



# Verulam Trout News

October 2016



## Verulam Trout Committee and Co-Opts: Roles and Responsibilities

**Bob Ring** \* (Chairman) Contact: tel: 01582.764442 or 07747795334 (bobring@btinternet.com) - Chairing Verulam Trout Committee Meetings and the VT Annual Meeting. Overall responsibility to ensure the smooth running of VT Representative of VT at the VAC General Committee. VAC Open Day co-coordinator for the VT. Fun Day organizer. Fish purchases. PLUS Assistant Fisheries Manager at Bellows Mill

**Barry Evans** (Secretary) Contact: tel: 01923.682388 (trout@verulam-angling.co.uk) **Season Ticket Sales** (and liaising with Chris Jennings on ticket preparation etc). Accounts. Agendas and Minutes of Committee and Annual Meetings. Maintenance of the Membership database used for communication and survey

**Clive Butcher** Contact (jcbutcher@gmail.com) - VT Webpage on VAC website. Fly Casting tuition/Introduction to fly fishing/fly tying. Newsletter (for communication to VT interested members)

**Neil Roberts** VAC FORUM – Trout discussions moderator

**Chris Jennings** \* Contact: tel: 01442.265866 (early evening) (chrisjennings@btinternet.com) - Day and Guest Ticket Sales at Riverside Road and Bellows Mill

**Richard Russell** \* Contact: tel: 01727.838178 (richardrussell\_9@sky.com) - Support for Day and Guest Ticket Sales. Away Day organization. VAC Training Coach

**Mal Shaw** - Social Secretary

**Peter Phillips** - General Duties - Ford Lake, Bellows Mill bank maintenance

\* **Fly Fishing Day and Guest permit seller**

## On the Cover

Alan Stainton and daughter Lula fishing the River Wensum at Wensum Lodge Hotel Mill Pool (See Wensum 2)

## A Clue?



**Davie McPhail's Daddy**

Earlier in September Chris Jennings sent me an email after seeing a report on the BBC that this year's warm weather had sparked a record "season" for crane flies. It anticipated that this autumn will see 200 billion hatch, so perhaps this is a clue to what we should be using. (Actually I think they're all in what passes for my back lawn) There are several dressings for what we usually call a "daddy longlegs" and some have detached bodies but one of the simpler ways to tie one can be found by clicking the YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0f2Z5OpwPOY>. As you may have guessed I'm a bit of a fan of Davie McPhail and this is a passable likeness of a "Daddy". The only problem is he doesn't tell you how to fish it. I well remember an article by Dick Walker headed "Motionless My Daddy Was A Killer". Well who am I to argue with that! (but I still like an occasional twitch)

## Wensum Trout 2

The item from Andy King in last months VTN prompted Alan Stainton to email me the following:-

*I just read your latest newsletter. It always cheers me up. I really appreciate the effort you put in to keep us all informed and entertained and it's lovely to hear people's fishing stories outside of the club.*

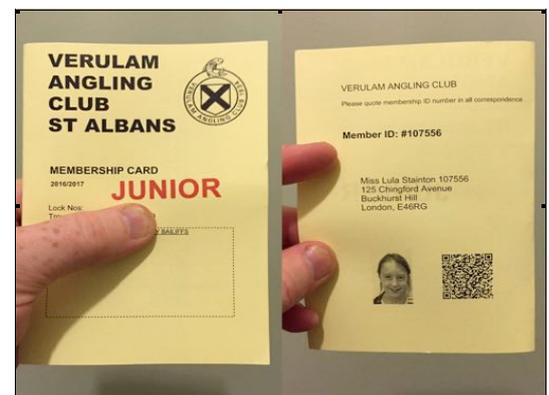
*On that note I thought I would tell you about possibly the newest young member of VAC. My 9 year old daughter Lula! We went to Norfolk for a week in mid-August and she tried fishing for the first time and thankfully loved it! We must have been very close to where Andy King caught his Wensum trout because we also fished the Wensum in Fakenham but we targeted the mill pool at the Wensum Lodge Hotel as I have had many a lovely afternoon there trotting for dace and roach on a "day ticket" (which is actually just that they like you to buy a pint or 2 if you want to fish there).*

