



Current Affairs



Newsletter of Llandysul Angling Association
February 2012



Above: Club member Cherrie Neale with an autumn salmon caught and returned on Dolgwm Mill (Beat 6) in September 2011. Photograph: Ray Neale

- Letter from the Secretary2
- Report from the Annual General Meeting.....3
- Chairman’s Report.....4
- Dr David Roberts.....5
- Who Coordinates the Invertebrate Monitoring Data?6
- Welcome Day Saturday 2nd June 2012.....7
- Start and Close of the 2012 Fishing Season.....7
- Junior Members' News and Events, by Eric Davies.....8
- Page 2 of Junior Members’ News... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- Llandysul A A Rules Amendments10
- New Book by Pat O’Reilly11
- Competition News - Pysgotwyr Plu Llandysul12
- New Web-based Wales Wildlife Information Source13
- Introducing our new President, Christine Pearse14
- Membership Renewals and Catch Returns.....16

Letter from the Secretary



For me and for many others this season has been overshadowed by the sudden death of our President, Dr David Roberts. Our Chairman writes an appreciation of David elsewhere in this Newsletter and I can only echo what he has to say. David was a good man, much respected in our community, and a caring, committed G.P. He was also my good and valued friend.

On behalf of the Association I wrote to Judith, his wife, offering the sympathy and condolences of members. It was one of some hundreds of such letters she has received, an indication of the regard in which David was held.

So, on to angling matters. Fishing in 2011 was relatively disappointing, especially compared to the previous year. Ever optimistic, we look forward to the coming season. Optimism, however, is not enough. Working with other clubs on the river, primarily Teifi Trout Association, hatchery-bred salmon have been returned carefully to the river this year and brood stock taken to continue the 3-year project. We have to meet Environment Agency Wales conditions and to negotiate the bureaucratic process, which has its frustrations. Crucially, this stocking work needs more people participating to maintain a viable programme of enhancing our fishery. Volunteers are warmly welcomed. Contact Ian Thomas, Steffan Jones, David Williams or me to offer your support for this work.

In keeping with providing for the future of the river you will see from the newly-amended version of the Association Bye-laws that it has been decided to reduce the limit of fish that can be taken and killed. A tagging system for salmon has also been introduced, details of which are given in the booklet and in this Newsletter. Again, we ask members to practice catch-and-release fishing as a matter of course to help preserve our wild fish stocks. Owing to demand from members the 'odds and evens' fishing restrictions have been restored to the Bye-laws. Please do read this booklet, which should accompany this Newsletter. (Details of the changes to Club Rules are on page 10 of this newsletter.)

To close, there is one great feature of Llandysul AA of which we can be especially proud, and that is our flourishing youth section. These young people are the future of our sport. We hold the river, its fishing and biodiversity in trust for them. I want to record our thanks and gratitude to Eric and Dion Davies, Peter Jones and others who give generously of their time and knowledge to this work.

So, a new season approaches. Enjoy your fishing and the Teifi Valley. Tight lines to all.

Yours sincerely, *Andrew Howell*, Hon. Sec.

Report from the Annual General Meeting

The 2011 AGM was held at The Porth Hotel on Friday 2nd December. Dr Ian Thomas, presided and opened the meeting with a tribute to Dr David Roberts, our president, who had died suddenly in October. The meeting stood in silent tribute to a great man.

The achievements of our younger members were highlighted, and the Tom Howells Memorial Shield was presented to Trystan Davies for outstanding achievements during the 2011 lessons – see Eric Davies’s report, pages 8 and 9. Reports from the secretary (see page 2), treasurer (page 3), and chairman (see page 4) were then received and accepted.

Membership Subscriptions for 2012

The AGM agreed the following membership prices for the coming season:

➤ Adult full membership	£149
➤ Pensioner member (at least five years as a full member to qualify)	£74
➤ Severely Disabled (Tyr Dref beat only)	£10
➤ Joining fee (adults only)	£15
➤ Student membership	£43
➤ Junior (schoolchild) trout fishing membership	£2
➤ Weekly permit up to 31st August	£67
➤ Weekly permit, 1 st September to 17 th October	£77
➤ Guest day permit (and introductory day visitor - only to 31st Aug)	£25
➤ Trout fishing only, restricted to beats upstream of Lampeter Bridge	£10

Election of Officers and Committee

In accordance with club rules, one third of the committee membership stood down - Eric Davies, Eurig Thomas, Pat O’Reilly and Alan Williams. All four had expressed willingness to continue serving on committee if the AGM so wished, and because there were no other applications they were re-elected to serve during 2012. The chairman, secretary and treasurer were also re-elected for the year ahead, and Ms Christine Pearse was appointed as president of Llandysul Angling Association.

