddon Fisheries, William Daniel, George & Ann Easton and Jim's Lures for the superb prizes they kindly donated. Thank you also to all who bought tickets, raising a record £8,000!

The tickets were drawn on 17 December and the winning ticket numbers were: 1st prize 2285; 2nd prize 5906; 3rd prize 4776; 4th prize 5153 and 5th prize 4296. All winners have been notified.

## WTT Draw 15 December 2021

We again have a superb range of prizes for 2021. Tickets will be on sale in the WTT website shop from late Spring.

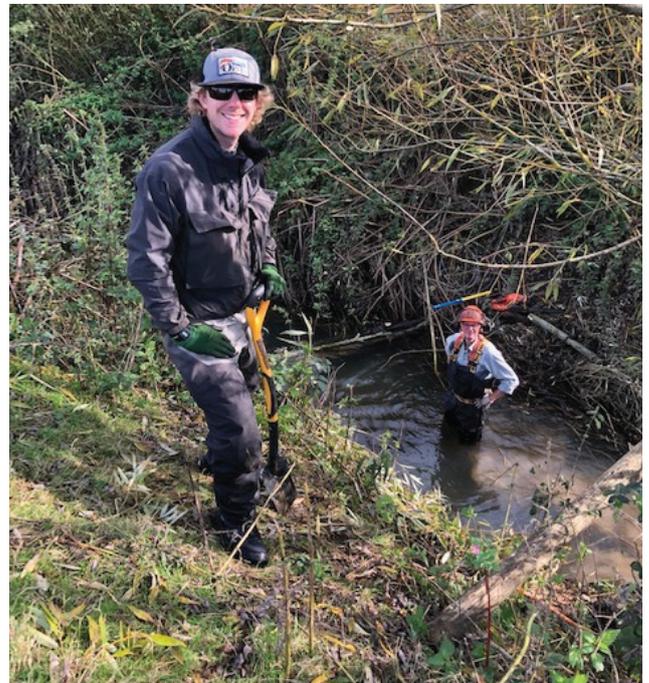
Orders can also be placed using the form that will accompany the Autumn Newsletter out late October or early November.

## WTT Director's Update

We wrote to members in the (English) lockdown 1 to describe what we were continuing to try to do and the furlough of some staff. Since then, through the second half of summer 2020 and this winter, we've all been back and hard at it.

We've done very little practical, in-river stuff with volunteers – it's currently allowed within Government guidelines, but it proved nigh-on impossible to maintain social distancing, so we've suspended this work, except for very small groups doing individual, distanced tasks, like tree planting. However, the Conservation Officers have been doing a great number of advisory visits with clubs, from Cornwall to Cumbria, and preparing some big projects, most notably with Jonny Grey in Yorkshire and Tim Jacklin in Lincolnshire.

There's plenty on the books for the months ahead. We now have some dedicated funding for work in Scotland, thanks to the William Grant Foundation, and Gareth Pedley will be getting in touch with our contacts across the country. Jonny Grey will be pushing on with a portfolio of river improvement projects of various sizes across the Aire, Nidd and Wharfe. Across the Midlands of England, Tim Jacklin will be seeing through a flood plain reconnection project on a Witham tributary and doing the legwork for other projects in Lincs, Staffs, Notts and Derbys. In Cambs, Rob Mungovan has habitat improvement projects on tributaries of the Cam and another on the Mimram in Herts. Over in Somerset, Theo Pike is seeking the genesis of urban groups to care for a number of streams rising in the hills above the Levels, also



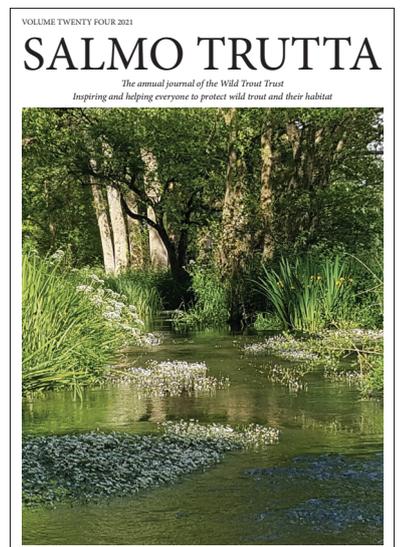
*Andy Thomas doing good things in Kent's Eridge Stream with volunteer Jed Grayston in the foreground, in a joint project with the EA and Dorset Arms AC (photo by Martin Jacobs)*

winning the best acronym prize for this *Transforming Waterways in Somerset Towns* project. In the South, Andy Thomas and Nick Lawrence, working with ex-Wildie Mike Blackmore, are preparing a raft of projects on Test and Itchen tributaries, with planning ongoing in Wilts, Berks and Surrey.

