

Why do we go pike fishing?



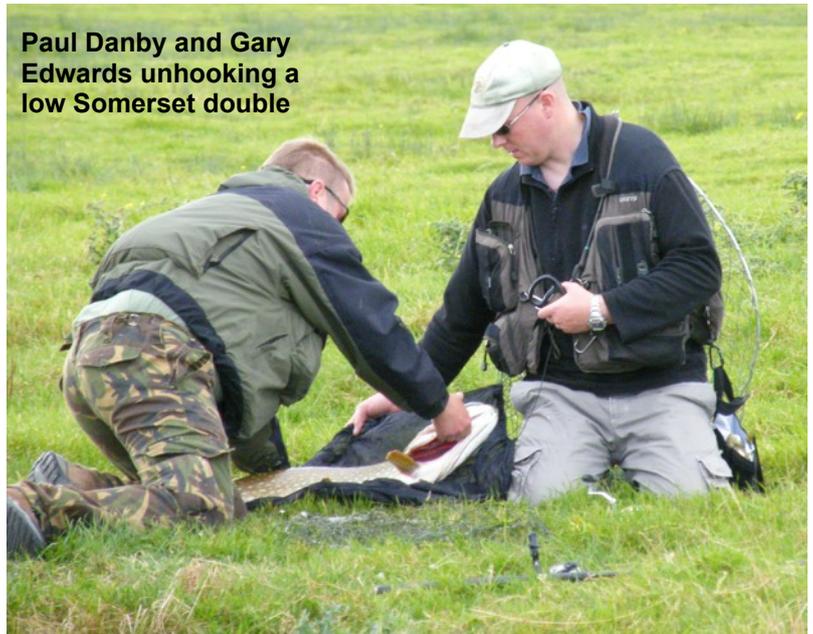
Glenn Neave searches the river for feeding pike

What is it about fishing and pike fishing at that; that drags us out of a warm bed in the early hours of the morning on a cold, wet and windy morning? Why do we do it? Is it the peace and solitude we encounter? Is it the magnificent and un-spoilt beauty of the British countryside at it's best with an early morning frost glistening in the fields and branches of the trees around us, or is it just the deeply ingrained instinct of man the hunter exploring the need to pit his intellect and skills against the ultimate predator swimming in Britain's waters?

Whatever the reason why we have to fish, we are lucky to have one of the most cunning and perfect predators around in the shape of "Esox Lucius" providing us with one of the greatest challenges around - us and our intellect versus that of the Pike. An inbred instinct formed over millions of years, and perfectly honed to its environment. For many the joy of simply being there is enough, not really caring whether or not we actually catch a pike today; whilst others ambition in life is in catching the largest specimens lurking somewhere in the murky depths of a giant trout reservoir?

But for others like us in the BPS, it's the realm of competing against others, in pitting our wits not only against the pike, but against other like minded anglers as well. Representing Britain's dedicated Pike anglers and those looking to explore and enjoy the camaraderie of such events. Enjoyment coming in the sharing of knowledge, ideas and laughter in equal measures.

However, not for us are those events where the angler sits down all day in fixed pegs waiting for non existent pike to munch on their bait. For us the joy and success come from roving with the minimum amount of tackle in search of feeding pike, picking up one here and one there; sometimes a few in just one small spot; looking for those places that might hold a feeding pike from those that don't. The skill mix required for our style of pike fishing is therefore far greater, and is one where the angler has to become a master of many tactics and not just a few. And at the end of the day the feeling of satisfaction even after blanking, is hard to explain to those who have not tried the art of 'wobbling'.



Paul Danby and Gary Edwards unhooking a low Somerset double

I hope that this little piece persuades you to go out and try our form of pike angling, hopefully catching loads of pike and enjoying the bounty and beauty that nature holds within and surrounding Britain's waterways.

Mike Skipper