

# S&DAC Newsletter

## Spring 2014



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Dear Members,

It is hoped that we have come to the end of the wettest winter we have known since records began. The rivers have stood at unprecedented levels, our lakes have been flooded, huge quantities of water have been on our banks and across the meadows for many weeks. Damage to our fisheries has been extensive with banks eroded and trees blown over. It will take a while for everything to recover. We have been concerned about the start date for the trout season so we will start with a summary of the committees thinking and the decision at the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The 2014 yearbooks will be posted to the members on March 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**SADAC Committee Announcement - March 2014.**

### **Trout Season - opening date delayed.**

The committee have considered the impact of this year's weather and floods in advance of the normal trout season opening date. At the time of writing banks remain flooded and inaccessible in many places. In other areas there is some improvement particularly higher in the catchments but footpaths are still very wet. A number of trees have fallen and remain to be cleared and a considerable amount of flood debris is littering the banks and water courses. The keepers have been unable to complete the normal out of season maintenance.

We have balanced our wish to get everyone fishing as soon as possible against the safety issues and the need to protect the banks from too much foot traffic before they are sufficiently dry. We have also taken soundings with other clubs and it is clear that our concerns are widely held.

**The committee have decided to delay the full start of the trout season on our rivers in 2014 to May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is likely that our trout lakes will be open and some limited river beats may be possible at an earlier date. We will assess the waters regularly and open anything as soon as it is practical.**

**We will communicate the state of play, listing the position on each fishery on the club's website and will update this information as it comes in from the river banks.**

This year's conditions are exceptional, a great deal of water remains in the catchment and high on Salisbury Plain. It will take a long time to drain through, meanwhile the rivers will respond quickly to any further rain. It is likely that we will see heavy weed growth which will inhibit drainage and slow the process in the early months.

In the long term we believe that the exceptional conditions will prove beneficial to the whole system but please be patient whilst your club catches up with the necessary maintenance and repair.

**Latest:**

The last two weeks have seen some real progress in drying things up and the next also look to be set fair so we are more optimistic that we will be able to open some river fisheries and some beats on the larger fisheries before May 1<sup>st</sup>. It is very likely that there will be river beats open on April 1<sup>st</sup> and others opening progressively through the month.

**Members should go to the club's website where they will find information easily without the need for passwords or logins. The fisheries will be listed and coded red for closed, amber for open but with restrictions and green for fully open. As information comes in from the keepers, bailiffs and others Andreas will update the chart. The information as we have it today is as follows;-**

Fisheries **OPEN** on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 (Follows the list order of your 2013 handbook)

### Premium trout water.

- Durnford, beats 1 , 2, 15, 11 and 14. Please take care on way to 1 and 2 the meadow remains very wet.
- Lower Woodford, beats A and B. Turn right out of the car park and take the lane on the left at the bend. See map.
- Abbey, both banks.
- Manningford, river and lakes.
- Stapleford/Druids, both banks, Druids below the hatch pool only.
- Wylde. Care crossing the meadow very wet before field bridge.
- Sutton Veny, Upper beat from gauging station. (NB Woodlands fishery closed)
- Longbridge.
- Barford.
- Bulbridge. Take care wading, strong flows.
- Nadder Meadows, north bank only . ( NB Nadder Meadows South closed )
- Leominstead Lake
- Hamer and Whitesheet Lakes

### Mixed fisheries.

- Durrington
- Lord's Walk, bottom section true right bank.
- Town water, open below boardwalk, subject to City Council restrictions.
- Constable, Deanery Meadows, Orchard Meadows, Please avoid wet areas , waders required for access.
- White Horse, some trees down and wet ditches.
- Charford, Burgate, Wimborne.

### Coarse Fisheries

- Wellow lakes
- Waldens Farm

**All other fisheries are closed until further notice.**

**Please be careful we have opened as much as we can, banks are in places undercut, flows are strong , if entering the water you are advised to consider using a wading staff and buoyancy aid.**

We have not been able to do some of the planned work this winter, amongst the issues we have are that we are well behind in the programme of replacement of bridges at Woodford. We haven't completed the banks repairs at Amesbury. We have been

fighting a battle with flood debris along our otter fence at Petersfinger and the Langford lakes remain flooded.

