



# Newsletter

Area 8 December 2021 (No. 57)

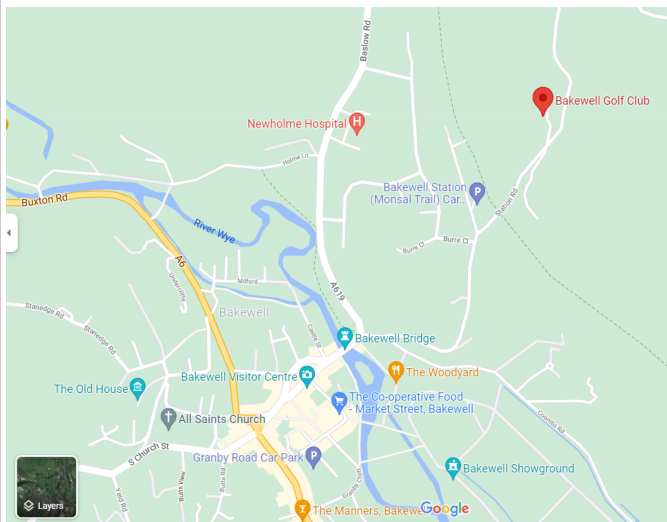


## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

### Have a Merry Christmas and a Tight Lines New Year

#### News From the Front

At last it looks like we will be getting back to something like normal with our meeting etc. Hillary has managed to find a new venue for our evenings and still in Bakewell. Bakewell seemed to be a good central point for our Area, so we tried to keep around and about there. The new venue is the Bakewell Golf Club, not as big as the room at the Rutland, but there is good parking, it's easy to get to and there is a bar. Our first speaker will be Don Stazicker on the 19th of January. The second speaker on the 9th of February will be Jack Perks. If things go well we will look at a date in March. Stephen is in the process of booking the Village Hall at Ashford in the Water for our Fly Tying Masterclasses days in January and February. The days will be in the usual format with a lead demonstrator (To be announced) Tea, Coffee and Biscuits as you fancy and a cooked lunch. I have been in touch with Cromford Flyfishers Club and will be arranging our usual Cane and Pin day in January. When details are finalised about all the events we will give you them well in advance so that you can arrange your calendar .



Brian

## From Salmon and Trout Conservation

Government admits to a massive failure to prevent illegal dumping of raw sewage in our rivers.

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

We have been pointing out the flaw in allowing sewage works to monitor their own discharges for years, only to be assured by the regulators that all was fine.

Well, guess what, it isn't.

Research from Professor Peter Hammond of Windrush Against Sewage Pollution and S&TC - including a detailed [complaint](#) to the (then) interim Office for Environmental Protection made early this year - has exposed the routine criminal breaching of discharge permits.

Now, with the threat of installing new monitors, water companies have started to own up to their crimes which has finally forced our regulators to act.

The Environment Agency (EA) and Ofwat have launched a major investigation into sewage treatment works, after new checks led to water companies admitting that they could be releasing unpermitted sewage discharges into rivers and watercourses.

This investigation will involve more than 2000 sewage treatment works, with any company caught breaching their legal permits facing enforcement action, possibly including fines or prosecutions. Fines can be up to 10% of annual turnover for civil cases, or unlimited in criminal proceedings.

CEO, Nick Measham said:

"Our [report](#) earlier this year, on the Environment Agency's first 25 years, pointed out the problems which have been obvious to many for years.

We welcome any action to prevent water companies systematically and illegally dumping sewage in rivers, but this is also an admission of shocking failure by the regulators as well.

Government needs to consider how to restore public faith in both water companies and in our environmental regulator.

Perhaps it might decide that some heads should roll?"

Cont;

Guy Linley-Adams, Solicitor for S&TC said:  
 "This action is at least a decade too late. But better late than never. But where is the shame? Where is the apology from the two complicit regulators, the Environment Agency and OFWAT, and from DEFRA itself?  
 Collectively, they made this appalling sewage pollution of our rivers possible with years of weak 'look-the-other-way' regulation of the water companies, allowing the companies to self-monitor their own sewage works and failing to require anything like adequate investment in sewerage infrastructure. We expect the water companies to breach permits, because complying with permits costs money, money they would rather pay out in dividends.  
 But the public will want to know how the Environment Agency, and OFWAT, and DEFRA dare put out their respective statements, without also apologising for their manifest failures to protect our rivers over many years."

**Ashgate Hospice Donation**



As some of you will remember we ran 2 raffles including the sale of several bottles of Sloe Gin, to raise money for this very worth while organisation, in total from those events we managed to raise £500.00.  
 We had some funds that were not donated to charity in 2019 so we decided to include an extra £300.00 making a very useful donation to the Hospice of £800.00.

