



The Grayling Society

Newsletter

Area 8 February 2022 (No. 59)

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Time is like a river.

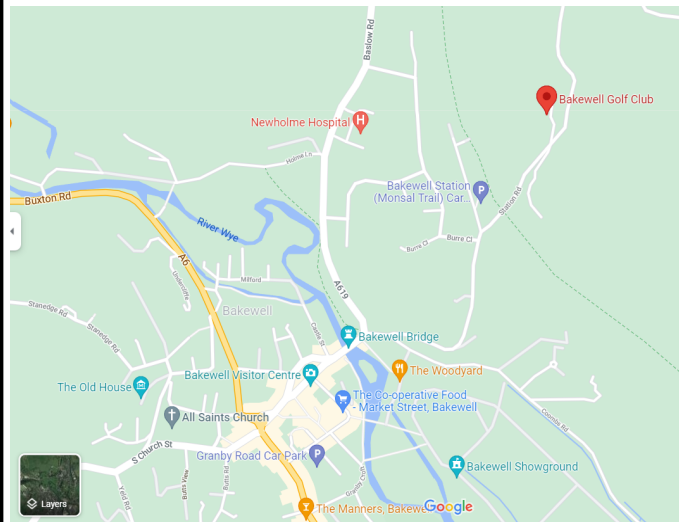
You cannot touch it twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of your life.

News From The Front



Following the funeral of John Mycock a collection was held by his family and friends for the Grayling Research Trust. At a recent event Geoff Pittham, John's son in law presented me with a cheque in the sum of £300.00. The cheque was forwarded to the Trust Treasurer shortly afterwards. On behalf of the Grayling Research Trust many thanks to all who so generously contributed.

Brian



Bakewell Golf Club

At last we managed to start our Area 8 events in January.

The first was a Beginners Fly Tying Day at the Ashford Village Hall on Saturday 8th of January. The day was skilfully lead by Bob Lomax, taking us through several basic techniques to give the participants a useful start to their fly tying careers.

The second a Fly Tying Masterclass day lead by Phil White. The theme of the day was Mayfly patterns. All the patterns Phil has developed and used successfully over many years on the river.

The third event on the 16th of January was our usual "Cane and Pin" Grayling Day hosted by Cromford Fly Fishers Club on their water on the River Derwent

For various reasons we only had 9 anglers on the day but with the help of two of the club members most landed fish.

This year because of Covid I decided to meet up at the clubs fishing lodge instead of a local hostelry. Bacon butties, tea, coffee and biscuits were provided before everyone set off to the river and hot soup was awaiting on their return.

The fourth event on the 19th of January was a talk given by Don Stazicker entitled "Its not Rocket Science", Don's presentation was a whistle stop a blend of history, science and practical fishing tips.

Cont:

Don discussed new research into how trout see fine detail in our flies, how colours change underwater, and how fluorescent materials behave when exposed to ultra violet light.

Plenty to think about when tying flies for the new season.

Beginners Fly Tying Day



Bob Lomax all bibbed up demonstrating a technique



Some of the attendees
(Picture by Hilary Langan)



Some of the attendees and helpers

Masterclass Fly Tying Day



Phil demonstrating a fly
(Picture by Hilary Langan)

Cont:



Phil's Loop wing Mayfly Emerger
(Picture by David Marriott)



Phil's Dancing Mayfly Dun
(Picture by Davit Marriott)



Phil's One Up Mayfly Spinner
(Picture by David Marriott)



Phil's Active Mayfly Dun
(Picture by David Marriott)

Cane and Pin Grayling Day



Alan Grice-Jackson working hard with the fly



Peter Lancaster netting a very nice o.o.s. Brown Trout



Hilary Langan doing her heron impersonation

Don Stazicker's Evening Talk



Don Stazicker in full flow

Our next evening at the Bakewell Golf Club will be on the 9th of February and the speaker will be Jack Perks. Talk starts 7.30 pm

