



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**FEBRUARY 2006**

### **ANNUAL DINNER – 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2006**

With this newsletter you will find an application form for tickets. Please complete and return to John Burt as soon as possible, or alternatively hand it to Roy Gurney on a Thursday evening (with cheque) in order to book your place.

As usual, we are having it at **The Dyke Golf Club, Seddlescombe Road, Devil's Dyke, Brighton**, 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Dress is lounge suit or smart casual, and tickets are £18.50 each.

You will note that a choice of menu is on the ticket application form – from past experience all choices are first class!

We will have grand raffle organised by Jim White and Chris Croucher with outstanding prizes and the fishing trophies will be presented to the 2005 winners.

### **INVITATION**

West Sussex S&TA have booked Brian Clarke to give a talk on 'Trout behavior and the environment' on Thursday, March 9th (7.30 for 8.00pm) at the White Swan, Arundel (situated on the A27 west of the town). The evening is free to attend and there will be a raffle to help cover his fee which is going to the Wild Trout Trust. They would be delighted to have members of the Guild join them for the evening. A pity it is on a tying night, but some members might like to play truant!

### **FLY-TYING COMPETITION 2006**

#### **SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT!**

With his usual forgetfulness, your editor failed to mention hook sizes. If you have already tied yours, don't worry, hook size will be ignored by the judges, but suggested sizes are #10 for Beginners, and #12 for Intermediate and Open classes. Just to remind you, this year's patterns are:

**Beginners:** Prince Nymph & Black Pennel  
(one of each)

**Intermediate:** Greenwell's Glory  
(matched pair)

**Open:** March Brown (matched pair)

The Intermediate class is open to all who have not won a prize at Intermediate or Open, and anyone can enter for any class above his qualifying level. Closing date for entries is **30<sup>th</sup> March 2006**.

### **PESCALIS**

#### **A New Angling Experience**

*By Dave Morris*

Every so often in life, an opportunity presents itself which has to be exploited. I decided, three years ago, to quit the rat race of the banking world in the UK and move to a more clement lifestyle in the Deux-Sevres department of France. Unbeknown to me was that our new residence would be situated

just 8kms from Pescalis; a new fishing and nature centre that had opened at Moncoutant.

My first thoughts were to contact them to see if there were any openings to continue my coaching experience. First approaches were politely refused, but I continued to 'make myself known' at the complex.

The breakthrough came at the 'Go Fishing Exhibition' in April 2005 at the NEC Birmingham. I had flown over to attend the show to assist with coaching on Pendigo Lake and also to help on the Professional Anglers Association stand. Noticing that Pescalis had a stand just along from ours, I reintroduced myself and mentioned the close proximity of my permanent homebase and their complex. The rest, as they say, is history.

We met after the Show had closed for a drink and a chat, and I followed up with my proposals a week later. Various discussions went on through the summer so that they have granted me an agency to sell their holidays. I will also be running coaching sessions for English anglers and helping to relaunch the English version of their website.



Pescalis is a haven for fish and wildlife, situated at Moncoutant in Deux-Sevres, due East of the Vendee. It consists of a complex of lakes covering 250 acres with a variety of styles of fishing covered.

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Three of the lakes are for predominantly Carp angling, where specimens to 25kgs can be captured. Another four lakes cover the basic coarse species, including Crucians, Tench, Roach, Rudd, Perch, Gudgeon and even a smattering of Sturgeon! The lakes, which truly set this complex apart, include large Pike, Zander, Catfish and Perch where lure fishing is the preferred method. The fly lakes hold Trout to over 7kgs (Brown, Tiger, Leopard, Golden, Brook and Rainbow) and stocks of Black Bass which respond to fly and popper tactics and can be fished from the bank or by float-tube. Two other lakes also allow boat fishing.

In all lakes, Pescalis operate a 'NO KILL' Policy. For any last minute tackle purchases there is a large tackle shop, just at the entrance to the complex 'The Moncoutaise 79 Angling Club'

There are also a range of holiday homes, gîtes, a hotel, and a separate campsite for those who prefer the outdoor life. Altogether it makes for a holiday in which non-anglers can partake.

Then, to the West, is the Vendee with all of its family attractions, and the coast around 100kms away, well within the scope of a day trip.

