



Book 1

“I love fishing!”

A collection of short tributes to the great sport of angling in all its guises

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Thank you to the many contributors who took the time to sit and think, then put pen to paper (or fingers to touch pad) and share their thoughts on angling.

The result is a very lovely thing, full of positive messages that go a long way to explaining to the untrained ear and eye just why we do what we do.

Take a moment to read, enjoy and reflect, and maybe pass on to someone who is teetering on the edge of wetting a line and needs a gentle push...

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“I love fishing!”

Contributors - Book One

Bernard Venables
James Arnold-Baker
John Bailey
Lewis Graham
Alan Hope
Craig McEvoy
Anthony Wood
Paul Brown
Mukled Almetieri
Toby Luce
Shawn Day
Adrian Lewis
Al Theobald
Antony Coates
Alan Hobson
Andy Clarke
Josh Lyon
Sue Galloway
Chris Devine
Carl Smith

“Time has ceased for him...”



Bernard Venables MBE

The long day slips by with no consciousness of things other than this river bank can offer. The birds sing, the insects hum in the grasses, and the warm breeze lifts softly in the angler's hair. Time has ceased for him and nothing is more urgent than his leisurely stalking...

“early morning mist...”

James Arnold-Baker

Early morning mist on the Kennet.

Pair of roe deer on the bank,
drinking. Swifts skimming hatching
mayfly off the surface.

Slow rolling rise, and the trout spits
out my fly.

The landing net may stay dry, but it's
a day to remember.

That's why I love fishing.

“Fishing is life to me.”



John Bailey

I love fishing because of fishing friends, magical fishing waters and the wonder of the fish I see.

Then..

...the reel screams, the heart thuds, the rod hoops, the temples pulse.

The great golden fish is landed in the last rays of the setting sun.

Love? Passion? Fishing is life to me.

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“...the glistening scales...”



Lewis Graham

The reason why I love fishing is because you get to be with nature, seeing the float dip, the alarm sound or the quiver tip bend round.

I also love seeing the glistening scales of the fish when you catch them. Not forgetting the sound of the birds chirping.

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“people fail to even notice”

Alan Hope

I love fishing because after 45 years of angling I still learn every time I go to the water, I still get excited at the prospect of the next trip and I still marvel at the very nature at the water's edge which most people fail to even notice.

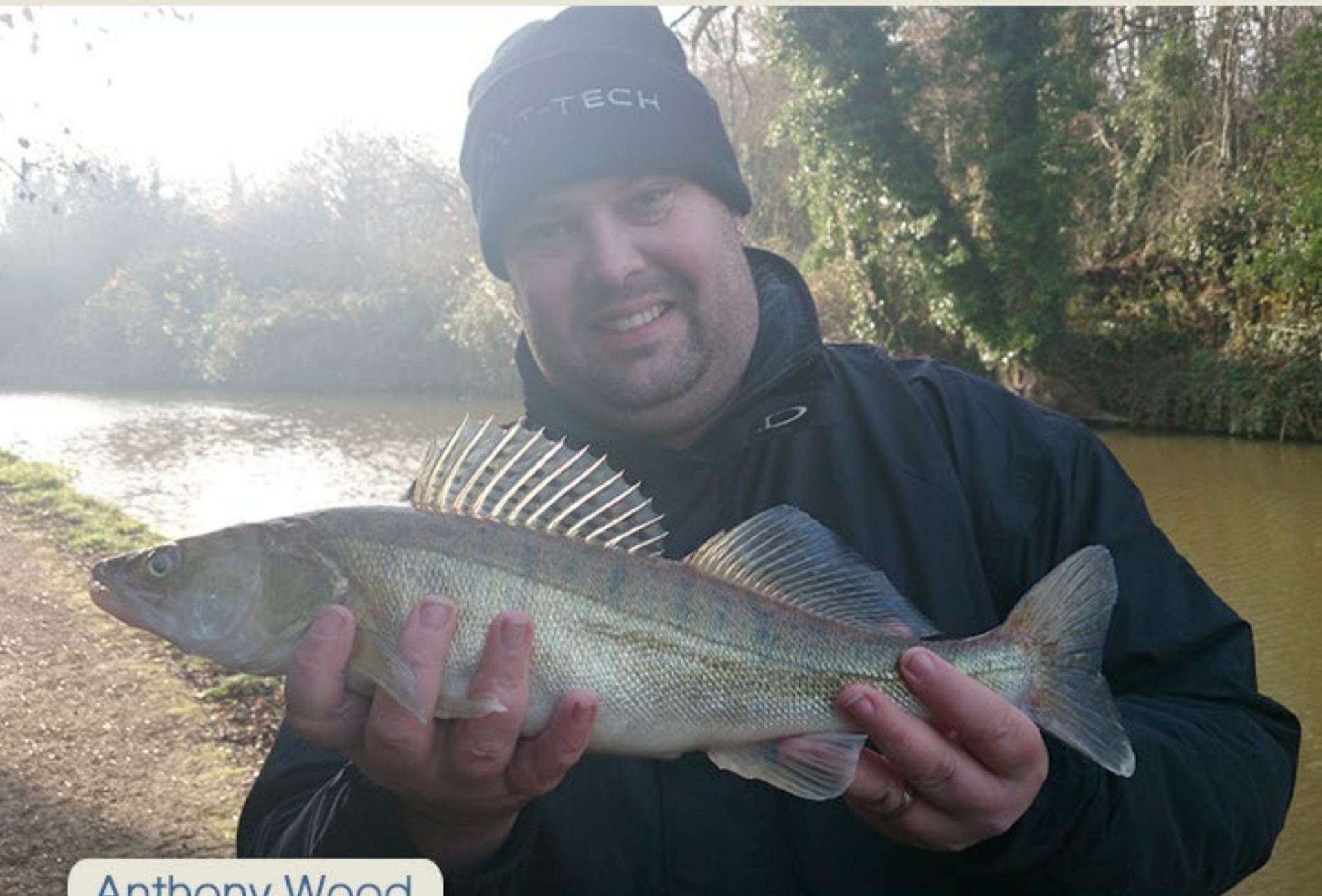
“mist rolling from the water...”

