



Sussex Branch Newsletter



DECEMBER 2012



WISHING EVERYONE A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS



Shaun Leonard, Director of the Wild Trout Trust, reviews Theo Pike's latest book.

"Trout in Dirty Places" is a great read and much more than just a fishing book. Alongside fishing tips, seasons and permits and how to get to each of the rivers, it takes the reader on a journey along 50 urban rivers in the UK. He lays out the history that wrecked them and the people, organisations and circumstances that are helping to restore the rivers and their trout.

Take for example, Glasgow's River Kelvin, with its history of flour production, cotton mills, alum, paper, snuff, malt, nails and pottery, that would variously run blue, green and red. Now, with the involvement of a host of local groups, the river's transformation is indicated by the presence of iconic species like trout and otter.

Its dirty legacy only remains in the names of its pools, such as the 'Sanitary Towel' and the 'Petrol Pool'! Illustrated by stunning eye-catching photographs throughout, Theo Pike who is the chairman of the ground-breaking - and river mending - Wandle Trust and wild trout conservationist, has produced an excellent read,

full of interesting facts and anecdotes. I recommend that you add Trout in Dirty Places to your bookshelf and with every purchase a donation will be given to the Wild Trout Trust and the Grayling Society".

Published by Merlin Unwin Books www.merlinunwin.co.uk
253 pp. Hardback £20. The views expressed in the review are those of the reviewer. This review previously appeared in 'FISH', the magazine of the Institute of Fisheries Management. Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested. They can subscribe to receive future issues by emailing trout@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Phillip Ellis has a copy of this book if any member would like to view on a Thursday evening.

Phillip Ellis

Speakers

Sorry for the mix-up on the 2nd November when, due to a complete black-out caused by a computer glitch which temporarily destroyed records of bookings, causing the change of dates by Keith Wallington to be reversed. He will definitely be with us on 6th December (which was the original date advised in some programmes) and we look forward to this welcome return by popular demand.

We are grateful to Paul Davis for standing in at very short notice to give a demonstration of a couple of the competition flies for this year.

Meantime we had the pleasure of hosting Johan Klingberg on 6th November, before his return to his native Sweden.

RG



Tie a Fly

This tip is from the book *Curiosities of Ale and Beer*, published in 1889: Mix beer, chimney soot, walnut leaves, and a little powdered alum in a small pot. Bring to a boil, then chill. Dipping any natural materials you're using in this solution prior to tying is supposed to make for a tighter, more attractive fly. No promises as to whether it will catch more fish, though.

Our Fly Materials/Books and Fishing Tackle Auctions 2012

What a difference a year makes! Last year we struggled to put together sufficient auction lots to run 2 auctions, whereas this year we had record entries and still had to turn down over 100 auction lots!

This year's two auctions were by far our biggest ever, with over 330 auction lots in the Fly Tying Materials, Tools and Books auction, and 339 in the Fishing Tackle auction. As a result of Mike Humphreys skill and expertise as an auctioneer and great team work by some very dedicated branch member volunteers. The Fly Materials/Books auction ended at 10.30pm. In the fishing Tackle auction, Mike finished at 10.15pm, and the last person left at 10.45pm. Incredible – when you think that 72 paid and collected their goods, and left within 30 minutes!

We realised early on, that with record numbers of lots up for auction, we simply do not have enough branch members to make the auctions viable and financially successful, and that we needed to attract potential buyers/bidders from outside the club. So this year we ran an advertisement for 3 weeks in the Friday-Ad. In addition we contacted a number of fisheries (Bewl Water, Brick Farm, Chalk Springs, Duncton Mill, Hazel Cope etc. – even Passies Pond), and asked them to display posters advertising our two auction sales. We also contacted the match secretaries of all the various clubs/associations that we fish against (including several that we don't!) including the Salmon and Trout Association, Eastbourne FF, Crawley FF, Hastings FF, Balcombe FF, Sussex Piscatorial, The Police Federation angling club, and several deep sea angling clubs, as well as several Fly Dressers Guild branches. So a great deal of effort went into trying to get as many people as possible to attend.

Of the 40 who attended the Fly Material/Books auction, we were able to attract 19 non members, but disappointingly only 21 of our own members. The Fishing Tackle auction numbers were higher for both, with 72 attending, split approximately 50/50 between members and non members.