Combined Sewage Water Outfalls

Fresh clean water is as important now as it was in the Victorian era and its importance is likely to increase into the future as we use more and more of this finite resource. I thought that made a good point because all clean water was once dirty water and vice versa. I'm going to have a little rant about Combined Sewage Water Overflows or CSWO's as they are more commonly known. They are certainly getting a lot of publicity of late along with agricultural pollution. If we, as a country, are really serious about climate change CSWOs, how we address sewage has got to be one of the first things on the agenda. All the rivers in this area and no doubt in the country at large will have had discharges from water companies, either illegally or accidentally, as the large companies like to describe them.

Severn Trent and Yorkshire Water, who both operate in Derbyshire, are amongst the biggest culprits in the country. Severn Trent notified the EA that they had discharged 558,699 hours worth of effluent into the rivers, whilst Yorkshire Water held their hands up to 420,419 hours worth of untreated effluent going into our rivers and streams.

Remember, these are the times that the companies have admitted to, no doubt more will have occurred

These CSWOs were constructed in Victorian times and the saying amongst the engineers at that time was "the solution to pollution is dilution". The population was 13.9 million at the start of Victoria's reign and 32.5 million at the end of it. Its about 60 million now and also the system is about 200 years old. Put this with more white goods, sanitary products and plastics no wonder there is a problem with 90% of blockages to the system being wet wipes. How many of us throw them down the pan? Although I'm not condoning what the water companies do, we, the general public, also need to put our hands up and be counted. We dispose of these items along with nappies, oil, fat, and other items both down the toilet and the sink. What are the overflows there for? Well the clue is in the name. They are there to take sewage and water into a water course in times of flood so the system does not overload. [Combined Sewer Overflows Explained - Creating a better place \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

But the water companies have also been discharging in low water. Not only is it a blight on the river and an eyesore, but by discharging sewage during low water, effluent builds up causing a lack of oxygen which can and does kill fish and mammals in the river. The CSWO system is outdated and should be outlawed. Every river in the UK is polluted in one way or the other, yes every single one. ([Water Companies: Sewage Discharge - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)) I can hear some anglers thinking, "mine is not all that bad".

Everyone of us, should start thinking rivers are for everyone and everyone has a responsibility to each and every river. This newsletter is basically for members of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and surrounding counties.

Cont:

Severn and Trent and Yorkshire Water are the largest water companies in record of environmental awareness. Lets take a look at Severn Trent's record. These are just a few of the recorded discharges in 2020. The River Derwent at Curbar has a tributary, the Stoke Brook. This small stream had raw sewage in it for a total of 98.5 days. The River Derwent near Derwent Eyes Meadow in Duffield, which is a few miles down the same river, was recorded to have discharged 336 days worth of spillages of sewage. The Wye at Bakewell was subject to 180 leaks in 2020. The pumping station at Church Lane which feeds the Dove, pumped pollution into the river for 222 days in 2020. The Ecclesbourne, the small stream that has just been in the news for salmon returning, had 49 days worth of dumping raw sewage into it. Yorkshire water also operate in Derbyshire and they are guilty as charged. The Rother had 108 days of sewage pumped into from the Chesterfield works ([20 Derbyshire rivers which had raw sewage pumped into them last year - Derbyshire Live \(derbytelegraph.co.uk\)](#)) Yorkshire Water discharged sewage from its Wentworth site near Rotherham in South Yorkshire 7,740.41 hours (I think that equates to 322 and a half days) of untreated waste, being in the Don in one year from that site alone. Of course, this is what these companies have put their hands up to. Whilst the shareholders have become rich and lined their own pockets, nature has suffered instead of going forward we are going back. But of course its not just the big water companies. Agriculture, also contribute to the state of the rivers. But that in general does not go through the CSWOs, but usually as run off from fields. Micro plastics are a very big problem these can enter the water system by means of landfill, or just by run off as road marking, vehicle tyre wear and breakdown causing a problem. Clothing and materials that are made from synthetic materials fleeces, rayon and even spandex contribute to pollution in our rivers and oceans. Tests and research is ongoing into, [The big problem of microplastics - University of Nottingham - The University of Nottingham](#) Fergal Sharkey is my hero. He's has had the courage to stand up and be counted. I have not heard any other well known fisher who is in the limelight being vocal, "so good on ya" At this point, I really wanted to get on my bandwagon and write what I would like to see happen regarding action to be taken, but I thought better of it as it may be a little bit too controversial for a lot of the members. But suffice to say the lack of action from the angling world, the public and big business in general is just not good enough. I keep writing to my council to ask if they can put notices around CSWO, stating that untreated sewage is liable to be pumped into the river at anytime, courtesy of the local water company.

