

The Flydressers Guild Sussex Branch



Newsletter

March 2025

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Flydressers Guild

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Saturday 15th March 2025 –
Chairman's Day – Coltsford Mill, Oxted

We have a more open invite this year for the first 18 members to book through Peter. The cost will be £50 for a 4 fish ticket which is a discount and the Chairman has kindly offered to pay for bacon rolls for breakfast. This is a lovely small water which fishes well early season and can produce double figure fish, brownies, tigers, spartics and blues as well as rainbows.

Cheque should be made payable to
"FDG Sussex Branch" by March 5th please and
sent to:

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17 St Helens Crescent
Hangleton
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BN3 8EP
01273 973499 peter.winder@btinternet.com
ASAP

If you prefer to do an electronic transfer the necessary details are below but please ensure you inform Peter that you have done this and let Treasurer Andy Wood (fdgsussexmembership@gmail.com) know that you have sent a payment and what event it is for.

PAYING BY BANK TRANSFER:
Account name: Fly Dressers Guild
Sussex Branch
Sort Number: 30-99-50
Account number: 84990168

Ex Chairman's Chat

We also design lakes.

A recent project was the design of a lake in the rolling hills of Burnt Oak where our Client wanted to construct a lake to enhance his fishery and provide a visual amenity for a future wooden cabin which could be his retirement home.

The law required that the lake had to have a retained capacity of no more than 25,000 cubic metres of water otherwise it would fall under the Reservoirs Act, have a regular, dependable water supply for "sweetening" purposes and contain all the appropriate features required for a coarse fishery, namely shallow margins for safety, deep area for overwintering, features for anglers to cast to and a reliable outfall system for maintenance and emergency draining.

Part of the design process was to ensure that any excavated material was used in the construction so that no excess had to be taken from site for disposal. This balancing of cut and fill was achieved by digging into the hillside and using the excavated material to form a dam on the other side to retain the water and keep the capacity of the lake below 25,000 cubic metres. Overall the clay dam was 7.0m high, which posed a problem when the Planning Officer asked if a dam was proposed; I **accidentally** put my hand on that part of the drawing and discussed other aspects of the Application.

A reliable water supply was planned by using a redundant hydraulic ram in the nearby stream. This mechanism “pumps” water up a slope by taking water at one pressure and flow rate and outputs water at a higher head but lower flow (i.e. it automatically pumps water). No fuel or other running cost required. However the Client decided against this, much to our disappointment. Fortunately a spring was uncovered during the excavation so the inflow problem was solved.

My Business Partner drew on his fishing experience to ensure that the appropriate features of the lake were suitable for a successful carp fishery.

The overflow/drain down problem was solved by the construction on a combined “monk” (vertical overflow pipe) which included a low level drainage pipe controlled by a penstock.

After a couple of years, when weed growth had taken place and the lake had matured, carp started to spawn resulting in a considerable crop of fry which helped to finance the lake construction.

Despite the success of this project and other lakes we have designed, I still wonder about the economics of this type of construction given the random nature of the purchase of fishing tickets and the cost of the initial stocking.

Tony W

Draycote Water looks set to re-open in March 2025.

Severn Trent has confirmed it is in ongoing legal discussions with a new operator for the trout fishery at Draycote Water. The closure of the Rugby-based fishery was [announced](#) in February, following the death of Ifor Jones, and the subsequent voluntary liquidation of his company, Fishery Management UK.

Midlands fly anglers will welcome the news, as Fishery Management UK also ran Eyebrook in Northamptonshire, and Thornton in Leicestershire, both of which also closed. Sue McIntosh, Visitor Experience Lead at Severn Trent, said: “Following a tender process, we have identified a preferred supplier for the Draycote fishery and we are currently aiming to have them in place and the fishery reopened ready for the start of the new season in March next year.”

Draycote Water Fly Fishers stated on its Facebook page that it looked “forward to working constructively with Severn-Trent and the new leaseholder to ensure the fishing successfully resumes in 2025.”

The reservoir is a popular top-of-the-water and buzzer fishing venue, and attracted anglers from all over UK, due to the quality of the fly fishing it provided. Veteran fly-fishing author and editor, Brian Harris, used to travel 150 miles from his home in Kent to visit the water on a regular basis, and wrote in *FF&FT* that he and his friends believed it to be “the best quality stillwater trout fly fishing, mainly on or just sub-surface, available in England today”. The fates of Eyebrook and Thornton as trout fisheries are, as yet, undecided.

Whats happening to Brown Trout?