Treasurer’s Report

Accounts for 2011 were presented at the AGM. Members received an abbreviated copy and the discussion was led by the club’s Treasurer, Ronald Foulkes.

Balance Sheet: Net Current Assets of LAA stand at £907,361 (including County Gate water purchased for £26,000). All purchases are recorded at historical cost i.e. cost at the time of purchase. (Included in this figure is cash in bank of £71,099 and Secured Loan £100,000.)

Profit and Loss Account: The surplus of Income over expenditure was £12,011 compared with £11,495 in the previous year.

We believe that these accounts show that the Association is in a sound financial position.

Chairman's Report



It is with deepest regret that I begin my report with the sad news of the tragic demise of our President, Dr. David Roberts in October of this year. David was approaching his retirement next spring and was planning new activities for his additional spare time, including some Trust work, but unfortunately fate intervened and denied him and Judith their hard-earned time in the sun.

David was a truly lovely guy, always with a smile, a perfect gentleman. He made you feel at ease with the world. He was a calm and reassuring presence and we will miss him immensely on our committee.

David didn't do a great deal of fishing, but he was an enthusiastic supporter of all field sports and outdoor pursuits and a great ambassador for all the interests he represented; his premature death has been a great loss to everyone who knew him.

The fishing season wasn't greatly inspiring this year either, with both salmon and sewin present but in nothing like the numbers we enjoyed in 2010. We eventually had some good conditions but the fish just didn't seem to be there. Maybe the dry spring and early summer influenced the situation, but sewin numbers seemed to be worryingly low throughout. Having said that I do know of one member who caught sixteen salmon and plenty of sewin, all on fly, but he is an incredibly dedicated performer who puts the hours in at the right time of day. Nonetheless it shows what can be achieved if you are prepared to put the effort in.

The Teifi Fisheries Federation has functioned well on two main fronts. Firstly we have been keeping up the pressure on our canoeing friends, and I am delighted to say that we have been approached by Llandysul Paddlers with a view to drawing up an agreement with them. Whatever your views on canoeing are, two facts are irrefutable:

- a) They are not going to go away so we are stuck with them.
- b) The Welsh Assembly wants its inland waters opened up to as much water sports tourism as possible, and so if we don't draw up a voluntary access agreement we risk having one inflicted upon us from on high – a process in which we would have little or no input.

So this opportunity is to be welcomed and we are currently in negotiation with the paddlers to come up with something that is acceptable to both sides. I ask you to be patient and not to expect everything to run smoothly from the word go, as I see this as an evolving process which will be reviewed on an annual basis. However, initial discussions have gone well and we hope that old animosities can be buried once and for all as everyone is fed up

with the current stalemate. As soon as the agreement is finalised it will be published in the newsletter.

Secondly, our broodstock collection has not gone so well as we have only seventeen fish in the hatchery at the time of writing. Salmon have been hard to come by out of season as well, but we could use some more anglers next season as only a handful of us have put any effort in this time around. We have also been hampered by the fact that David Griffiths of TTA has been in and out of hospital, and this has made communication with the Environment Agency more difficult. It may be that they will allow us to do some netting, but we are still waiting to hear on this score. TTA are also developing a website devoted to the restocking programme and are actively seeking sponsors to help with the expense. Should any of you feel like contributing to this process then please contact our secretary.

The committee has been very concerned about the declining fish stocks and in view of this we have decided to lower our bag limits again next season (see page 10 for details). We have also been fortunate to recruit some young blood on to the management board, and are seeking to increase representation from the Lampeter area shortly.

Teifi Rivers Trust has continued delivering habitat improvement schemes, with eight completed on the tributaries Clettwr and Creuddyn so far this year. However, interest seems to be waning for invertebrate monitoring and so could I please urge you to rediscover some enthusiasm for this important task. We have also had to withdraw from a Wild Fishing Wales bid, as TTA could not come up with the necessary costings and consents in time. The Trust is planning to survey the Cych next spring, and we may well be joined by some of the Llandysul Paddlers as eight of them have expressed an interest in training for this work – now that really would be an achievement if anglers and canoeists were co-operating on projects beneficial to the catchment.

