



To all our members worldwide

In this issue....

- ◆ Notice of Annual General Meeting
- ◆ A new outbreak of "Killer Shrimp"
- ◆ "Just the One"
- ◆ Area 4 Fishing Day
- ◆ Angling Trust and Angling Development Board Merger Completed
- ◆ Dave Emmonds' three-pounder
- ◆ Rod's Rod Sale
- ◆ Area 8 News
- ◆ French Fishing Flies
- ◆ Utah Killer Bug
- ◆ GRT Trustees: Update 2012
- ◆ GS Wedding of the Year (so far!)

Pickering Beck Practical Visit by the Wild Trout Trust in partnership with the Grayling Society

Paul Gaskell

March 15th and 16th 2012 saw a team of WTT bods (Tim, Paul and Gareth) heading to the Duchy of Lancaster water on the Pickering Beck.

We were there at the request of Tony Walsh and Dave Southall of Pickering Fisheries Association and we also had a fully-laden camera crew in tow (Dean Hodson and John Pearson of Fish On productions). The aim was to train local fishing club members in techniques of improving the prospects for both trout and grayling populations in their stretch of water – and to simultaneously use this exercise to produce training videos so that a much wider audience could benefit from the work done over two days. We also had the exciting and unusual prospect of using horse-drawn technology to manoeuvre felled timber as, apart from the lowest field, much of the bankside terrain can be very difficult to



The heavy horse team bringing materials through the site

effect of such land use on the fish and invertebrate populations of their river. In order for the club to get the best benefit from the labours of installing structures within the channel – they are going to have to bring about a change to the dense coniferous forestry that is planted right up to the river bank tops for a large proportion of the Duchy water.

I look forward to returning to this section of river in a couple of years' time with a fly rod in hand, and I hope that we will have won some converts within the fishing club membership by having a really positive impact on grayling and trout population numbers. The combination of reducing fine sediment input and increasing nutritious leaf fall by swapping from coniferous to deciduous forestry adjacent to the river – along with the increased spawning inputs, juvenile fish survival and adult pool habitat will be a great thing to see when it all comes together.



Preparing large woody debris before securing it in the river

access with petrol-driven machinery. These works were generously funded by the Environment Agency (North East Fisheries department), The Grayling Society as well as drawing on Wild Trout Trust resources.

The works within the river channel itself concentrated on augmenting some nice existing installations of juvenile habitat by adding structures that were targeted at two additional life stages of trout and grayling: Adult holding habitat and clean, size-sorted spawning gravels. We also made sure to provide some more substantial refuge areas for young fish to escape the worst of the spate flows that often pour down this river – as well as sheltering from predators.

Another theme that we were keen to impress upon the club members is the importance of how the surrounding land is used – and the



Securing the material to the river bed





Editorial Bob Male

There is a proverb that says, "Be careful what you wish for, you may get it!" A few weeks ago, we Southern anglers were wishing hard for rain, and we got it – the wettest April on record, I am told. Our normally clear chalk streams, or at least quite a few of them, are full and brown, and the dull cold weather has us feeling more like December than May. We are all now wishing for a return to more normal conditions for our annual Mayfly carnival and, of course, for the opening of the grayling season.

These more extreme weather patterns, whether expressed as droughts or floods, exceptional cold spells or excessive heat, seem now to be a part of our changing climate. The drought here in the South is not over – these sudden flushes of water will not last, and there is still grave concern that no broad plans or policies seem to be in place to conserve this watery bounty. There is a great need for a long-term sustainable water policy, not just for us anglers, but to keep the taps running too.

On a happier note, let me remind all members of the forthcoming AGM and Symposium, to be held at Llandrindod Wells on October 20th. A second copy of the

booking form is included in this mailing in case you need it – book early and come and enjoy a lovely weekend in the Welsh Borders. The closing date of September 30th seems a long way away, but don't delay, or you may miss out on the first allocation of fishing beats for the Sunday!

Also in this mailing is a discount card from specialist fly suppliers, fish4flies.com, who have a vast range of quality flies for all purposes and styles. They are very kindly offering 20% discount to all Grayling Society members on their purchases, and a 5% donation to the Society funds as well.

Orvis need no introduction as one of our best-known rod and reel makers and tackle suppliers, and as long time supporters of the Society. Their enclosed leaflet describes a discount and loyalty card that members will surely find valuable.

Many thanks to both fish4flies and Orvis for their generous schemes.

May I wish all our members a very enjoyable and successful new season; tight lines!

Bob Male

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(my old address will continue to work for some time yet.)