Of course they wont do it. If everyone complained to either local or national government once a week, someone just may, sit up and listen. The CSWO are just part of the bigger problem. So, what can we do about it? Firstly, I do believe that all the river users should be singing from the same hymn sheet and have one voice.

Cont:

That may stick in the throat of some, anglers combining with the canoeists and wild swimmers "it will never happen!" This is too big an issue to fight alone and separately. So what can we do? Keep a record of incidents that you see, with time, location and how long it happened, preferably with a photograph, send these to your councillor, MP, Environment agency and if you can, to the water company who did it. The local paper/radio/ tv station are always good, big companies don't like publicity or as Lance Corporal Jones says, " they don't like it up 'em Pikey".

You probably have your own ideas of how to try and change things. But what I do know, it is no good sitting back and doing nowt, because by doing nowt, nowt gets done.

John Blewitt



CSWO

Picture by John Blewitt



CSWO on the River Rother

Picture by John Blewitt



River Don Swinton
Picture by John Blewitt



River Rother
Picture from Facebook



Rover Rother
Picture from Facebook

HELP NEEDED

Adult caddisflies in our British waters are very much misunderstood by fly-anglers and back in 2006 I had a crazy plan to help improve our knowledge and awareness of these fascinating insects. But, I needed data of where and when our different adult caddisflies are on the wing all over Great Britain. This was the birth of the Adult Caddisfly Occurrence Scheme whereby I ask anglers to collect, and then send me, adult caddis whilst they are fishing. Since then I have had samples from every corner of the UK and analysed over 17,000 adult stage caddisflies, each and every one identified and recorded on an ever increasing database. Many of the volunteers who collect these samples have become somewhat addicted – and a good few are from the Grayling Society, yes you know who you are! However, after around 15 years, I thought it was time to mention this all again and see if there are any other potential collectors out there. This is not a difficult task and if you would like to help then please just drop me an email with your name and address. I can then send you half a dozen sample tubes along with some simple instructions. Then, during 2022, if you see what you think is any type of adult caddisfly (and we have over 200 different species here in the UK) on or near the water while you are fishing any stream, river, pond, reservoir or lake here in the UK then I want you to catch a sample and send it to me. At the end of the year, when I have checked all the samples, I will send you all the results and you can see for yourself the species names of caddis that you sent me. Then, if you want to complete the loop, you could try and find these species names in your fishing books and learn more on the best fly patterns to imitate them. Thank you

Stuart Crofts
Email: stuartcrofts@gmail.com

Fly Tiers Corner



The Rusty Dun
Cont:

Another obscure north country pattern, this is called the Rusty Dun and is again allegedly from James Blades. Written about by Walbran in the Fishing Gazette of 27th November 1886, though I have to say I can find no mention of this particular dressing Blades own manuscript of patterns. In his manuscript, Blades' stated dressing for the Rusty Dun is totally different, so either Walbran published the wrong dressing, or Blades failed to add it to his manuscript of flies.

The Rusty Dun and is another pattern I have been fishing for several seasons, regardless of its parentage. Neither Blades or Walbran state what it is dressed to imitate, but I've had good catches with it when the early needles are about the river. Even managed to catch a few trout within casting distance of Blades old cottage with it.