### **Members' Guides.**

We will be sending out electronically a new member's guide to all our game members and carp fishing guidelines to our coarse members. Both are printed below and are based on some of the common issues and misunderstandings that our bailiffs, staff and officers find themselves dealing with. They are designed to be read by all but will be particularly useful for new members.

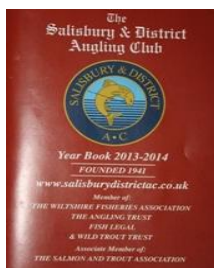


## **SADAC - New members' guide.**

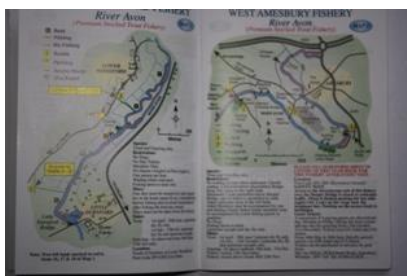
- *Welcome and Introduction*

Welcome to the Salisbury and District Angling Club, we have many miles of rivers and several lakes for you to enjoy. This leaflet sets out some of the information you will need to access the fisheries. We have a variety of owned and leased fisheries, rules and requirements can vary and seem a little confusing at first. If in any doubt ask one of our club officials.

- *Membership book*



You will require a valid membership book before you start fishing. You need to fix a current passport style photograph in your book, sign across it and fill in your EA rod licence number before you visit our fisheries.



Every fishery has its own page. Please read it carefully, not only the individual fishery rules, but also the member rules and other guidance. All the information you will need is in the book.

- *Arriving ready to fish*

You will find maps and instructions for the fisheries in your membership book, car parks will be shown and signposted. In some cases there may be locks and gates. For combination locks insert code from your membership book and press button on base to operate. Lock it behind you and remember to scramble the numbers. On most fisheries you will find a return book in a green box near to the entrance.



You should always sign in before you start fishing and complete the return immediately after fishing. On most game fisheries you will find a tally board with tags to indicate availability of beats. In some cases these are loose and you will choose the beat you want and keep the tag with you until you have finished fishing. In other cases these are attached to the board and you will turn over the tag to indicate "taken" and turn it back to "free" after fishing. Some fisheries have an unrestricted system where you simply turn up and fish, there will still be a return book but no tally board. On all these sites chalkstream etiquette and good manners are expected, read the section Approaching a Chalk Stream by Gordon Mackie in your membership book. Always ask another member's permission if you wish to pass on the bank. Stay well back from the water whilst moving up or down a fishery. The information you provide in the return book enables us to manage the fishing pressure and to make annual plans for stocking and water maintenance.

Please do not attempt to visit our sites outside the fishing season, members do not have access to the land outside the dates shown on the fishery pages. Each fishery page has the individual rules for that fishery, please read the individual page before fishing.

- *Chalk Stream etiquette on SADAC waters*

If you are new to fly fishing on chalk streams the chalk stream fishing etiquette may seem confusing at first. We always approach the river from the downstream end and only cast upstream or up and across. Your fly should not pass below your position on the river. We fish dry fly and sunken nymph but check your membership book carefully at every fishery for the relevant rules and dates as they vary site to site.



At many of our fisheries we only allow one angler per beat and no guests either fishing or non-fishing. This is a requirement of the club by our landlords and must be respected. At some fisheries non-fishing guests are allowed and here a spouse or family member can enjoy a day on or near the bank.

Before fishing spend a little time observing the water and any other anglers on site, always try to move carefully and remain so far as possible unseen, for all anglers' benefit it is important that you disturb the water as little as possible. In most cases try casting to rising fish, rather than speculatively but if necessary it is acceptable to cast to likely places when no fish are rising.

- *Wading guidance*



Wading is permitted where indicated in your book. The areas that can be waded are normally those that are difficult to fish from the bank. You will usually find access and exit steps and wading signs, do not wade outside these areas or outside dates indicated in your book. These rules are in place to protect spawning gravels and the river bed generally. Always check your fishery map to find out if we have a single bank fishery or if we have

both banks. At a single bank fishery you should only wade to the mid line of the river. On double bank fisheries take care before casting to the far bank as another member may be fishing there. It is advisable to wade in the margins of the river to protect the bed but it is understood that this is not always possible and some discretion is allowed.