Notice of Annual General Meeting of The Grayling Society

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Grayling Society will be held at 4.00 pm on Saturday 20th October 2012 at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5DY

Please note the following:

1. All Committee Members are due for re-election at the AGM. Anyone wishing to be considered as a candidate for a position on the Committee should forward their name and brief biography to Steve Skuce, General Secretary, The Grayling Society, Rosemary

Cottage, Fore Street, Wyllye, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0RQ or steve.skuce@tiscali.co.uk by 12 noon Thursday 18th October 2012 or hand to Steve in person not later than 12 noon on Saturday 20th October 2012. Please indicate the position for which you wish to be considered.

2. Anyone wishing to propose a motion for consideration at the AGM must submit that in writing to Steve Skuce, The Grayling Society, Rosemary Cottage, Fore Street, Wyllye, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0RQ or steve.skuce@tiscali.co.uk by 31st August 2012.

A new outbreak of "Killer Shrimp"



The Environment Agency, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales issued a briefing in May confirming that "Killer Shrimp", *Dikerogammarus villosus*, had been found in a new location on the Norfolk Broads.

The briefing emphasized that some 4300 sites were being monitored to keep track of this invasive species and that biosecurity advice for anglers, boat owners, canoeists and other waterway users, was available and should be adhered to.

A timely reminder, perhaps, that although this organism does not appear to be spreading quickly, we need to be careful and to do our bit to deny it access to our waters.

Let's keep those nets and waders clean!



A lovely stretch of river

"Just the One"

Congratulations to Tony Harris on catching a superb personal best grayling in March of this year. Tony's article about the capture will appear in full in the next Journal, but here are some pictures and a short extract, to whet our appetites, and encourage us to keep going after that special fish.

'I'm still coming to terms with the size of the fish that I managed to deceive on a size 14 nymph and keep looking at the photos to make sure that it really happened. Although I have caught large grayling up to 49cm from the river Frome I have never previously seen, let alone caught, a grayling of this size and beauty.' (from Tony's report, written the day after the capture.)

Tony with his big Frome fish

Area 4 Fishing Day

The next Area 4 fishing Day will be held on Saturday 29th September. The venues are Built Wells and Llandrindod Wells, with fishing on Groe Park and Irfon Angling Club and the Llandrindod Wells Angling Association waters. Day tickets to be purchased on the day. Anyone who would like to join in this event, please contact Roger Smith by e-mail (roger@adventuresmith.co.uk) or by phone (01684 560690), for details of meeting places and times.

Angling Trust and Angling Development Board Merger Completed

This is an extract from an Angling Trust announcement made in April of this year.

The Angling Development Board (ADB) has today become part of the Angling Trust following a merger of the two organisations, their assets and staff, to create a single representative and national governing body for the sport of angling in England which employs more than 40 professional staff, including those employed by Fish Legal, the legal arm of the Angling Trust, which operates throughout the UK.

This is the latest and most significant stage in the unification of angling in England since the formation of the Angling Trust in 2009. The addition of the ADB to the Angling Trust will include 700 licensed coaches, 12 regional and local angling development officers, 30 County Angling Action Groups and a wide range of ongoing programmes and projects at a local and national scale to increase participation in angling by people of all backgrounds and ages.

Over the past 3 years, the ADB has worked with Sport England and the Environment Agency and has involved more than 17,000 people in participation events, has developed and implemented a single licensing system for coaches, and has raised nearly £300,000 in match funding from local sources.

All this work will continue under the banner of the Angling Trust and will be integrated with other elements of the Trust's work, such as the management of national and international competitions.

The first phase of a funding bid is currently being prepared for the next round of Sport England Funding for the period April 2013 to 2017. This bid will form part of a national angling participation action plan which will be developed over the coming months in partnership with other organisations in the sector to create a coherent plan to sustain and grow angling participation and the social, economic and environmental benefits arising from angling.



A happy conclusion – Dave Emmonds' three-pounder

Dave has kindly shared his odyssey with us, and has now achieved his aim:

Dear Bob,

My computer has been down for a couple of months so this is old news: it is just to put 'The Grayling In Question' to bed. I didn't have a weigh - net (I do now) but I'm sure I managed the mythic 3lb fish at the end of February - photo attached.

I took it trotting on very fine gear and it likely took me ten minutes to get it to the net. I managed a few nice fish this season despite the season being quite short owing to floods.

The range of fish on the Wye has been very pleasing with grayling from 3 - 6 inches very much in evidence - particularly now with the odd one taking the dry flies we are using for trout.

Next stop 4lb - well, maybe; but it won't be for want of trying!

