



Wild Trout Trust

News Update Spring 2018

Diary Dates

24 February – South West Fly Fair, Roadford
(www.swlakestrust.org.uk/events)

9-18 March: WTT Annual Auction
(www.wildtrout.org/content/auction)

April – WTT annual journal, *Salmo trutta*, hits the streets.

24/25 April – RRC Conference, Nottingham
(<http://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc-annual-conference-2018>)

19/20 May – WTT Annual Get-Together
Gargrave Village Hall, North Yorkshire

16 June – WTT Three-Fly Challenge fundraising
Meon Springs Fishery; please contact Neil Mundy
(ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk) for details and an entry form.

14 July – Fishing for Forces Cast & Blast, Meon Springs Fishery

22 September – Children's Fishing Day, Meon Springs Fishery

16-18 October – Institute of Fisheries
Management Conference, Hull (www.ifm.org.uk)

17 October – WTT Conservation Awards, at the Savile Club,
London (www.wildtrout.org/content/conservation-awards)

eBay Auction, 9-18 March

See the accompanying catalogue for details of 313 fabulous lots.
Bid online or use the postal bid form.

WTT Annual Get-Together 19 & 20 May

We are delighted that our Annual Get-Together for 2018 will be visiting Gargrave, N Yorks on 19 & 20 May. A few of us will gather informally on the Friday night in the locality (please feel free to join us if you can) before a Saturday full of varied and interesting stuff. In the morning, speakers will update us on projects by local groups, work by WTT in the patch, research on fish passes and some good old trout fishing talk. In the afternoon, we'll walk the Aire to look at habitat improvement work, including fish passes.

Saturday daytime costs £10, payable at time of booking. For those able to stay on, we'll gather in Gargrave in the evening before a Sunday sampling wild trout fishing on some of Yorkshire's fabulous and famous trout streams. Details and a booking form are on the website or please contact Christina in the WTT office, expressing an interest in fishing on the Sunday if appropriate so we can gauge numbers.

Programme

- 09.30 *Arrival, registration and coffee*
10.00 *Welcome*
David Fraser, Chairman, WTT
10.05 *What has WTT ever done for you?*
Shaun Leonard, WTT
10.15 *DNAire – a renaissance of the river*
Geoff Roberts, Aire Rivers Trust
10.40 *It's all Upper in the Aire*
Don Vine, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

- 11.05 *Conservation Officer's Cameo Part 1*
Jon Grey, WTT
11.15 *Tea break*
11.45 *Zen & the Worth of trout*
Phil Sheridan, River Worth Friends
12.10 *Stewardship to science*
Rick Battarbee, Addingham4Becks
12.35 *Conservation Officer's Cameo: the Sequel*
Gareth Pedley, WTT
12.45 *What good is a fish pass?*
Jon Bolland, University of Hull
13.10 *Trout fishing gems*
A Trout Fishing Behemoth t/b/c
13.40 *Lunch*
P.M. *Aire River Walk*
Jon Grey & WTT Conservation Officers

Three-Fly Challenge, 16 June Meon Springs Fishery, Hampshire

The Three-Fly Challenge will test your skills and catching ability as you can only use three flies (one at a time) and these will be provided on the day: Kites Imperial dry (3 points per fish); Black buzzer (2 points per fish); GRHE nymph (1 point per fish). Points will be awarded according to the fly used and the weight of the fish, e.g. a 3lb fish caught with dry Kites Imperial would score 9 points (3 points x 3lb = 9). The angler with the highest number of points wins a new Sage One 9ft, 5-wt rod and there are many other runners-up prizes. And a raffle will be held at lunchtime.

Tickets cost £90 including breakfast, cooked lunch, a 4-fish ticket and flies with all monies raised going into WTT's Pasco James Project. Applications with a cheque for £90 made payable to The Wild Trout Trust should be sent to: Neil Mundy, Pine View, Forest Road, Denmead, Hants PO7 6UA. For further information, email: ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 023 9225 4886 / 07964 379988. Closing date for entries is Saturday 2 June 2018.

The Pasco James money, including that raised in the 3 Fly competition, is funding our Assistant Conservation Officer, Ed Eley. Ed has been working with COs Andy, Mike and Rob, hopefully soaking up their vast pool of knowledge and adding habitat in rivers from Suffolk to Somerset. Ed is a great asset for WTT and our work and he seems to be learning loads.

