



## Sussex Branch Newsletter



**MARCH/APRIL 2013**

### Chris Sandford's new website

Chris Sandford was wondering if any of our members and non-members might be interested in having a look at his new website. There's all sorts of flies and articles plus my new video programme called 'Stuff'!  
<<http://www.chrissandford.com>>

There is a link to his website in our links page on the branch's website.

Please take a look at this short video, which has been made by Don Stazicker and Stuart Crofts.

<http://youtu.be/mGYmdXVDH40>

### Pat Bond

We are sorry to have to advise the death of Ray's wife and Paul's mother, Pat, after a long illness, and our heartfelt thoughts are with both at this time.

### Eileen Markham

We also send our condolences to Barry, whose wife Eileen passed away suddenly on 27<sup>th</sup> April. Eileen had joined the Branch briefly in 2008 and made friends quickly with some of us. We wish to say our thoughts are with Barry and we hope to see him again in the near future.

### *Fly Dresser*

Dear all,

As some of you may have already seen, the delayed Winter issue of Flydresser started to land on members' doorsteps earlier this week.

Unfortunately, we have been very badly let down by our printers, who printed incomplete address labels for 350+ members, so quite a few returns are making their way back to our Membership Secretary.

Can you please get in touch with our Membership Administrator, Evelyn Price, on [admin@flydressersguild.org](mailto:admin@flydressersguild.org) if you have not received your magazine say by the end of next week.

We are in the process of putting the Spring issue of Flydresser to bed, and have brought the deadlines for submission of copy for the Summer and subsequent editions forward by one month, so we should now be back on the usual publication timetable.

Kind regards,  
Chris

--  
Chris Reeves  
General Secretary  
The Fly Dressers' Guild  
[secretary@flydressersguild.org](mailto:secretary@flydressersguild.org)

### Brass Monkey 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013

First of all a big thank-you to Bill Smith and Wayne Duerden for organizing a cracking days fishing, where this year everyone caught with the majority catching their limit even Andy Steer caught the first time in 4 years. This year everyone took it upon themselves and arrived early where upon arrival we were welcomed by Wilf with Bacon rolls, tea and coffee, with everyone tackled up and ready we managed to get going early with the first fish being caught by Gerry Newland within the first 5 minutes.

Throughout the mornings session we had a steady stream of fish being caught including a couple of brown trout, with Steve Mustchin catching a really nice big Brownie, and believe it or not a grass carp. With the competition hotting up it was left to Bill and Wayne to sort out the prizes where there was quite a few, with which nearly everyone went away with a prize. We were also treated to some goodies made by Bill and Wayne's wives which as usual were exceptional, a big thank you to them for putting themselves out for us and for Wilf for his hospitality.

This year's Brass Monkey trip certainly lived up to it's name with biting winds and snow flurries, and for those who braved to go out after lunch still had to cope with the biting winds but the snow flurries started to get a bit harder, yet the fishing still kept going with people catching just for fun. With the weather slow getting worse all those still fishing decided to call it a day and head home satisfied that a good day was had by all.

Steve Steer

### Bio Security (fisheries) - doing nothing is not an option!

An interesting and useful video showing how to protect fisheries from alien species.

Name	Results		Total Weight	Prize
	1 <sup>st</sup> fish	2 <sup>nd</sup> fish		
Steve Mustchin	4.32 brown	2.09 brown	6.41	Best Bag 6lb 7oz
Paul Bond	1.61	1.74	3.35	Second
	3.46	1.76	5.22	Fish Best
Peter Naisbit				Fish
Gerry Newland	1.70	1.65	3.35	3lb 7oz First Fish



Gerry Newland receiving his prize for first fish



Steve Mustchin receiving his prize for best bag



Proof that I have at last caught a fish



Brain Raw's Carp



ICE FLY-FISHING WITH DOUG

### Speaker 4<sup>th</sup> April **COLIN MACLEOD**

Colin writes on salt water fishing for *Fly Fishing & Fly-tying* will talk about "Fly-fishing the South Coast". With the warmer weather coming (?) this is a "must" for all you aspiring (and already converted) salt water fly fishermen.

### Michelham Priory

One item missing from our latest programme is the "Michelham Goes Wild" show on **22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June** at Michelham Priory.

We have been invited to have a stand at this show in the lovely grounds, to demonstrate our craft, so anyone interested in helping please contact Tony Woolnough on 01273 483833 or [tony@fishways.com](mailto:tony@fishways.com) – you don't have to be a champion tyer – just tie a few flies for the public to see you doing it. These events are our main recruiting opportunities and Tony is always looking for more bodies to man the other shows we attend, too. Anyway, add this date to your programme and come along just enjoy the show even if you cannot commit to tying.

## *Chairman's Chat*

### Trouble Ahead?

So what trouble can there be on the fisheries horizon? Well furry things in the shape of re-introduced or supported species such as beavers, otters, wolves and bears.

### Otters

So why were they nearly wiped out in the UK, could it be they damaged fisheries? Or that they killed ground nesting birds? To state the obvious, otters principally live on fish although recent tracking studies have shown them entering rabbit warrens, presumably for a change of diet. We all know the efforts to enhance vole numbers but these are also a frequent food of otters. Already at least one fish farmer has been put out of business by otters. You may have seen reports of the case brought by a fish bankrupt farmer against the Environment Agency for enhancing otter numbers. With a 20lb carp worth over £1,000, it does not take many raids by otters to cause problems.

### Beavers

As you know, they build dams; fell trees and generally lay waste to rivers systems. So what is the problem? The main problems are two fold, dams obstruct the upstream migration of fish, namely salmon, sea trout, smelt and shad to mention but a few. They also prevent the foraging trips of coarse fish. They raise the water level upstream of their dams which may increase flooding. The main problem with dams is when they are washed away they will block bridges and culverts which could cause serious flooding.