The Blackbird breast hackle is somewhat similar to the delicacy of an Owl feather but less mottled. Best substitute would probably be a very dirty-brown hen hackle with plenty of webbing to the hackle fibres.

Materials

Hook: No.1 (Partridge L3A #14)

Silk: Orange

Body: Orange silk dubbed with water-mouse (water rat)

Hackle: Blackbird's breast.

Robert Smith

Grayling Society Catch Returns

We are now in the height of the grayling season albeit with strange weather and river conditions, but it would seem that on Facebook some nice grayling have been caught in our area particularly on fly. We have had one or two more returns sent in from our area this month to be recorded on the Society website Catch Return, they being from the Rivers Derwent and Wye. All the rivers in our area, the Rivers Derwent, Wye, Lathkill, Don, Dearne and Rother hold populations of grayling all of which it is important to record your catches.

Date Fished	Club	Gray-ling Under 150 mm	Gray-ling 150-300m m	Gray-ling over 300m m
16/1/2022	Derwent, Cromford FFC. Grayling Day	0	21	1
15/1/2022	Wye, Peacock	0	2	0
3/1/2022	Derwent, Cromford FFC	0	1	0
17/10/2021	Wye, Peacock	6	4	0

Brian



BRITISH FLY FAIR INTERNATIONAL 2022

CASTING, DEMOS + LESSONS

3 halls of all things Fly-fishing
2 presentation theatres
Bring & Buy

80+ TRADE STANDS

Including quality tackle, holidays,
organisations, quality fly tying
materials, books, fly tying furniture & art

50+ INTERNATIONAL DEMONSTRATORS ON THE FLY TYING ROW

FLY TYING CLINIC

Staffordshire Agricultural Showground ST18 0BD

9.30am

12-13th February

4.30pm

Find out more

www.bffi.co.uk //  The British Fly Fair International

Friends of Area 8



The Willows Business Park,
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Friends of Area 8



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Grayling Fishers DVD library

Grayling Fishers evening with Philip White A.P.G.A.I.



© Grayling Fishers 2012

Philip White's fly tying demonstration on the 8th November 2012 for the Grayling Fishers evening.

Grayling Fishers evening with Stuart Crofts



© Grayling Fishers 2014

Stuart Crofts fly tying demonstration on the 15th October 2013 for the Grayling Fishers evening.

Price £6.50 + p&p
Cheques made out to
Grayling Society Area 8

For details contact :

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or
Hilary 07920 013361

STOP THE SPREAD



Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.



Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.



Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.



Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions.

Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk and search for Check Clean Dry



CORMORANT WATCH



Seen a cormorant or goosander?

Please help us by recording sightings to persuade governments to increase the number of licences to shoot these highly damaging birds

Report sightings online at
www.cormorantwatch.com



Show your support and help spread awareness of this issue by downloading this poster from www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants

Produced with the support of...



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Join today at www.anglingtrust.net or 0343 5077 006

RECYCLE YOUR FISHING LINE

What has this got to do with line recycling?

The amount of line UK anglers send to landfill or incineration every year would reach to the moon.

384,400 km

How do I recycle my fishing line?

Step 1

To find out where your local recycling point is you have two options;

Visit the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme Facebook page where you will find a list of all participating shops/venues.

Visit our website www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

Step 2

Keep your old monofilament and braid separate and take it along to your chosen recycling point. The shop may have separate bins for braid and mono but if they have a single bin please keep the braid bagged and place this in the bin.

Step 3

No recycling points near by? You can post it to us via ANLRS, c/o Tools n Tackle, 11 Bridge St, Newhaven BN9 9PH.

How is it recycled?

The waste line is sent to a recycling processor that returns it to a useable material. Recycled nylon is currently used to make traffic cones, wetsuits and sports clothing.



"Something the whole of angling can agree on"



For more information visit: www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk

Founded by LISA in association with GGGI. Flyer sponsored by Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