Craig McEvoy

Roving on a small river after chub on a white, crisp, frosty morning, mist rolling from the water or watching the sun rise over the mysterious pond on a glorious summers dawn and set on a dynamic anticipation-filled evening...
...it's the atmosphere of our passion that revitalises the soul!

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“time to bond...”



Anthony Wood

I love fishing as it gives me time to get away from daily stresses but more importantly allows me time to bond with my son and my dad. Some of my best sessions have been when the three of us are out together - but it's great on your own too.

“gaining new friends for life...”

Paul Brown

Magical surroundings,
unforgettable moments
and gaining new
friends for life.

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“I am ‘Me’ when I’m fishing...”



Mukled Almetieri

I am "Me" when I'm fishing..

When I'm not, I'm a complete stranger to myself!

No matter how many times you catch fish..

The "Pull" is and will always be as exciting as the very first time!

And that is why #ILoveFishing

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“no feeling in the world like it...”



Toby Luce

I love fishing because
it's me, the bankside
and the fish.

There is no feeling in
the world like knowing
that you caught that
fish and watching it
swim back into the
depths.

It will always be magic
and all my fondest
memories are of days
spent on the bank.

“a sense of duty to protect...”

Shawn Day

I learned how to fish from my grandfather and uncle as a child and have never stopped loving the adventure that is fishing. It has also given me a deep respect for nature and a sense of duty to protect and preserve nature and wildlife for future generations.

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“the expectation...”



Adrian Lewis

I have been fishing for 40 years and being on the river bank, with the expectation of the float disappearing, you can lose hours without a worry in the world

“time spent being a dad”



Al Theobald

Time spent with my dad.

Time spent being a dad and teaching my children about the pastime I love, the same way dad taught and still teaches me.

The restless night before a session, imagining what the day could bring.

The anticipation of that next bite, the strike, the prize.

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“Bernard’s words...”

Antony Coates

Christmas 1949

A 4 year old got bored with adult conversation, wandered into another room where stood a bookcase a large book laying on its side caught my attention. I took it down, opened it. I was captivated; the effect it has had on the following 65 years of my life has been tremendous.

Bernard’s words and water colours captured my imagination. I made my parents read it to me until I knew it off by heart, indeed it could be said that I learnt to read with it. I could not wait until the following June to get to the waterside and put all I had learnt into practice.

“Bliss”



Alan Hobson

Being an invited guest into nature's home - spectating where the habitats of mother nature's water wonders spend their time, and preparing to put on the river bed a dinner table of food that makes it hard for them to resist. Being alone with nature, whether it's a river bank or a natural pond.

"Bliss"

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“a break from the 21st century...”



Andy Clark

I love fishing, because of the sport.
Nothing is like stalking a carp in the margins, or
being hooked into a big fish.

The wildlife, the people, the surroundings, the sights
... fishing is special. Fishing is a break from the 21st
century, and that is why I love fishing!

“I love fishing...”

Josh Lyon

I love fishing because I like to get everything right, for example lines, hooks, baits and tackle, in order to catch fish whether it be bloodworm fishing for silvers or river fishing for double figure barbel.

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“A surprise visit...”



Sue Galloway

I love fishing, it takes me away from noisy towns. I can sit for hours watching my float, enjoying the outdoors and reflecting on the wonders of nature. A surprise visit from a pheasant, rabbit or swan is the highlight of my fishing trip.

“Heaven”



Chris Devine

The peace, and just being there. The excitement of what has just made the rod tip bend into action, then seeing just as you pull it over the net, then as you put it back safely the smile that you have as you drink that nice mug of tea in dwell in self satisfaction Heaven

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“the excitement of the bite...”



Carl Smith

We love fishing because it gives us an escape from the hassle of daily life. It gives us a place to sit and contemplate but retain the thrill of the chase, the excitement of the bite and, most importantly, a chance to observe nature right up close.

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