WTT Conservation Awards

Our door is open for applications for the 2018 WTT Conservation Awards. We seek to recognise and encourage excellence in wild trout habitat management and conservation and celebrate the efforts, ingenuity and imagination of all those involved. We want to hear about successful, small-scale efforts to improve a stream at the end of the garden just as much as catchment-wide work funded by government agencies. There are three prize categories:

- *Large-Scale Habitat Enhancement Scheme*: for projects delivered by government agencies, contractors and larger rivers or wildlife trusts;

continued overleaf

- *Medium-Scale Habitat Enhancement Scheme*: for projects delivered by small to medium-sized NGOs e.g. rivers or wildlife trusts;
- *Contribution to Wild Trout Conservation*: aimed at amateur community groups (e.g. fishing clubs or other conservation groups) whose voluntary efforts, either through delivery of a specific habitat enhancement project and/or general ethos of management, have furthered the cause for wild trout conservation.

Applications are open until 30 July 2018 with further information and application form on the WTT website (www.wildtrout.org/content/conservation-awards).

Limits to our Powers: A tale from Paul Gaskell on Yorkshire's River Went

As much as there are benefits from simply increasing the amount of structural variety in a river...without the energy of un-impounded flows, there is a fairly debilitating limit to what can be achieved. The ability of a river to redistribute its own bed material is the lifeblood of self-sustaining populations of flow-loving creatures like wild trout.

This one small weir on a low gradient Yorkshire stream is impounding at least 500m (and possibly more than 1km) of habitat – turning it into silty, canal-like habitat.



Some extremely valuable woody material provides cover from predators at multiple points throughout the impounded reach...



...but this does not mean that the river can generate adequate spawning habitat. As a result, the planned (and fairly simple) removal of that one small weir would have incredibly beneficial impacts. In common with tackling any impoundment, such benefits will be multiplied by the presence of complex woody material in the river. The benefits in this specific case would also be evident for a disproportionately large extent upstream and

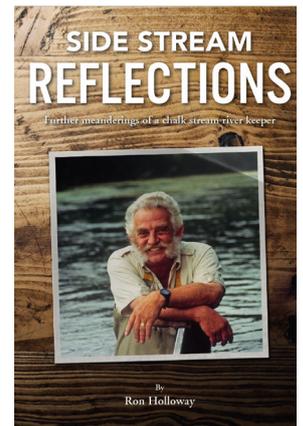
downstream of the current weir location. Working in partnership with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, EA, FWAG, Natural England and local residents and volunteers, WTT hopes to see these potential gains – and many more - achieved within the next two years through the Living Went Project, managed by YWT.

Roddy Rae

Sincere thanks to the family and friends of the late Roddy Rae, whose doubtless much-loved tackle has been sold to raise funds for WTT, including in our annual auction (see lots 16, 33, 34, 35, 36). As ever, we greatly value the generosity of donations like Roddy's and pledge to put the proceeds to very good use.

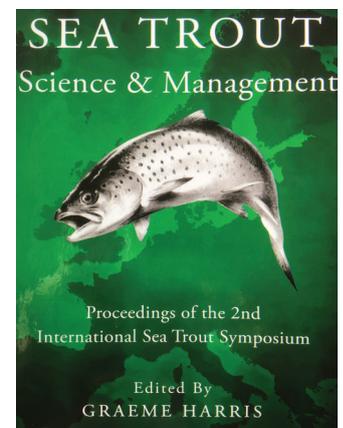
Ron Holloway's Second Book

Ron Holloway, legendary WTT-er and Itchen keeper, died in 2016, leaving behind him the manuscript of a second book. Well, Ron's friend, David Hamnett, picked up the gauntlet and has published that book, *Side Stream Reflections*. Keep an eye on the WTT website for further details or maybe even bid for the copy in our annual auction. All proceeds after production costs will be donated to WTT.



Sea Trout Science & Management

A massive 600-page book recently thumped on to my doorstep, *Sea Trout Science & Management*, the proceedings of the 2nd International Sea Trout Symposium, held in Ireland in 2016. This was a truly excellent event, bringing together many of the North Atlantic's top sea trout researchers; the proceedings do not disappoint, drawn together by Dr Graeme Harris and adding significantly to the library on trout. It is extraordinary, however, that the more we seem to learn about this enigmatic fish, the less we know. How intriguing. The book is available at a very reasonable 70 Euro from <http://shop.fishinginireland.info> or +353 01 884 2600.



Shaun Leonard

WTT Annual Raffle 2017 Results

The Wild Trout Trust would like to thank Sage, The Peacock at Rowsley & Haddon Fisheries and William Daniel & Famous Fishing for the prizes they kindly donated, and all those who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets, enabling us to raise a total of £3,400. The draw took place on 12 December and all winners have been notified. Winning tickets: 1st Prize, ticket no. 3335; 2nd Prize, ticket no 3405; 3rd Prize, ticket no. 4128; 4th Prize, ticket no. 3641; 5th Prize, ticket no. 1535.