



The Grayling Society

# Newsletter

Area 8 November 2021 (No. 56)

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

We fish for hours and hold a grayling for seconds

**News From the Front**



**John Mycock**

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of one of the Society's and Area 8's stalwarts, John Mycock. John died on Thursday 21st of October. He had been in and out of hospital several times over the last 4 months with a chest infection which turned to pneumonia. John was a passionate angler, fly dresser and family man and will be remembered by many who attended our evening meetings as the one sitting on the front row always ready with a question or quip for whoever was stood in front of the audience. He was one of the first to let me know he would be joining us on our fishing days, in fact he was one of the original anglers to attend our first fishing day in 1988. Our condolences go to John's family at this sad time

### **Salmon and Trout Grayling Day on the River Ure**

For the first time Grayling Society members were invited to join with the Salmon and Trout Assoc. on their Grayling day on the River Ure in North Yorkshire on the 10th of October. As is the custom we all met up for a pre fishing day drink and bacon butty at the the Three Horseshoes at Wensley.

Cont;

Raffle tickets for lots of donated prizes sold like hot cakes, with the profits going to the local Rivers Trust.

John Burton, who for many years has organised the day could not make it because he was self-isolating.

Peter Chambers our new Area Secretary for Yorkshire stood in.



*The gathering*



*Peter Chambers handing out the beats*

After beats were given out about 10.00 am we all set off to get ready for the 12.00 pm start. Fishing takes place between 12.00 and 4.00 pm, after which we return to the Three Horseshoes to register our catches. There is a cup to be won for the largest grayling, this being worked out from catch returns. This gives a little competition to what is essentially a social event.

On our return there are always tales of the one that got away what flies anglers had used etc as well as more light refreshment before the main event, the raffle!!! Lots of bottles ,books , fly boxes etc to be won, well worth the cost of the tickets. When I first started attending the day in 1988, one of the prizes was a tin of Pigs Trotters (The Star Prize !!!)

Cont

This tin of trotters came back for years, until one year it disappeared, the tin sides had bulged out and the contents had obviously taken on a life of it's own. Guess where I got the Star Prize tin of Sardines from for our evening meeting raffle!!



*The Raffle*

This year there were 45 anglers, a little less than usual, but between us all 215 grayling were recorded and 46 out of season trout.

This is always a great event being able to meet up with and chat with friends you may not have seen for 12 months. I am sure The Society will be invited to join in next year and I will keep you informed closer to the day.

Brian

**2021 Symposium and AGM**

This years Symposium took place at the Casa Hotel in Chesterfield and was jointly hosted by both Area 5 and Area 8. As you may remember the Society should have held the Symposium there last year, but Covid restrictions forced us to cancel and rearrange for this year. Because of Covid the hotel had limited space to accommodate diners at tables so delegate numbers had to be limited. In total there were 75 delegates, which was a little down on previous years, but this did not dampen the enjoyment of the weekend.

Speakers this year were Peter Hayes and Don Stazicker, (The new twosome after Edmonds and Lee or Goddard and Clarke) who gave an excellent talk on how fish take the fly. Shaun Leonard from the WTT unfortunately could not attend because he had to isolate, but his talk was given by Dr Chris Thomas from the GRT. The third speaker was Dr Jessica Marsh who gave an update on the GRT's work on the River Wylfe.

Cont;

The last speaker of the day was our President Feargal Sharkey and by way introducing himself gave an excellent talk about his work over the years on his fight against pollution in our rivers.



*Break time*

There was the usual trade stands to spend your money at, this year we had Richard Haley, cane rod builder with Peter Arfield, Jack Perks with his natural history cards and calendars, Paul Morgan Coch Y Bonddu Books, Mark Hamnett with Fishing Matters, Stuart Wardle with The Durham Fly Fishing Company and last but not least, yours truly with Classic Fly tying tools and materials and Classic Trotting Floats.

