

NEW LOOK, NEW SERIES, NEW WRITERS

TROUT & SALMON

THE VOICE OF GAME-FISHING SINCE 1955



50
YEARS
OF LOST
FISH

Tales of the ones
that got away

FLIES FOR
SUMMER
SALMON

Stuart Foxall's
low-water secrets

WILD AT HEART

Hunting salmon and sea-trout
in glorious Connemara

TROUTING IN
CUMBRIA

Test your skills on the lovely
River Rawthey

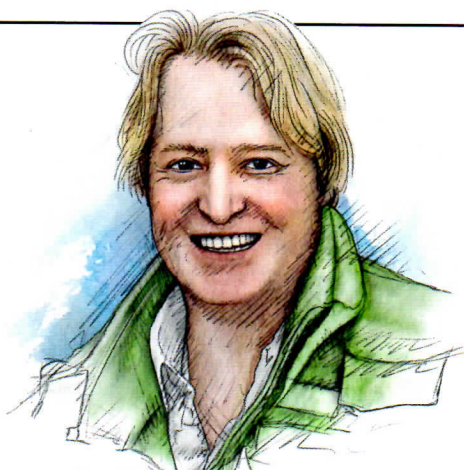
CATCH IN
A HEAVY HATCH

Tactics to fool the summer risers

SIGHT
FISHING
WITH
SNAKES

PROFILE: DERMOT WILSON **INTERVIEW:** TOWY'S CYRIL FOX





CHALK TALK

Be ready for anything

*In high summer, pack your boxes with the weird and wonderful, recommends **Simon Cooper***

THE ENGLISH SUMMER. THERE is truly nothing like it; why was it necessary to invent that dreadful word staycation? Anyone with any nous knows there are few more glorious places to be than beside a chalkstream.

Like a dog in the transition from overeager puppy to the wise old hound, we've ironed out our kinks by July. The enthusiasm of the opening days. The madness of the mayfly. The first real evening rise. All these are behind us. We've been there and done that. Now is the time to luxuriate in all those things that are special about fishing that transcend the fishing itself.

So, while others head for the airport, queue in endless security lines and fight for loungers on crowded beaches we'll be pottering along quiet country lanes to reach our particular form of paradise.

Hatching this month

If you want to load your fly-box with all sorts of esoteric patterns, July is the month. You'll have the opportunity to deploy Flying Ants, weird variants of the Daddy Long-legs and patterns in sizes from 10-26.

The classic blue-winged olive is the most widespread of the summer olives, though keep in mind the trout don't always focus on the winged adults. Have a Pheasant-tail Nymph ready for below the surface, a Parachute Adams for the emerger, then the BWO proper, with the Sherry Spinner for the final stage of life.

When the trout are rising all about to something you can't see, turn to caenis, a catch-all name for a group of tiny flies that fish will sometimes feed on for hours on end. As you fiddle with a size 20 you'll recall why they are called the Angler's Curse. The Last Hope, Pale Water

Spinner and Midges are all tried-and-tested patterns.

Sedges are the summer mayfly – a chance to thwack down a big fly to fish that will leap out of the water to take it. You needn't be fussy: Cinnamon Sedge, Elk Hair Caddis, Goddard Caddis and others will do equally well. A grey Klinkhamer is a good emerger pattern.

Finally, terrestrials. Daddy long-legs come in all shapes and sizes, which is not surprising as there are more than 300 species in Britain. Ants are less common but I promise you the memory of a single, wary trout lurking beneath a bush, rising to the occasional tumbling ant, caught with a skilful (or lucky) cast, will keep you smiling into winter.

The keeper's fly

I'd hazard a guess that Will Robins, only 19, is the youngest fishery-manager-cum-river-keeper anywhere on the chalkstreams. But when you read his CV you'd be pardoned for thinking he might be 29 or 39 considering how much he has packed in.

Back in the old days, before they dropped the birth qualification, he'd be more eligible to play for the Yorkshire cricket team, having been born, raised and educated in the Wolds of that county. He started fishing on the tiny Myers Brook in his home village, catching trout on (we will forgive him) a trotted down-leaded worm but his fly-fishing began when he and his Dad visited a local stillwater. Ten-year-old Will was fascinated by a dozen rainbows on a stringer – he wanted some of that.

He started a fly-fishing career that shows no sign of slowing down. Will was in the England Youth Fly Fishing Team, graduating as captain. He commuted to London to work at Farlow's store. He consumed anything and everything fly-fishing until last year the owner of Mulberry Whin, Andrew Dixon, in a leap of faith, offered him the opportunity to take on this lovely stretch of the Driffild Beck chalkstream in Yorkshire.

"The memory of a single, wary trout ... caught with a skilful (or lucky) cast, will keep you smiling into winter"

As an accomplished competition angler Will specialises in catching fish when others aren't, so here are his top tips for the mid-afternoon lull. Go very small. Yes, he means very small: sizes 20-26. Use a two-weight line with a 12ft-14ft leader and 2lb tippet. His top flies are an IOBO Humpy, minimalist Midges or a generic CDC. If all that sounds too complicated, hire Will: I forgot to mention he's also a qualified fishing guide.

And his favourite fly? You might be pleased to hear that it is a more tractable Elk Hair Caddis, anywhere from size 10 to 16. I hear your exhalation of relief. Will loves to fish this in the last hour among a fall of sedge, deep into the darkness. His one last tip: add a little dob of glow-in-the-dark paint. **T&S**

■ Simon Cooper is managing director of Fishing Breaks, the chalkstream fishing specialists (fishingbreaks.co.uk). He is the author of two books: *Life of a Chalkstream* and *The Otters' Tale*.