Cont;

This last two years have been very difficult for Hospices as most of their funding comes from their shops and donations, so every little helps.  
 The Hospice asked me to pass on their thanks to all who so generously gave to help keep their valuable work going.

Brian

**Lady of the Stream**



*Photo by Jack Perks*

Its no secret I have a soft spot for the lady of the stream and generally takes the hotspot as my favourite fish (though barbel and eels come close). My home county of Nottinghamshire is pretty much devoid of grayling with the odd cameo in the Trent but not prolific I have to venture into neighbouring Derbyshire where the grayling really begins to take hold. I've been privileged to both fish and film in many of Derbyshire's rivers with the Wye, Derwent and Dove being regular haunts for me. Fish are like people with different personalities and traits, perch are quite bold and I've had them come right up to me when snorkelling while others like salmon scarper as soon as I dip a toe into the river. Grayling are generally quite obliging and I've had some amazing encounters with them over the years but there's one really sticks out to me. It was spring in 2014 the daffodils filled the edges of the wye not to far from Bakewell, the sun was in glinting of the riffles and love was in the air for the local grayling.



Cont;





Photo by Jack Perks

They tend to be quite site faithful returning to the same spots to spawn each year and its become an annual pilgrimage for me to visit and film the grayling a bit like a fishy voyeur.

Springwatch had the usual offerings of fur and feathers with badgers and blue tits so I was determined to get some fish on this years programme.

The male grayling develop this deep dark colour almost blue and will parallel swim a bit like rutting red deer. If that doesn't scare the rival off they start to fight. I always find it quite amusing when people think of grayling as dandy and delicate when these males smash the hell out of each other biting, pushing, and head butting reminding me of my Friday nights out in Nottingham!

Eventually a male will triumph and escort a female to the gravels, unlike trout they don't have a redd per say but return to roughly the same area of fine grayling and pacey water. He drapes his magnificent dorsal fin over her almost to cover her modesty and they spawn. The female opens her mouth to allow more oxygen in though it looks more x rated then that in the footage. In took four years of working with river keepers, the grayling society and anglers to find the right spots for filming and I was chuffed to say they least. I sent the footage into Springwatch who were pleased but said "could you do it again we need some more angles!" So off I went to try and replicate fours year work in a day but luckily my grayling didn't let me down!

One of my absolute dreams is to film arctic grayling after seeing Peter Cockwill deliver a talk to the Grayling Society a few years ago. The colours were like an oil painting on them and who knows maybe some day I will. In the mean time I'm quite happy with my local Peak District rivers.

**Jack Perks**

**Society Catch Return Form**

***Just a gentle reminder to all, that The Grayling Society in an effort to monitor Grayling populations and their health, have introduced on the Society website a Catch Return form. This form is not just for members but any angler wishing to participate.***

Cont;

***Just open up the website, click on Catch Return and follow the instructions.***

***Simple, even for me.***

***Please help with this and pass on the message to your angling friends and other club members.***

<b>Date Fished</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Gray-ling Under 150 mm</b>	<b>Gray-ling 150-300m m</b>	<b>Gray-ling over 300m m</b>
17/10/2021	Waltonian	3	17	0
17/10/2021	Comford FFC	15	29	0
17/10/2021	Cressbrook & Litton	1	5	1
17/10/2021	Peacock FFC	0	2	0
07/11/2021	Tin Mill	0	2	0

As you can see, Catch Returns for our area have been a little thin this month with returns mainly from our Symposium fishing day on the 17/10/2021. We need as much information as possible on a regular basis, so come on lads and lasses get out on the river and show the other Areas how good our rivers are.

Tight Lines  
Brian

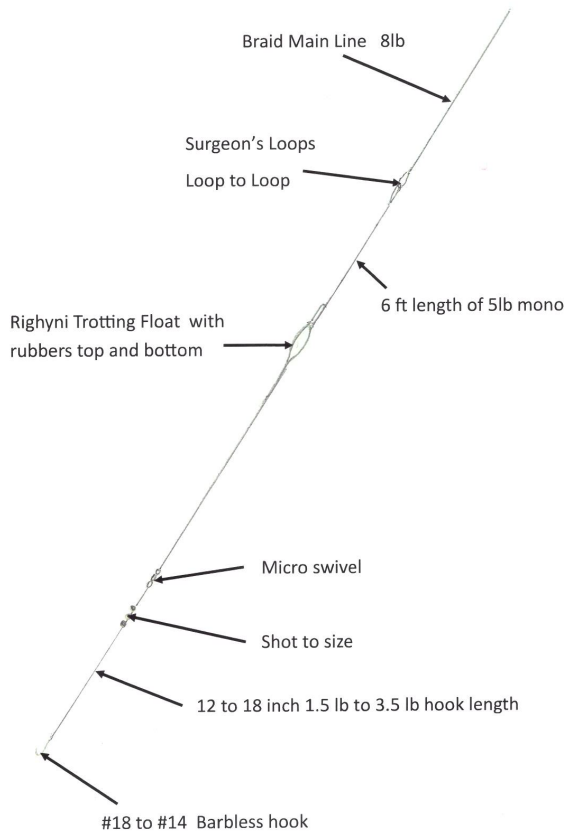
**My Trotting Rig for Grayling**

Over the last few weeks I have been asked several questions about my set up for long trotting. I may be telling my Grandmother how to suck eggs, but hear goes.

