

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter

March/April 2026

**Published by the Sussex Branch of the
Flydressers Guild**

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Rod Raffle Update

Alan chatted to Keith earlier in the week. He is making progress, although suffering from a lot of tiredness. He hopes come to tying soon and I will be able to give him a lift.

Where the rod raffle is concerned, I suggested that ,with members agreement, we rollover this years contributions into the next tying season. Keith has kept a record of everyone's contribution, so if anyone would prefer reimbursement that is possible.

Tying Dates for the Diary

The dates below have been confirmed for the 2026/27 period for the Club Suite at Hurstpierpoint Village Hall.

3rd and 17th September '26

1st and 15th October '26

5th and 19th November '26

3rd and 17th December '26

7th and 21st January '27

4th and 18th February '27

4th and 18th March '27

1sr April '27

The Chairman's Day – Coltsford Mill

16 members fished, a very good turnout and really good to see Keith Verrall back on the bank. Fishing started at 9 after Bacon Rolls, paid for by yourr amazing Chairman!

The surface of the main lake was alive with feeding fish, a great sign so everyone thought but it was not to be. Nearly every peg was taken, I thought I would keep out of the way and fish the small lake and Cascades catching my three fish by 12. Surely everyone on the big lake must have bagged up, but only three fish had been caught. Alan, spooned one to find they were feeding on tiny emergers, size 20 hook.

By lunchtime a few of us had caught our limit, mainly from the small lake and Cascades, several 4lb plus fish and a very good average size.

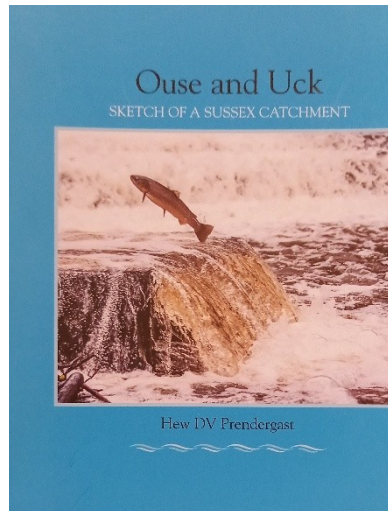
I hope to find the fishing is a bit easier for Trophy Day at Brick Farm. See you there.

Peter.

Ouse and Uck Catchment

I picked up this little book in the NT shop at Sheffield Park. I was told it was a reprint having first been published around 2018. The blurb says: " against a background of the historical role of the Ouse and Uck, this booklet describes the current issues and sets out some of the activities underway to solve them" . This is done quite thoroughly, with some lovely illustrations and with sound and not too bewildering scientific support .Interestingly, the water industries get off a little lightly but some of their

worst "crimes" have perhaps been committed since this was published. At 55 pages, it's a quick read but a good buy at only £7. I can lend it out if anyone is interested.



Albury Estate Fishery, Shere Nr. Guildford.



On 22nd March my son Sam and I visited Albury's Weston Lakes for the second time, to fish with unused tokens from our last trip in February, before they expired on 1st April (the end of Albury's season). To fish the day ticket venues at Weston or Vale End you pay a £17 day membership and then select the number of fish tokens you want. Used tokens are then put into the box in the lodge at the end of your session but you retain any unused ones to use on subsequent visits, a very fair system, I think. Whilst not that successful on our first visit, we had learned a fair bit about methods and the hotspots, one being the area around the western end of the main lake. Here you are able to access deep water close to the bank and Sam was encouraged by seeing several fish follow his flies all the way in but sadly not taking clearly enough for him to hook up. I was having no trouble hooking up but dropped three fish, before successfully landing one on a tungsten beaded BFD on a roly-poly retrieve on as a fast intermediate. I'd used this line, as a regular had said the better fish tended to sit deep early in the day. However, with some fish showing on the surface nearer a belt of cut weed, I changed to a Cat's Whisker on a midge tip and was rewarded with my second fish by about 9.30. With the rest of the day in prospect, which was brightening up nicely, I bought another 2 tokens. You

can do this using your phone at the lakeside and the ranger will bring the tokens to you on one of his regular circuits.

Takes having dried up a bit, we worked our way along the southern side of the main lake but with no further success. We then fished the smaller Woodgate Pool, where you could see small pods of fish but they had seen a lot of flies by then and were reluctant to take, apart from a few snatches at buzzers. We then tried the small, running water Kingfisher Pools, where again the fish could be seen easily but were very “fly shy.”

After lunch we returned to Woodgate where the fish now seemed far more active. Sam broke his blank on a Hares Ear and I took my third on a small beaded Damsel. We fished our way back down the bank towards the car park, Sam enjoying some sight fishing to cruising trout. Back near the western end it became obvious the trout were liking a continuous retrieve and I took my last and best fish of about 3 ½ lb, on a roly-poly retrieve again. Despite some frustration at missing out on big fish, this was a very enjoyable day at a venue I think we should consider as a club. It offers plenty of room, a variety of approaches, with sight fishing being great fun and Craig has offered some discounts if we can get 12 fishing. One for the future?

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