To finish off I am delighted to report that we have recruited a new president whom I will allow to introduce herself. (Please see page 14 of this newsletter.) I hope her stay with us will be a long and fruitful one. Tight lines,

Ian Thomas, Chairman



Dr David Roberts

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death, on 15th October 2011, of our president Dr David Roberts.

David and his wife Judith moved to Llandysul in 1981. He soon became President of Llandysul A A, providing wise counsel and invaluable help with the running of the club. Our sympathy on this tragic loss goes to David's wife, Judith, and his sister Gillian. We will all miss him greatly.

Who Coordinates the Invertebrate Monitoring Data?

Here is a brief introduction to the Riverfly Partnership, the organisation that coordinates flylife monitoring from the rivers, lakes and streams across the UK. Teifi Rivers Trust volunteers make important contributions to the Anglers Monitoring Initiative.



The Riverfly Partnership is a network of approximately 100 partner organisations, representing anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant authorities, working together to:

- protect the water quality of our rivers
- further the understanding of riverfly populations
- conserve riverfly habitats

The Riverfly Partnership:

- raises awareness of the importance of riverflies
- delivers the Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (AMI) which enables trained volunteers groups to monitor the water quality of their rivers
- provides a portal for riverfly information
- publishes easy to use identification guides to the riverfly groups
- runs workshops, conferences and events
- implements species conservation work
- forges academic links to further research

The Riverfly Partnership:
Fishmongers' Hall
London Bridge
EC4R 9EL
info@riverflies.org

For more, Anglers' Monitoring Initiative, Riverfly Recording Schemes, publications, diary of events and further information see www.riverflies.org

The Riverfly Partnership was established in 2004. It operates through The British Fly Fishing Association (BBFA), which is a registered company in England and Wales, No. 0511596, Charity No. 1123791.

Image © David Jones; Nick Unwin/stock photo; left to right: Emma Rose, Cyril Bennett, David Jones; middle: Emma Rose; Cyril Bennett.

What are Riverflies?

Caddisflies, stoneflies and mayflies (or up-wing flies) – the riverflies – live most of their lives as larvae on the bed of rivers and stillwaters, emerging as short-lived adult flies mostly in spring and summer, often en masse. Spectacular hatches can trigger fish feeding frenzies. Flyfishers imitate the adults using artificial flies. Riverfly populations are affected by many factors, predominantly water quality, habitat diversity, water level and flow rate. Riverfly larvae are relatively localised, long-lived and sensitive to pollution. Therefore they are powerful biological indicators of water quality and are commonly referred to as ‘the canary of our rivers.’ In recent decades anglers have noticed that many hatches are decreasing in size and frequency. Threats to riverfly populations and apparent declines in numbers are of concern. The benefits of the Anglers Monitoring Initiative include:

- identifying falls in water quality and alerting the statutory agencies for further investigation;
- acting as a deterrent to incidental polluters;
- generating long-term biological data of UK rivers that can be used to monitor change.

Welcome Day Saturday 2nd June 2012

Near the start of the season, we are delighted to be able to provide help to new members and others who have not yet found their way around all of our thirty miles of fishing on the Teifi. This year our **Spring Welcome Day is on Saturday 2nd June.**

Provisional timetable for Welcome Day, Saturday 2nd June 2012

11-30am	Meet the committee, accommodation providers and local members at The Porth Hotel, Llandysul. (Coffee and biscuits are provided free of charge.) Illustrated talk about the fisheries and wildlife of the Teifi Valley.
12-30pm	Fishers' Forum: put your questions to a panel of local experts.
1-15pm approx.	Lunch will be available at The Porth Hotel (but please phone Andrew or Louise on 01559 362202 to make a reservation).
2-15pm	Casting demonstration by qualified flyfishing instructors at our Tyr Dref fishing beat in Llandysul (just a 250-yard walk from The Porth Hotel).
2-45pm	Guided visits to several of the Llandysul A A fisheries, with local anglers.
6-30pm	Dinner. (for reservations at The Porth Hotel, please phone 01559 362202.)
8-00pm onwards	For those who so wish, fishing on club waters for full members. Day permits or 'noon Saturday to noon Sunday' permits are available at £25.

