

The Flydressers Guild

Sussex Branch



Newsletter



March 2022

Published by the Sussex Branch of the
Flydressers Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833
Secretary: Simon Rickard 07799484166
Treasurer: Bill Black 01323 763807
Membership: Andy Wood 07445274967

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Forthcoming Events

FDG Auction

Our Spring Auction will be held at:

**Hurstpierpoint Village Centre
Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex, BN69UY**

on Sat 5th March 2022 at 12.30 pm sharp (Viewing from
11.45 pm)

Everyone welcome – open to all

Details can be obtained from Alan Wells.

We have received a few enquiries about parking for this event and this is the information Alan was given by the centre staff:

- Whilst the Hurstpierpoint Village Centre does not have parking itself, there is parking immediately opposite it in Trinity Road, which consists of both short and long stay options. The short stay requires a Mid-Sussex "parking disc" which costs £1 and allows 3 hours of parking **which would be rather tight timing**, so the long stay option would be better.

- Parking discs can be obtained from the local PO or the Library in the Village Centre.
- Should car parks be full there is free on road parking along Trinity Road and other surrounding streets within 2-3 minutes walk from the centre.
- There is also another long stay car park at "**Brown Twins**", further along Trinity Road beyond the medical centre.

From the desk of Ray Burt

Back in the December Newsletter Andy Wood wrote of his observations about waders and boots. For several years now I have worn breathable chest waders during the winter even though not needing to wade for the simple reason that they keep you dry on wet days warm on cold days and you can if needed kneel down in them and sit in them without getting any wet patches anywhere! Andy went on to talk about wading boots and had found that ones he had got from Sports Direct were very good value. I have had several pairs from Sports Direct over the years and they have very good grip while walking and are OK for some wading although I wouldn't want to use them on a river like the Welsh Dee. They seem to last me a couple of years and the last pair I bought back in October were the Gelert Horizon boots and cost just £29.99. Another thing I have had to buy this winter was a new wading jacket for use with the chest waders. I have had a Simms jacket for some years but on a day at Brick Farm at the end of October although I only fished from 8.30 till just after 11 my arms got absolutely soaked, the second time this has happened. I can't put with gear that doesn't do the job it's meant to do so I looked at Uttings and found that they were doing a Snowbee Prestige Wading Jacket for £149 and so far I have found it very good. It's two inches longer than many on the market and also has a hood that tucks away in the collar which suits me fine as I hate using a hood unless it's absolutely necessary. I was so impressed with it that I went and bought one of the Nivalis Down Jackets for the same price that I use when walking the dog - it's really warm and seems to repel light showers well - it may be good in heavier rain but as yet hasn't been tested. So far this year I've been out fishing five times, twice to Springhill, twice to Brick Farm and once to Coltsford Mill and they have all fished well. I was due to go to Coltsford again but that was cancelled due to Storm Eunice as was our event at Hazelcopse - I must say I wasn't sorry about the cancellations it would not have been very pleasant fishing in that wind. Let's hope we have seen the last of strong winds like that for a while and can look forward to some pleasant days fishing.

Learning From Teaching.

When I first started teaching at secondary level, some time just after the Bronze Age, I soon realised that if you have to *teach* something to somebody, you learn quickly how *little* you actually know about how to teach your subject matter and often, how much *more* you have to learn about a subject.

I was reminded of this recently in the context of fly fishing. I had received a Whatsapp message out of the blue one night about the possibility of fly-fishing lessons from a 25 year old lad .I wanted to get him into the sport without costing him too much in the first instance, so I just asked him to pay for ½ of my 2 fish ticket, as I hoped he would become independent enough to allow me some fishing time during the day.



We met at Brick Farm, as I thought a good chance of catching a fish would be the most assured way of exciting newcomers enough to make them want to invest in the sport. To cut a long story short, after an hour and a half's casting coaching on Stag Lake and me managing a fish in a break from talking at him, I decided a move to the top of Spring Lake might work. There seemed to be a few fish moving there and the wind direction would be helpful for his casting. This proved to be a good choice. After improving his casting reach, a change of fly and losing a fish due to me not explaining clearly enough how to hand line one in, Adam finally hooked and brought in a feisty 1 ½ lb rainbow. Although he was a carp angler Adam was astounded by the fight he had on light tackle and this as much as anything might "hook him", to use the time- honoured cliché.

Although he had no more hook-ups in the remaining hour or so (I only managed one more fish on what was quite a hard day) ,Adam seemed genuinely pleased with his day. I have offered him other opportunities for some coaching and he may buy himself a starter set-up, possibly from the auction. So let's hope we have a new recruit to the sport. We certainly need some young blood.

