



Sussex Branch Newsletter



OCTOBER 2018

CHIDDINGSTONE CASTLE

Report from Tony Woolnough

Dave Walker and I set up the Fly Dressers stall on Sunday 9th September in a tent provided by the organisers of the Country and Food Fair. The organisers requested a presentation when we were manning the tent at the Ardingly Children's Day. Although the Castle is almost out of our area, requests to the Kent Branch were not responded to, so we decided show the flag in their absence.



As you would expect, the Show contained demonstrations and competitions of horse riding, dog shows and numerous stalls.

A feature was the opportunity to cast for the wild carp in the Castle lake, which contains fish which looked amenable to fly fishing. Although quite a way to get to, fishing the lake for £10 a day seems good value; given the potential. perhaps we could have a Club Day there next year.

Given the fine weather, and lots of interest in Fly Dressing, a good day was had by all.

Tony W

Wanted !

Greys GX700 6/7/8 Reel

Ray Burt asks if there is anyone who has one of the above reels, and who is willing to sell, to contact him on **07768 800355** or e-mail him at:-
rayburt1944@yahoo.com

Autumn Auction

This will be held on Thursday 18th October at our usual Patcham community centre venue, with viewing starting from 6.45 pm and the Auction promptly starting at 7.30 pm.

This year's lots include a high proportion of the estate of Brian Raw so we hope there will be a big response to this for Shelagh's benefit

There are over 300 lots of generally high quality and there are also a number of donations and Branch own lots up for auction, so it is hoped that you will all do your best to see that the auction is well attended.

Ways you can help making it a success:

1. by coming along and having a bid or two
2. by bringing as many friends as possible
3. by telling as many non-branch members about the auction and encouraging them to come along.

The auction is open to everyone.

If you can't make it on the night, you can always leave bids for any lots via Roy Gurney, and we will see you the best deal up to your maximum bid limit.

(Tony Harrison writes on Page 4)

[The catalogue is attached or enclosed with this Newsletter](#)

October 4th 2018

Alan Middleton has kindly enabled us to show a screening of Simon Cooper's epic

"CHALK – Bedrock of Fly Fishing"

7.30 pm for 8 pm showing

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sorry to be so repetitive, but both the Guild and Branch subscriptions were due on 1st September, so **please** let Roy Gurney have them ASAP. It is not necessary to complete a form if your details have not changed – just give him the money or cheque - £32 for Guild and Branch, £12 if you pay the Guild direct.

If you do need a renewal form please ring 01273 581519 or download a copy from the website

TROPHY DAY
DUNCTON MILL—Sunday 28th October
Book your place now!

This is our premier event when a multitude of trophies are up for grabs. Get your entry in now to **Peter Winder**: phone **01273 973499**, e-mail peter.winder@btinternet.com or Roy Gurney on 01273 581519, e-mail fdgsussex@gmail.com

Alan Middleton

Alan stepped in at the last moment to give the first contribution to our Speaker's Nights, giving a highly entertaining insight into the art(?) of dying fur and feather.



The first thing we learnt was that it is better to do this in the kitchen when “ ‘er indoors” is not around! To get the best results for dying, it is generally better bleach the fur or feather, using propriety hair bleach (the stronger the better). Good quality dyes, such as those from Veniard, which give colour shades applicable to fly tying, are essential. Picric acid (available only from retired chemical traders!) was mentioned as the best yellow dye, but should be treated with great care to avoid blowing up the kitchen!



A most enjoyable, informative and amusing evening, when Alan gave valuable instruction with great wit.

Chairman's Chat

Here we have some good advice for Fisheries Engineers (from those who do not know) - namely build a rock ramp to form a fish pass. What a good idea! This will be a green solution and mimic a natural river, i.e. form a stretch of rapids; this will allow all species of fish to ascend an obstruction. The ramp design is at a comparatively shallow gradient of 1:20. If available, it can be formed in local rock and provide a picturesque solution to the problem if fish ascend.



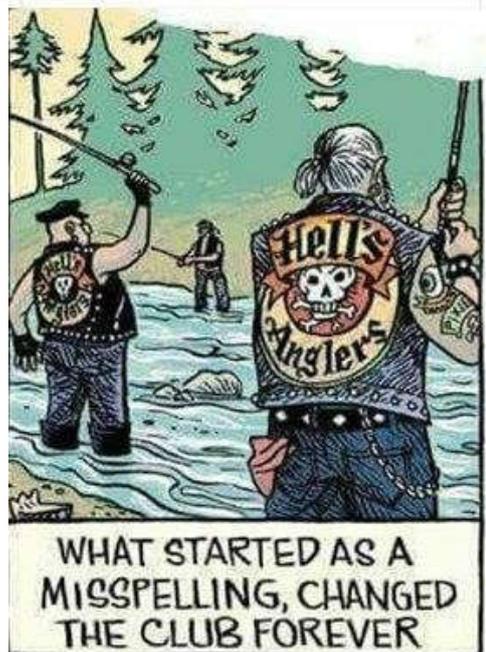
ROCK RAMP

Of course there are some problems; namely, it is very difficult to design structurally. Water may flow through the rocks and dry out the pass, flood flows can dislodge rocks. I should point out that we did not design any of these structures.

