



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2019

### S.O.S. – save our salmon!

*As you know the Salmon & Trout Conservation are waging a war against irresponsible salmon farming in Scotland (and elsewhere). Our own Alan Wells has also taken up the pen on this subject with the BBC:-*

Dear Sir or Ms

I have a great deal of time for Nadiya Hussain's cheerful approach to providing healthy "fast food" in her "Nadiya's Time to Eat" programme. However, I found it very annoying that on the 29<sup>th</sup> July programme the BBC allowed her to be duped into **peddling the myth of the salmon farming industry being SUSTAINABLE, which it clearly is not.** Perhaps the facts given on the numbers of salmon concentrated in such a small area should have alerted her to the problems of what happens to the huge amounts of excreta introduced into the environment. No mention was made of the massive amounts of chemicals used to free the fish of sea lice and the role these farms are playing in the catastrophic decline in wild salmon and sea trout runs in Scottish rivers. Whilst they recognise that fish farms are not the only cause, according to campaign group Atlantic Salmon Trust, "there has been a 70 per cent fall in wild salmon returns to Scotland over the past quarter century,"

A scientific study on the sea lice problem associated with the salmon farms claimed that in areas with outbreaks of the disease in farms, lice could directly cause the mortality of 30% to 50% of all migrating sea trout smolts and 48% to 86% of all wild salmon smolts.

Another significant issue is that rather than easing the impact on wild populations, the farms often depend on wild fish species lower on the food chain, in order to feed the larger, carnivorous farmed species. It can take up to five pounds of smaller fish to produce one pound of a fish like salmon or sea bass. Overfishing of these smaller fish has repercussions throughout the ocean ecosystem.

After a BBC Panorama programme did much to expose the huge fish losses, poor environmental conditions and impact on the wider environment of salmon farming, it seems there is a lack of joined up thinking at the BEEB and that allowing

Nadiya to say that they provide "cheap, healthy food" is careless in the extreme.

**Alan Wells**

PS I will not eat farmed salmon and encourage all of my friends and family not to buy it.

*This is what he considers to be the rather mealy mouthed reply he received from the BBC to his complaint:-*

Dear Mr Wells

Thank you for contacting us regarding BBC Two's 'Nadiya's Time to Eat' which was broadcast on 29 July.

I understand you felt that the programme was "duped into peddling the myth" that the salmon farming industry is sustainable and note you found Nadiya's approach to be "careless in the extreme."

In this segment of the programme, Nadiya travelled to Scotland to see how farmers meet the demand of the British consumer for salmon. She visited the Wester Ross salmon farm in Ullapool to speak with manager Gilpin Bradley about his business and to take a look some of the work undertaken by people at the farm.

This section of the show was not specifically about sustainability and it was something only touched on very briefly (for just under twenty seconds) in the exchange between Nadiya and Gilpin.

It is, of course, not always possible or practical to reflect all the various aspects of a subject within the space of one individual programme. We do, however, attempt to reflect the full range of views and trends on any matter over a broader period.

Nevertheless, I would like to assure you that we value your feedback. All complaints are sent to senior management and the makers of 'Nadiya's Time to Eat' every morning and we included your points in our overnight reports. These reports are among the most widely read sources of feedback in the BBC and ensures that your complaint has been seen by the right people quickly. This helps inform their decisions about current and future output.

Thank you once again for getting in touch.

Kind regards

Terry Hughes (BBC Complaints Team)