How can I take part and what will it cost?

All are welcome to take part in the Welcome Day events. Apart from the fishing session in the evening, **it is not necessary to be a member** or even to hold a visitor permit. Other than your accommodation and meals, **everything is free of charge**, so do please join us if you possibly can make it.

Start and Close of the 2012 Fishing Season

Members and visitors may fish for trout on beats above Lampeter Bridge from 3rd March. All other beats open on 1st April for trout, salmon and sea trout. The trout-fishing season on all our beats closes on 30th September, while salmon and sea trout fishing continues until 17th October (the last ten days being fly and spinner only). Those are statutory season dates and method restrictions. Please note that some of our waters are designated 'fly only' and that for stock conservation reasons the club applies other method/time restrictions, which are fully explained in the Llandysul A A Rules booklet. If you should ever lose your Rules booklet, please send for a free replacement (but remember to enclose a SAE) to: Llandysul A A, Room 101, The Porth Hotel, Llandysul SA44 4QS.

Rod Licence Fees for 2012

A salmon/sea trout rod licence for 2012/13 is expected to cost approximately £75, with concessions for young, elderly & disabled anglers. As usual, the precise scale of fees has not yet been set by Government. The licence fees will eventually be published at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish via which licences can be purchased online.

Junior Members' News and Events, by Eric Davies

Our summer lessons last year was a success, with an average attendance of ten children on each day. On the last day we had a very keenly contested distance and accuracy competition; the first three were: 1st Trystan Davies, 2nd Steffan Rees, 3rd Ceiros Lewis. Da iawn chi.



Young fly fishers and controllers beside the River Teifi at Pont leu before a CMR competition in 2011.



Trystan relaxing before the Youth International Match on The Lake of Menteith, when Wales came second.

The results of the catch measure and release (CMR) competitions last year were:

23rd August: 1st Trystan Davies, 2nd Jordan Evans, 3rd Steffan Rees

30th August: 1st Trystan Davies, 2nd Steffan Rees joint 3rd Jordan Evans and Ceiros Lewis

Result over the two nights was: 1st Trystan Davies, 2nd Jordan Evans, 3rd Steffan Rees

Well done to you all, and many thanks to the parents for taking part and the controllers for officiating, also our thanks to Andrew and Louise of The Porth Hotel for the buffet and the use of their facilities, and to Charles Davies for the use of the yard for parking.



Gwennan Lewis with Dion Davies and Jack Newbold above on CMR night.

Important diary dates for 2012

It is great news that Peter Jones is recovering well from his broken leg; the sewin will not be safe again this year. Annual summer lessons in Llandysul Park by the tennis court, will be on 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st August, from 2pm to 5pm.

12th June at Pont Ieu, 6 p.m. First under-16 Catch-Measure-and-Release match

28th August at Pont Ieu 6 p.m. Second CM&R match.

31st August 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Summer tuition & under 16 distance & accuracy competition.

Entrants for the under-16 CMR fly-fishing competition must be members of Llandysul A A and must be accompanied by an adult family member or members. Meet by Pont Ieu (the new suspension bridge) at 6-00p.m. Tackle will be supplied to those who need it, but bring your own eye protection, wellies, waterproofs (if it is raining), rod license if you are over 12, and your club permit. Competitors can be helped with anything except the casting. After the match we will retire to the Porth Hotel for a light buffet. The winners will receive tackle and fly-tying materials as prizes. If in doubt as to the staging of these events because of bad weather, please ring me on 01559362485 or 07527976449.



Steffan Rees pushing for distance with Peter Jones ready to mark

Many thanks to all of you who have helped in any way towards the smooth running of the Youth section; you know who you are, and I hope I can call upon your services again this year. The summer fly-fishing lessons are all free of charge, and they are also available to non members. Remember to bring your wellies, eye protection, snacks and liquid refreshments.

Tight lines to you all for the Season ahead. Roll on 3rd of March (when fishing for trout starts on beats upstream of Lampeter Bridge).

Hwyl, Eric

Llandysul A A Rules Amendments

Although the River Teifi is officially classified as ‘probably not at risk’ in terms of its salmon population, it does fail to meet its management target of being ‘not at risk’. Beyond that, the Teifi as a whole fell short on the salmon catch and release (C&R) rate by a full 10% on the Welsh average (52%) and by 17% on the national average (59%) in 2010. This is a worrying trend, especially when viewed in conjunction with the official risk status of our river system, as the C&R rate inevitably affects the stock level.