- 1 As you can see from my diagram, for my main line I use braided line, this is for several reasons. For grayling I use 8lb breaking strain because so far that is the finest I have found. I use braid because (a) it floats, (b) it has no memory (c) it has the same diameter as say 3lb mono line and (d) because it has no stretch. When trotting long distances you get better pick-up and less missed bites.
- 2 How do I knot Braid to Mono. I have tried several knots, but the quickest and easiest I find is Loop to Loop using a Surgeon's knot on each loop.
- 3 Why do I use Mono for my float length. This is because I like to use wire stemmed Righyni floats with rubbers top and bottom. Braid will not go through the fine bottom rubber but mono will. The soft 5lb mono matches very nicely with the flexibility of the short hook length.
- 4 Why use a micro swivel to join the float length to the hook length.

Cont;

I use the swivel to reduce the bait spin when retrieving the bait, particularly when using worm. It also makes a good connection to the two lengths of line.



- 5 I use a short light hook length because of its thickness, suppleness and ability to be able to tie on small hooks. If unfortunately you do break off on a fish, the fish will only have a short length of line to get rid of.
- 6 As you can see from my diagram I bulk my shot at the top of the hook length or just above the swivel on the float length. Unlike shotting patterns for still waters where a spread pattern may be used, river flows are slower nearer to the bed than on the surface, bulk shotting is then advisable to get the bait down to the depth required as soon as possible.
- 7 To keep in contact with the bait it is an advantage to hold back the float slightly so that the bait can travel at the speed of the current near the river bed and in front of the float. This gives a more realistic bait presentation and keep direct contact with the bait. When the trot is complete do not just reel back but hold the float in position for a few seconds, this will make the bait rise to the surface similar to the induced take with a fly. This can be very successful particularly when using maggots.

We each have our own preferred method for bait fishing, but this works for me. Have a go and let me know how you get on.

Brian

## Fly Tiers Corner



### Red Tag

Cortney Williams in his book "A Dictionary of Trout Flies" describes the Red Tag thus;

"As a grayling fly, it is the best of all the fancy patterns. It originated in Worcestershire and was probably the invention of a Mr Flynn, a Teme angler, around 1850. At that period it was known as the Worcester Gem.

In the year 1878, when it was little used outside the county of its birth, a Worcester gentleman (possibly the inventor) gave a copy of the fly to F. M. Walbran who introduced it into the Yorkshire rivers, where it met with immediate success and soon became a leading favourite amongst all northern grayling anglers. The first time Walbran tested it on the Yore, he killed no less than twenty-five grayling on it. Presumably it was he who gave it the name by which it is now known. The Red Tag is fished dry or wet, but more frequently the latter. When more than one fly is used, it is always fished on the tail".

#### Materials

**Hook;** #14  
**Body;** Bright green Peacock's herl from the moon feather  
**Hackle;** Bright Red Cock  
**Tag;** Bright Red Wool or scarlet ibis.  
**Thread;** Williams does not mention the thread but John Roberts in his book "A guide to River Trout Flies" states the thread to be Purple.

Brian





# FLIES & PIES

## LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENING



Join us to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the  
NEW Bakewell Store

We have lot's going on during the evening,  
including:

Guest Fly-Tyers  
Tropic Skincare  
Colour Match Consultancy by Jayne Rawlinson  
Special ORVIS Offers  
Silent Auction

All proceeds on the night to go to:



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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 :

Brian 07711 905776

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](http://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](http://www.cormorantwatch.com)



Show your support and help spread awareness of this issue by downloading this poster from [www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants](http://www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants)

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# 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](http://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk)

### Step 2

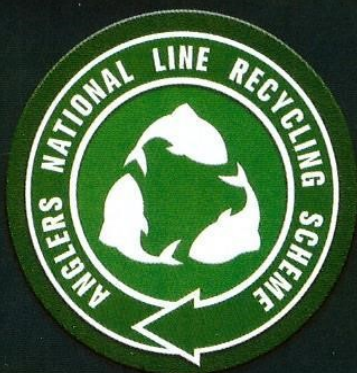
Keep your old monofilament and braid separate and take it along to your chosen recycling point. The shop may have separate bins for braid and mono but if they have a single bin please keep the braid bagged and place this in the bin.

### 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](http://www.anglers-nlrs.co.uk)

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

