



# OAA NEWS

MAY 2012

Protecting the habitat of  
the Ogmore since 1891

## FREE ASSOCIATION TRIP!

The Association is delighted to announce a 2012 club outing to Llys Y Fran Reservoir in Pembrokeshire's Preseli Hills, on 16th June.

As part of the Full Circle Project OAA, in partnership with SEACAMS, based at Swansea University, has arranged a day out for club members to compare the effectiveness of J hooks against circle hooks, Britain's first trial of circle hooks in a controlled environment.

40 places are available and the club has arranged a cracking package for the first 40 club members to book places - and it won't cost you a penny. Free transport will call at 2 or 3 locations in and around Bridgend to collect you for a day's fly fishing at Llys Y Fran Reservoir. Your day ticket for 6 fish will be provided free of charge and each angler will receive eight flies, also free of charge, for you to use on the day.

We're looking at several aspects of circle hooks full details of which will be pro-



vided. If you come along you'll be required to fish the flies we supply you exclusively and preferably on a sinking line. You'll be asked to record how many takes you get and how many successful hook-ups you achieve.

To spice things up a little there are prizes being offered and thanks to SEACAMS we can offer a tackle voucher, valid at Garry Evans shops of £200.00 to the captor of the heaviest bag, a fishing outfit supplied by OAA for second prize and thanks to the management of the reservoir, vouchers to fish again at Llys Y Fran as third prize.

If you'd like to participate please Colin Chapman, via email- [web@ogmoreangling.com](mailto:web@ogmoreangling.com) or by telephone- 07970 676407. Members will be given the opportunity to enjoy a second day out in September on exactly the same basis and have the chance of winning an equally good prize. What's the catch - well, other than your fish on the day there isn't one, it's just a brilliant opportunity for you to have a great day out, first come, first served, current OAA members only.

Times and pick up points - probably Sarn Services and Embassy car park, to be announced via the website.

## Association Committee 2012

*Ian Fynlas*  
Chairman  
Tel: 07872 399110

*Wynne Griffiths*  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 07824 446776

*Gerwyn Stoneham*  
Treasurer & Membership  
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*Mark Ryan*  
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*Colin Chapman*  
Conservation & Website  
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*Geraint Jones*  
Events  
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*Berwyn Morris*  
Access Officer  
Tel: 07887 567030

*Andrew Davies*  
Head Bailiff  
Tel: 07974 242634

*Tristan Jenkins*  
General Council  
Tel: 07979 055555

*Clive George*  
General Council  
Tel: 07821 923789

## In this issue...

- **Association launches new logo.**
- **Funding bid submitted for conservation projects.**
- **Website update.**
- **Access issues.**
- **Enforcement issues.**
- **Latest fishing report**

## ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Association Access Officer Berwyn Morris has been busy of late improving access at key points on the river. Assisted by fellow Council member Tristan Jenkins, steps have been installed on banks adjacent

to Tesco in Bridgend and the Garage Pool at Wildmill. The Environment Agency have also been busy carrying out undergrowth clearance at certain points on the river. Access will continue to be a major issue

on our waters, so we would appreciate if you could contact Berwyn to discuss any areas you feel require improving and if you are able to assist with such access projects.

## RIVER CLEAN UPS



Three river clean ups have taken place this season with varying success and attendances. The next clean up will take place at Blackmill in September, full details of which are on your permits.

The first clean up at Merthyr Mawr tackled refuse and obstructions at the Dipping Bridge. The second clean up through the Town had a much improved turn out with much headway being made. The third clean up at Pen y Fai was cancelled due to high river

levels. The Association has recently purchased a Tirfor to tackle the larger obstructions such as the one at the

Dipping Bridge below, which was removed by the Committee during an extra clean up project.



## FUNDING BID

*The Association needs to communicate with our members on a regular basis. Please visit the website and forum regularly to keep up to date with the latest news items and issues arising.*

The Association has applied for funding from the Environment Agency to carry out projects on two small tributaries of the Ogmore. The proposed work on the Nant Ffornwg and the Nant Cynffig will remedy areas which have been identified as Water Framework Directive failures on a recent survey by the Wild Trout trust. The report was commissioned by the Environ-

ment Agency. Many members may have seen a report on the website showing the Nant fforngw disappearing down a series of holes. Remedy works for this will be included. Although members may not necessarily fish these waters, the health and wellbeing of such small brooks and tributaries contribute to the overall health of the system. Migratory species

spawn on these waters as they do on the main river and larger tributaries. Pollution issues on these small watercourses affect the main river and our fish stocks. The Association will hopefully be commencing these projects over the coming months but cannot do so without the support of members. Please keep up to date with these developments of the website.

## ENFORCEMENT



Enforcement issues will always be a problem on our waters due to the urban areas within the catchment and the migratory species that run on the system.

Our team of bailiffs led by our Head Bailiff Andrew Davies have had a busy start to the year with incidents increasing during the recent hot weather. Andrew has confiscated many

rods from offenders on our waters.

In response to an increase in incidents, the Environment Agency recently carried out a 'blitz' on the system by drawing in their personnel from the region. Although no specific incidents were detected during that day, the presence of the Officers on our waters sends out a clear message

to offenders.

Our team of Bailiffs recently underwent a training evening with Environment Agency Officers which was well received by those present. If you are interested in becoming a Bailiff or wish to report any incidents, please contact Andrew and the Bailiffs on the numbers displayed on your permits.

## ASSOCIATION LOGO RELAUNCH

The Association logo has been with us since 1891 and has been a part of our history throughout this period. However as we step into the next 122 years we require a more modern logo which is more versatile and can be used in a variety of formats and medias.