That is not all - how do you carry out hydraulic calculations of flows between the rocks – they all vary in shape and size? An Alaskan fish pass has a slope of 1:3, i.e. 1/7th the length of a rock ramp, and a Bottom baffle slope is 1:7, about 1/3rd the length; obviously more economic solutions.

I could go on but I am sure that you have all fallen asleep by now.

Tony W



A Ray Burt "Special"

As some of you know I'm in the Ouse Valley Flyfishers and regularly write something for their quarterly newsletter, *The Dibblers Digest*. When I asked Roy if an appeal for a specific reel could be put in this newsletter and he agreed, but suggested I should write something as a "fee" - seems fair enough so here it is - and blame Roy!

Those of you who go to the fly dressing classes each Thursday evening never see me as, I hate to say it as a member of the Fly Dressers Guild, I find tying trout flies a bit of a chore and now only tie flies that I can tie in five minutes. At one time I tied some Polish Woven Nymphs that took twenty minutes to tie and then I'd lose them on a snag in the bottom and think "what a waste of time that was". I've got more than forty boxes of flies, each holding on average two hundred and fifty flies, so don't really need to tie any more except replacements for lost flies. Out of these flies, I only use a small proportion of patterns but have been persuaded into tying more patterns by headings such as that on the front cover of the latest *Trout Fisherman* magazine, "35 Flies to try now".

The most successful flies are the ones you have confidence in and, far more important than asking someone what they have caught on, is at what depth and what type of retrieve. As George Selwyn Marryat, a friend of Frederick Halford, once said when asked the successful fly, he replied "the Driver". He was bemused by the answer, and it was not until Marryat explained "It's not the fly but the driver" that the penny dropped. I've always maintained that if you asked all the anglers what they caught on at the end of a day's fishing there would be a huge variety of patterns.

Now, having said that I find tying trout flies a chore, I love tying flies for my favourite fish - the Grayling. It's not only the flies that I find interesting, like Perdigones Ceramics and Garfunkels, but the methods that have been developed over the last thirty years - Czech style short range nymphing, longer range French nymphing, New Zealand style Klink and Dink, or more usually called the Duo method.

It shows how much my attraction for Grayling fishing is that each time I go involves a round trip of about two hundred and fifty miles and a ticket cost of £40 plus, but if you want to fish rivers like the Test, Itchen and Anton it's the price you have to pay. Anyway, I understand you can't take it with you, which is really good because in recent years I've shelled out on lighter rods, four weight, three weight and now two weight, and specialist lines and leaders.

I'm really pleased to see that the branch is having another day at Wherwell this year. It's a tough venue as because of the interest in Grayling fishing in recent years, it's pretty

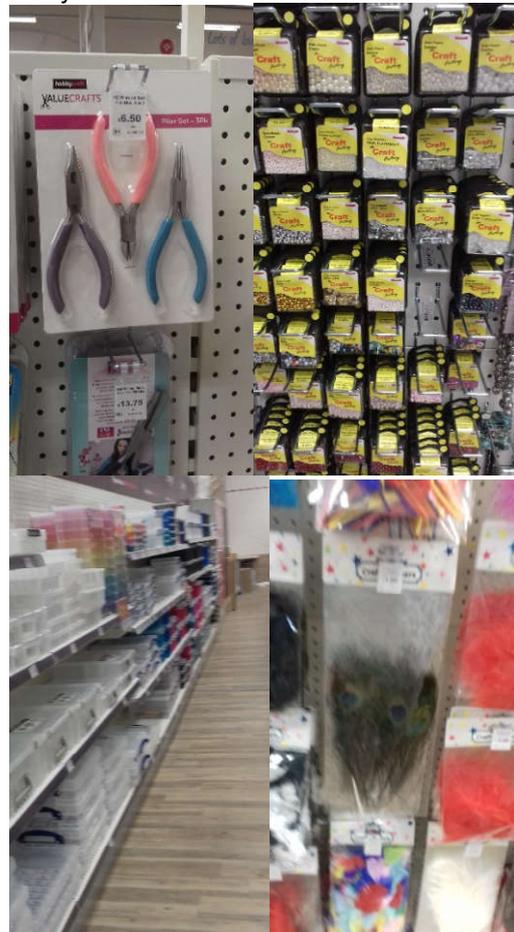
heavily fished and consequently the fish are easily spooked. Another good water for Grayling is the Lower Itchen Fishery, and I also get to fish other private stretches of both rivers on days arranged by the area secretaries of the Grayling Society, which anyone interested in Grayling fishing should join.

