



The Grayling Society

# Newsletter

Area 8 February 2018 (No. 36)

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

### ***“Music Soothes the Savage Beast”***

#### **News From the Front**



#### **The Newthorpe Crooners**

Our last meeting on the 10th of January started with a musical “Bang”. The Newthorpe Crooners entertained us with a specially adapted rendition “Ernie the fastest milkman in the west” dedicated to Stuart Crofts with a special mention for Dave Percival. The Crooners line up was Russ Pittham on vocals and the chorus consisted of John Mycock, Roger Walker and Bob Lomax. I fear this may not be the last we see of the Crooners as I think they have other tunes adapted for future recipients / victims.

**(Heaven help us all !!!!!)**



#### **Stuart giving his talk to a FULL house**

Stuart Crofts once again did not disappoint with his talk and presentation for an audience of almost 60.

Cont;

He gave us all an extremely interesting and informative talk on the life cycle of various types of Caddis. Not unusual you may say, but his talk also included why and how the Caddis chose a variety of places to lay their eggs, the way the eggs hatch, develop, pupate, hatch from the pupal stage and finally break out of the pupa and become adults. As usual his delivery and audience participation was second to none.

#### **First Flytving Masterclass**



#### **Stuart Demonstrating one of his flies.**

On Saturday 20th of January Stuart Crofts came and gave us the first of his two Masterclasses and the first in our series of three days. He demonstrated and had us tie 4 of his flies, all of which he has developed and found to be good catching patterns.



#### **A Full House**

Cont;

For people who could not attend this Masterclass if you contact Hilary she will let you have the list of flies, materials and tying instructions.

Our next Masterclass is with **Don Stazicker** on the **17th of February**. As with the first Masterclass it is fully booked, but on the third and last Masterclass on the 10th of March headed by Stuart Crofts there are still one or two places left. The cost for the day is £35.00 which will include tea coffee and biscuits and a delicious hot lunch. For further details and availability contact Steve on; [doclangan@hotmail.com](mailto:doclangan@hotmail.com)

### **Salmon and Trout Conservation Evenings**

The South Yorkshire Branch Meetings start at 7.30pm, Phoenix Sports centre, Brinsworth Pavilion, Pavilion Lane, off Bawtry Road, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5PA .There will be a small entry charge and raffle and if you feel that you would like to donate a raffle prize it will be gratefully accepted.

**All are welcome and you do not have to be a member of the S&TC to attend .**

**Monday 5th Feb:** Paul Gaskell: Tenkara. Paul will again be giving us guidance on different approaches to Tenkara, drawing on recent visits to Japan. Further details tbc.

### **Fly Tying Evenings**

Our last fly tying evening on Monday the **29th of January** was headed by me. I demonstrated 4 flies which were either invented by or adapted to my requirements. If you want the information on materials and method of tying contact Hilary she will send you a copy.

Our next fly tying evening will be on the **26th of February**, with the lead tier Kevan Stevenson

On our last evening on the **19th of March** we are hoping to hold a bring and buy sale. Bring along your unwanted tackle with your price clearly attached to the item. There will be a small fee (10% of the sale price) which will go towards our charity donation next year.

### **BIG BAIT FOR BIG FISH!**

*It All started in the middle of the night during a game of snooker. Not all that unusual as most of our adventures on our rest days were planned during refs. At that time I was a police officer working shifts and refs was the term given to a meal break. It All started in the middle of the night during a game of snooker. Not all that unusual as most of our adventures on our rest days were planned during refs.*

Cont;

*At that time I was a police officer working shifts and refs was the term given to a meal break. I've been reading in the Angling Times that some good fish are being caught on the Lincolnshire Fens". There was a pause as he lined up his next red before continuing, "They're catching on dead baits, let's give it a go."*

*Over the next few nights our plans were honed to perfection. Wilkco would get the bait from Mansfield fish market and I would pick him and Little Dickie up.*

*Eventually the chosen rest day arrived, I set off from home at some unearthly hour, picked up Little Dickie at Sutton in Ashfield and then on to Mansfield to collect Wilkco. It was a surprise to both of us to actually find him up and ready to go. Usually we had to knock him up and wait for him. By now it was probably around five thirty am. We travelled through Newark and Sleaford and on into Lincolnshire well before dawn even thought about showing itself. When reached Tattershall Bridge we turned right and ran alongside the River Witham eventually arriving at a spot that looked promising. I don't know what was different about this spot to any other along this stretch of river; it is all very uniform hereabouts. The day was struggling to dawn, it was very reluctant to get light, in fact it never really did get light, you know the sort of day when you feel that you are under a large grey dome. The hoar frost was coating the bank side vegetation and never really left it all day long. It was just one of those cold dank winters' days.*

*After tackling up, Wilkco produced the bait, a selection of sprats and one very large Herring that must have weighed between one and a half to two pounds. What on earth are we going to do with that Dickie blurted? If the sprats don't work I thought we could cut it up and use it that way Wilkco answered. We each chose a place in which to lob our baits. For several hours we combed the waters of the Witham with our baits without any response. Nearby was a dyke that joined the main river, such places can also harbour pike and so we ventured along this dyke. We tried out many likely looking spots with the same results as on the main river.*

*By about two pm we decided to go back to the Witham for the last hour or so. Again Dickie and I baited up with sprats but Wilkco had us in hysterics when he attached the whole Herring. It was so big it was putting quite a bend in his rod just holding it up. He lobbed it out with a tremendous splash and settled down. Meanwhile Dickie and I wandered along the bank.*

Cont;



After twenty minutes or so Wilkco shouted, "Hey lads, come and give me a hand I've got a big fish on". Needless to say we answered him with some ribald comments to the effect that he was having us on.