Regards,

David Emmonds

Rod's Rod Sale

A surfeit of rods accumulated over recent years, has meant that I now need to dispose of some to make extra space in my "study". They include:-

14' 9wt Abel salmon rod with Litespeed reel/selection of flies;

Orvis Power Matrix 4 pc 9' 9wt;

Orvis Clearwater 4pc 10' 7wt;

Sage Flight 4pc 9' 6wt;

Sportfish 4pc 9' 6wt;

Fulling Mill 4pc 9' 5wt.

All in good – excellent condition.

If one or more is of interest phone Rod Calbrade on 01706 842890 or email: rod@calbrade.demon.co.uk for further details.

Area 8 News, April 2012

Brian Clarke

Duffield Fishing Day

On the 26th of February we held our final fishing day of the 2011 / 2012 season on the River Derwent at Duffield courtesy of the Derbyshire Angling Federation. This was the second time that we had attempted to fish the water, the first being 2010 when the heavens opened and put down 4 inches of snow on the Saturday night / Sunday morning. We met at the Mill House pub at Duffield for the usual morning drink before being helped to our allocated beats by Mike Scolah and Andy Wilde from the D.A.F. What a glorious day, the sun shone and the river was in great condition, but unfortunately the fish were not as obliging. The fishery is a mixed coarse and game water which was reflected in the catches. The fly fishers on the Ecclesbourne caught trout and grayling while the bait fishers on the Derwent had a mixed bag of trout, grayling, chub, barbel and roach. Although not as many grayling appeared.

as we would have liked, the fishing was definitely interesting and enjoyable. One of our number, his name at this time is withheld, decided to join the fish and went swimming !!! This was only the second time such a brave act has taken place and will be rewarded.

Following our days fishing we ended the day once again back at the Mill House for a well deserved buffet, drink and chat about the fishing. The general feeling was that although the catches were not as hoped we must make this another one of our regular events. The day's catch was:

Fly - River Ecclesbourne	Bait - River Derwent
Grayling - 1	Grayling - 15
Trout - 4	Barbel - 1
	Trout - 7
	Roach - 3
	Chub - 3



Keith Mason plays a good fish



Keith's grayling, taken with classic trotting tackle

The Grayling Fishers' Dinner

This year's dinner was held at The Rutland Arms in Bakewell on the evening of Wednesday 14th of March. Twenty-six people attended including wives, unfortunately one member and his partner could not attend. The Bring and Buy, which had a wide range of sales items, (10% of the sales takings were donated to the Grayling Fishers) and the Lucky Dip, made £63. This money will be included in the £400 donation to be presented to The Sheffield Children's Hospital, announced at the dinner.

The presentation took place of the Certificate of Merit for the "Grand Order of the Sardine". It was awarded to Alec Cottrill (pictured above with Brian Clarke) for his "Reverse Backward Flip" dive and breast stroke in the River Ecclesbourne during our last fishing day in February at Duffield. He was also presented with the much prized tin of Sardines. Alec was only the second person in the 24 years of fishing days organised by our area to have been honoured with this award.



Brian presents Alec with his well-earned Award

A Fly for the New Trout Season Bloodworm

This is a fly that I tie in a range of sizes and types and colours of beads and thicknesses of "larva tube". The pictured variation has been tied as follows;

- Hook:** Varivas 2210 # 18
- Body:** Blood red larva tube (size to match hook)
- Bead:** Red glass bead (to suit the hook size)
- Thread:** Cardinal red Silk
- Rib:** Very fine copper wire.
- Thorax:** Wine Seals Fur

- 1) Thread the bead onto the hook.
- 2) Cut the tube to length with 30° angle at one end.
- 3) Thread the copper wire through the tube.
- 4) Thread the tube onto the hook angled end to form a tail.
- 5) Bind in the tube behind the bead with the copper wire.
- 6) With the other end of the wire wind and form a rib from the tail end to behind the bead.
- 7) Catch on the thread behind the bead and using a dubbing loop dub on the seals fur.
- 8) Wind the dubbing to form a small thorax.
- 9) Whip finish.
- 10) **Go catch some fish.**

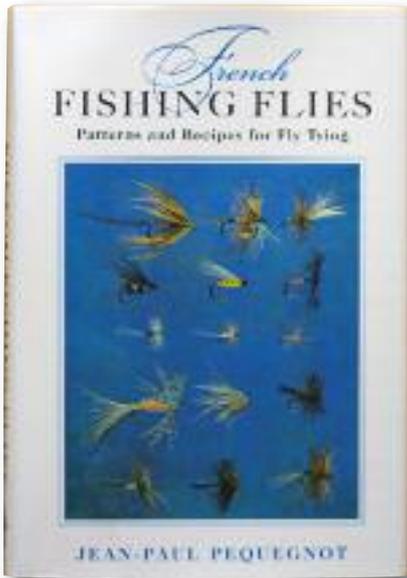


The Bloodworm

French Fishing Flies, by Jean-Paul Pequegnot

Book Review

Published by Coch-y-Bonddu Books, April 2012.
125 pages, hardback with 16 pages of colour illustrations.
ISBN: 978-1-904784-38-8 Price: £19.95, in an edition of 500 for sale in the UK and Europe.