- *General conduct on our fisheries*



We are guests on most of our fisheries, even where we own fishing rights we are guests on the land. Respect the country code, close gates, leave no litter, pick up litter wherever you find it, do not wander away from the banks or the marked areas for parking. Do not interfere with livestock, wildlife or game, we have no permission other than to be present to fish. Observe the rules regarding dogs at each fishery.

- *Disciplinary code, bailiffs, keepers and officials.*



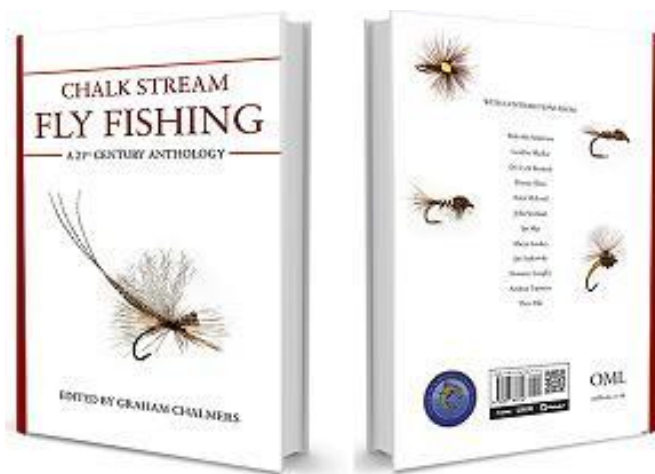
The club has a published disciplinary code to protect its interests in retaining our privileged fishing arrangements. You may be approached on the bank by our voluntary bailiffs, keepers, club officials, owners and others and may be asked to identify yourself. Always have your membership book available for checking. Always follow any guidance given to you.

- *The Cartshed*

The club's office at the Cartshed is usually open Monday to Friday during normal hours. You will find contact



details in your membership book. The club manager will be there most of that time. The keepers will often be there in the morning and sometimes after 4.00pm. Please approach officials, keepers and bailiffs if you are in any doubt about our arrangements, or if you want to report any issues. Please respect the fact that staff may be busy, they will always make time for members if at all possible. When keepers are using machine tools on the banks such as mowers, trimmers or chain saws please keep well clear and respect the fact that they may not hear or see your approach.



### “Chalk Stream Fly Fishing

A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Anthology” has been written by twelve members of your Club. It provides a comprehensive guide to fishing our waters. £28.95 from the Cartshed.

#### **GENERAL GUIDANCE WHEN TARGETTING CARP ON SADAC WATERS.**

*This is an abridged version; the full text can be seen on our Club Web Site and must be read in conjunction with all Fishery Rules and Restrictions detailed in each Fishery Map.*

**FISH WELFARE.** Fish are expensive; they are also fragile and are likely to be caught many times in their lifetime. It is very important that the experience of being hooked, landed, unhooked, weighed, photographed then returned is of minimal stress to the fish, and done as quickly, humanely and efficiently as possible.



**WATERCRAFT.** Part of the skill in watercraft is the ability to read the conditions in front of you to maximise your chances of catching your quarry. This comes with experience and knowledge of the features of the chosen lake and indeed the habits of carp. While watercraft is not something we will all have from the off, common sense is. Where do you want to fish? What is in front of you? What hazards are there in your swim? Lily pads, weed, reeds, overhanging branches, islands or other obstructions are all characteristic of our Club Fisheries. The question you must ask yourself is what if? What if I do hook a fish here? Can I land it safely without it finding a snag? don't fish with baitrunners on freespool next to snags. What about the darkness? Could I see what I am doing to avoid a mishap?

Your first responsibility is to ensure you can safely land your fish. If you are not sure of what is in front of you, don't fish there, find somewhere else.

**TERMINAL TACKLE.** There are books and books about safe rigs, end tackle, lead arrangements and so on. Deciding what to safely use is most important. Suffice to say though it is vital again to think 'what if?' 'What if my mainline snaps?' Will the components come apart so the carp is trailing the minimum amount of gear until it ejects the hook? Is my hook link so short that the lead is close to the carps eye's when playing? If you are not sure, simply don't cast out until you are' If you are unsure how to use these safely, don't, until you have read up, or been shown how.

**BAITS.** Make sure your bait is fit to be used, particles are properly prepared, boilies and pellets are fresh/within use by date.

**NETS** Nets should be of modern soft mesh and at least 42in in size, preferably with a micromesh bottom. This stops fins getting damaged when you lift your quarry from it's habitat.