## Noake in Austria

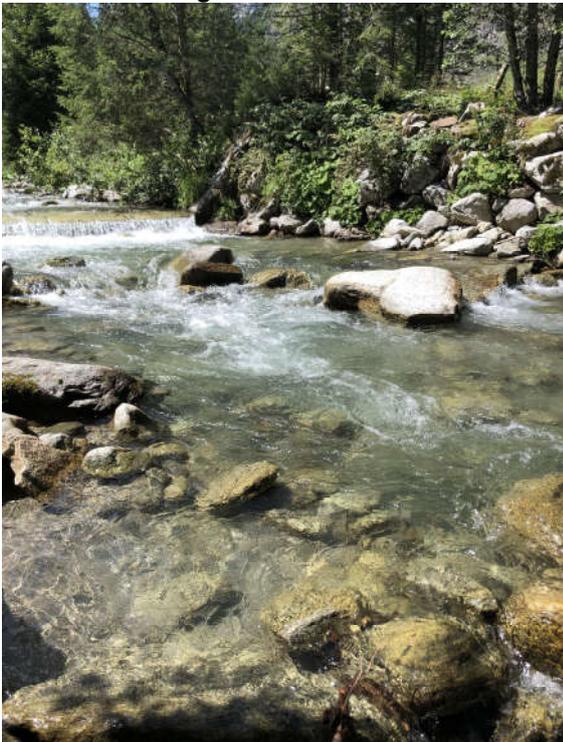
We have a couple of photos from Noake Akiba taken on her holiday in Austria – she must have smuggled her tackle in her luggage after all!



*A beautiful wild brownie*



*Mei ghillies for Noake!*



*What a beautiful spot!*

## AUTUMN AUCTION

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

Regretfully, entries for this Autumn's auction are now closed as we already have a full catalogue. If you want to get ahead of the queue for the Spring Auction, you can download an entry form from the website [www.sussexflydressers.org.uk](http://www.sussexflydressers.org.uk) or get one by ringing Roy on 01273 581519 or e-mail [fdgsussex@gmail.com](mailto:fdgsussex@gmail.com).

## Ray's Ramblings

I feel very fortunate that I have such varied fishing throughout the year. At Arlington the season opens in late January or early February and with the water cold I usually start by fishing Boobies on a fast sinker. I know that some people decry this type of fishing but as long as it is within the rules of the fishery I see no harm in it. I remember a few seasons ago someone asking me what I was catching on and when I replied Boobies he said that he didn't fish like that. However a couple of weeks later I saw that same person happily fishing Boobies. It really is an effective method of fishing when the water is cold.

Of course if you get a nice mild day it's pleasant to get the floater on and fish a team of Buzzers. Weather conditions in March usually dictate which of the two methods is most likely to be successful and then we get into April and May when we can go boat fishing at both Arlington and Powdermill and fish in quiet surroundings and lovely scenery.

I know the fish at Bewl are generally larger but these days I find it's not a pleasant place to fish especially at weekends. From June through to September I generally fish the small clear stillwaters like Chalk Springs, John O'Gaunts, Chiphall and Holbury with occasional visits to Frensham and Meon Springs. On all of these by stalking you can see the reaction of the fish to the fly and I find seeing the white flash as the fish opens its mouth to take the fly particularly satisfying.

From October through to January my main quarry is my favourite fish the Grayling on the Hampshire Chalk Streams with occasional visits to Moorhen, Duncton Mill, Coltsford Mill or Hazel Copse.

You may recall that last month I wrote about Laurence Catlow. I got his third book out entitled "That Strange Alchemy: Pheasants, Trout and a Middle Aged Man" Most of the book is about Pheasants and Trout but the chapter I found the most emotive was the one on his Springer Spaniels. I remember the Springer we had from a puppy. He was never happier than darting about in the woods putting up the occasional pheasant, chasing rabbits in the fields, swimming after the ducks at Bewl and

being out in the garden when I was working lying patiently and never taking his eyes off me till I threw a biscuit for him to go and look for. It was a sad day as Laurence describes when the morning came as he neared his thirteenth birthday after a spell of going off his food that he didn't want to get up and go for his walk and the vet came and after examining him performed the fatal act of mercy. I must admit that my eyes were full of tears when I lost what had become my best boy. Our present dog, a rescued Cocker Spaniel, doesn't like water, just watches the rabbits that we now have in the garden when he spends the occasional ten minutes out there and his favourite place is lying on the sofa.

