

## **How we became A wildfowler – Roy Rogers and other Clevedon wildfowlers from wildfowling families**

Roy Rogers described his route into wildfowling as one grounded in longstanding family tradition and local continuity. He explained that his father and grandfather had both shot the foreshore at Kingston Seymour and Wick River, using the same gullies that are still used today. He situated his own experience within a much longer history of local wildfowling knowledge, recalling older figures such as Sam Staples, who kept a boat on the flooded Nailsea Moor and knew from experience which fields the wigeon would come into. Roy himself joined Clevedon Wildfowlers at the age of fifteen and has now been a member for around sixty years. His account presents wildfowling not as an isolated pastime but as an inherited practice, passed down through generations and closely tied to place, memory and family history.

Another member traced his involvement to family influence in early life, but with a significant break before returning to the sport later on. He said that shooting was “in the blood”, explaining that his father owned a shotgun and had been a signalman during the war, keeping the gun in the signal box at Grimston in Dorset. He was brought up around guns and was given a shotgun himself at about fourteen. As a young man he went out with Anton, one of the founding members of Clevedon Wildfowlers, and shot around Portishead. Later, however, changes in circumstance led him away from shooting and he allowed his licence to lapse. It was only in his mid-forties, when he had more time available, that he returned to it. Knowing Roy Rogers from childhood, he approached him about joining the club, and from there resumed his involvement. His story illustrates how wildfowling can remain a latent part of someone’s identity, even after long periods away from active participation.

A further intergenerational account emerged in the discussion from a member who summarised his own route into wildfowling by saying that it was simply “what we were brought up to do”. He referred to his father, grandfather and great-uncles as part of that inheritance. Although the transcript attribution is unclear, the account nevertheless reinforces the importance of kinship and upbringing in transmitting participation in wildfowling. In this form, becoming a wildfowler was not described as a conscious choice made later in life, but as something embedded in family practice from an early age.