

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE  
8 May 2024**

**Officer:** Andy Jones – Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

**FISHERIES UPDATE**

**Purpose**

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

**Radbrook Pool**

We have recently completed Phase 1 of our works at the pool by installing four new high build fishing platforms to replace the old, dated platforms. The response has been very positive from the anglers and by the local residents. Included in the first four is a larger disabled platform which will add important access for our disabled anglers. Further phases are to follow during the year.





### **Sydney Avenue & The Quarry**

During the next few days we shall be replacing two river platforms with new high build versions after severe flood damage. In the Quarry there will be works to repair a series of fishing platforms and replace four of the old with new. The long period of high water has caused some significant damage. All other damaged platforms in the Quarry, County Ground and Monkmoor will be repaired where necessary. This large series of works has been assisted by an Environment Agency Angling Trust angling improvement grant of which is match funded after a successful bid by the fisheries.

### **Start of Season Strimming Works**

From the beginning of June our fisheries team and contractor will be cutting the grass around all our platforms on all river sections and Mousecroft, Oxon and Radbrook Pools in readiness for the start of the river coarse season on June 16th and our busy period.

### **Bailiffs/water Keepers and Angling Trust VBS**

We have two new bailiffs joining our team who will have duties on our Sydney Avenue and Monkmoor river fisheries. We now have twenty active bailiffs who voluntarily patrol our fisheries checking permits and protecting our fisheries. We also have dog walkers and other members of the communities who are our eyes and ears also.

Three of our longer serving bailiffs, Ian Bailey, Andy Harley and Robert Jones have now joined the Angling Trust Voluntary Bailiffs Scheme that works closely on a national data base, with the police and the Environment Agency Enforcement team. This will provide additional training opportunities and comprehensive enforcement patrols for our fisheries. The training is passed down to our other bailiffs to improve their development and skills.

### **Website Update**

We are currently working on the permit sales section of the website to make the purchase of permits easier, particularly for the older anglers. The system will go live once it has thoroughly been tested before addition.

## **Angling Coaching Sessions and Events**

Our coaching sessions have started for the Shropshire Recovery Forum adults and is being met with success and positivity. It is proving to make a positive difference to the lives of the persons taking part in the activity of fishing.

The Junior Coaching Events have been added to our website and the places are booking up fast. There is nothing more rewarding than youngsters catching their first fish with mum and dad present. The smile says it all.

All these sessions are run and supervised by our Head Coach Ian James, Level 2 and seven level 1 coaches as his team. Ian reports back to me after each event. I visit when I can, and they are brilliant and fun.

## **First Salmon Catch**

On April 28th the first salmon of the season was caught at the weir in Shrewsbury by Chris Lawrence our newly appointed river bailiff. This is a big strong hen fish of approximately 25lb in weight and a lifetime achievement for Chris and one that he will always remember. Its significance is important. She will have travelled thousands of miles and will have passed through Shrewsbury at least 7 times in three or four year cycles and doubled in weight. She will navigate back to where she was born to spawn in the upper reaches thousands of eggs to hopefully continue the salmon cycle. Only a handful new-borns may survive. In the photo she is in pristine condition and will have avoided many dangers, predation, pollution and climate changes that have faced her on her journey. She is protected and we protect her. She was released quickly and unharmed to continue on her natural mission and we hope that she gets there.

Our rivers biodiversity produces fish like this one and it's her home. The river was full of these specimens 40 years ago and now sadly only a few remain. It's important we protect their home so that we continue to see them in their glory as the "king of the river."



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) That the contents of the report are noted.**