



## During the close season what happens to us wildfowlers?

One of the best tasks is to get round new areas whilst the reeds and vegetation is still at its lowest level, trails can easily be followed to the tides edge. This will expand your opportunities for next season. Car parking can also be checked out at the same time, ordnance survey maps will help with this.

If you are lucky enough to have a four legged friend how did he or she perform were they feeling the cold or shivering quite a bit? Why not invest in a camouflaged neoprene dog coat which will also break up their shape and add a few years to their lives. If the over command never went too well there are plenty of small narrow burns where you can practice during the summer - a bit of flow on the water wouldn't be a bad thing. Keep an eye on the weight as this will help any dodgy joints and hopefully prolong their working capability.



Decoys may require attention with the salty water taking its toll on the string lines. Some paint and new lengths of string or hand fishing line being the answer. You may even decide on heavier weights as we have all lost one or two at some time or other!

The Tay boats that are used will require a fair bit of maintenance too. This will take many hours through the summer with the motor having to be serviced as well. Or have you gone aluminium!

All clothing and any leaky waders might require patching or replacement.

In the TVWA there are many members who specialise in other sports, jobs, and hobbies. Here are just a few.

Clay pigeon shooters, shooting coaches, fisherman, golfers, photographers, gamekeepers, lepidopterists, cyclists, runners, swimmers, gardeners, apiarists, fly tyers, duck & goose call makers, stick dressers, stalkers, gun dog breeders, gun dog trainers, artists, bird watchers, beachcombers, and not forgetting BASC officials. Phew! That's only the members I've stumbled into.



I am sure that I have missed more than a few so for that my apologies please feel free to get in touch as I am sure you will! All interesting stuff.



I enjoy my salmon fishing and this year has provided all the usual good company banter and fun, unfortunately this wonderful fish has eluded me (so far) so what does the angler do in this position? Well I can tell you how I reacted!

Fife and Perthshire provides us with trout fisheries a plenty so I headed northwest with floating line and size 14 flies. After 4 hours fishing I had 4 rainbows and 1 blue. Fine sporting fish all taking just under the surface and at times taking my rod tip under the water as they dived to the bottom! With 12lb of fish I secured the boat and past an hour chatting with the fishery manager. Once home all 5 were cleaned and ready for distribution to family and friends.



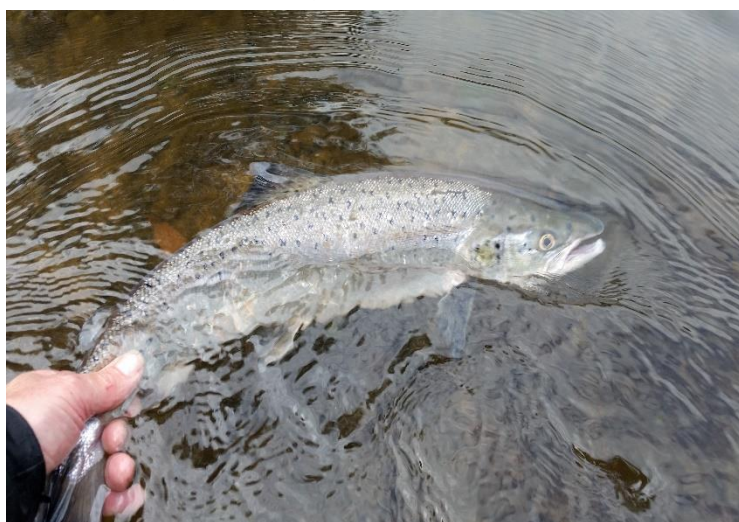
A rustic rainbow asparagus quiche was presented by my daughter Kirsty.



A fellow wildfowlers successful flight



Returning a small grilse on the Eden



The coming season is fast approaching I hope your planning and preparations have gone well , watch out for young birds (flappers) stick with sporting targets that will provide you with a fine plump bird fit for any table.

Rice breast has been noted in certain areas mostly England examine your cleaned birds carefully. Priority number one is stay safe and be aware that other wildfowlers could be around your area hidden until day light hours



TVWA Secretary JM