### Wolves

Yes the re-introduction of wolves is also under consideration. Do not believe what people say that wolves do not kill people. When I worked at a nature reserve in Galicia in Northern Spain (actually Franco's hunting reserve) there were many wolves and wild boar, a wolf took a child from the village in broad daylight. A Polish friend of mine told me that, in the winter in Poland they often find shoes with feet in them. No problem, a UK environmentalist said "we must expect some casualties" – so that is all right then.

### Bears

Don't go there, the re-introduced brown bears are playing havoc with sheep in Italy.

Tight lines  
*Tony W*

## Outings

You have all received entry forms for this year's events – anyone missing theirs can download from the website or ask Roy Gurney for e-mail or hard copy.

**Now get down to filling them in!!**

Some events are already filling up so avoid disappointment by getting in right away and also bear in mind that organisers have to commit to fishery owners early with numbers to get any additional perks like closing the fishery.

*RG*

## Roger Smith

Our speaker for March was Roger Smith, author of "*Flyfishing the Welsh Borderlands*", who gave us a remarkable insight into the researching and development of this very enjoyable book, which is a "must" for anyone contemplating an expedition to this area, and indeed to anyone interest in flyfishing in general.

His very interesting talk was then followed by a demonstration of tying some of the multitude of patterns which appear in the book – simple, quick to tie, eminently "fish-worthy" and to my mind as like to be as effective on any river hereabouts too.

Roger asked us to donate to the Wye and Usk Foundation in lieu of a fee and drew attention to the voucher scheme and Passport available for fishing this area, details from:- <http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/fishing/voucher.php> . If you don't have access to the web, Roy Gurney has contact details.

*RHG*

PS

If you are going – get the book!!

## Librarian

All we need now is a volunteer to take over the role of librarian, ready for next season. We have a number of videos, DVDs, books, etc which need sorting, re-cataloguing and generally sifting – actually quite a useful resource for the Branch. Don't all rush at once, but it would be a great service to the Branch members. Contact Roy Gurney on 01273 506184 or [roygurney@ntlworld.com](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com) if you want to know more.

## THE WRIGHT STUFF

I am sure we are all familiar with the principles of evolution. Basically, the longer something is around, the better it gets. There are plenty of exceptions to this, as you would expect; for example, roads, British Rail, the weather forecast, your bank account, Tony; the list goes on.

However, there are some things that run true to form and the Mayfly is one of these lucky chaps.

The year 2011 was a spectacular one for the Mayfly hatch at Powdermill Reservoir and I was lucky enough to be there with a friend of mine called N. Orville Whatley. His dad was O.K. Whatley (yes, Orville K. Whatley) and he distinctly remembered Mayfly hatches on the Exe and Torridge back in 1906 (or thereabouts!).

Evolution takes a long time to show any real changes in development, so you won't be surprised to know that in spite of the intervening odd 100 years or so, the Mayfly of the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century has only shown limited improvement from their ancestors of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

There is a theory that the Mayfly of 1905 ish became confused with the early aeroplane designs, which varied from one to three wing patterns and they became even more confused when trying to emulate these new flying machines in aerial combat. Thus was born the "Mayfly Dance".

Alas, they were ill equipped to compete with man and his majestic advance through civilisation. Lacking in petrol engines, mono- bi- and tri-planes, syncro-gunfire and a rudder to keep them on the straight and narrow, all they could come up with was a satisfactory undercarriage to skate across the water, before eventually landing up where all their predecessors had finished – in the mouth of a hungry trout!!

My friend, N. Orville Whatley and I witnessed many such modern day Mayfly in 2011 doing exactly this and so I have tried to tie a replica of these examples of evolution, and give you a new pattern – "The Wright Mayfly".

Tight lines,

Peter Neave



**18<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

### **End of Season Event**

A reminder that we are holding our end of season event at which the Rod Raffle will be drawn, trophies presented, the fly-tying winners announced and a buffet laid on for your enjoyment. The eats (and drinks) will be heavily subsidised, but we do ask for a minimum contribution of £3 a head to help keep us solvent!

It might be worth mentioning that there will be another evening's tying, chatting and so forth on the following Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, when you can catch up with those patterns you missed, booking outings, or just having a natter.

## **Website**

We must apologise for our website being rather out of date. This was an oversight by yours truly, and hopefully by the time you get this newsletter it will be bang up to date.

We have been lacking information to put on it from the members – photographs and fly patterns, etc – so let us have some contributions to enhance the site, either direct to Mike Guest via the [website](#) or to me at [roygurney@ntlworld.com](mailto:roygurney@ntlworld.com)

**RG**

## **Equipment Officer**

Please note that we have a new Equipment Officer, taking over the reins from Andy Steer. **David Painter** has volunteered his services and will be pleased to receive your orders for both Branch and Guild clothing and accessories – a catalogue is available if required. David can be contacted whilst delivering teas on Thursdays or preferably by phone on **01323 843749** or e-mail at [painterchrl@aol.com](mailto:painterchrl@aol.com)

**FLYTYINGSHOP.CO.UK**  
for all your fly tying needs

**10% off all web orders**

Enter the code  
FDG10%2012  
at check out.

Don't have a computer?  
Can't find the product you want online?  
Then call us on 01273 252504  
to receive the same offer.

**OVER 5000 ITEMS IN STOCK**

[www.flytyingshop.co.uk](http://www.flytyingshop.co.uk)

***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](mailto:a.v.steer@talk21.com)

**Visit our web site**

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