Unhooking mats – You must have one. Moreover it must be 'adequately padded' and be either high sided or cradle type. In water, the bulk of the fish is supported by water. Out of water it is vulnerable to internal injury. SADAC has gravel pits. The ground is hard! Make sure your mat is up to the job.

**WEIGH SLINGS** Although not dictated in our rule book, a safety weigh sling is an essential part of carp care kit. The models with rigid arms are superior. Not only do they offer a safe way of weighing your prize, they are coated with fish friendly material and are excellent in returning your fish safely back to the lake after weighing etc. Do not attempt to carry your fish without one; if you drop it, it could die.

**A BUCKET** Simple thing, but a small bucket of lake water next to your mat will keep the fish wet, calm and prevent drying out, especially in summer! You can use it to wet your mat/sling which is important. Also the fish do not have eyelids so attention must be given to covering them as soon as possible, especially in strong sunlight .

**ANTISEPTIC** Bonjela/Carp care kits - It is inevitable that every fish caught will have at least one wound – where the hook went in. It is also possible that you may catch fish that are damaged already, be it spawning, rubbing or poor angling. EVERY wound should be treated by antiseptic. There are plenty on the market to choose from.

**GET ORGANISED.** Know where everything is, have everything you need to hand. Scales/forceps/Klinik etc/torch should be next to your mat, with the weigh

sling on top ready. Bucket of water to the side. Just as importantly, know where your camera is, and have it ready to hand.

**PROCEDURE ON LANDING THE FISH.** Do not lift the fish out of the water until you are ready. It is better to leave your fish in the net, secured say by a peg in the margins, than have the fish on the mat, then turn around to find something in the bottom of your bag. Get everything soaking wet, mat and sling must be wet, use your bucket! If possible, take your net apart, ensure the line is slack so not pulling against the fish, make sure the fish is safe in the bottom of the net, the hook is not caught up, and the fins are flush against the body and not sticking forward as this can seriously damage the fish.

**UNHOOKING.** Carefully lay the fish down on your WET mat/sling. Your first job is to unhook the fish, some loose netting over the fishes eyes can calm it down. Don't try to force the fish down, you can damage it. Pop the hook out if necessary using forceps and treat any damage as quickly as possible. Then get the net out from under the fish for weighing in your sling. If you can't get assistance, a simple technique is to flip the fish the right way up (on its belly) close to you on your mat, carefully place one arm of the net along the side of the fish away from you then lay the fish over again on its side off the net. Simply pull the net towards you and put to one side. Tip some water over the fish if you are delayed for any reason.

**WEIGHING YOUR FISH.** Zero your scales to include the weight of the wet sling. (Avoid weighing in a net) Position the fish in the sling and zip the sides up if applicable, ensure the fins are flat before zipping, fins can be easily damaged. Weigh the fish keeping it as low as possible and above or within the confines of the unhooking mat. After reading the weight, carefully lower back into the mat.

If you wish to have some photos taken, be as quick as possible. If you have somebody to hand, get them organized while unhooking the fish, tell them how the camera works etc. For self take photography, have it all planned and practiced before. Don't leave the fish on the mat whilst you then go and find someone!

Make sure your hands are wet, that watches/rings that could cause damage are removed. Try to slide your hands under the fish and tip it upright. Use one hand to gently grab the pectoral fin away from you for grip, not under the chin as this stresses the spine, the other hand positioned around the anal fin area. Again this fin can be used for grip, but gently please. Lift the fish slowly but confidently over the mat and smile! If the fish tries to flip, it will normally tense fins first. Simply rock the fish back flat with the belly away from you and cradle as low as possible to the mat. If you need to, place the fish back down and lift up again use the sling to prevent flapping until it calms. More water can be tipped over the fish, this can aid calming. Keep the fish on or over the mat at all times!

Be sensible with the amount of time the fish is out of the water, it needs to breathe! If there have been any delays, return the fish to water, in your net if needs be. If a fish has been out a long time perhaps think about forgetting the photo's and get the fish back safely. The fish is 'weigh' more important than your ego!

Use the sling/net/mat to carry the fish back to water. Do not attempt to carry your fish back to the lake without it. A dropped fish is probably a dead fish. Slowly lower the fish back into the water and support it until it is ready to swim off, then open your sling from under the fish. Some recover faster than others, so don't just tip them out. Keep the body position upright and allow the fish to gain its composure

before letting it swim off. This allows the fish to waft all its fins and get some water moving through its gills again before it will give a kick of the tail and swim off.

