

The Flydresser Guild

Sussex Branch

Newsletter

February 2021

Published by the Sussex Branch of the
Flydressers Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833
Secretary: Simon Rickard 07799484166
Treasurer: Bill Black 01323763807

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sussexflydresserguild.org.uk

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Roy Gurney has decided to give up the editorship of the monthly news letter, so for the interim period I will be producing the publication. If there is a reader who feels they would like to have a go at producing this newsletter please let me know. For those of you who provide regular articles for the publication please forward them to my email address sckrickard@yahoo.co.uk.

Having discussed the issue at committee level we would like to offer club members the chance of advertising fishing items for sale, and work services (building, electrical, carpentry etc).

I would also like to hear from any member regarding fishing trips, fishing venues, along with photos, and funny stories.

The deadline for articles for each months newsletter will be the 25th of the month. Your feedback would be much appreciated.

SR

Chairman's Chat March 21

This is a unique vehicle designed to solve a common problem. The problem is siltation of the

gravel bed which covers up the artificial spawning gravel and hampering spawning effort of pacific

salmon. The site is the Montacoluser irrigation channel which is a man made waterway to convey

irrigation water to agricultural area of southern California, which was previously dessert.

SILT SCRAPER

This channel is 64 miles long, the car shown illustrates the size of it. There are tarmac "roads"

each side and the vehicle has its own running motors; the horizontal plate is designed to be lowered

into the water and the vehicle drives along the channel. The plate is held just above bed level and

so the movement causes a build up of water in front of the plate causing high velocity water to pass

beneath the plate and wash the silt out of the gravel.

What an innovative idea, But where does the silt go ? It settles on the gravel. So this massive,

purpose designed vehicle, does not work !!!!!

What is the lesson ? Obviously you have to get the engineering right BUT also the biology and

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RAYS RAMBLINGS

Back in January 2020 I wrote about some of the fisheries that have closed over the years like Darwell, Weirwood and Barcombe and now it looks like Arlington is going the same way despite the efforts of a lot of people in trying to persuade South East Water to reconsider. South East Water not only made the decision without any discussion with anglers and although

saying the fishery is unsustainable they are reluctant to provide any figures to justify the closure.

As said in December both Duncton Mill and Chalk Springs changed hands in 2020 and now charge £60 and £56 respectively for a four fish ticket when the cost used to be £38 and £39. At those sort of prices I doubt that I'll be going there much and the clubs who used to fish there also seem to have had a rethink. If I was going to pay that sort of money I'd far rather go to Moorhen where a four fish ticket is £48 and Chiphall, John O'Gaunts and Holbury are all cheaper than Duncton Mill and Chalk Springs, the fish are of better average size and the lakes are set in nicer surroundings - the only downside is that they are all a long drive, certainly for me where the time spent in the car sometimes exceeds the amount of time spent fishing.

So when the lockdown ends most likely my fishing will be at Brick Farm, Lakedown, Coltsford Mill and Chalybeate Springs and I might also look at Springhill and Tenterden. I shall also fish Powdermill a lot more because I've got an electric motor for the boats, it's only five minutes from home and the extra cost of a ticket will be saved on the fuel needed to get to Hampshire. I also wrote in December how the Grayling trips I had planned were scuppered by first Storm Aiden and then the restriction on fishing locally, so for the first time in years I haven't

been able to go after them - I'm now one of those people with all the gear but no idea when or if I'll be going this winter that is. I just hope the Grayling appreciate my leaving them alone.

So instead I've been reading all my books on Grayling as I often do at this time of year and also watched some of my DVD's - it's

not the same as being by the water but it's a lot warmer! I've also thought about tying some more flies for them but quite frankly I've got enough already and not knowing when I'll be able to use them is not a great incentive - there's also the fact that with the day being so short I tend to stick to proven patterns rather than spend time experimenting with new flies.

So it looks like I shall have to wait till Powdermill opens on 15 February before I can wet a line again though I wonder if Brick Farm which is fifteen miles away could be considered local?

