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Meet the Deveron leopard

Allan Liddle on trout fishing

Inside

## THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 30, spring 2015

#### Welcome to the 30th 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'.



## Fund raising extravaganza

WHAT? BBQ and Auction
WHERE? Mayen Estate
WHEN? 6th June 2015
TICKETS? £20 Call 01466 711388

The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is hosting a BBQ at Mayen Estate on the 6th June 2015 with an auction to raise funds for practical habitat restoration, predator control, Invasive non-native species control and the local schools programme. Whether you are an angler and Deveron admirer, golfer or rugby/football fan there is a fantastic variety of Lots, many of which are not normally available to the general public. The Lots are listed on the back page but for full details please visit our website. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun, social evening at a beautiful spot on the side of the river courtesy of Mr & Mrs Alfie Cheyne of Mayen Estate, Rothiemay.

**AUCTION** If you are unable to join us on the evening, bidding can be done online now at **www.deveron.org** or by post. If you would like the Trust to bid on your behalf on the night please contact us. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you at Mayen. Online bidding will close at midnight of Friday 5th June 2015.





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TICKETS £20 per person and include food and drink (dress casual) To book please phone the Trust's office with your name and address on 01466 711388 or email: richiemiller@deveron.org or robinvasey@deveron.org

#### **Launch of new Deveron map**

The eagerly awaited new River Deveron Fisherman's Map – Tom Ingleby Edition – will be launched at the BBQ and Auction night at Mayen. The map, which has been beautifully illustrated by Harley Miller, will be available to order.

### BOWLTS

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## **Chasing the Deveron leopards**

Allan Liddle is a regular contributor to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying magazine. Here he shares the delights of fishing for 'broonies' on the Deveron

Rising high in the hills above the Cabrach, through a backdrop of wild heather clad upland beginnings through arable fertile farmlands runs the delightful River Deveron.

Despite the main river itself gathering strength from its three main tributaries, Blackwater, Bogie and Isla, the Deveron isn't what you'd call a big river. Much is known of its salmon fishing heritage and glorious past, not least of which was Clementina 'Tiny' Morrison's sixty one pound monster which remains the heaviest salmon caught on the fly in this country. On the flip side not much has been said regarding the

quality and excellence of the trout fishing the Deveron also boasts. This water is one of Scotland's best kept secrets. Tucked away between the mighty River Spey and famous trout stream the Don with the Royal Dee close by it soon becomes clear how the Deveron can easily be overlooked.

You also have to consider that this water was known as a salmon stream meaning the humble 'broonies' were overlooked even more. However, there's always been a band of trout anglers who appreciate the quality this river can offer since the slight upturn in interest for wild river trout fishing. More exposure in the angling press as well as social media has also had a bearing on the 'word getting out' on the Deveron trout. My good friend angling author, fly dresser, guide, exceptional trout angler and all round good guy Paul Proctor voted the Deveron in his top five trout waters in the UK, for me it's simply number one.

Riparian beat owners on the Deveron are slowly starting to realise the resource on offer from these resident trout and through the hard work of the Trust and Frank Henderson of Turriff Trophies and Tackle some beats offer trout permits, at least in the first half of the season. Hopefully, this is something that will expand and costs set will be in keeping with the Don. There are a couple of beats offering Sunday trout fishing which is a very welcome breakthrough. Frank's beats offer the additional attraction of his online booking service.



Great as it is to finally see trout fishing in this river getting some of the recognition it deserves, it's also fair comment to air a word of caution about the fish and request careful handling and return of the better ones you might encounter, especially if they fall into the 'Trophy Trout' three pound plus category, or 'Rod Benders' as I like to call them.

Many big trout are spawning together in either September or October, well before the accepted norm. They don't hang about in the spawning area instead preferring to travel back through the river system to their general area of choice.

Does this mean that these big fish breed big fish? Early indications would suggest this is the case.

These fish really are too valuable to be caught only once. The colours, spots, shape and beauty as well as the fighting qualities of these fish is something to behold meaning they certainly deserve the name of Deveron Leopards and seeking them out with an upstream dry fly is without doubt the crème de la crème of wild trout angling.

That said the general and more abundant fish in the river still average a healthy ten to twelve ounces with pound plus fish common and 'notable' fish of two to three pounds also not too infrequent. For me it's only the smaller sub two pound trout I ever 'harvest' with a brace or two of them more than enough for any angler, especially when you stick them on the smoker, delicious. What's the best method to catch them? Fly only goes without question, if you're not going to do it right then don't do it at all. From the simple 'across and down' swing of wet flies or spiders, through short line nymph fishing with weighted flies, the thrill of seeking out likely areas with streamer flies and the big takes is easily the most rewarding way to fish.