**Ray Burt**

### **Chairman's Chat**

Once again, an awkward one. Expert Witness in a (possible) court case involving a government body and a large, international Consultant.

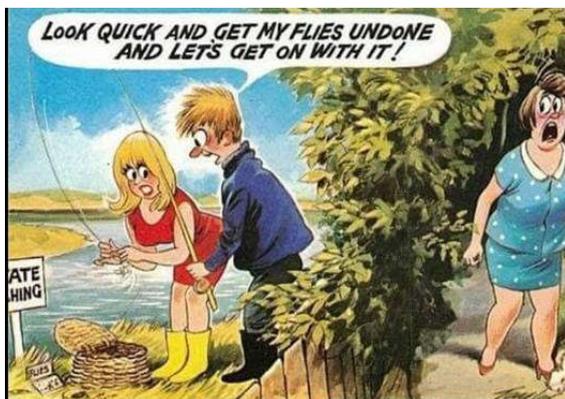
As far as I am concerned, it is an open and shut case but as someone once said "you would say that wouldn't you?". As far as I can see the only defence is to attack the credibility of the Expert Witness (me) which is never nice, although I am not exactly a shrinking violet (to put it mildly). So I can now look forward to a few days being cross examined by a member of the legal profession whose parents are single.

The case hinges on who is to blame for the collapse of a structure; the Designers, the Contractors or even the Client.

I will not give you my opinion now, as this could get me into trouble.

So let's just say, when I am struggling to get volunteers for shows etc., I often have other things on my mind.

**Tony W.**



## **CHALK SPRINGS**

**why it will always be special to me by Tony Harrison**

On 27<sup>th</sup> August, Darren Smith's 29 year association with Chalk Springs, first as manager and for the last 10 years as owner, finally came to a close and a number of regulars, including me, were there to say their personal farewells to Darren.

The good news is that Chalk Springs will continue as a trout fishery, with Ali, who has been there for 3½ years, now managing it. The lodge at the entrance to the fishery has been completely rebuilt, and now includes a ladies toilet. Then stock ponds are full of some fine fish for us to fish for, including some leviathans, and Ali has lots of plans and ideas for the future. So, if you have not been for while, it would be well worth giving it try.

Before continuing, I need to declare that I am biased – for the last 20 years Chalk Springs has been my fishery of choice. I love the gin-clear water and, when conditions are right, being able to see almost every fish in the four lakes. I love the fact that they can be really tricky to catch, in particular the fish of a lifetime. I love the fact that to do well here you need to fish differently to other Sussex fisheries.

It has to be said that to begin with I found it really frustrating; I could catch fish there but it was never the leviathans that I had been trying for. All in all, it took me about a year to work it out (I was always a bit slow on the uptake!) – Chris Croucher worked it out in 2 or 3 visits! I found that if I retrieved my fly it would be intercepted by one of the normal sized rainbows (Steve Mustchin calls it "getting mugged"), just when the leviathan you were hoping to hook was showing interest.

So I taught myself to stalk by fishing mainly at close range and on the drop and lift. I tied flies with visible beads or features (tungsten) so that I could follow the fly to the bottom and back up again. If a fish that you did not want intercepted and took the fly, you don't strike. It took me ages to learn not to lift into the fish; however, if you do not strike and you are fishing on the drop, you will be amazed how quickly the fish spits out your fly. Those of us who fish for carp on the fly will have the same thing happen.

So, does it work? Well, I have only been flyfishing since around 1994, i.e. 25 years, and between 1994 and 2003 fished conventionally – i.e. casting and retrieving. I managed one Troutmaster Badge for a rainbow of 18½ lb from Blackwool Farm; however between 2004 and 2017 I managed a further 41 Troutmaster Badges for some very special fish, 39 of which were caught at Chalk Springs, the other two being from Arlington and Duncton Mill.