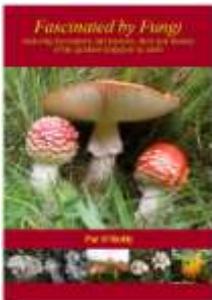
Release of caught salmon can help a great deal when stocks are below target

We all have a part to play in changing this. Following similar initiatives introduced by neighbouring clubs and best practice gleaned from across the country, Llandysul A A will be introducing a salmon carcass-tagging system for the 2012 season and onwards. Tags can be obtained, prior to fishing, from our ticket issuers Andrew James at the Porth Hotel in Llandysul, from Alan Williams in Lampeter, or from the Club Secretary Andrew Howell at his house Y Fedwen at the top of the High Street in Llandysul. This will limit anglers to 3 salmon a season and 1 per week whilst fishing on association waters. The tags will be distributed to you along with your permit, and the tag numbers will be clearly displayed on the tags and then duplicated on your permit.

If you choose to take a salmon, then you must place the tag onto the carcass as soon as it is dispatched. The tag should be inserted fully through the mouth and gills and then secured. Untagged salmon, tag manipulation or anyone found to be contravening the rules of this tagging system will be called in front of the committee where the repercussions will be deliberated and delivered – this may result in expulsion from LAA, and all neighbouring clubs will be notified of this fact.

We have chosen easy-to-use and tamperproof tags, so there is no excuse. When requested, you should show evidence of the correctly tagged salmon and then your permit correlating the tag to the correct angler – tags are strictly non-transferable. We ask that you remain vigilant by reporting those who aim to contravene the rules of this conservation-orientated measure. The tags are clearly identified as ‘LAA 2012 – Fish not for Sale’ and then sequentially numbered. Unused tags are to be destroyed at the end of the season, as tags will be a different colour and will be stamped with a different year in subsequent seasons. The Environment Agency have been involved throughout the planning and implementation process and have given their support via their Enforcement Officers to help police the tags.

Further to this, Environment Agency statistics have revealed that around half of the 3.5lb+ sewin taken on rod and line are killed on the Teifi, which is worrying given that they are the future of our river and are a precious resource. To help combat this Llandysul A A will be implementing an upper limit of 20 inches / 50cm for retaining rather than releasing sewin caught during the 2012 season and onwards. This will allow sewin of around and up to 3.5lb to be retained. If in doubt then you should carry a means of measuring your sewin – a marker can easily be placed on your rod, or a measuring tape on a zinger kept on your person. Please refer to the revised byelaws booklet for the complete code of conduct on the aforementioned issues. We ask for your support with these measures and we hope that you see them in the light that they are intended.



New Book by Pat O'Reilly

As many members will know, long-serving committee member and former chairman Pat O'Reilly has written many books about fishing, including *Matching the Hatch* and the club's own publication *A Flyfisher's Guide to the Teifi Valley* – the latter is available from Andrew and Louise at The Porth Hotel, priced £14 + £2 P&P, and for a 212-page hardback book this is very good value indeed. If you haven't got a copy, or you know someone who would benefit from receiving one, please get in touch...

Pat's latest book, *Fascinated by Fungi*, runs to nearly 450 pages, contains more than 1000 colour photographs, and includes identification guides to 400 species. It's not a fishing book, but it has been receiving tremendous reviews, and as we know that many members have a very deep interest in wildlife and countryside matters, here are brief details:

The book explores the majesty and mystery, facts and fantasy of the quirkiest kingdom of life on earth. *Fascinated by Fungi* is an easy-to-follow introduction to a complex and largely unexplored kingdom of life and the history, mystery, facts and fiction born out of the fascinating foibles of mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi. Full details, sample pages etc are available at www.first-nature.com where the book, priced at £25, can be purchased. *Fascinated by Fungi* is also available via Amazon and other online booksellers or, to order, from most bookshops.

Competition News - Pysgotwyr Plu Llandysul

Autumn Competition, Llys y Fran, Sunday 4th September 2011

Nine anglers caught 17 rainbow trout for 32 lb. 10 oz. The average weight was almost 2 lb. Six of the fish caught were over 3 lb, and the heaviest was a four pounder which fell to Simon Jones.

