



The Grayling Society

Newsletter

Area 8 October 2022 (No. 62)

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

NOTHING CLEARS THE MIND LIKE A BIG FISH

News From The Front

It has been a busy summer this year, I have attended several events with the Grayling Society stand.

The summer started with the opening of the new fishing shop in Bakewell, after the closure of both Bakewell Fly Fishing Shop and Orvis. On the 21st of May, Mallon and Green opened their new shop in the old Orvis premises. The shop was officially opened by Karl Humphries.



Karl cutting the ribbon officially opening the shop



The shop has a wide range of fly fishing equipment, classic country clothing and fly tying demonstrations "in shop" on Saturdays and Sundays.

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Bakewell Show

On the 17th July on a very hot Sunday I attended the reborn Bakewell Show. This time it was a one day show, and on a weekend not the usual old days mid week. The show was held during the very hot summer and although many people did attend it was nowhere near as busy as the old show. May be next year will be better.



Roger Walker tying on the Flyology stand

The 29th to 31st of July saw us attend the Cromford fishing Fair at the historic Cromford Mill. This was our third visit to the Fair and the first after a 12 month suspension following Covid restrictions. This time there were more stands to look at and more opportunities to purchase some first class equipment as well as fly tying demonstrations and information stands.

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This year I had the help of Bob Lomax on the stand demonstrating some of his innovative flies.



Fly Tiers Row



Flyology



John "Arkwright" Blewitt with his cooking demo and antique tackle.



Tim's Tackle to the left and Pallatrax carp equipment

Each year the fair gets better with more interesting attractions.

Chatsworth Country Fair

The last Fair of the summer was Chatsworth Country Fair, held this year on 2nd to the 4th of September in the grounds of the beautiful Chatsworth House Estate. This Country fair with it's Fisherman's Village gets better every year. The fair made a welcome return after a years break due to Covid, but came back with a bang. More trade stands, fly tiers row, bigger casting pool for casting demonstrations and instruction, particularly for the kids and Fly v Maggot competitions each afternoon



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Bob Lomax once again demonstration Fly Tying on the stand



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Stuart Wardle struggling to get his waders on before his casting demo

Cressbrook and Litton Flyfishers Club

Over the summer period members of the Grayling Society were invited to join members of the C.L.F.C at two of the club's events, held on the banks of the their waters on the River Wye.

The first was the now annual "Bugs and Burgers" evening, held on the 22/7/22, when Stuart Crofts came and took samples on the insect life from the river and gave an instructive talk about the insects, their Laval stages and their habitat requirements. After dark Stuart set up a white screen and a cage with special lighting to attract the adult aquatic insects as well as terrestrial flying insects. He also shone a light over the river to show how much fly life there was above the surface of the water.



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The second event was the annual "Cane and Silk Day" held on the 10th of September. This year we had the usual attractions, bacon butties beautifully cooked by head chef David Percival, fly tying with David Palmer, kick sampling and invertebrate identification by Andrew Middleton, Richard Holman cane rod builder, raffle, the Alisdair Duncan Memorial Trophy casting competition, and not forgetting, in her absence Hillary Langan's ginger cake. We also had for the first time Edward Barder cane rod builder and John Green with the stand from Mallon and Green. The day started at 10.00am and went on until 4 o'clock with the opportunity for Grayling Society members to fish the Wye in the afternoon. Just over £400 was raised on the day for charity. Next years Cane and Silk Day will be held on 22/7/22, so put the date in you diary.



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Raffle winner with her Winston fly rod
Sally-Ann Froberg



Richard Haley trying his hand at the casting competition



Alisdair Duncan Memorial Trophy casting competition winner
Paul Sissons



Autumn Dun

Picture by Cyril Bennett

Area Events 2022/23

November 16th David Southall, (Fishing for Grayling)

December 14th Stuart Crofts, (The Alien Nation)

January 18th Don Stazicker,

February 15th Tim Jacklin, (River Ecclesbourne Restoration)

March 15th Paul Proctor,

The evenings will once again be held at the Bakewell golf Club and commence at 7.30. There will be a small charge of £4.00 per person and a raffle.

We will be holding 2 grayling fishing days again, with details sent out for the first day shortly.

We will also be holding 3 fly tying days in the new year

Brian



Fly Tyers Corner

Viva España

As chance would have it, during a conversation prior to this year's annual grayling match on the River Ure. I was asked if I would be fishing spiders, and if so, which patterns would I be using. My instinctive reply was "Needle Flies". And with good reason! During September and October as the trout season ends and autumn grayling fishing comes into its own. These distinctive insects are often found in good numbers on the surface of many northern freestone rivers. The insects in question being the Late Needle Fly (*Leuctra fusca*), which emerges from August and carries on into the winter months. And the Willow Fly (*Leuctra geniculata*), which generally emerges from August until November. Though I have seen the odd dozen or so, even in the cold days of late December. Late season trout, and autumn and winter grayling readily take both these insects when they are in abundance on the river's surface. And, as one would expect, the north country anglers of old had the foresight to develop a handful of patterns which ably fitted the profile of these natural insects. Two of the most famous of these traditional patterns being the Dark and Light Spanish Needle.