After the fish has been returned you need to spend a few minutes getting everything sorted and ready for the next one! Give your landing net a quick rinse and place back by your rods, make sure the sling and mat are back where they should be and any implements used during unhooking, weighing and photographing are back in their rightful positions, that way, when the next fish comes along you are ready to repeat the process all over again with the minimum amount of fuss.

The last aspect of carp safety is our individual behaviour. We must be responsible, and fish responsibly, respect other anglers, our landlords, officers of the club etc.

If you are challenged by a bailiff whilst fishing, try to understand what you are being told and why. Arguments will get you nowhere. Likewise, as a member, you are required to report incidents that contravene our rules. This is not telling tales but managing ourselves in a responsible way. If you see a practice which is dangerous, report it. Details are in your club book.

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### **Club Waters for 2014**

We have decided not to renew leases at Tucking Mill, Wardour and The Deverills. These decisions were made by the committee taking into account their usage, the maintenance burden and their future viability. Having made several good acquisitions in recent years it was judged prudent to let these marginal fisheries go.

We have acquired some extra fishing at Sutton Veny/Norton Bavant and we are pleased to announce that we have signed a long term lease on these fisheries, details will follow. We are in discussions about the future of the BT lake. We have secured the Nightingale Lake for the foreseeable future, it has changed ownership and the new owner and the club will be implementing improvements at the site some of which can already be seen. We will be continuing bank improvements at Petersfinger and a programme of work has been agreed with the owner at Steeple Langford. A recent update on the club forum describes the planned Langford works.

The floods have caused significant damage to the banks, the boardwalk and the exposed areas at The Butts and Parsonage Farm. When the river has receded the contractors will be returning to complete the scheme. It has been confirmed that funds are available to undertake any necessary remedial action on last year's works. These fisheries are likely to remain closed for some months.

For the first time the club has set aside a coarse stocking budget and the new Vice Chair, Coarse, Roger Hunt will be working on and implementing a stocking policy for the coarse lakes and rivers.

### **Weed Cutting.**

The Wiltshire Fisheries Association and The Environment Agency have reached a new agreement regarding weed cutting in the Avon catchment above Salisbury. Clubs will

pay a levy to support weed extraction by the EA proportionate to the miles of water they hold. This will enable weed cutting to continue under the general exemption that has been applied for many years. The cost of this levy is a significant part of our 2014 fee increase for game members. ( Approx. £3.00 per member)

On the Wylde there will be no exemption applying above Bathampton where the owner does not cut weed and one of the key requirements of the exemption, that the WFA guarantees unimpeded passage to the boom at Chilhampton, cannot be fulfilled. Clubs above Bathampton including ourselves will therefore have to deal with the weed cutting without the help of the EA. We will need to cut and extract our weed on site. This change of policy will push all clubs towards a more selective and sympathetic approach to weed cutting.

The weed story may not be over yet and the recent floods may help to convince politicians and officials that weed cutting should continue to be supported with public funds.

### **Electronic membership renewals**

This is the second year of our electronic renewals system, it is saving the office a lot of time. About 80% of members have been renewing online.

Thanks to those who have done so and thanks again to the members who helped to develop the system.

Members renewing online were also invited to make donations to our New Waters Fund. This fund is used for the purchase and lease of new waters that may become available in the year. It will enable us to act speedily as opportunities arise. So far a sum of approximately £3000.00 has been received, members are reminded that they may also add donations when renewing manually. Thank you to all members who have contributed.

### **Subscriptions 2014**

**The following new subscription rates were set at the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014. These rates include the Game Premium where appropriate.**

<b>Games Full &amp; Associate</b>	<b>£210.00</b>
<b>Game Senior Citizen</b>	<b>£160.00</b>
<b>Game Junior</b>	<b>£57.00</b>
<b>Coarse Full &amp; Associate</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>Coarse Senior Citizen</b>	<b>£70.00</b>
<b>Coarse Junior</b>	<b>£29.00</b>

**Members joining for the first time will also have to pay the registration fee of £20.00, Junior £5.00**

### **Entomology Courses.**

Anglers' monitoring initiative 10<sup>th</sup> May

Insect Identification 7<sup>th</sup> June

Insect Identification 28<sup>th</sup> June

All courses are £20.00 per place and are held at the Cartshed, led by Dr Cyril Bennett and his team.