The weather was reasonably fine in the morning, but very heavy rain showers made conditions rather poor in the afternoon.

The competition results (heaviest bags) were as follows: Dion Davies (4 fish; 9 lb. 4 oz.), Simon Thomas (3 fish; 8 lb. 10 oz.), David Williams (4 fish; 7 lb. 13oz), Eric Davies (3 fish; 6 lb. 02 oz.), Wyn Evans (1 fish; 3 lb. 08oz), and Ron Foulkes (1 fish; 1 lb. 10oz).

Trophies were presented at the AGM. Competition anglers were able to make use of the new boats made available by the fishery.



A peaceful scene: Llys-y-Fran Reservoir

As things stand, no competitions have been scheduled for 2012. Fewer club members are turning out for events. If there is sufficient interest, friendly competitions may be arranged with neighbouring angling associations, and Llys y Fran Reservoir is likely to remain a favourite venue for such events.

Tight lines,

Dewi Roberts, Competitions Sec., Tel: 01559 362659 (Evenings)

New Web-based Wales Wildlife Information Source

Fishing brings us closer to Mother Nature. How close depends on where you fish, of course, and the River Teifi is particularly good not only for getting up close and personal with fish and other aquatic creatures but also for the wealth of other wildlife of the Teifi Valley. Whether you are interested in bats, birds or butterflies, fish, fungi or flowers – or even those amazingly complex lower plants the various ferns, mosses, liverworts etc that thrive in damp shady places – our fishing beats have a great deal to offer.

Many of us like also to explore a little further afield; that's when things get difficult. Where can you go (without trespassing, getting lost and wasting those all-too precious leisure hours in the wrong place at the wrong time) to see the best wildlife of our area or, for that matter, the rest of Wales? Searching in books is not the answer: you would need a lot of books, most of which have not yet been written. The Internet then? Up until now this has meant piecing together fragments from many sources and then sorting out the wheat from the chaff – the facts from the fiction, some bordering on fraud published to get us into accommodation 'near' (which can mean anything or nothing) to wildlife sites some of which are nothing more than inaccessible swamps or ravines requiring mountaineering skills (and bravado) beyond most mortals of any age.



Good news! This spring a comprehensive, detailed directory to every National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Wales plus dozens of the best RSPB, Wildlife Trust and other nature reserves throughout Wales is being launched. It is online now at www.waleswildlife.com and the Teifi Valley figures prominently, as it fully deserves to. (Cors Caron is not the only NNR in the Teifi Valley; use waleswildlife.com to look up Coedmor NNR or Rhoslawr Cwrt NNR, for example; or see what South & West Wales Wildlife Trust has to offer at Teifi Marshes... So if you fancy an hour or two off from fishing to explore more of the Nature of Wales, it's worth visiting www.waleswildlife.com beforehand.

Introducing our new President, Christine Pearse



Christine Pearse and Molly

I did not know past president Doctor David Roberts personally, but I do know that he was much loved and respected. I saw this first hand in the sense of shock and loss that travelled through the local community at the news of his sudden death. So it really is not just a surprise to be invited but also an honour to follow him as President of our club.

I was appointed at the AGM in December, and now our hard working Chairman and Committee have the task of educating a new President in the business of the club. One of my first tasks is to introduce myself to members who have not met me, and to fill in some

blanks for those who have. (There's a 'fact file' at the end of this article).

I have been a member of LAA since I moved to live near Llandysul in 2000. One of my first memories of Llandysul is of seeing fish rise on the Teifi when my parents were showing me around the area they were moving to. Six months later I followed them, moving into the house next door to Committee member David Williams, where I still live with my dog Molly, a lovable two-year-old labradoodle.

Before moving to Llandysul, I had only been fishing for two or three years, mostly at Bewl Water in Kent or on smaller stillwaters. I had no experience of fishing a river like the Teifi, but when I got the chance I loved it! I got plenty of tips and encouragement from members I met and have spent many happy (and some frustrating) hours fishing the club's waters. I have also introduced my niece and nephew to fishing, and both have enjoyed attending the club's summer school. This is a great initiative, and an important part of passing on the pleasure of fishing to a younger generation.

Llandysul Angling Association was formed to promote fishing and ensure that fishing on local beats of the Teifi remained available to ordinary people living in the Llandysul area and further afield. That meant buying or leasing fishing rights as they became available, keeping them open to club members. The club has a very successful record of acquisitions, and we now have some thirty miles of fishing available to us.