RB



**Next Zoom meeting is on Thursday 4th of February 2021. Due to the IT problems last week Alan will be going over the items already discussed. All welcome
Weekly Zoom meetings Update**

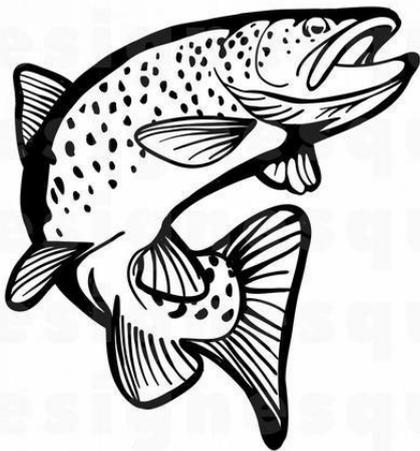
Zoom Update

We started back in September with weekly Zoom meetings, being run by Alan Middleton. Up until Christmas the evenings were split between the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award levels tying a number of fly patterns. Alan's stories and jokes added to the evenings

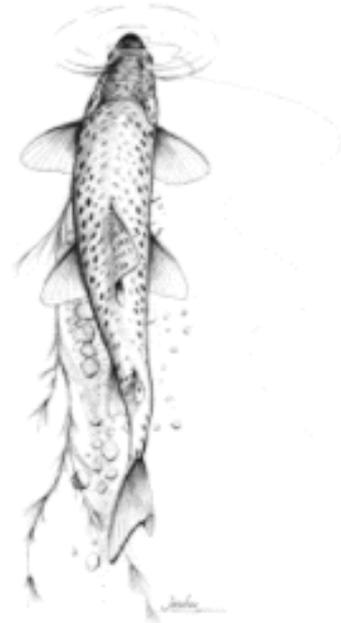
entertainment. After Christmas we progressed onto specific areas of fly tying were Alan showed us the various ways a fly body can be tied, the best way to use Hackles, various ways of tying wings. We also have a number of zoom sessions coming up, talking about using CDC and the use of synthetics materials. Several comments have been made that it is easier to see the fly being tied on the screen, rather than crowded around someone watching them tie a fly.

Zoom has also enabled us to record some of these sessions, and Alan, with the assistance of Mike Guest, has made videos available on Youtube. Go into Youtube, type **Sussex Fly Dressers** into the search bar, the site will appear and you will find a selection of videos of fly tying taken from the zoom meetings. I would like say that without Alan Middleton, none of this would have been possible so Alan thank you for your time on a Thursday evening. It is much appreciated.

SR



Trout and Flies Getting Closer



Peter Hayes and Don Stazicker

I wrote before about Don Stazicker and Peter Haye's forthcoming book after excerpts were published in a magazine but it seems to have taken a long time to come to fruition. With so much time and little opportunity to actually go fishing in the present lockdown, (January till who knows when?) I invested £9.99 in the Kindle version of this ebook. As far as I am aware there is no hard copy version, probably as there are so many hyperlinks to high quality Vimeo film, which does a good job supporting the theories of the 2 authors. Indeed they maintain that their arguments are based on over 3000 hours of observation and filming.

Book Review:

The Trout and the Flies - Getting Closer
Staziker and Hayes

They start with a set of 42 questions related to how trout see, target and eat or reject their prey, going on to consider the influences of rods, leaders, tippets and a wide range of flies on the likelihood of the angler being successful. It also includes the tyings for a

number of flies developed by the authors which, unlike some, have the strength of actually being tested in real fishing over a number of years. The style of the writing does not make for easy reading, particularly as there are a great number of mathematical, scientific and diagrammatic inclusions in the early sections. The authors would probably argue that as they are challenging some long held views which have become “known truths” stemming from the pens of well-considered (indeed legendary) anglers and writers e.g. Skues, Goddard, Clarke and Marinaro, it is important to establish the scientific approach to their work. So the video clips are often well deserved breaks from some rather long winded treatises.