RB

Material Opportunities.

A recent visit to B & Q on Lewes Rd in Brighton found me "dragged" into the new Hobbycraft shop there by my other half, much to my initial disdain. However, wandering around the rather large store there are some bits which offer the fly-tyer access to either well known materials at much lower prices than specialist fly tying outlets or some possibly new materials.

The photo montage below shows some of the things I thought were quite useful but there are many others.



As the quality of photography is not great I can elaborate by saying this includes coloured felt-tips, tools, threads, beads, storage, stick-on eyes, closed cell foam sheets, glues and feathers. The latter are not always of great quality but there were some cheap finds such as Peacock Eyes and various colours of Marabou at very good prices. I have already used some of the yellow foam to make sweetcorn "flies" for carp & caught on them at Passies, when the fish

were becoming rather wary of the usual biscuit-fly fare. So if you find yourself down that way it's worthwhile having a little gander whilst your other half is stocking up on various glitters and ribbons for Christmas.

AW

The Autumn Auction

As you have been advised, our Autumn Auction will be held on the evening of Thursday 18th October 2018 at Patcham. Viewing will be from 6.45 pm and the auction will be run by our FDG President and auctioneer, Mike Humphreys who will start at 7.30 pm. As always our auction is open to both members and non-members alike – all are welcome – and there is no buyer's premium.

The auction catalogue is enclosed or attached to this newsletter, and describes in detail the 300 lots which will be offered for sale on the night. It is worth spending some time going through the catalogue as you will be struck by the variety and quality of the lots up for sale. Whether you are a fly fisherman/woman, fly tyer or just enjoy a good read, I can guarantee that there will be a lot of items of interest to you.

One thing worth emphasising is that this auction contains over 120 items being sold on behalf of Shelagh Raw, widow of the much missed Brian Raw. Brian loved his fishing and both fished and tied flies all his life, ending up with a room full of fishing tackle, fly tying material and books. The amount was such that Brian's lots will be spread over three auctions – this one on 18th October, our Spring Auction on 21st March 2019, and in addition Mike Humphreys is helping Shelagh by selling some at his Hertfordshire auctions.

By now, I hope you are getting the picture that this and the Spring auctions will be something special.

Currently I have two nightmares – the first is a repetition of the night of this year's spring auction when two major roads were blocked, one by an accident and the other by a police incident, effectively cutting off anybody from East Sussex attending. The second is that only a few people will turn up on the night, meaning many of the lots selling off for a pittance or being unsold and creating a backlog for the next auction.

So I appeal to all those members and former members who are unable to make our winter nights on a regular basis, to really try to make it down to Patcham for both this and the Spring auction. We would love to see you and would welcome your support. I can guarantee you not only a cup of tea or coffee during the viewing, but a really enjoyable evening and lots of bargains, in addition to the knowledge you are supporting the Branch.

As you know the auction is open to all and at this point I would ask all of you in receipt of this newsletter for your help and support; in addition to coming along on the night by encouraging as many of your fly-fishing and fly-tying friends to come along, perhaps even share a car to make a night of it. We do put posters up advertising the auction at the major Sussex fly fisheries, but there is nothing like word of mouth to get people to come along.

Bear in mind too, unlike when purchasing off the internet, in our auction you get the opportunity to handle and closely examine all the items you would potentially like to bid for.

Roy Gurney and I and all of the auction team look forward to welcoming you on the night and making it a fun evening.

Bring lots of cash (or, if you are known to us, your cheque book if you prefer) as I promise you that you will be tempted by the variety of high quality bargains on offer

Tony Harrison

Charity Pairs Cancelled

Due to lack of entries, this year's event has been cancelled. This is most regrettable, as this is a long-standing competition, open to neighbouring Branches and clubs and one wonders why there is such a lack of interest now.

Maybe the problem lies with the venue, Bewl Water, permitting "any method" fishing (or perhaps the behaviour of some boats not fly fishing), or is there another reason?

Should we perhaps move to another venue, though options seem to be few (Powdermill or Arlington)? Both mean further to travel for our Kent neighbours, and Arlington cannot be relied on for Autumn opening.

Let us have your views.

Our provisional programme for 2018-19 is attached or enclosed and will be updated as and when necessary.

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

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