When Jean-Paul Pequegnot first published this book in 1984, it was much praised by such fly-fishing luminaries as Datus Proper (whose informative introduction appears in this new edition) for its emphasis on fly design, and the international relevance of the styles and patterns. "French Fishing Flies" introduced the wider world to cul-decanard, and so may claim some credit for a significant paradigm shift in fly design.

Robert A. Chino's translation is lucid and very readable, preserving Dr. Pequegnot's straightforward informative style of writing. He gives a history, a context, and a rationale for each of the patterns, emphasizing the features that contribute to its success. He also adds a gracious acknowledgment of the originators, where they are known.

The original line drawings and sketches are still included, and the illustrations have been enhanced by 16 colour plates of a selection of the best-known flies, tied and photographed by Pierre Affre, a highly respected French angler and fly-tier.

The serious and the aspiring fly-tier will find much in this book to encourage careful design. There is much to reflect upon, especially the very French emphasis on presentation over imitation, and the simplicity of some very successful flies. A most welcome, and timely, new edition of a true classic.



An example colour plate

Available from: Coch-y-Bonddu Books
Machynlleth,
Powys SY20 8DG
Tel: 01654 702837
e-mail: orders@anglebooks.com

Bob Male

Correspondence

Tenkara and angling ethics

An article by Dave Southall in praise of Tenkara (no surprises there!) brought a response, and I thought it only fair to ask Dave to reply in turn.

One of my local clubs has effectively banned Tenkara on its premium waters, though for very different reasons, so this is a live issue, and will, I suspect, continue to exercise us for some time yet. If you wish to contribute to the debate, send in your opinions and experiences. Editor.

Dear Sir

Having read the article by Dave Southall on his Tenkara trials something didn't seem to sit right. Undoubtedly the method is extremely productive and that may be the niggling doubt that sits whispering in my ear. I know we go out to catch fish and the excuses too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet etc, etc, but phrases like "Steve and I absolutely annihilated the brown, rainbow and brook trout" and "with up to 150 fish in a four hour session" tend to send alarm bells ringing. (I can just see the headlines in the anti papers now). I don't believe I am a stick in the mud and I am not adverse to changes or in this case modern reconstruction; didn't old Izaak and his mate fish with similar equipment on the Lea and Dove? And having

come from the coarse match scene I know all about trying to catch at every cast but as we try to encourage the wild trout and grayling back into over fished and over stocked streams and rivers, is this a method we need to use? Perhaps this is just another method as with the Czech nymph in winter that is a fish catcher superb, but I foresee Tenkara bans on the hallowed streams of England as I write. Am I being paranoid or just a party pooper?

Graham Stevens
Ladffa hon,sec.

Hi Bob,

In reply to the letter from Graham Stevens. I fully concur that, were catches of 150 fish in 4 hours to be a frequent occurrence, it could be a problem and conservation of fish stocks is something I'm passionate about. The high Austrian streams we fished are very atypical since they get virtually no fishing pressure and hold vast stocks of fish. The only reason I mentioned such huge numbers was to illustrate how much more effective is the presentation available with Tenkara compared with conventional gear when fishing pocket water situations.

Cheers,
Dave Southall

UTAH KILLER BUG

Dave Southall

Frank Sawyer was an outstanding fly fisherman and river keeper. The flies he devised are so simple yet so effective. His Killer Bug must be just about the easiest ever fly to tie and is suggestive of a number of bottom-dwelling aquatic invertebrates, including Gammarus (Shrimps), Asellus (Hog-lice), Tipulidae (Daddy-Long-Legs) larvae, Rhagionidae (Snipe Fly) larvae, Muscidae (related to House Flies) larvae, Sialis (Alder Fly) larvae, various aquatic Coleoptera (Beetle) larvae and Hydropsyche (Case-less Caddis) larvae, all of which feature in the grayling's diet.

Sawyer's original Killer Bug, tied with just red coated transformer wire and Chadwick's 477 yarn (or

fish in winter flows. So I tied some up and took them out for a swim.

