



The Grayling Society

Newsletter

Area 8 January 2022 (No. 58)

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Happy New Year

News From the Front

To
Brian + all of our friends
part of the Grayling Society
Group 8,

Thank you so much for your
very generous donation of £800,
which will go directly to future
patient care and will make
a real difference to the lives
of our patients and their loved
ones.

From everyone here at the hospice
thank you for your kindness.

Best wishes,

Becky (fundraising)

received this letter from the Ashgate Hospice thanking us
for the generous donation.

Programme of events for 2022

Evening meetings (Bakewell Golf Club)

Wednesday January 19th Don Stazicker

Wednesday February 9th Jack Perks

Fly Tying Days (Ashford in the Water Village Hall)

Saturday January 8th (Beginners)

Saturday January 15th (Masterclass)

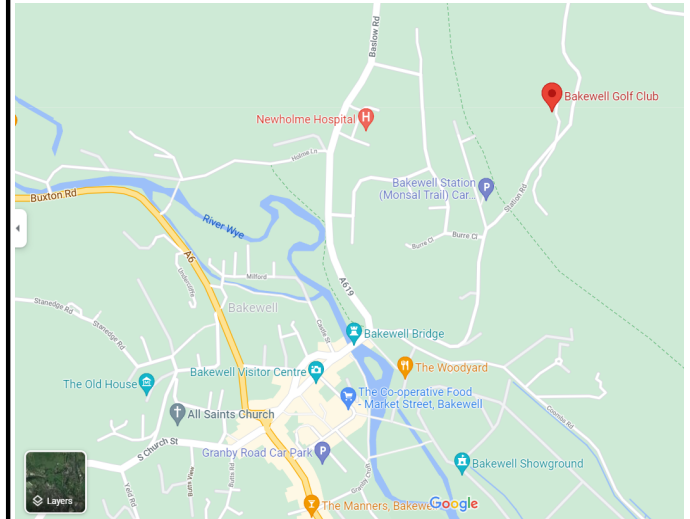
Saturday February 5th (Masterclass)

Saturday March 12th (Masterclass)

Fishing Day (Cane and Pin, Cromford Fly Fishers Club)

Sunday January 16th

Brian



Bakewell Golf Club

End of an Era



We are in the heart of the Peak District. A warm July evening, the sun setting on the mellow limestone walls of an old cob-bled courtyard. Fly fishing friends are foregathered in expectation of an eagerly awaited annual event - the emergence of the Sage of Bakewell on the occasion of his birthday.

There is an anticipatory murmur as the appointed hour approaches

Cont;

Peter Arfield, for it is he, descends the steep stone staircase from his Piscatoribus Sacrum and his faithful fly fishing followers fall silent. In years gone by he has allowed his homilies to range far and wide on matters piscatorial. The evocative smell of woodsmoke in the water meadows as the season draws to a close; the fatal charms of the Double Badger, busked with a gossamer thread plucked from a Nun's habit; in olden times, the early Sunday morning exodus of hundreds of Sheffield steel workers to fish the curiously named Lincolnshire drains - Hobhole, Dog in a Doublet, Hubbert's Bridge, Sibsey Trader; would-be customers from the informal branch of the Caravan Club, false bonhomie changing to sinister threat on being refused a spool of line and a packet of hooks. Such, my friends, are the experiences of those who seek knowledge at the Oracle of Hebden Court. But what is to be handed down in 2021? We are shocked to hear that his tenure of the tiny shop atop the stone steps is to come to an end on Christmas Day. How can this be? We are amazed to learn that over 30 Seasons have passed since the little shop was conceived by Chris Lee, first as Piscatoria with Peter assisting, followed by Tony Plant and then Peter in his own right in its later embodiment as The Fly Fishing Shop. Here he has dispensed fly fishing impedimenta, wise advice and, at Christmas time, perhaps a small libation for discerning fly fishers, not just from North Derbyshire but as far afield as Sheffield, Stoke on Trent and Stockport. All this time and never once realising just how fortunate we were. On seeing our dismay, the kindly Sage is quick to reassure us that he is not retiring. Well, maybe just a little bit, as he has a few other matters to attend to. He will still be offering a guiding service on his beloved Derbyshire Wye and there are other plans in hand which he hopes to reveal in the New Year.