To see Allan's full article read it online at www.deveron.org and on Discover Deveronside via Facebook

## Lots to auction!

Below we list all that's available to bid for online or at the forthcoming BBQ at Mayen Estate, Rothiemay on Saturday 6th June. It will be great to see you all there but if you can't make it and would like to place a bid please call the Trust on 01466 711388

| Lot | tDonor                        | Description  | Guide     | Lot details   |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|-----------|---|
| 1   | R.J.G. Shields                | Two rugby WC tickets France v Italy                                    | £500      | 19th Sept: 2015 Kick off 20.00 Cat: A seating in west stand |
| 2   | R.J.G. Shields                | Four tickets at Pride Park, Derby County                               | £300      | Entertained by Longcliffe Quarries. Drinks & 3 course meal. |
| 3   | R.J.G. Shields                | Four tickets England v France at Wembley                               | £1400     | 17th November 2015 Entertained in Bobby Moore suite         |
|     |                               |  |           | champagne reception & three course meal. Executive seats    |
|     | 51 I.S.                       | =" .0"   |           | under cover outside. Car park ticket included               |
| 4   | Richard Foster                | 7"x10" watercolour of Glennie  | £550-£950 | Framed  |
| 5   | LordShrewsbury<br>& Talbot DL |  | £300      | Data TDA hafara lat luna 2010                               |
| G   |                               | Meal for two in the House of Lords One week at Old Steadings Barn Hill | £1200     | Date TBA – before 1st June 2016<br>Any week in 2015/16      |
|     | Celebrations                  | Lunch for six at Celebrations  | £1200     | Ally week in 2013/16  |
|     |                               | Four rods for a week at Mountblairy                                    | £1460     | w/c 3rd August 2015 cottage available by arrangement        |
|     |                               | Round for two at Meldrum House GC                                      | £1400     | To be taken between auction date and 1st May 2016.          |
|     |                               | Round of golf for two at Spey Valley GC                                | £200      | To be taken between auction date and 1st May 2016.          |
|     | Malcolm Hay                   | A morning/evening roe stalking for 1 gun                               |           | Date TBA during June/July.                                  |
|     | Paul Proctor                  | Selection of 6 flies in a frame- signed                                | £50- £100 | North Country spiders                                       |
|     | Anthony Judd                  | Bespoke traditional wading staff                                       | £100      | Notifi Country spiders                                      |
|     | ,                             | llers Knock Distillery Bottle of Anoc whisky                           |           |   |
|     | Huntly Fishing                | Two visitor weekly tickets on Huntly water                             |           | Valid Mon-Fri until October 31st 2015                       |
|     | Huntly Fishing                | Two visitor daily tickets on Huntly water                              | £50       | Valid until October 31st2015                                |
|     | Brian Wastie                  | Fish platter   | £100      | Valid diffili Octobel 318t2013                              |
|     |                               | rs S. Brown Fishing at Ardmiddle                                       | £180      | 11th &12th September 2015 ghillie available. Fly only       |
|     | Herbert Cox                   | Dinner for two @ Fife Arms, Turriff                                    | £100      | To the value of £100  |
|     |                               | Stuart Three day's fishing for two rods                                | £100      |   |
|     | F Henderson                   | G-Loomis Intermediate fly line   | £80       | Anytime in 2015 except August WF10F                         |
|     | F Henderson                   | G-Loomis Intermediate fly line   | £80       | WF10F<br>WF10F  |
|     | F Henderson                   | ,  | £60       | WFTOF   |
|     | F Henderson                   | Wooden fly box with 12 salmon flies<br>Rio Spey fly line               | £60       | UniSpey VersiTip SHD9/10F                                   |
|     |                               | Bottle of Chateau Lespeau Bordeaux                                     | £40       | Onispey veisinp sinday roi                                  |
|     | C & S Lücke                   | 3 "Westerwald" German beerstones.                                      | £150      | Hand crafted  |
|     | Paul Young                    | Three rods with Paul Young at Avochie                                  | £350      | One day fishing for three rods with expert instruction      |
|     | Robert Shields                | Three bottles of Macduff malt whisky                                   | £150      | Bottled by Longcliffe Quarries.                             |
|     | David Burgess                 | One hour clay pigeon shooting for                                      | L130      | bottled by Longaine Quaries.                                |
| 25  | David Bulgess                 | 710  | £50       |   |
| 70  | Androw Higgins                | Bottle of Fortnum & Mason Margaux wine                                 |           |   |
| 50  | Andrew miggins                | and set of steak knives  | £120      |   |
| 71  | Allan Liddle                  | 30 trout flies in a box  | £100      |   |
|     | Paul Fosbury                  | Photograph of Deveron at Corniehaugh                                   | £160      | Framed and signed by Paul Fosbury                           |
|     | Paul Fosbury                  | Photograph of osprey   | £160      | Framed and signed by Paul Fosbury                           |
|     | AFCCT                         | Aberdeen FC – Boardroom Experience                                     | £400      | Aberdeen FC - Boardroom Experience x 2 Tickets              |
| 24  | AICCI                         | Aberdeen i C – Boardroom Experience                                    | L400      | Pre + post-match hospitality in the AFC Boardroom.          |
|     |                               |  |           | Seats in Director's Box (or very close proximity)           |
| 35  | Chivas Regal                  | 18yr malt whisky Chivas Brother Ltd.                                   | £50       | Bottle of single malt whisky                                |
|     | Rose Leslie                   | John Shields/Rose Leslie   | £100      | Signed picture of Scottish actress Rose Leslie & Game of    |
| 50  | NOSC ECSIIC                   | John Jillelday Noac Lealle   | 2100      | Thrones Season 1-4 DVD Box Set (2015)                       |
| 37  | A and P Bruce                 | Montcoffer fishings  | £400      | Two rods for the week 27th July to 1st August 2015          |
|     | Marion Miller                 | Fish Stud Earrings - Sterling Silver                                   | £400      | Marion Miller Jewellery                                     |
| 50  | WIGHOLL WIIIICI               | TIST Stad Editings Sterning Shvel                                      | 210       | TVICTOTT TVIIICE SERVEICELY                                 |