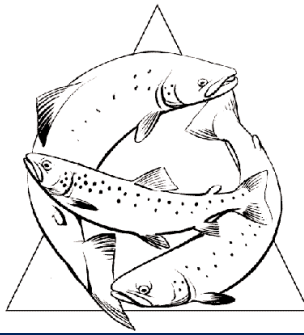


- **We're official!** The Charitable Trust is launched in style.
- The low-water patrol latest.



- A limited-edition print of the 'Heaviest UK Fly-Caught' salmon; A Trust jumper; a Deveron calendar – just three christmas gift ideas all available from the Trust. See back page

# THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 04, Winter 2003/4

## Welcome to the fourth newsletter of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust.

The Trust's objectives are to 'conserve, protect and rehabilitate salmon, sea trout and trout and other indigenous species of animal, bird, insect and plant life and more generally to promote the ecological cycle for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Deveron'

## Onwards and upwards

'Robert Shields who, along with Malcolm Hay, established the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust has now decided that it is an appropriate time to stand down as chairman. The Directors have appointed me, David Mackay, to take his place. Robert will be a very hard act to follow. He has given generously of both his time and money and his enormous drive and enthusiasm have resulted in the production of detailed scientific reports on the Deveron and all its tributary streams. That



From left: David MacKay with the bailiffs – Des Driscoll and Jimmy Minty in the new hatchery at Drummuir

information provides the solid basis for improving the rivers and the fishery in all aspects and much practical work is already underway. The completion of the salmon hatchery, the removal of obstacles to migrating fish and the improvement of the aquatic habitat and riparian zones are high priorities. In trying to carry on the outstanding contribution of Robert Shields to the welfare of the Deveron catchment I shall require all the skills, and more, developed in my long experience of managing the aquatic

environment. My career commenced with seven years at the Freshwater Fisheries Research Laboratory in Pitlochry researching the young stages of salmon and trout. I then worked for many years protecting rivers and the marine environment from the effects of pollution, ending my career as Director of the North Region of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Currently I am President of the Scottish Anglers National Association, Chairman of a company – EnviroCentre – which specialises in river management, and

a member of the Spey Fisheries Research Advisory Committee. The River Deveron borders our little farm and I am proud to have joined a Trust which has done so much in such a short time. There is still a huge task, indeed a number of challenges, ahead of us and we urgently need the support of all who care about the Deveron, the countryside, the wildlife and the local communities.'

**Professor David W Mackay OBE, Chairman of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust**

## Stunning equipment helps new hatchery

We recently received a £5,000 grant from the Lottery to buy new Electro-fishing equipment to catch 'brood stock' for the hatchery at Drummuir which is now finished and ready.

The hatchery consists of 10 rearing tanks and 15 egg troughs housed under a polytunnel which is 30 metres by 12 metres. Approximately 2,500 tonnes of hard core was transported to the site to form the base of the hatchery which needed to be raised by a metre due to the very soft peaty ground. Water for the hatchery will come from Loch

Park which is at the very top end of the Upper Isla catchment. The 36 acre loch should provide us with clean, silt free water all year round meaning less potential problems than with a burn supply which is prone to silt loading during spate conditions which can smother the eggs. Another site advantage is that it is 600ft above sea level which will allow us to release fry in the spring safe in the knowledge that if they can feed on the natural food source at that level there will be natural food elsewhere in the system. Losses

can occur when fry are released in the spring with a shortage of food and fierce competition from wild fish who are more self-sufficient than their reared cousins. It is our intention, however, to release parr in the autumn when competition from wild stock has receded (wild fish go off food as winter approaches). Predators such as cormorants and goosanders will also be fewer in numbers than in the spring. We will initially concentrate on areas that have no wild stock due to obstacles and natural waterfalls.

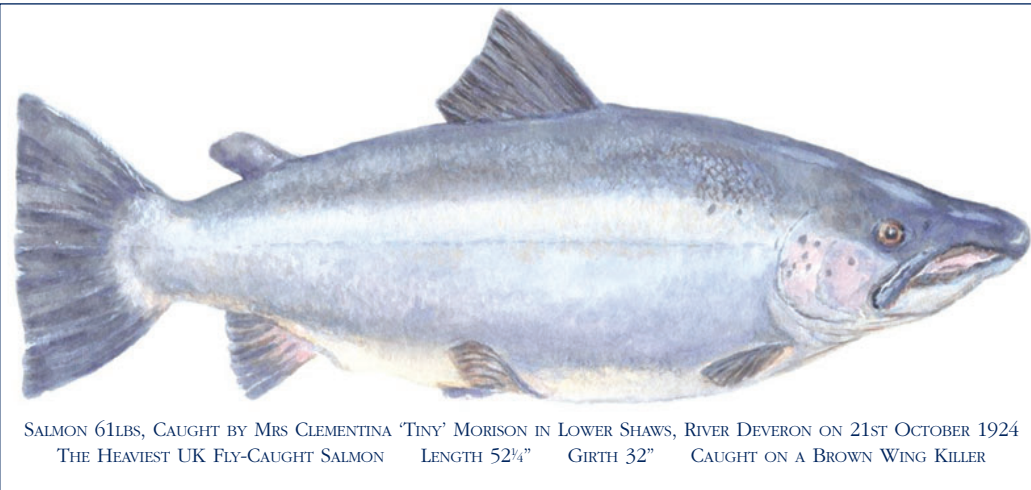
## Summer blues

Many of you will have driven hundreds of miles this summer in anticipation of a fabulous week's fishing to be confronted with a woeful greeting 'there's nae water!'. Well, it continued throughout the season. It is only now that we can expect a run of fish. The early fall of snow and drop of rain raised the level by 4-5". It will be interesting next summer, during electro-fishing surveys to see how conditions have affected the spawning and juvenile production. We may yet see a late run of fish outwith the fishing season.