So thank you Peter for your long and loyal service to the fly fishers of Derbyshire and our very best wishes for the future to you and Lynda.

David Marriott

Orvis Flies and Pies night

We were once again invited to put on a display at the new Orvis shop in Bakewell on the evening of Friday 3rd of December. It was the first time since Covid struck that Orvis have put on this event. This year I had a helper, Steve Newsome who demonstrated and tied a few flies for us. It was a busy evening with a good number of people interested in the Society and the events we are about to put on in the new year.

Cont;



Don Stazicker chatting to Steve Newsome



Picture from Orvis Facebook



Picture from Orvis Facebook

Grayling trotting floats

Over the years man has used floats of some kind to help catch fish, everything from a piece of stick bound onto gut or hair for a line to the modern floats. In the last one hundred years things have changed with the use of cork, balsa, bird and porcupine quills, paper and even plastic.

When I first started to fish for grayling on the River Rye in Yorkshire I used the small "Bob Float" which at that time was the float to use. These floats had their drawbacks, the main being they were difficult to see at long distances and the shape of the body creates a resistance which the fish feels and ejected the bait before the hook could be engaged.

A friend introduced me to the Avon type float, this was a much better float giving better bite indication and hooking ability. But this too had one drawback, because of the diameter of the float top it was difficult to see when trotting at long distance.



Bob Floats

Then came a birthday present, the book *Grayling* by R. V. Righyni, what an inspiration. In his book he gave a diagram of the float he had invented. A balsa body, a wire stem and a float top of a length and diameter that can be seen at great distances. I had to try and make one or two. My first attempts were a little crude to say the least, but they worked and how!! At that time, I was a member of a club that had just with the help of the then Rivers Authority, re-introduced grayling into the River Don in South Yorkshire. I now had the floats and now the grayling and what success I had; the float worked perfectly.

I used my home-made floats for many years until as a member of the Grayling Society I started using the floats that they were selling, very much like Reg Righyni's design.

Latterly I met the man who is now a friend and float mentor, Chris Lythe, a float maker who makes exceptional floats. He had a major influence in the floats I make today, Righyni and Avon floats both of which I use.

Cont;



Righyni Floats 2BB & 3AAA



Cork Bodied Avon Floats 5BB & 4AAA

I have been asked on several occasions how and why I use these floats and what is the purpose of the different sizes. Simple, each weight and colour of float for different river, bait, and light conditions.

Light Righyni floats for shallow steady runs where a delicate setup is advisable.

Heaver Righyni floats where there is a deeper, stronger current and therefore extra weight is required to get the bait deep enough to be presented at the correct depth. The floats have the same diameter tops and wire stems and using rubbers top and bottom enables both size and colour to be changed to suit conditions.

Cont;

The same principal works with the Avon floats particularly if heavier baits such as worm are used. As with the Righyni floats, with the use of rubbers top and bottom changing floats is simple.

The last type of float I would like to mention is the fluted body float. This is one that I have used but not made, I leave that up to my friend Chris Lythe. This type of float holds its position in the current very well and allows the mending of the line with only a minimum of movement from the floats original track.



Chris Lythe's Fluted Body Floats



2 Floats made by Reg Righyni
Cont;

The float top colours I use are Red, Orange, Yellow and Black. All work well in a variety of conditions, Red and Orange I use in most light and river surface conditions. Yellow works well in dim light conditions particularly when fishing under bushes and trees. Black should always be a colour in your float box, it is an essential colour to use when there is a silver sheen on the water in bright sunlight.

I hope this has been of interest and help in the choice and use of floats for long trotting for grayling.

Brian

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 Detached Body Midge.

I very often find the leaner days of late summer often spring the most surprises, particularly with the Grayling which rise quite readily to a hatch of midge or a fall of small beetles.

This pattern was shown to me by Kev Stephenson, and I admit to changing the tying sequence, very slightly, to make it easier for me as. It's been a good pattern for me this season as the Grayling were taking the small patterns right into September. Plus the a few a few good trout.