So does that mean mission accomplished? Not by a long chalk. We face one very worrying problem – wild fish stocks in our river are falling, as they are in many rivers in the UK. If we want to reverse this trend (as I'm sure we all do), we have to work out why it is happening, and we have to do what we can to bring about change. And this is where it gets difficult. Our rivers and oceans are complex ecosystems, and we still have a lot to learn about them.

I am no scientist, but as a lawyer and former auditor I am used to looking for evidence. So that is my starting point when I think about our degraded wild fish stocks. We need to understand what is going on in our river – we need evidence, sound scientific evidence. With the evidence to guide us, we can use tried and tested schemes that have been shown to work in similar circumstances. We can also try new ideas, and gather evidence to tell us whether or not they are working.

This is why the club's, and individual members', participation in the Teifi Rivers Trust is so important. The Rivers Trust is involved in both conservation projects and gathering evidence - for example through the Teifi Rivers Trust Fly Life Monitoring project.

Aquatic invertebrates are a staple food for juvenile and mature fish and a significant part of the diet of bats and of birds such as dippers and wagtails. Monitoring invertebrate life can therefore provide valuable evidence about the health of our river. Teifi Rivers Invertebrate Monitors are volunteers who are trained in invertebrate identification and collection. At regular intervals, the volunteers take and analyse samples from defined collection points on the Teifi and its Tributaries, submitting their results to the Environment Agency. [If you would like to support the Teifi Rivers Trust and become a volunteer please contact John Morris on 01545 590153 or e-mail wjmwales@gmail.com.]

Many of the factors that we believe have contributed to declining fish stocks are out of our direct control. But by gathering evidence and working with like-minded organisations, we can hope to influence what happens. In the meantime, we have to carry on doing the small things that are within our control, such as:

- practising and encouraging catch and release
- maintaining and safeguarding river banks and habitat
- respecting the fishing seasons and rules of our club, which are designed to give our salmon, sewin and brown trout the best chance of breeding success

The club has a wonderful heritage – let's do our best to look after it for future generations to enjoy.

Fact File:

Born: Wirral, England 1958.

Education: Kendrick Girls' Grammar School, Reading. University of Liverpool, LLB.

Professional Qualifications: Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), qualified 1983; Barrister, Inner Temple, Called 1996.

Employment: Arthur Andersen; Deloitte Haskins & Sells; ICAEW; Price Waterhouse and now PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

Places - where I have lived: Wirral, Cheshire; Lowton, Lancs; Reading, Berks; Liverpool; Mottistone, Isle of Wight; Gomshall, Surrey; Tonbridge, Kent; and now Llandysul.

Membership Renewals and Catch Returns

Membership of Llandysul A A cannot be renewed until you have submitted a catch return for the previous season. The closing date for Association catch returns is 1st February; thereafter a £10 surcharge is payable on top of the normal renewal fee. Most members send in their returns as soon as the season ends, and their names are entered into our annual Prize Draw. Why risk losing £10 when you could be £25 better off? (The winner of the 2011 Catch Return Draw will be announced in the autumn edition of *Current Affairs*.) Llandysul A A's Permit Vendors (for visitor permits or for full membership renewal) are:

- Andrew James, The Porth Hotel, Llandysul SA44 5QS - Tel: 01559 362202
- Alan Williams, 57 Bridge Street, Lampeter SA48 7AB - Tel: 01570 434313

A reply-paid catch return card for 2012 will be supplied with your new season permit. This is for **recording your catch as the 2012 season progresses**; please post it to us at the end of the season. Members who, having completed the form that is included with this newsletter, send in or take their subscriptions to one of our permit vendors will receive their 2012 fishing permits and catch return cards in time for the start of the new season.

Footnote from the Editor



I am grateful to Eric Davies, Andrew Howell, Steffan Jones, Ray Neale, Sue Parker, Dewi Roberts and Ian Thomas, all of whom contributed articles and/or pictures to this edition of *Current Affairs*.

If there is something you would particularly like us to include in a future *Current Affairs*, please let us know. We particularly welcome contributions, including pictures, from members, and these can either be posted to us or emailed to: laa-enquiries@fishing-in-wales.com

Best wishes for great fun and lots of success in your fishing on the River Teifi during the forthcoming 2012 season.

Sincerely

Pat O'Reilly

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