Nearer to home there are the towns of l'Absie, Moncoutant and the medieval town of Parthenay. There is a go-kart track at Chantmerle and tree-top climbs at Foret d'Aventure. So something here for everyone, the angler and his family.

What could be better after a long day catching those hard fighting specimens, than to sit outside on the balcony with a long cool drink, before moving to the restaurant for a choice of French cuisine?

For those who cannot bear to be separated from their English fayre: Cod and chips with extras, and a selection of curries are available, every Thursday evening at "Le Chaudron", Chantmerle (just down the road) and Sunday lunchtimes at the Pescalis Farmers' market during July and August from our friends at 'Dial a Curry'

So, if anyone has yet to decide where they wish to spend their holidays during 2006, or beyond, I can recommend that they have a look at the facilities on offer. Please feel free to contact me for further details by email, if you require prices and a brochure. I am available most evenings after 1800 for bookings or just a chat at the telephone.

The Pescalis website is now operational at [www.pescalis.com](http://www.pescalis.com) and hopefully we shall have the English site completed in February 2006.

Tight Lines

*Dave Mozzis*

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## PHIL WALLER

We were greatly entertained and educated by the expertise and humour of our speaker, who kept our attention to the end. Many members benefited from his advice and valuation of their (fishing) tackle and it was a privilege to be able to admire and fondle some of his own collection (the rough value of the items on display was about £20,000!!).

A couple of days later, many of us met up with him again at the Tackle Fair – some with financial benefit!

## EVENTS & OUTINGS 2006

Application forms for various events and outings arranged for this Summer are enclosed. Please complete and return to the respective organiser as soon as possible as, unless he has your details, he cannot assure you of a place! The competitions and matches are not meant to be anything more than a good excuse for a day's fishing with friends – do join in and enjoy yourself! Some of the dates shown on the Programme may be changed – watch the Newsletter and web-site for updates.

For information, our usual match against Rother Branch has been changed this year – Rother will be entering a team in the Charity Pairs on 8<sup>th</sup> October instead, thus making it an even bigger and better multi-team competition.

## FLUORESCENCE

*By John Plowman*

Light as we know it is a very small part of what scientists call the electromagnetic spectrum of waves. There are many different types of these waves from radio to the dangerous gamma rays. The only thing special about light is that our eyes can detect it.

Close to light but with more energy and invisible to our eyes is ultra violet (UV) radiation. The most obvious effect of UV is sun tan (or burn if you are careless). However, there are some materials that will absorb the energy from UV and re-radiate it as light. This gives an extra visible boost of light which we call fluorescence. This is why fluorescent materials such as wool or chenille glow in daylight. For a fly fisher one should remember that although water is transparent to light, UV can only penetrate a few inches even in clear waters so it is unlikely that your fluorescent fly will have any difference to a normal fly when fished other than close to the surface.

If you have one of the small UV forgery detection lamps you can observe these effects with a jar of water.

## Auction

Bewl Flyfishers advise their annual auction of tackle will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at Bewl Water. Viewing from 10 am, auction starts 11 am.

## February Speaker

**Alan Bithell**

**16<sup>th</sup> February** sees a visit from Alan – a one man fly-tying experience. This well known contributor to the journals promises an evening you won't forget!

## PROGRAMME

The last page of this newsletter is the provisional programme for 2006 – save it till it is updated, or view the web-site for any updates.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT LINES

**New Season's Events.** Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find details of the outings that your committee members have been organising for you. Please find time to take part in as many of these as you can and please reply promptly to the appropriate organiser. If you are concerned that you are not a good enough angler to attend then don't be. Even the competitions are very relaxed affairs where the opportunity to compare techniques with fellow addicts will improve your fishing skills. If you are a small water angler then why not try one of the reservoir days, or vice versa.

**Etiquette and Rules.** Our sport is one of good manners and fairplay so it behoves all of us not to do anything that will distress our fellow anglers either through intent or error. At FDG events we are "On display" and so need to realise that even minor discretions such as bringing a boat to close to bank anglers can cause annoyance. Should you have cause for concern then please mention it politely to the offending fisherman – he will probably not even realise he was upsetting you – or talk to the outing organiser. There is very little that can be done after the event.

*John Plowman.*

## VANDALISM AT BEWL

You may have already heard the news from Bewl Water that a serious act of vandalism released almost the entire stock of fish being reared for the forthcoming season. Some 50,000 rainbows and some browns were released, ranging from 6 or 7 inches to 2 lb plus. Many of the smaller fish may be lost to predators and with greatly reduced water volume food will be hard for them to find, resulting in slower growth.