Having said that there is a peppering of humour and toward the end of each section the authors attempt to show how the theory is applicable in practical fly fishing situations. The work is heavily biased toward the river fishers craft & particularly the dry fly. However, as someone who largely fishes stillwater, I could see how quite a few of the ideas could be applied here & it did encourage me to try the dry more this coming season (if we get one). One of the most fascinating pieces for me, though I knew the theory of it, was the video of a swimming pool showing the effect of refraction and the angle of view on the perceived distance and depth of trout. It's one thing to *know* the theoretical background but another to have such a well filmed exposition of it. The huge differences created by differing angles of view is something which will have an effect not only on how I approach clear water stalking, at somewhere like Chalk Springs but also the length of line I cast when prospecting a



The one place they do link to stillwater fishing specifically is on the question of whether to sink some tippet near the fly when dry fly fishing saying: *“In a quest to sink the tippet, (in our view, misguidedly on rivers, but correctly on stillwaters”*, they go on to clearly explain why it is a bad idea on rivers but fail to explain *clearly* why it is good idea on stillwaters. The later sections which concentrate more on natural flies and their imitations are more readable and aided by more frequent illustrations with photos and film.

To sum up this is a lengthy “book” which should be treated as a textbook, which whilst going over some ground covered elsewhere, also has the courage to challenge long held beliefs. It is also an interesting read for those who have a fondness for the history of fly fishing for trout & the authors rightly applaud the work of past masters. They had far less technology available to substantiate their ideas, yet often came to the correct conclusions. Even if you aren't a fervent dry fly river specialist I think the amazing video footage alone makes this a great buy.

AW

potential lie for unseen fish.(Yea I know Grandmas and eggs).

From the Desk of Phillip Ellis

Surplus tying Materials

During the current lockdown has given me the opportunity to go through my stock of materials littered around the house and in the loft. As a result, I now have a large box of materials to dispose of that I will never use in my lifetime and with no auctions in sight, how do I get rid of them? Quite a few Indian/Chinese capes, feathers, and salmon hooks. If any members have needs, please get in touch with me by email and I will send you a list of what is available. elsteadbysea@btinternet.com All I am asking for in return is a donation that I will pass onto my local hospice who like all charities are short of money at this present time.

Phillip Ellis

New synthetic material

I recently came across a material to try, called Chewing Gum Worm that looked useful for tying up small caddis patterns that I have yet to put to the test. It is basically a rubberised chenille. It comes in various diameter and colours so can be used for larger patterns. Its available from various sources and the [FNF \(fnflyfishing.co.uk\)](http://fnflyfishing.co.uk) who I guess import the material. Worth having a look on the internet and their other materials including Fritz & Squirmy Worm.
FNF comment: We were always very sure of our fritz products however the surprise package has been the FNF Chewing Gum Worm. This pattern has been devastating on small still waters. Either fished on a floater or under a bung. I think this pattern will go from strength to strength as new anglers discover it.

Tying tip

Do your varnish bottles become difficult to unscrew. Rub a bit of Vaseline around the bottle thread, unscrews every time with ease. So simple and wish I knew decades ago.

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Events Update.

As you can imagine there is little point trying to set up a full calendar of events at this time of enormous uncertainty. Whilst we are allowed local fishing as individuals, it would be going against the spirit of the guidelines to try to circumvent them for a club outing.

Other complications when we do get going include the loss of Arlington as a venue. Even if we are successful in getting SEW to reconsider their closure of the fishery, which seems increasingly unlikely, nothing will happen this season. This means 4 of our usual events will need to find a new home.

Three of these are boat-based competitions so we have little choice than to try Bewl again for some of these. There will also need to be some negotiations with new owners at some fisheries to ensure we have club discounts which make the price of our events manageable for all members. However, this does give us the opportunity to try some new or re-opened venues in the coming season. Watch this space!

However, Peter has contacted Brick Farm to pencil in dates for **Trophy Day- Oct 31st and the Xmas Outing- Dec 5th** so that should things have improved we have some bookings, as this venue is increasingly popular.

AW