A series of dates for our entomology courses were notified on the forum, these courses are rapidly filling up. Members who wish to learn more about fly identification or who want to join the angler's monitoring scheme are catered for on separate courses. Please notify the office if you are interested and we can consider whether we can put on extra dates.

### **Club Game Open Day. 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

The open day will be held this year at Manningford Trout Fishery courtesy of the management. There will be the usual mix of casting instruction, entomology, fly tying and river craft.

The lakes will be open at a discounted price in the afternoon on a first come first served basis.

Lunch will be provided in the ticket price of £15.00.

Please make bookings through Andreas at the office.

Further details will appear on the forum.

You will need to bring your own rod, chair, line and leader set-up on the day, and if possible a prize for the raffle.

### **Work Parties.**

We are planning to revive member's working parties this season. Malcolm Anderson is going to lead on this, the staff and officers will be identifying suitable projects and Malcolm will publicise and lead the events. The events will be held at weekends. There will still from time to time be calls for volunteers for specific tasks on weekdays including electric fishing and gravel jetting. The weekend tasks will be suitable for most members using hand tools and sweated labour. Any preparation of sites that is needed with machine tools such as chainsaws will be done by the staff beforehand.

### **Fishing for Forces**

Roger Hunt will be organising four events this year with the Fishing for Forces charity.

The same as last year the events are for recovering service personnel from the Tedworth House rehabilitation unit. Members are needed to act as mentors for the guests on the bank, to show them some basic fishing techniques and befriend them during the event. No special skills are required just a friendly face and a bit of fishing knowledge. These events have proved very popular with young men and women at Tedworth. The dates this year are;-

Lake trout fishing, Ratfyn Lake, 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Coarse fishing, Petersfinger Lake, 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Coarse Fishing, Petersfinger Lake, 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Coarse Fishing, Petersfinger Lake, 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Please see the club forum for details of upcoming events. Volunteers can contact Roger or the office.

Members fishing the lakes on these dates please note that a number of swims will be used for the event.

### **Wiltshire's rivers need your help**

Around England, rivers are under attack from invasive plants which are not native to these islands. Locally, rivers such as the Wylfe, Nadder, Ebbel and Avon suffer due to species such as Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed.

The impact on our native plants and animals, such as water vole, can be devastating.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, in partnership with Dorset and Hampshire Wildlife Trusts, tackle the fight against invasive species with the Source to Sea project. Funded by the Environment Agency, the team works with volunteers along the river Avon and its tributaries to eradicate these destructive species so that the wildlife that lives along our waterways can thrive.

This spring, the team will be coming to your area. Headed by project manager, Sam Stork, the team will work with local landowners, farmers, angling clubs and other interested parties to identify affected areas and, with the help of an army of volunteers, they will help to ensure that your part of the river is protected.

And that's where you come in - Source to Sea needs your help:

Can you help identify areas where invasive species are threatening local wildlife? To find out what to look for visit [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org) and click on *What We Do – Protecting Wiltshire's Rivers*. Report your sightings using the feedback form.

Can you volunteer your time to help clean up the river? Tackling invasive species along our rivers is a massive task and we need your help! We provide everything you need to participate in a volunteer day on the river.

Contact us for more information on volunteering by email at [sourcetosea@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:sourcetosea@wiltshirewildlife.org) or telephone on 01380 736066 or contact the team on Twitter @wiltsrivers.

Fiona Dunster  
Project Office

Photos © Ryan Tabor/WWT

- a) Volunteer in the River Wylfe
- b) Volunteer tipping invasive plant Himalayan balsam into the trailer
- c) Sam Stork with invasive plant Himalayan balsam on the River Nadder



## **Wessex Chalk Stream & Rivers Trust**

The club and the Wessex Chalk Stream & Rivers Trust have been collaborating on projects over the last six months and hope to deepen this relationship in the coming year. The WCSRT is a registered charity dedicated to the protection and improvement of globally important chalk streams and rivers in the Wessex region. The Trust are looking for support from our members and we have received a letter from George Seligman the Chairman, please download the full transcript from the following link:

<http://www.salisburydistrictac.co.uk/downloads/wcsrt.pdf>



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