**West Wilts Fly Fishers Guild**

**Meeting Wednesday 11th May 2022 7.30pm Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**

**Part 1**

**Guest Speaker –** John Osborne – ‘Forestry & Woodland Management’.

This was a lively hour as John recalled anecdotes from his long career in Forestry management which started on The Longleat estate. It was fascinating to learn of the scale of the task in dealing with Dutch Elm disease, Larch disease, Ash die-back, Spruce beetle, and horse chestnut beetle etc. as well as the devastation brought by storms which in Scotland felled 8,000 hectares of forest. With the increase in timber prices, we are now exporting logs to Vietnam presumably for them to make furniture to export back to us! Woodlands are now a very profitable asset for landowners.

**Part 2**

**Present:**

Jon Jonik, John De Cesare, Roger Henderson, Colin Burbedge, Robert Eadie, Gerry Barnes, Ron Jones, Tim Pullen, John Osbourne, James Moore, Peter Marshall-Bailey, Richard Cripps, David Edwards, Andy Greatwood, David Little.

1. **Apologies:**

Malcolm Bond, Russell Bond, Paul R-H, Bryan Hussey, Robin Sewell, Richard Arney, Simon Steel, Paul & Tom Marchant, Mick Marchant, Neil Soni.

1. **Minutes of April Guild meeting and Matters Arising:**

Accepted without amendment.

Jon drew attention to the Consultation on the *Government’s Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan*

which Roger had emailed to members. Jon urged members to take part.

1. **Bushyleaze social fishing day Wednesday 4th May**

A good turnout of ten members meant we had a 10% discount on the day ticket. The weather was almost ideal apart from a strong southerly wind. Sedge were in abundance being blown across the lake but finding the fish proved difficult! A total of 14 fish were landed with most caught on a black buzzer or a daddy/sedge slowly moved across the top. Robin caughta 2½ lbs brown trout. Overall a tough day but good to fish as a Guild again!

There will be a full write-up in the next Guild News-Roundup.

1. **2022 programme updates inc:**

1. **Chew Reservoir Boat-Day for The Chew Cup**

This will be on Wednesday 7th September. Six boats have been reserved. We will start with the traditional breakfast together in the Chew Lodge restaurant. To reserve a seat please email [jon.jonik@gmail.com](mailto:jon.jonik@gmail.com).

1. **Coarse fishing day on The Frome**

To be discussed at June meeting.

1. **Tackle Auction**

This will be at our October meeting. Members wishing to submit Lots are asked to bring them to the June meeting (no meeting July or August) for cataloguing.

1. **River Frome update inc:**
2. **Stocking Tues 31st May**

This will be around midday. Roger will email members to ask for help. About five of us will be needed.

1. **Bank management session – Thursday 26th May starting 5pm**

Roger will email members requesting help, He will send a copy of the Guild’s Health & Safety Risk Assessment.

1. **WWFFG Website**

James gave a brief outline of the new website he and Simon have been working on. The password for the member’s section is – Fish (NB – note upper case F).

There will be an update and demo of the new website at our June meeting.

1. **AOB**

No AOB raised

**Next meeting – Wednesday 8th June 2022 at Leigh Park Hotel, B-on-A**