The police are investigating, the raid having been carried out during the night, apparently using a boat brought with the raiders, so it was obviously planned.

Whilst no doubt some so-called "animal rights" campaigners will claim responsibility, the results of this thoughtless act will exacerbate the difficulties being experienced by the water authorities who are already suffering drought conditions with the reservoir only at 35% full. This situation is currently being improved by extraction from the Medway, and hopefully by the time the season starts the reservoir is hoped to be up to 90%.

**Be warned** – be on your guard for the "antis" – they have no respect for you or for the animals they claim to want to save.

### A few quotes:-

It is not the fish we catch that counts, for they can be had for mere silver. It is the break of waves, the joyous rush of the brook, and the contemplation of the eternal rush of the stream.

*Herbert Hoover*

A fisherman will spend almost as much time in tackle shops as he will upon a trout stream.

*William Hjortsberg*

## Tackle Fair

The Branch had a demonstration stand at the Tackle Fair at Worthing on 22<sup>nd</sup> January with Phillip Ellis and Brian Hendry showing their skills.



*Brian Hendry selects a natural colour!*

Brian intended to tie his now famous pike flies, but spent so much time talking to visitors to the stand (and boosting his collection of tackle!) that he only managed two! (But what a lovely bargain vice!)



*Roy Gurney and Phillip Ellis on the stand*

The stand was well attended by visitors, both old friends and new; the pike flies attracted much attention from the coarse anglers but Phillip's Klinkhamers were also well examined.

The majority of stands were for vintage tackle, with some new coarse tackle, though some bargain fly-lines and fly tackle were to be had and at least one of our members acquired a new fly-reel.

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

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**Visit our web site**

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

# Sussex Branch Programme 2006

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Organiser</u>
<u>February</u>	16 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	Alan Bithell – a one man fly-tying experience!!	
<u>March</u>	16 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	<u>Justyn Anwil</u> of Bass Fishing UK will tell you how to use Ron Nicholson's flies!!! Illustrated presentation of salt-water fishing.	
	25 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	<u>Annual Dinner at The Dyke Golf Club</u>	John Burt
<u>April</u>	6 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	<u>End of season Social and Prizegiving</u>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sunday)	Bewl Water – Frank Darrah Pairs competition	John Plowman
<u>May</u>	14 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Arlington – match v. Eastbourne F F	Bill Smith
	25 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	Arlington Evening with beer and sandwiches	Roy Gurney
<u>June</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Thur/Fri/Sat)	South of England Show, Ardingly - Demonstrating	Roy Gurney
	11 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Ashbourne – Branch outing with BBQ	Roy Gurney
	TBA	Match v. Surrey Branch	Chris Croucher
	22 <sup>nd</sup> (Thursday)	Barcombe Evening	Roy Gurney
<u>July</u>	9 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Chalk Springs – Stillwater Challenge	Chris Croucher
	13 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	South of England Show, Ardingly – Schools Day - Demonstrating	Roy Gurney
	15/16 <sup>th</sup> (Sat/Sun)	Game & Country Fair, Michelham Priory - Demonstrating	Roy Gurney
	29 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Game Fair - Broadlands	Paul Bond
<u>August</u>	13 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Chalk Springs – match v. Crawley F F	
	26 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)	Grafham Water – John Watt Trophy	Chris Nunn
<u>September</u>	24 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	Duncton Mill – Branch Outing with BBQ	Peter Winder
	28 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	Fly tying recommences	
	30 <sup>th</sup> /1 <sup>st</sup> Oct (Sat/Sun)	South of England Show and Game Fair – Ardingly - Demonstrating	Roy Gurney
<u>October</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> (Sun)	Bewl Water – Charity Pairs Competition	John Plowman
	19 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	Speaker - TBA	
<u>November</u>	16 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	<b>AUCTION</b>	Roy Gurney
<u>December</u>	14 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	<b>AGM followed by Quiz and mince pies and mulled wine</b>	
<u>Jan. 2007</u>	4 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	<b>Fly tying recommences</b>	

Please note that fly-tying and speakers' evenings are held on Thursday evenings starting at 8 pm at the Patcham Community Centre, Ladies Mile Road, Brighton, BN1 8TA