Fly patterns which even without their distinctive names, are amongst the most idiosyncratic of north country wet flies due to their unique peacock herl heads.

My preferred imitation of the Late Needle Fly is Edmonds & Lee's dressing of the Dark Spanish Needle with its body of orange silk in shade 6b. This snuff-coloured shade of silk is sadly now becoming impossible to find. So, any spool of it should be treasured! The fly is then hackled with a "brownish feather taken from the hinder part of a Starling's wing where it joins the body". And as mentioned before, topped off with a head of peacock herl. For imitating the Willow Fly, I use the dressing of the Light Spanish Needle which is found in the fly manuscript of William Robinson of Otley. Here he lists a dressing of crimson body silk for the body. A hackle from the inside of Jack snipes wing or young starling apron, and of course a head of peacock herl. This dressing becoming well-known after its inclusion in Pritt's Yorkshire Trout Flies of 1885, later republished as North Country Flies in 1886.

As Brian and I tackled up beside a falling River Ure. My instinct proved to be correct, as countless Needle Flies took respite on the surface of Brian's car. And later in the day as the ninth grayling came to the net thanks to a Dark Spanish Needle. It proved my faith and instinctive choice in two old north country patterns was perfectly judged!

Dark Spanish Needle

Hook: Size 14 Partridge SUD2

Silk: Pearsall's 6B

Hackle: Brownish feather taken from under a starling's wing where it meets the body

Head: Peacock Herl

Light Spanish Needle

Hook: Size 14 Partridge SUD2

Silk: Crimson Silk

Hackle: Snipe under-covert Head: Peacock Herl

Robert Smith



Needle Fly Nymph

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Needle fly Adult

Please Help

The Grayling Society now have a “Catch Return” page on their website www.graylingsociety.net

The Society has an ongoing project to monitor the health and distribution of grayling populations in Britain.

If you could spare a minute each time you catch a grayling please go to the website and register your catch.

Thank You

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: stuartmcrofts@gmail.com

Friends of Area 8 Shops



Mallon and Green
7 King Street
Bakewell
DE45 1DZ
Tel: 01629 81052
Email: info@mallonandgree.co.uk
Website: <https://mallonandgreen.co.uk>



Steve Cooper
M Holding
Roughcote Lane
Caverswall
Stoke on Trent
ST11 9ES
Email: cookshillft@aol.com
Website: cookshill-flytying.co.uk



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 Clubs

River Wye

Cressbrook and Litton Flyfishers Club

Secretary; David Marriott
Email: djmarriott@icloud.com
Website: www.clff.co.uk

Peacock Fly Fishing Club

River Keeper; Jan Hobot
Email: wyeriverkeeper@sky.com
Website: www.haddonhall.co.uk

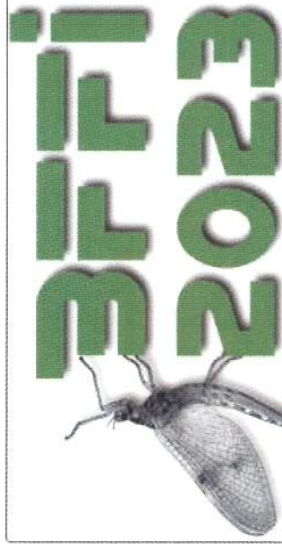
River Derwent

Waltonian Angling Club

Secretary; Tony Randell
Email: secretary@thewaltonian.co.uk
Website: www.thewaltonians.co.uk

Cromford Flyfishers Club

Secretary; Vic Beresford
Email: vicberesford@hotmail.co.uk
Website: cromfordflyfishers.co.uk



The UK's Premier Flyfishing Show

VISIT www.bffi.co.uk FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION



BRITISH FLY FAIR INTERNATIONAL

AMPLE FREE PARKING

11th and 12th February 2023

Sat: 9:30am - 4:30pm Sun: 9:30am - 4.00pm



ADMISSION ON THE DOOR - £12 1 DAY, £20.00 2 DAYS

ADVANCE TICKETS £10.00 1 DAY, £17.00 2 DAYS

All Accompanied under 16's Free Entry

Call 01782 388382 For Advance Ticket Sales

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOW GROUND - ST18 0BD

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