*For a first go at fishing I perhaps overcomplicated things a little by opting for a centrepin approach with bread flake trotted under a fat chubber float as the flow is fast as it spills under the mill. I needn't have worried as Lula soon had the hang of controlling the spool with her thumb and flicking the ratchet on and off as I renewed her bait etc. She waited patiently as I put new bread on after each trot down and after only about 5 casts we were into a fish. Turned out to be a beautiful little wild brown trout!*



*We fished on for a couple of hours and had another even smaller brownie among a few dace and roach and had an altogether lovely afternoon. So not fly fishing yet but caught trout nonetheless!*

*Later that week we also took a day boat out on the broads and Lula wanted to fish again so she had her first go on a fixed spool reel. My rather unusual Mitchell Quartz. She soon got the hang of casting a waggler a few yards into the river although she wasn't keen on handling the maggots! We caught a few dace and a couple of lovely little perch and she enjoyed it so much she asked if she could join Daddy's fishing club. She's now the proud holder of a VAC membership card (photo attached) and we're off to Riverside Road on Saturday to try a bit of legering alongside the waggler fishing. I'll have her fly fishing ASAP!*



*I have to say, I think it's so fantastic that the club allow under 12s to join for free. I sent off a one page form and Lula got a package in the post with 3 membership cards, a fisheries booklet and her own key and it didn't cost me a penny! She was so chuffed. The club couldn't make it any easier for us to encourage youngsters to get into angling.*

*Thanks to the newsletter I've booked in to the next work party at Bellows Mill so hopefully see you there if you're going.*

Thanks for that Alan and I'm so pleased that Lula seems to be on the way to a lifetime of angling. Come on the rest of you Mums, Dads and Grandparents, lets see if we can encourage the next generation.

## **Bellows Mill 2016 Autumn Season**

Its hard to believe that we have now started our fifth year of fly fishing on Ford Lake at Bellows Mill. Five years ago the banks were raw with virtually no vegetation, the water was clear with weed non-existent. It has now matured and whilst in the spring the primroses and cowslips rise above the new grass by summer the bank side needs constant attention to allow access and the weed growth in the lake is becoming a challenge. As with all things in life long hot summers may suit the bucket and spade brigade but warm water in a relatively shallow lake is the last thing trout fishers want. The signs are that global warming has resulted in above average temperatures for the past three summers to the discomfort of our fish. For this reason the committee took the decision to stop fishing at the beginning of July, only to be put in our place by the fishing Gods who provided a cool wet beginning to the month. Never the less the water did heat up and the remaining fish suffered although the vegetation, both in and out of the lake, thrived. As many of us know warm water hold less oxygen and this not only affects the trout but also much of the fly life that they feed on. Is this the reason that the water weed that was cut during the late summer was devoid of invertebrates? This is something that the committee will be addressing shortly.

However a new season is upon us and after the working party on 11th September to "clear the decks" fresh stock was added and the autumn season opened on 15th.



**Taking a Break from the Working Party on 11th (photo by Andy King)**

Predictably, with the water still warm, the first week saw few anglers on the bank-side. Those that did venture out found the going hard although a some fish were caught. With an average of just over two anglers each day in the first week the catch was a rather poor 1.3 each, most around the 2lb mark with the best weighing 3lbs 13ozs. As I write no further statistics are available but with the weather cooling, the nights getting longer and plenty of stock the fishing should pick up. The best is yet to come.



**Anglers were there none - Late afternoon sun, early autumn on Ford Lake**

### **Away Day to Elinor - 15th October**

The final Verulam Trout Away Day takes place on 15th October to Elinor Trout Fishery near Kettering, Northants. This medium sized water is always a popular destination and has been quite heavily stocked during the last few weeks so prospects are good. There are a variety of tickets available from bank or boat. As usual contact Richard Russell for more details.

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