Trial 1, Pickering Beck, 30th Dec 2011: a bright, cool day and very low, clear water. Two friends had opted to trot maggots, which seemed a better proposition than the Tenkarad UKB I'd chosen to fish. Much to my surprise the Tenkara out-fished bait: I landed nine grayling, whilst my two friends landed a total of seven: an encouraging start.

Trial 2, Mulberry Whin day ticket fishery on Driffield Beck: a dull, cool, calm day, with very low, sluggish flows. The grayling were extremely lethargic and fussy. However, in a three hour



Aquatic Beetle larva (top), aquatic Daddy-Long-Legs larva (bottom)



Alder Fly larva



Hydropsyche (Caseless Caddis) larva



Gammarus (Shrimp)



Utah Killer Bug & Sawyer's Killer Bug tied with original Chadwick's 477 yarn



41cm Driffield Beck grayling taken on a size 16 Utah Killer Bug



Chadwick's 477 Yarn

a close substitute) is still as deadly as it ever was. He, of course, devised it as an efficient way of ridding his stretch of the Hampshire Avon of what he saw as its excessive grayling population. Nowadays most fly fishers regard the grayling on a par with its cousin the brown trout, whilst some of us put it on a pedestal above its rather greedy, predictable, cousin.

Some say that the original Killer Bug is so successful because of the pinkish tinge the wool takes on when wet and there is no doubting that pink has an appeal to grayling (and trout). We fly tiers are never satisfied with the flies we tie and use: we're always looking to modify and improve even the best patterns. Enter the Utah Killer Bug, which more fully exploits the appeal of pink. This variant of the Killer Bug was devised by the guys at Tenkara Guides, Salt Lake City, Utah. I came across it thanks to Chris at tenkarabum.com who sent me a sample of Utah Killer Bug yarn free with an order of Fuji E/Z clips for my Tenkara rod. I viewed the tying of the UKB on You Tube but found that I did not have the required 8/0 Pink Uni thread or the Pink UTC wire so I substituted Glowbright #2 pink floss for the thread and lead wire for the UTC wire. The latter gives the extra weight needed to get grayling flies down to the

afternoon session, I managed to tempt four between 30cm and 41cm (plus three out of season trout) to my Tenkara'd Utah Killer Bug: further evidence of the UKB's efficacy.

Trial 3, Yorkshire Derwent: a frosty, dull day. The river was very low and clear. I was rod sharing with my friend, Manu Gonetto, who wanted to try out Tenkara. I set up my 12' Iwana with 7' of parallel 14lb copolymer line, an 8" length of bright yellow braid and 5' of 6x tippet, plus size 16 UKB. Second cast I caught a 30cm grayling. I passed over the rod to Manu and four casts later he had a similar sized grayling. In just over three hours we landed a total of eighteen (and one out of season trout): not bad for a river that has suffered a serious decline in its grayling population over the last few years. Let's hope it's a sign of recovery: it's certainly a sign that the UKB is a very useful pattern.

Since then it has continued to produce the goods on a number of different waters.

This is not only a very effective pattern, but it is one of the easiest of flies to tie and it is very durable. In view of the appeal of orange to grayling I tied up some variants with orange floss, which proved to be equally successful.

Tying a Utah Killer Bug

Hook: Grub size 18 to 8

Thread: Uni Pink 8/0 (or my variation; Glowbright #2 Pink Floss)

Under-body/weight: Pink UTC wire, medium thickness (or my variation; lead wire covered with pink floss) (1 layer)

Body: Utah Killer Bug yarn (Shetland Spindrift Yarn, colour - oyster)

(www.greatbritishyarns.co.uk supplied the Jamiesons Shetland Spindrift wool.)



GRT Trustees: Update 2012

From Roger Hughes

The following are changes to the current list of Trustees.

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We would like to thank all those who have contributed articles and photographs for this edition of the *News*.

Editor: Bob Male
Production: Peter Silk Design
Printed by Cambrian Printers



GS Wedding of the Year (so far!)

All congratulations to Denise and Greg, who were married at The Parish Church of St. Margaret of Antioch, St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, Kent on Saturday 21st April at 3.30pm.

Sources report that the Reception, at the home of Denises's father in St. Margarets-at-Cliffe, was a rousing success; the meal was excellent, as were the speeches, and a live band performed in the evening so guests could wear themselves out on the dance floor.

The cake was a superb creation that included models of Greg and Denise in their fishing gear and their two dogs Taz and Billy.

We wish them both much happiness.



Tungsten Beads. Get those nymphs down quickly!

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2.8mm	£1.90 for 10		£3.00 for 10
3.3mm	£2.00 for 10		

All plus p&p. Other quantities available - just ask.

Email to: ian.colclough@googlemail.com
or Tel: 07751 603031 (mobile)