What I like about them is that they can be tied on very small hooks 20 to 24 in my case, as seeing the darn things are a problem, and my sticky butter fingers. The hook dips to a sub aqueous position when it is being fished. I tie these up in black, dun, grizzle, and a brown and sandy grizzle as in the photo.

MATERIALS

Materials are simple. Peacock herl (Use the ones with very little herl). The hackle I use is a midge saddle, but you can use the very small hackles from a neck.

TYING SEQUENCE.

Set the thread just behind the eye and tie in two strands of Peacock herl with the tips over the eye, and secure the butts in touching turns just 2 mm or so down the shank, and cut the waste.

Take the tread to a point where the herl is tie in, fold the two strand back over the shank towards the bend and take just two turns to secure in that position. At this point tie in the hackle.

If you have a Gallows Tool, nip the two herl strands in the Gallows Tool clip under tension. It can be a little fiddly with-out one.

Wind the hackle up the herl strand to a length whereby it is slightly longer than the hook shank length.

Then wind the hackle back down to the starting point. Tie off the hackle by taking turns of thread around the base of the herl and hackle, then cut the surplus hackle. Whip finish behind the eye.

Cont;

Take the herl from the clip, tie the two ends of the herl into a knot at the tip of the hackle and cut the waste. Put a drop of varnish on the knot.

I found this a useful addition in the fly box this season. They are quick and easy to tie. My guess is that the fish may see them as a tiny midge cluster, or small beetles. I will leave that one open to discussion perhaps.

Bob Lomax.

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. Sadly only two catches this month have been recorded on the Society website Catch Return, they being from the upper River Don. All the rivers in our area, the Rivers Derwent, Wye, Lathkill, Don, Dearne and Rother hold populations of grayling all of which it important to record your catches.

If you have not already recorded your catches all you have to do is go to the society website graylingsociety.net click on Catch Returns and follow the instructions. It is important as Society members that we do all we can to help conserve and protect this beautiful fish we so enjoy. There are still places in the country that the grayling is not appreciated and still thought of as vermin to be eradicated. We therefore need as much information as possible to show that grayling are not a threat to other fish stocks and are a valuable asset to any fishery.

So please do your bit and help this beautiful fish we appreciate and cherish.



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

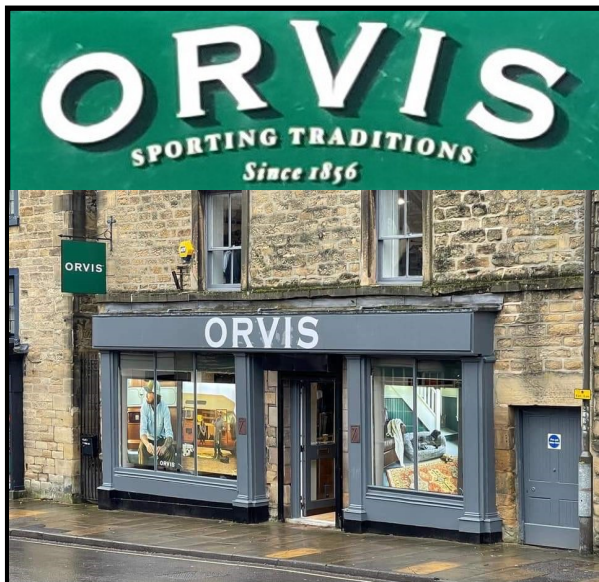
Friends of Area 8



The Willows Business Park,
Near Bank, Shelley,
Huddersfield HD8 8LU
Tel/Fax: 01484 600555
Email: info@flyonlyonline.co.uk
www.flyonlyonline.co.uk



Friends of Area 8



Orvis Bakewell
7 King Street
Bakewell
DE45 1DZ
Tel: 01629 810226



111 Dudwell Ln, Halifax HX3 0SS.
Chris Eastwood 01422 322954
lathkill.com
Order by phone or internet



Croft House, 8 Croft Field, Silsden, Keighley
BD20 0NA
Phil Holding on 01535 657479
www.flytyingboutique.com
Order by phone or internet

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 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



Male Goosander



Female Goosander

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...



Scan the code

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