## Salmo Trutta 2021

We are busy working on *Salmo Trutta* Volume 24 and plan to print on our usual schedule so that it arrives with you in early May along with membership renewal notices.

Volume 24 is turning out to be the WTT Vice-Presidents issue, as we have articles by Paul Procter, Dennis Moss, Charles Rangeley-Wilson and Edward Twiddy as well as an article by WTT President Jon Beer. It will be a thought-provoking mix of fishing, science, river restoration and current hot topics including moorland restoration, pollution and 'public money for public goods' by Professor Sir Dieter Helm. American fishing writer Ted Leeson has kindly given us an article about fishing the Madison. Those of you who have read his book *The Habit of Rivers* will know this is quite a coup!



## Underwater Videos And Much More



It was good to see fish featured on *Winter Watch* in January. The amazing underwater videos of salmon were taken by Chris Conroy of the Ness DSFB and he has kindly allowed us to feature a number of his videos on our YouTube channel and on our website (for example, on the trout life cycle and ferox pages). Our YouTube channel is home to a wide range of videos about trout and rivers, including discussions with Paul Procter and Jon Beer as well as practical 'how to' guides on river habitat project techniques. Just search Google for: YouTube Wild Trout Trust.

## Britain's Hidden Fishes Film

Wildlife cameraman Jack Perks does a tremendous job at getting fish onto our TV screens and showing the public that wildlife doesn't have to have fur or feathers to be fascinating. His next project is to make a one-hour, cinema-quality film that showcases the hidden stories of British fish, everything from sticklebacks to basking sharks. He has assembled an extraordinarily talented crew of editors, composers, consultants and camera operators, including Jeremy Wade (of *River Monsters* fame) who will narrate the film.

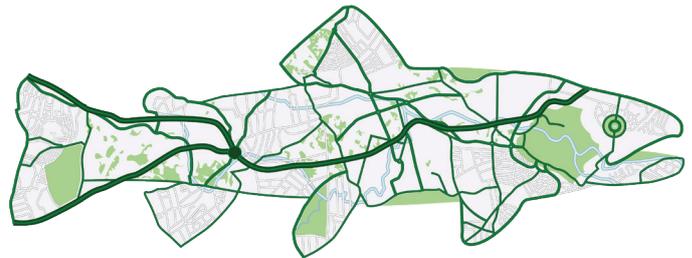
The film will be funded through a Crowdfunding Campaign on IndieGoGo – Jack says, “This is the only option to create a short film about fish as most see them as brown, slimy, boring things. However, they are so



much more than that with the ruby reds and kingfisher blues on a grayling's dorsal fin or the deadly patience of pike waiting for an unsuspecting shoal of rudd to pass by.”

Jack's successful track record of film-making and enthusiastic promotion of fish means that we want to help him get this film made. If you would like to support him too, please go to the WTT website news item to find the link to the project or go directly to the IndieGoGo website and look for Britain's Hidden Fishes.

## Trout in the Town



## Trout in the Town

Community-based urban river groups are the bedrock of our Trout in the Town programme, and with Covid lockdowns, visiting and caring for your local river has never been more important. Lots of research has shown that being outside and close to water is good for your mental health. Urban rivers can be amazing habitat for wild trout and other wildlife, but they are also vulnerable and community groups are vital custodians of their local river.

Our two urban river gurus, Theo Pike and Paul Gaskell, provide expertise and support to Trout in the Town 'chapters' through advice and practical help and their 'how to' guide, the *Trout in the Town Urban River Toolkit*.

We have also recently launched a new nationwide accreditation scheme for all our urban river groups, so that they can be officially recognised as part of our inspiring urban river movement. We are pleased to announce that we now have 10 groups which are accredited to various levels from 'First Contact' to 'Gold'.