So, I hold Chalk Springs in particular affection as it has fulfilled my fishing dreams many time over

and I will always be grateful to Darren for growing such exceptional fish. I have always loved catching brown trout and for many years Chalk Springs produced and stocked the finest brown trout in the country – and the ticket price was (and remains) half that of Avington or Dever Springs. My personal favourites are the 4 Troutmaster Badges for 4 brown trout over 15 lb – and it might surprise you that 3 of these were on the dry fly! (An Adams size 14, a Black Midge size 16 and a Daddy size 12.) The adrenaline rush to cast towards one of these fish and to see it tilt and rise 3 to 4 feet and sip in your fly is just extraordinary – so exciting and often my hands would shake so much that I could not tie on a different fly. I actually spent 2 years at Chalk Springs only fishing a dry fly as it is a great way of stalking or targetting a fish as you can see what is rising to your fly. I caught fish throughout the year including February, when unusually there was ice covering half of South Lake!

People often ask me what the magic fly is; well, if there is one, I have yet to find it! I will use upwards of 30 flies on a typical Chalk Springs outing, using 2 rods, floating lines and the best fluorocarbon that you buy. I continue to move and often will fish the outside of the lakes, whereas most people stay in the central strip. When walking around, I often see people dast over towards me and I watch them retrieve their fly. Quite often they will have fish after fish take their fly, but they do not feel anything, so do not strike. I have learnt lots by just watching in the clear water. Although I tend to fish small weighted flies, Chris Croucher used to fish a Black Humongous – it is not the fly, but how it is fished that matters.

I should explain that regarding my fishing I have had a couple of things in my favour – I am retired and until recently I could base my decision where to go on the long range weather forecast – looking for sunshine and little or no wind.

Finally, in the past I have taken a number of people to Chalk Springs and shown them how to fish, what flies I use and given them many tips on what works for me. I am not a guide, but simply want those fishing there to get the best out of the fishery. If you would like a day, get in touch with me as I would be happy to help, bearing in mind I am not able to fish quite so much these days – which is another reason Chalk Springs will always be very special to me

**Tony Harrison**

## SCAM ALERT!!!!

**Bill Black has received a spurious e-mail purportedly from Tony Woolnough using an e-mail address of [office1@mail2max.com](mailto:office1@mail2max.com) which is NOT, repeat NOT, Tony's e-mail. If anyone receives a communication from this address it is a SCAM and should be immediately dumped.**

## FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Get your bookings in NOW for these outings:

### CHARITY PAIRS

**POWDERMILL – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Note change of venue

Entries urgently required. If you don't have a partner, we will endeavour to pair you up. Contact Ray Love as soon as possible – e-mail [raylove500@sky.com](mailto:raylove500@sky.com), phone 01323 639122.

### GRAYLING on the TEST

**WHERWELL – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Get your enentry registered with Andy Wood as soon as possible - e-mail [tinter61@gmail.com](mailto:tinter61@gmail.com) as we have to confirm numbers with Wherwell to reserve rods.

### TROPHY DAY

**DUNCTON MILL–Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

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 or e-mail [peter.winder@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.winder@btinternet.com)

## JOHN WATT 2019

Despite all efforts by organiser Chris Nunn, we were unable to raise a team this year – the first time it is believed since the event was started. Chris was only able to have one other member volunteer but we must have sufficient members to participate for next year – after all we have won this national event on at least two occasions in the past.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Guild and Branch subscriptions are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, so please let Roy Gurney have them ASAP. It is not necessary to complete a form if your details have not changed. If you do need a form you can download one from the website, e-mail [fdgsussex@gmail.com](mailto:fdgsussex@gmail.com) or ring 01273 581519

## Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman:	Tony Woolnough	01273 483833
Secretary:	Paul Bond	01273 420410
Treasurer:	Bill Black	01323 763807
Membership:	Roy Gurney	01273 581519

Editor: ROY GURNEY

29 Capel Avenue, PEACEHAVEN, BN10 8NB

E-MAIL: [fdgsussex@gmail.com](mailto:fdgsussex@gmail.com)

Visit our web site

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