The new logo was designed by Cardiff based Graphic Designer Richard Reed following a design brief given to him by the Committee.

The goal was to achieve a logo which was contemporary yet acknowledged our



history by the inclusion of a famous Ogmore landmark

(the Dipping Bridge) and the year which we were founded. The design allows versatility of colours to suit various clothing and will be available in various options including a white monotone.

We are currently working on a range of clothing such as jackets, shirts, caps etc and merchandise which will be made available to members soon. Not only will these items be available online, but will provide an extra income into the Association coffers.



*Please keep an eye out for any fish with a missing adipose fin. Many of our brood stock over the past few years have been fin clipped in order to identify them to gauge the success of the brood stock programme. Please report any catches without the adipose fin to a committee member and also on your catch returns.*

## FULL CIRCLE PROJECT - Colin Chapman, Conservation Officer

Even though this very welcome heat wave has shrunk the river to its bones again the salmon season and the main run of sewin is very nearly upon us and I ask you once more to consider using a circle hook whether you worm for trout, sewin or salmon. Yes, it is becoming increasingly hard to get a bite from a good fish these days and you want the assurance of using tried and tested hooks, however the circle hook has the proven ability to hook well – otherwise why would the commercial long liners use it – and the design massively reduces the likelihood of a gut hooked fish. No sane person wants to return a fish that is badly injured from deep hooking so please try a hook that will prevent this from happening. Free hooks are available at Ewenny Angling, please take advantage of the opportunity and give a

more compassionate, less damaging style of fishing a try for the good of the fish and the good of the river. We have also received funding to supply a large eyed hook, shown below-



made by Decoy called the Pluggin' Single (American influence there perhaps.....) to replace treble hooks on lures. The disadvantage of changing from trebles to singles is that the split ring required to achieve the changeover is too wide to allow the eye of a standard single hook to pivot freely.

These large eyed hooks are designed to overcome that problem and they really are very good. If you'd like to

try a couple either contact me via email: [web@ogmoreangling.com](mailto:web@ogmoreangling.com) or give me a ring on 07970 676 407 and I'll post you some through free of charge. I'll also be holding a tackle workshop at Ewenny Angling with Rob Evans, EAW Fishery Advisor where we can go through the various ways in which to fish in a more sustainable way. Dates will be shown on the website, so please keep an eye out for any developments regarding this.



### JUNIOR COMPETITION

*This year's Junior competition will be held on Sunday 1st July, meeting at the Dipping Bridge. Our Junior members will be sent further details of this in due course*

### JOINT CLEAN UPS

*Extra clean ups have been added to the calendar. Firstly on the Ewenny, Please make an effort to attend on Sunday 8th July, meeting in front of the Ford engine plant at 9.30am. This is a joint event with members of Pencoed and District Angling Club. A further event will take place in conjunction with Bridgend Canoe Club. Members should meet from 5.30pm on Thurs 31st May, meeting in the Recreation Centre car park.*



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Ogmore Angling Association consults  
with:

**WSTAA**

*Welsh Salmon And Trout Angling Association  
The governing body for game angling in Wales!*



**harrison clark**  
SOLICITORS

## FINALLY....

I hope that you have enjoyed the new look newsletter which has coincided with the launch of our new logo. It is often difficult to find enough news items for our newsletters, but we have been very busy in recent months with various developments.

We have a busy few months ahead with our forthcoming events, conservation improvements and river clean ups. Given that we have a relatively young Committee all of whom are in employment, we rely on members to assist us and make these events and projects a success, I therefore hope to see many of you during the next few months!

It is difficult to communicate with our large membership on a regular basis, I would therefore urge you to visit our website regularly to keep up with developments and latest news.

If you wish to contact myself or any indeed any Council member, I have included full contact details on the front page.

Wishing you a successful remainder of the season.

Yours Sincerely,

Wynne Griffiths - Hon Secretary



## FISHING REPORT

Early season sport was changeable in line with the fluctuating temperatures and river levels, however recent reports suggest a much improved catch situation. Sewin catches of late have been promising with average sizes above last year. The largest reported catch was a sewin over 11lb in weight with several fish reported in the 5lb-8lb range.

## IN BRIEF...

### TOWN CENTRE ACCESS

The Association has long since expressed concerns to the Environment Agency regarding our lack of access, especially since the installation of the green flood defence gates. Despite meetings and consultation with the Agency, the Association has been unable to make any headway with this. To this end the Association has recently instructed its Solicitors to act on our behalf to reinstall our access at Tesco and the YMCA. Our 1978 conveyance from Dunraven Estates conveyed full and free right of access to our waters, we are therefore confident of our rights.

### CATCH RETURNS

The Association is fortunate to have compiled over 10 years of detailed catch statistics for our waters. Former OAA Council member Mr David Smith has carried out this laborious task on an annual basis and our thanks go to Dave for this invaluable information.

Not only do our returns provide catch statistics on an annual basis but also display trends on the system over a period of time.

If you would like to view our catch returns in full, please visit our website.

I would urge all members to complete their returns in an honest manner.

### SAD LOSS OF MEMBERS

The Association has suffered the loss of three valued members within a short space of time.

Our life member Mr Allan Warren from Sarn died after a long illness.

Another life member Mr Austin Sweet from Bryntiron died following a long illness.

Mr Thomas Baggott from Litchard died following a long illness.

The Association is very sad to lose long term members, especially within such a short space of time. We extend our condolences to the families and friends.

*Keep an eye out on the website in the coming months for the Association's new online store which will be selling clothing and merchandise. Various printing options of our new logo will be available for members to choose*

*Visit the Association's trade stand at this year's Bridgend Show, taking place between 13th-15th July at Pen-coed college, just off junction 35 of the M4.*