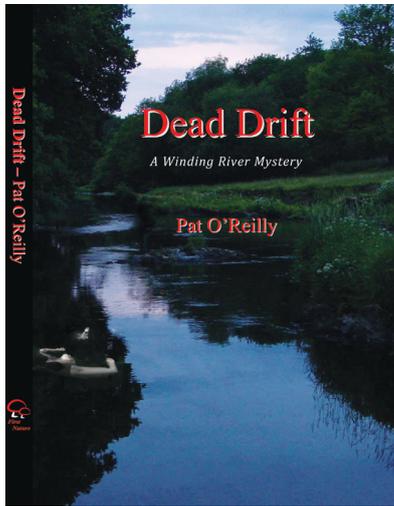


More details of the accredited chapters and the Trout in the Town programme can be found at: [wildtrout.org/content/trout-town](http://wildtrout.org/content/trout-town). Contact Paul or Theo for more information.

## Lockdown Reading

WTT Vice President, Pat O'Reilly, will be well-known to anglers for his book, *Matching the Hatch*.

His latest book is a fast-moving thriller called *Dead Drift* that, inevitably, has fly fishing woven into its intricate plot.



Pat is very generously donating his author royalties and publisher's proceeds to support the work of the Wild Trout Trust.

You can buy a signed copy of the book from the First Nature website, ([www.firstnature.com/books/deadrift.php](http://www.firstnature.com/books/deadrift.php)) price £4.95 plus £1.95 p&p.

## Online Fly Tying Tutorials

Andy Ford, presenter of *On The Bank* on BT Sport is doing some videos and live fly tying tutorials online via Orvis. At the end of each live session, he will auction the flies tied in the demonstration to viewers, with proceeds coming to WTT.

Go to the blog for videos and dates of the live demonstrations: [www.uknews.orvis.co.uk/](http://www.uknews.orvis.co.uk/)

You can also watch Andy at: [www.youtube.com/c/FordyGoesFishing](http://www.youtube.com/c/FordyGoesFishing)

## Your River Photos

We now have a photo gallery facility on the website and would like to use it to show photos of different rivers. Many of the photos that we take on our advisory visits are of problems and poor habitat so it would be nice to share some good river pictures! If you are interested, we might be able to give you a quick assessment of the quality of the habitat based on the photo.

Please send your photos to Denise Ashton via: [dashton@wildtrout.org](mailto:dashton@wildtrout.org) and include the name of the river, approximate location and name of the photographer as these will be included in the gallery.

## Your Very Short Stories

Could you write a (very) short story of, ideally, around 150 words about your experience of fishing, rivers and wildlife? There is a long history of the angler-naturalist

going back to Walton and Cotton. Today that angler-naturalist is likely to be a conservationist too. We feel there is an opportunity to bring this aspect of angling to the attention of the media and general public. We are not quite sure what form this will take yet, but these very short stories will be the foundation of possibly a printed book. We may also publish them on our website and link with social media.

Please send your very short stories to Denise Ashton via: [dashton@wildtrout.org](mailto:dashton@wildtrout.org).

Here is an example of what we are looking for:

### Daubenton's Bats by Jeanette Pink

There is a little gang of Daubenton's bats that I am particularly fond of. They emerge from the tree roots on the bank opposite where I often fish at dusk. I first got to know them when casting to a rising fish. My fly seemed to jump several feet and land again. This happened a dozen times before I realised the bats were picking it up and putting it down. Since then, I make sure I stand in the same spot at dusk and wait for them to emerge and flit around my legs for half an hour until I really cannot see and must go home. I talk to them, which must be very odd if anyone was ever listening, but fortunately I only have to share the river with the bats.

## Zoom Meetings

We have held a very successful series of angling club AGMs on Zoom which have included a member of the WTT team giving a talk at the start of the meeting. The feedback so far has been excellent and we all seem to be getting the hang of this technology as a good way of keeping in touch.

We would like to extend the offer of a WTT-hosted Zoom meeting, presentation or discussion to any group or club or even just a group of friends. The presentation element is generally between 20 and 45 minutes, with time allowed for discussion and questions. Groups of up to 40 people can be accommodated. With larger groups there is a good process for gathering and managing questions using the 'chat' function, with the help of a nominated chairman. We will tailor the content to your interest, but the topics below have proved popular so far:

- Best practice catch & release.
- The life of chalkstream fishes.
- Wild trout fishing.
- Managing river habitat.

Please contact Christina via: [office@wildtrout.org](mailto:office@wildtrout.org) if you would like to book a presentation.