The auctions made a substantial contribution to branch funds, but in truth, once you take out the cost of room hire, advertising, postage costs, bag and labels costs, the contribution to branch funds would not have justified the work and effort involved. However this year the contribution to branch funds benefited from a purchase of fly material and tackle and also a very generous bequest by Albert Horne, of his fly materials and books, which altered the contribution dramatically, to one which matched the branch subscriptions of the total membership!

We are already thinking about next year and working on ideas on how to improve both attendance and our margin. Currently we are looking at reverting to a 3rd Thursday in either October or November (when we have the 2 rooms available) and possibly running the Fishing Tackle auction on a Saturday, during the day – again dependent on room availability, parking, Mike Humphreys, etc.

You will gather by now that this year's auctions were a real success, and that is down to some extraordinary dedication and team work by a number of members, to each of whom I would like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation. They are in alphabetical order:- Bill Black, Paul Bond, John Cooper, Paul Davis, Jim Harris, Ray Love, John Plowman,

Bill Smith, Terry Tullett and Tony Woolnough, (apologies, is I have missed anyone out). They worked their socks off to make sure that both auctions went like a dream (and not a nightmare!) and often missed out on bidding for items, because of their involvement. There are two other key players, without whom the auctions would simply not happen, that I would like to thank and mention. The first is auctioneer Mike Humphreys, who twice a year makes the long journey to and from Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire to run our auctions and support our branch. The second is Roy Gurney, who plays such a key role in producing and distributing the auction catalogues, collecting the money on the night, doing the auction accounts and finally sending out cheques to all those who put in auction lots. All of the above, give their services for free (and didn't even get a beer out of it!). So a really big thank you, guys.

Tony Harrison

Sussex FDG v Crawley FF

It was decided to fish a team of 10 out of 13, Crawley managed 10, and so had no room for errors. Sussex had a good turn out as usual, fielding 13. Therefore Sussex dropped their 3 worst scores, which was good as Bill Smith BLANKED. The only other to blank was a Sussex member, Ted How, who fished for Crawley. It was good to see Ted again.

The first hour seemed critical, as most fish came to the fly then. The match score was a win (again) for Sussex by 22lbs.

Tony Harrison had the biggest bag 11lbs 13oz (all Browns), including one of 3lb 12oz. All caught on dry flies.

Nigel Duckworth had the Biggest fish. A Rainbow of 4lb 7oz. Nigel did well as he only caught 2 fish.

Crawley had 5 men bagging up. The match was conducted in a very enjoyable manner. We wish to thank Crawley for their sporting conduct. 7 Sussex men bagged up, including Paul Cook, fishing in his first match for us.

The Results:

Sussex FDG

Name	Sussex Bag	Largest Fish
Bill Smith	Blanker	Not counted
Chris Croucher	6lb 9oz	
Ian Dunk	8lb 15oz	
Steve Mustchin	8lb 7oz	
Wayne Duerden	8lb 5oz	
Nigel Duckworth	6lb 1oz	4lb 7oz Paul
Davis	10lb 10oz	
Tony Harrison	11lb 13oz	3lb 12oz
Bill Black	1lb 13oz	Not counted
Paul Cook	9lb 15oz	
Dick Burbidge	10lb 2oz	
Paul Daltrey	2lb 6oz	
Brain Raw	2lb 0oz	Not counted

Crawley FF

Name	Crawley Bag	Largest Fish
Jeff Smith	2lb 0oz	
Jim Fulbrook	8lb 15oz	2lb 14oz Ted
How	Blanker	
B. Martin	8lb 7oz	
G. Sawders	9lb 9oz	2lb 13oz
Sandy Lewis	2lb 15oz	
Martin Burrows	8lb 4oz	
Bob Sanger	6lb 15oz	2lb 12oz Ray
Jennings	7lb 1oz	
Cliff Jenner	8lb 0oz	

Bill Smith

Section taken from the Editor's Comment from Trout Fisherman

Always keen to meet anglers myself and features editor Jeff Priest travelled south to Brighton recently to receive questions from the Sussex Branch of the Fly Dressers' Guild. Now, we normally get a pretty good 'roasting' with all attending a good evening. We got off lightly this time and enjoyed a lively debate. I learned that, despite the digital age taking over, many anglers are yet to purchase an iPad (three out of the 50 or so attending the meeting)! And many more are still computer shy preferring life in print and paper world (over half that attended).