# Stocking fillers

We have a number of Trust christmas presents available to you through mail order. Anyone who enjoys our rivers and loves the area will appreciate receiving one of the Trust's gifts in their christmas stocking this year – whether it be a limited edition print (one of 250) of the 'Heaviest UK Fly-Caught Salmon' painted by local artist Michael Kitchen or a 2004 calendar commemorating the Deveron bridges. All proceeds will go to the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust so please support us generously.



SALMON 61LBS, CAUGHT BY MRS CLEMENTINA 'TINY' MORISON IN LOWER SHAWES, RIVER DEVERON ON 21ST OCTOBER 1924  
THE HEAVIEST UK FLY-CAUGHT SALMON LENGTH 52 1/4" GIRTH 32" CAUGHT ON A BROWN WING KILLER

## Deveron Calendar 2004

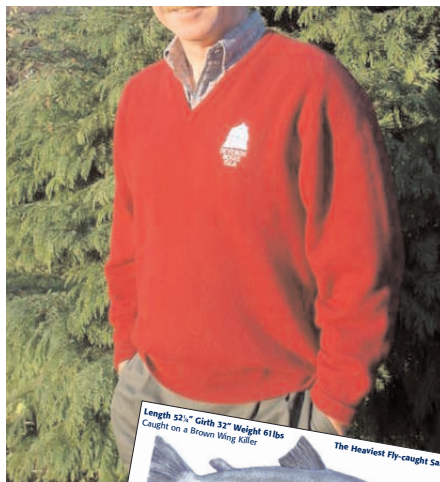
The Deveron, Bogie & Isla calendar supports the Charitable Trust and all proceeds from its sale will go to the Trust.

The theme of the calendar is of the Deveron Bridges. Each month has its own page with a colour photograph. The pages are contained in a clear pastic case which stands up and presents a month to view.

It is hoped that the calendar will sell well to those who live within the rivers' catchment. It will make the perfect christmas gift for anyone living nearby or to those who just enjoy visiting the area.

To fishermen, buying the calendar is a way of supporting the Trust. Without valuable support the Trust will be unable to continue their programme of work which will improve our rivers.

Buying the calendars is just one small way to show your support and help the Trust's work. The calendars have been very kindly produced by Robert McConnell – a Deveron fisherman and generous supporter of the Trust.



**Prices** prices shown include p&p  
**Limited edition print** £42  
**Magnetic bookmark (above)** £1  
**Deveron Calendar** £5  
**Trust all-wool Jumper** £40  
**Car Stickers** 3 for £5  
**To place your order please use the form provided.**

# We're official

Even though the fishing has been disappointing, we did at least enjoy a great evening at Aswanley, Glass where we held the official launch. About 120 people came to celebrate the event with guest speakers Fiona Armstrong and Dr James Butler. Fiona gave a stirring speech encouraging everyone to give the Trust as much support as possible. It was her first visit to the Deveron and she very quickly appreciated its charm. We are grateful to her for travelling so far to help the Trust. James explained that he had been involved in the early days of a Trust on the West Coast and knew from first-hand experience the difficulties of working from hand-to-mouth. Robert Shields donated a large bottle of whisky which raised over £400 in a raffle which went a long way towards covering the evening's costs. We hope that the result will be wider public awareness and encourage support.

## Briefly

- With the low water conditions of the summer, the Bailiffs have been out on several coastal patrols with the Spey Patrol boat and have, inevitably, found a few illegal nets around the coast. Seals and dolphins have also been taking 'one for the pot'!

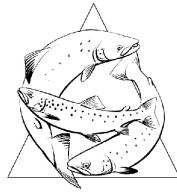
- The dam on the Towie burn is planned to be removed. The dam was installed a century ago for the Towiemore Distillery. Its removal will provide 4-5 kilometres of potential spawning grounds and juvenile nursery habitat. It is a superbly unspoilt burn with great potential.

## Please help us to help the river and its area...

You can now become a member of The Trust for as little as £25 per year as an individual or £50 as a small business.

### ...for further information please contact:

The Project Officer at The Offices, Avochie, Rothiemay, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YJ  
 Telephone/fax: 01466 711388; email: robinvasey@deveron.org or visit the Trust's website [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)  
 The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is a registered charity. No. SC 032131



# STOCKING FILLERS ORDER FORM

**Please complete this order form. All prices shown include postage and packaging**

**I wish to order:**

- ..... **Limited Edition Print(s) by local artist Michael Kitchen at £42 each**
- ..... **Deveron Calendars at £5 each**
- ..... **Magnetic Bookmarks at £1 each**
- ..... **Car Stickers at 3 for £5**

## DEVERON JUMPERS

**Johnston's of Elgin are supplying the Deveron Bogie and Isla Trust with 100 per cent lambswool V-neck jumpers with our logo.**

**We have these available in Navy, Tartan Green, Filigree (beige) and Maroon. Standard sizes are 40, 42, 44, 46 and 48 but we can get non-standard sizes as well. Please allow a few extra days for special orders.**

<b>COLOUR</b>	<b>SIZE</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>PRICE @ £40 each</b>
.....	.....	.....	.....

NAME..... TITLE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

Please send your order, along with your cheque made payable to  
**The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust** to:  
 The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Trust, Avochie Stables, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY  
**Please allow 14 days for delivery**