That evening we all gathered for the Annual Dinner followed by the GRT Auction, which this year raised a massive £3100.00p



*Some of the delegates at Dinner*

The Sunday saw 45 anglers set off on various waters to try their best to catch grayling. Club waters which we were kindly allowed to fish were, on the River Wye, Cressbrook and Litton Fly Fishers Club Ltd and Peacock fly fishers Club. On the River Derwent we had the Waltonian Angling Club Ltd and Cromford Fly Fishers Club. We also fished three club waters on the River Dove, Leek and District Angling Club, 59ers Angling Club and one other who did not wish to have any publicity.

All anglers were asked to hand in their catch return cards, the information of which was passed on to the appropriate angling clubs. This information will in due course be included on the Society's own Catch Return on our website.

Cont;



*Sandy Booth at Cromford Meadows*



*Denise Payne Cromford Meadows*



*Greg Payne Cromford Meadows*



*Bacon butty and cuppa time in the Fisherman's Lodge at Cromford Meadows.*

*Left to Right  
Hilary Langan, Steve Langan, John Davison, outside,  
Greg Payne and right Denise Payne*

**Many thanks to all the clubs and their members who helped make the day such a success**

**Next Years Symposium will be in Lancashire.  
The venue yet to be confirmed**

Brian

## This winters Programme of Events

This year has been problematic to arrange evening meeting, because as some of you know the Rutland in Bakewell where for many years we have based our talks, has changed hands and has turned the old ballroom into a restaurant. Covid and its restrictions has not helped either. Hilary is in the process of finding a new venue in or around Bakewell, which is proving difficult, but we do hope to have things sorted out for after Christmas. Steven will be looking at the fly tying masterclass days for January, February and possibly March and I will be trying to arrange a fishing day in January. So as you can see we are trying to get back to normal as soon as possible.

## Fly Tiers Corner



© Robert L Smith

### The Fog Black or Bullfinch Midge

This pattern is found in many Wharfedale fly manuscripts from the 1820's to the 1930's. Many manuscripts state that it should be fished from late June when it becomes an excellent Grayling fly. I've had some great days casting it singularly to grayling rises during late October afternoons. Sadly it seems like this fly has been largely forgotten by many modern anglers who seem oblivious to its qualities.

#### **Materials**

**Hook;** #16

**Silk;** Purple

**Body;** Heron or sometimes black ostrich herl tied sparingly

**Wings;** Fibres from a Bullfinch's wing (Sub Mallard Primary)

**Hackle;** Starling's neck

**Taken with his permission from Robert Smith's article on Facebook's "The Spider and Soft Hackled Fly Community"**

Brian

## Society Grant

Earlier this year Tin Mill Angling Club successfully acquired a grant from the Society towards the cost of removal of 3 weirs from their stretch of the River Don above Sheffield. Some years previously the club constructed the weirs using "Gabion baskets", filling them with stone to form the a permanent structure.



Top Weir



Middle Weir



Bottom Weir

As can be seen from the pictures all three have either deflected downstream or broken apart, causing considerable bank erosion and excessive siltation above the top and middle weirs.

The club also had a grant from The Environment Agency and appropriate consents for the weirs removal. The Wild Trout Trust gave advice on the weir removal and environment restoration

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The club also decided to carry out an invertebrate survey below each of the weir before work started. This was to establish a basic "Baseline Assessment" as part of an ongoing survey to establish the impact on the invertebrate life following the weirs removal.

Removal work was carried out by the River Stewardship Company, using their knowledge and manpower to carry out the work



Dismantling the Gabion Weir



Brush Bank Reinforcement



Tree stabilisation



After Weir removal

Although the Weirs have now been removed there is still more work to be carried out in the next phase on more bank reinstatement and tree planting to help stabilise the eroded river banks.

A full report on the work produced by John Blewitt the Project Manager for the club, will be published shortly in the "Grayling"

Brian

Friends of Area 8



The Willows Business Park,  
Near Bank, Shelley,  
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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 :

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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Scan the code

# 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

