

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter

February 2025

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Flydressers Guild

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Possible Moorhen Visit

As some members had expressed an interest in fishing at Moorhen, they might be interested in a possible September visit there by Ouse Valley next year. I was at their AGM and fishing on December 30th and Des said he will update us with confirmed date and an invite to SFDG members. That way it is more likely that they would give us sole use of the fishery.

AW

ALBURY ESTATE FISHERIES

Special Day Rate Now - Valentines Day

As we step into 2025 we have lots of things going on and just to tempt you out onto the bank we will be offering a reduced day membership rate of £12.50 until the middle of February. This time of year can really offer up some superb fishing even if the weather can be a bit mixed. Just please remember to continue to pay online and check in and collect your tokens from the fishing lodge/café (Tuesday to Friday). Outside of these times the bailiff will see you on the bank.

Weston Lodge Cafe

The cafe is now back up and running after a short closure over the Christmas period and will be open Tuesday to Friday, 8.30am to 2.30pm. It's a great place to warm up and grab a bite to eat during the colder months. There has been one noticeable change to the café as Amy has sadly left us to follow a career in teaching. The good news though is that we have another lady called Amy now running the café, so please pop in and say hello. Amy has already been busy rustling up home made leek and potato soup and delicious cakes. Also just a reminder we have lots of cold and hot smoked trout for sale which is available to purchase in the café as well as all your fishing essentials such as flies, leaders etc.

We have been stocking lots of spartic trout this Winter (500 so far) to compliment the fish from our own fish farm and we have another 250 arriving next week which will be circulated around all the fisheries. The Spartics always prove to be very popular so get down and try and catch one. They are a great fighting fish well suited to the colder months.

Fish Farm Tour

While we are talking fish, we will be running a fish farm tour on the 23rd January at 11am. If anyone is interested please book a place by emailing cameron.craigs@alburyestatefisheries.co.uk.

This is a great chance to see the hard work that goes into rearing our very own trout. are pleased to be seeing several 5lb + fish being caught.

Winter Tactics

Tactics wise for the next couple of months will predominantly be using a floating line but if it's really cold a sink tip or slow intermediate line might be useful. If you can, setting up two rods with these two options can be really handy. At this time of year the fish might be slightly deeper first thing in the morning but any slight lift in temperature will see them move up the water column, so its important to find the feeding depth of the fish at different times of the day and having two rods set up with different lines on certainly helps to do this. Another bit of advice is to keep mobile to locate the fish, once you find one there is a good chance more will come from the same area.

Fly wise at this time of year the fish will show a preference towards larger lures. My advice would be to swap between olive, black and white lures fished at varying depths and retrieval speeds.

Also, although not everyone's cup of tea fishing static under an indicator can be really effective and you can fish large flies under the indicator such as blobs, worm patterns, egg flies, shammies as well as smaller buzzers.

Brick Farm Update

Happy New Year! With the New Year comes new ideas and lots to look forward to! Watch this space for competitions, events and more!

Fishing of recent has been particularly good - the most successful flies being Cats Whiskers, Damsels and Montanas - the usual tactics for this time of year. We are stocking regularly and each delivery is also bringing in a few slightly larger fish. John Lindley tempted a nice rainbow out of Brick Lake weighing in at 11lb 9oz - his new Personal Best(!), and we



Our very own Alfie (aged 6) landed his first trout from Spring Lake recently - he is very keen for 2025 to be his year for casting, hooking and landing a trout entirely on his own - good luck Alfie!

The weather is of course cold and wet this time of year, but despite the below 0° temperatures, we are still fully ice-free on the lakes at the time of writing - the benefit of the later warmth last year I guess.

We are open daily from 8am, but always available on the phone in the Lodge or on the mobile if you would like to enquire of conditions before setting off - we look forward to seeing you!

Belated Resolutions.

I don't know about you but in my fishing journal (very old school), at this time of year, I tend to put in a summary of the past fishing year and some resolutions for the coming one. Looking back there is a rather familiar sound to more recent ones e.g. fish less with lures and more with nymphs and dries and try out new venues. Trouble is my competitive side takes over in club and inter-club competitions and I hammer the new stockies with the "ugly stuff" to try to get ahead of the game. However, there are a couple of real opportunities to tick off places from my bucket list this season. One is due to the generosity of friends who clubbed together and bought me a 4 fish voucher for Avington for my 70th birthday, which I hope to cash in on the Spring. As it's a bit of a drive from me I plan to overnight in Winchester and get an early start. Fingers crossed I can get a chuck at some of those trophy browns there.



The other is a chance of fishing Lough Corrib in Ireland. This has always been a dream of mine and as my other half is keen to go "ancestor hunting" in County Mayo I have pencilled in at least one day out on the water, probably in September, if all goes well with her back recovery. I have been watching videos showing stupendous tussles with beautiful Corrib wild browns . If anyone has experience of fishing this wonderful lough and any recommendations for guides/accommodation please get in touch, as it's likely to be a one off so I want to make it the best experience I can.

Tight Lines AW.