A new study conducted by the Environment Agency in Great Britain predicts that water temperatures across the British Isles will be too warm in the summer to support native brown trout by 2080, a dire warning for anglers and

what's hailed as the commonwealth's favorite fish. Using water temperature data collected from 641 sites over 60 months, the study's authors crafted a model that predicts the average daytime water temperature in most British waters will climb above 19.5 degrees Celsius (about 68 degrees Fahrenheit) in just 55 years. That temperature threshold is when British brown trout stop feeding and stop growing, the study's authors report. Traditionally heartier than other trout species around the globe, brown trout could also be in trouble on the reproductive front. The same study predicts that winter water temperatures across the region will rise above the 12-degree Celsius (about 54 degrees Fahrenheit) temperature threshold needed for successful over-winter egg survival, also by 2080.

"Climate projections for England suggest there will be an increase of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers along with more frequent and intense extreme weather events," the study reads. "Understanding the consequences of these changes on water quality and aquatic biota is important to inform the targeting of management actions and adaptation measures to help maintain the integrity of river ecosystems and the services they provide." The study is the first to go beyond just the borders of England and include all of Britain. The models used to predict these warmer water temperatures — and the ultimate demise of Britain's storied native trout — used a "high emissions scenario," referencing the continued global reliance on fossil fuels and the predicted pattern of carbon dioxide emissions around the world. Brown trout from the British Isles are now found on every continent except Antarctica — the eggs of these prized fish, revered for their sporting assets and their table fare, were shipped far and wide in the late 19th century, and, like brown trout from continental Europe, have gained footholds in some of the most-storied trout-fishing destinations on earth. First introduced to the rivers and lakes of Tasmania in 1864, British

browns and their continental cousins are now "naturalized" in New Zealand, Patagonia, the southern mountain streams of Africa and beyond. Brown trout were the first non native salmonoids introduced to North America. In 1883, a shipment of browns was dumped from a railroad trestle into Michigan's Baldwin River, marking the first known planting of the fish in the United States. The irony? The Baldwin wasn't the intended destination for the fish — they were bound for Michigan's Upper Peninsula, but inclement weather made the journey impossible, and, to save the trout, they were unceremoniously dropped into the Baldwin, where they persist today. Noted American angler and the editor of TROUT Magazine, Kirk Deeter, caught his first brown trout on a fly in the Baldwin River, within walking distance of that now-storied railroad bridge. "Brown trout have always been special to me," Deeter said. "They've inspired me so much that I've literally traveled the world to fish for them." Indeed, Deeter has chased browns in the lakes of Tasmania, the rivers of Chile and Argentina, the south island of New Zealand and even on their home turf in England, Ireland and Iceland. He recalls fishing for browns one night in Tasmania with fisheries biologists from the area. "I remember seeing these huge wakes pushing up into the shallows and then watching the streamside bushes just rattle and quake," Deeter said. "I asked the biologists what was going on, and they told me that the browns were bumping into the bushes to knock frogs into the water. "If that doesn't tell you how remarkable brown trout are, nothing will." There's no doubt that brown trout have earned their beloved status. Here in the U.S., they're the preferred trout in rivers ranging from the Delaware in the East to storied Western rivers like the Henry's Fork, the Green and the Missouri. They were among the first non-native trout planted within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park, and they persist and thrive, often to the detriment of native trout, in rivers like the Rio Grande and the Gunnison.

For American anglers more conditioned to the challenges facing brook trout and cutthroat trout where these fish are indigenous, it's tough to come to grips with the fact that the tough-as-nails brown trout might be in peril in its home waters.

"We've always considered brown trout to be the most resilient of all trout species," Deeter said. "Brown trout are the fish that have proven to be adaptable — they seem to be able to survive anywhere. They're the uber-trout.

"It makes me sad to hear that they might not have a very long future in their native waters."

The goal of the British study is to provide guidance on climate management in the country — sort of a cautionary tale if climate change continues on its present course.

"Quantifying the amount and timing of future warming in rivers will help understand where water quality and ecosystems may be affected and provide more robust evidence of where to target measures to adapt to these changes," the study reads. "To understand how best to develop future projections of river [water temperature], Environment Agency reviewed potential modelling approaches and produced a robust framework for doing so."

How the British government — and governments around the globe — respond to the new study and **others like it**— will likely determine the future of brown trout in their native waters, and, frankly, the future of native trout the world over.

Dever Springs update

Work is still in progress, with a dining marquee being added, and fish soon arriving for the famed Jurassic Tank. Official reopening 01 April. For prices and details of exclusive packages follow this link <https://fishingbreaks.co.uk/chalkstream/test.htm>