

# The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



## Newsletter March 2023

Published by the Sussex Branch of the  
Flydressers Guild

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[Sussexflydresserguild.org.uk](http://Sussexflydresserguild.org.uk)

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### Salmon Fly Tying Day.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February saw 9 brave souls meet at Clayton for one of Alan Middleton's fantastic "fully dressed" salmon fly tying instruction days. The two flies tied are shown below, the Captain and the Black Creeper (or at least my versions of them). The former was the first to be attempted, as it has 29 different elements and Alan warned we might "lose the will to live" during the morning session particularly when it came to marrying up and tying on the built wing section. However, with his expert tuition, great encouragement and aided by many an

accompanying tale in Alan's inimitable style, we all managed respectable representations by the early afternoon.



The second fly whilst still demanding in its technique, was a rather simpler affair and allowed a more relaxed atmosphere compared to the morning's intense concentration.

It has to be said that Alan put in a tremendous amount of care and effort into preparing 9 individual sets of materials for

the tiers , so thanks again Alan and we hope the “liquid gold” goes some way towards showing our appreciation.

**AW 20/2/23**

## **Balcombe Fly Fishers Club**



### **A Call For New Members.**

With the start of the new trout season soon to be upon us on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Balcombe Fly Fishers Club is making a call for new members for the 2023 season.

Formed in 1984 the BFFC fishes approx. a mile and a half of single and double bank fishing on the River Ouse through the Balcombe and Borde Hill Estates just to the northwest of Haywards Heath.

For those of you that enjoy wading with a short rod and light tackle, this is the ideal fishery for you. Wading is essential; some beats easier than others, some more accessible than others.

The river is maintained and stocked by the club, with work parties working hard to get the river ready for opening day and then maintain it throughout the year. It is anticipated that in the coming year 150-200 high quality reared brown trout are likely to be introduced starting in late March. Whilst stocked fish weigh about a pound or so when put in they have been known to grow-on to a decent size, catches of 4lb have been recorded in recent years. There are also several wild brown trout caught by members each year.

There is generally a good hatch of up-wing flies and midges throughout the year and an abundance of terrestrials due to the bankside vegetation and over-hanging trees, the fish do not starve here! Last year, we had a pretty good Mayfly hatch from mid-May.

Fishing is available to members from 3<sup>rd</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October in accordance with local EA byelaws.

### **General rules**

- Upstream fly fishing only with dry flies, traditional wet flies or nymph imitation patterns only. Lures or streamer patterns are **NOT** permitted
- No fishing from the bank, wading only
- No hooks larger than size 14, (except Mayfly or Cranefly, max hook size 10), barbless or crushed barb hooks only

### **Fees**

Current Annual Membership = £90  
Special SFDG discounted joining fee = £10  
(regular Joining Fee = £35)\*

If you would like to know more or wish to talk a ‘tour’ of the river please speak with Gary Franklin (07766 823 203) or Jim Harris, they will gladly assist you.

\*applies to members of SFDG or any they introduce to us.



## **Email Update**

With me giving up the club position of Secretary, any messages sent to the email address [secretary.sfdg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.sfdg@gmail.com) will now be received by Alan Wells who has taken over the position. If anyone needs to contact me regarding the newsletter I can be reached on [sckrickard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sckrickard@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Storage Update**

The committee decided that we needed to sort out the storage situation. It was costing over a £100 per month for storage fees and insurance.

The bulk of the items in storage was the tentage and a decision was made to get rid of the tentage to a charity in Henfield. This left only boxes of various fly tying items, club clothing and a PA system. These items have been distributed amongst committee members for safe keeping and easier access.

The storage unit is now not required and the contract with them has been cancelled.

## **Grand Re-Opening of Duncton Mill**

On the Saturday and Sunday above Duncton Mill are having a "Grand Reopening " event and have asked if we could provide some tying demonstrators. The Saturday will be covered by Peter and Alan but there are spaces available to volunteer for the Sunday.

We would need 2 tyers so that they could spell each other (plus possibly a reserve) as the day is from about 9.00 till 4.00. The attraction is that each person will be allowed some "free" fishing time.... not quite free as you are asked to give £10 per caught fish but cheap by Dunctons new prices!

Anyway with that in mind I thought it fair to have a draw of names from those who tie regularly & express an interest. You can do this either by return email or letting me know at tying on Thursday evening and I will draw the winners names from a hat.