What struck me most of all though was the way southern fly anglers have had to think 'out of the box' to continue their fishing. Saltwater sport and carp on the fly are every bit as popular as trout in the south-east.

The numbers of trout waters in this region has dropped dramatically over the last 15 years-gone are Weir Wood, Bough Beach, L'Eglise, etc so anglers have embraced change well in these parts – indeed they had to to keep casting a fly.

Russell Hill (Editor Trout Fisherman)



Branch Trophy Day 30th September 2012

Trophy day 15 fished the event. Breakfast was waiting when we arrived. The morning session was hard for most people with only one real hot spot where everyone caught at least two fish. Sophie laid on a good lunch much enjoyed by all.

The wind picked up in the afternoon making some pegs (mine in particular) a real challenge. We finished fishing at 4 tea & cakes were served while we weighed in.

Results:

Best bag	RAY BURT	6lb 11oz
Second	PETE BUSS	6lb 10oz
BEST Rainbow	JOHN BURT	2lb 20z
Best Brown	KEITH VERRAL	1lb 5oz

A really good day.

Peter Winder

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION BRICK FARM LAKES

2nd December 2012

What a fabulous day, driving over from Hove with the sun coming up over the downs & a clear blue sky, the fields white with frost. Keith & Sophie had breakfast waiting when we arrived.

I had arranged to start fishing at 9 but it was so cold we stayed in the lodge till 9-30 even then I had to break the ice on my first swim by throwing the life belt in several times, I think this might just have spooked the fish for a while, in the first hour most fish came on lures cats or montanas from the left side of the lake looking from the lodge,

It was a surprise how high in the water the fish were only 1- 2 ft by lunch time 5 of the 15 anglers had their limit, The lodge was very festive with all the Christmas decorations up 17 people sat down for a really good Christmas dinner with puds & coffee.

Some of us staggered out after lunch to try and complete our bags.

Results:

Best Bag	Steve Mushchin	8lb 8oz	Second
	John Mouncey	7lb 1oz	
Best Rainbow	Ian Dunk	2lb 4oz	

Steve had a bigger fish of 2lb 8oz, but as we only allow one prize per person Ian got best fish.

A very good happy day was had by all even our beloved CHAIRMAN•(don't•ask).

Peter Winder

Game Fair 2013 – Ragley Hall, Warwickshire – 20th July 2013

The branch is seriously considering a trip to the next Game Fair in July next year. In order to make the trip viable as the distance is slightly further than we have run before we would have to leave Withead, Brighton by 5.30am (groans from the better halves!). This would ensure we are there about 8.30 allowing for the usual show traffic plus it will give us 9 hours in the show before departing back to Withead. The coach cost is between £23 - £25 but ticket information is still not confirmed. Two years ago we paid £45 for the trips. Therefore the cost is likely to be about £45 - 50 per head. I need 30 people to make it work.

Would you let me know your interest on tying nights or paul.bond13@btinternet.com and will see how interest goes. (I have already sold – 12 seats to friends and shooting colleagues over the weekend)!

Paul Bond

Keith Wallington

Keith travelled down to Brighton on a horrendous night. It was a night of torrential rain and strong winds. He started off by stating he was going to demonstrate four flies, and then asked us the audience in what order we wanted him to tie them. He proceeded to tie the flies (showing off his tremendous skills as a fly tyer). All along whilst tying his fly patterns, he continued to take questions from the audience. Unfortunately I had to leave just before Keith resumed his very entertaining and informative tying.

Andy Steer

Published by the Sussex Branch of the Flydressers' Guild

Chairman: Tony Woolnough 01273 483833 Secretary:
Paul Bond 01273 420410 Treasurer:
Roy Gurney 01273 506184

Editor: Andy Steer, Flat 6 Southdown House, 2 Silverdale
Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN20 7AL
Phone: 01323 439688
E-mail: a.v.steer@talk21.com

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