It was also interesting talking to Phil Axel whilst I was there. He believes this younger carp angling crowd is a group we should target as potential fly fishers. I had been under the impression that the *cost* of trout fishing was a stumbling block for these anglers. However, he pointed out that many carp anglers will spend at least

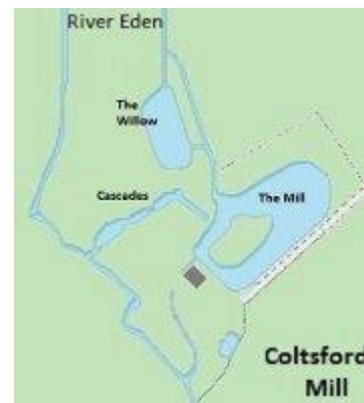
£25 on fees for a session and have to equip themselves with a lot of gear which is equally as expensive as some of our fly fishing outfits. Groundbait and boilies are also consumable items which add to the outlay and at least with trout fishing there is the potential to go home with supper. Adam had assumed that he would be wading along a river for most of the day, so again this is a misconception about the sport we need to allay. He seemed genuinely surprised not just at the very different techniques but also the thrill of a far more "direct" contact with the fish you hook. So can we come up with a means of snagging this group of potential fly fishers? Perhaps "*starter sampling days*" at a willing fishery where we supply the gear & coaching time, is a low cost option? Answers on a post card please.....

For my part, the day made me think a little more as to what's meant by a "good" cast & the constituent parts of a fly cast. Mind you knowing what to do and executing it are two very different things. Ha Ha!

AW

Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery

The Fishery is OPEN on a pre-booked basis only. Remember to book in advance and enjoy the great sport of fly fishing at Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery.



Coltsford Mill, in Surrey is mentioned in the Domesday Book and at over 940 years old is an exclusive twelve acre estate comprising four acres of picturesque trout water containing two lakes, the Willow and the Mill, each fed by the River Eden, which in turn also feeds the Top Cascade and the Lower Cascade. The River Eden flows into Kent where it becomes a tributary of the River Medway.

Coltsford Mill, map reference 51.238 N, 0.000 E is exactly on the Greenwich Meridian which runs through the main lake, the Mill.

The waters are stocked with hard-fighting Rainbow, Brown, Blue, Sparctic and Tiger trout grown on in our own stew-ponds from stock size of 2lb up to heavyweight doubles, boasting a fishery record of 22lb and 2oz.

Day Membership Tickets are available as are Evening Tickets during British Summer Time.

It is strongly recommended that you to book in advance by phone or email. During the Spring and Summer period particularly, there are days when the Fishery is full. Anglers turning up without pre-booking risk being refused access if the Fishery is full.

All anglers may take advantage of our Fishermens Lodge and also visit the Tackle Shop.

All prices shown below are valid until 31st March 2022.

Day Ticket Prices.

Full Day £45.00 (4 Fish Limit)

Half Day £38.00 (3 Fish Limit)

Evening £30.00 (2 Fish Limit) From 4pm.

Contact details are:

Coltsford Mill Trout Fishery, Mill Lane, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9DG
Tel: 01883 715 666 **Mob:** 07798 605867

Chalk Springs Update

Price Increase
PLEASE NOTE FROM THE 1ST MARCH

Unfortunately we have to announce due to price increases for energy, fish food, insurance and fish suppliers, we have to increase our ticket prices as from 1st March.

2 Fish Ticket - £40
3 Fish Ticket- £50
4 fish Ticket - £60

We are sorry to have to increase the costs, however we hope you will agree we are working hard to increase the experience you have here at Chalk Springs.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nick, Dan & the team.



Brick Farm Prices update

All-Day tickets:

2 fish limit £32

3 fish limit £38

4 fish limit £44

5 fish limit £50

6 fish limit £56

prices effective from 1 February 2022

Auction Update

I will probably see many of you on Thurs night at tying but wanted to make sure we are all on the same page in terms of what you have "volunteered" for on Saturday.

The Centre should be open between 8.30- 9.00 am so as many as possible who can be there to set-up should arrive asap after this time. This gives us 2 - 3 hrs to be ready which I feel is just enough time if most can help. (There are over 300 lots to display)

Collection of lots from Tony Harrison :Tony Woolnough

Opening up and general portering : Tony Kaatze

Teas and lunches: Dave Otterson + one. (Sorry Tony, couldn't remember your daughter's name)

Billing system : Ray Bond and Wayne Duerden

Payments system and bidding cards: Bill Black and Andy Wood

Display of items to buyers: Simon Rickard

Taking completed bidding records from auctioneer to Billing team: Tony Woolnough

Everyone else and some of the above as available to act as porters with Brian to oversee that sold items are stored in correct positions on "after sales" tables.

I will be a "floating overseer" and the conduit for UNSOLD ITEMS.

At the end all of those available should help with distribution of sold items to buyers and the general clear up.

IF I HAVE FORGOTTEN ANYTHING IMPORTANT OR YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ,PLEASE CONTACT ME!

Thanks in advance for your help and let's hope for a successful day
Alan W