"No, I'm serious", he replied, "come and help me net it, I can't manage it myself". Dickie and I went to him, his rod was bent at an alarming angle and the line was whining. There was a large swirl in the murky water where the line disappeared. Wilkco relentlessly kept up the pressure on the leviathan, eventually it surfaced, it was indeed a huge thing, like a great big green crocodile. The sight of the fish brought a barrage of well meaning advice from Dickie and me. "Let it have line", "keep up the pressure", "let it run", "don't lose it". We were quite animated. After several more lunges it was brought to the surface and slid over the net with a collective sigh of relief, together we lifted it from the water. It was indeed a massive Pike; the largest I had seen at that time, a big black eye stared at us unblinking whilst we gingerly removed the hooks before returning to the river. We had no scales or a camera to record such a capture. It was well before the days of mobile phones and other suchlike technology that still baffles me. Dickie and I congratulated Wilkco, who nonchalantly replied, if you want to catch big fish, you have to use big bait!

**Roger Walker**

**FLY TIERS CORNER**



**Palomino para Grey Duster**

*Photograph by: Stephen Langan*

**Materials**

**Hook;** Varivas 2200 # 14

**Body;** light grey Micro chenille

**Thread;** Brown

**Thorax;** Fine grey dubbing or Mole  
Cont;

**Wing;** White Poly yarn

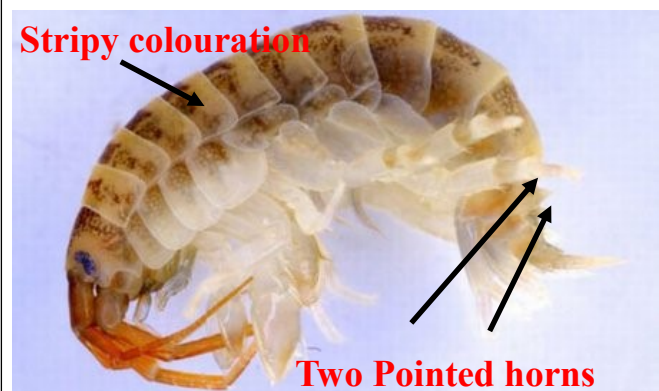
**Hackle;** Badger or Grizzle

**Method**

- 1 Wind the thread part way along the hook shank
- 2 Wind the thread back to a point to catch in the post
- 3 Catch in the post and bind up the post for about 2 mm
- 4 Catch in the micro chenille cut to length at the post and to length to form the extended body
- 5 Wind back and catch in the hackle and bind up the post for 2 mm
- 6 Wind the thread part way down the hook shank
- 7 Dub on the grey dubbing and wind forward to the eye of the hook and whip finish.
- 8 Cut off the thread and rebind on around the base of the post
- 9 Wind the hackle down the post each turn below the previous turn.
- 10 Bind the hackle and whip finish around the post

**Demon Shrimp**

*The Environment Agency has found this shrimp in the River Rother which is part of the South Yorkshire River Don system. Please keep an eye out for this invasive species in all our local waters. If found take a sample and report to the E.A.*



*Please remember to comply with all biosecurity measures after visiting all waters.*

**See "Stop the Spread"**

**Friends of Area 8**

# PARTRIDGE OF REDDITCH

Partridge of Redditch  
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# CORMORANT WATCH



**Seen a cormorant or goosander?**

Please help us by recording sightings to persuade governments to increase the number of licences to shoot these highly damaging birds

**Report sightings online at [www.cormorantwatch.com](http://www.cormorantwatch.com)**

Male Goosander  
Female Goosander

Show your support and help spread awareness of this issue by downloading this poster from [www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants](http://www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants)

Produced with the support of... 

Join today at [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net) or 0343 5077 006

Scan the code 

**Angling Trust alongside Angling Trades Association, and the Predation Action Group has recently launched Cormorant Watch 2, a website where recordings of cormorant numbers and presence can be made as part of the campaign to increase the numbers which can be shot.**

**Whether you can shoot on your fisheries or not the attached poster can bring this campaign to the notice of your members and encourage them to report cormorants on your fisheries. This may result in us getting more birds on individual and group licences in the future and is an important way of keeping the need for cormorant control on fisheries in the Minister's mind.**

Brian



## Grayling Fishers DVD library

Grayling Fishers evening with  
Philip White A.P.G.A.I.



© Grayling Fishers 2012

**Philip White's fly tying demonstration on the 8th November 2012 for the Grayling Fishers evening.**

Grayling Fishers evening with  
Stuart Crofts



© Grayling Fishers 2014

**Stuart Crofts fly tying demonstration on the 15th October 2013 for the Grayling Fishers evening.**

Price £6.50 + p&p  
Cheques made out to  
Grayling Society Area 8

For details contact :

Brian 07711 905776

or

Hilary 07920 013361

# STOP THE SPREAD

STOP THE SPREAD  
INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES  
CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.

CHECK

Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN

Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY

Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions.

Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and search for Check Clean Dry



## Subscriptions

We still have two or three members who are paying the **old fee of £23.00** or by **Standing Order**. Could I ask that you check your subscription payment with your bank to make sure you are paying the correct amount, cancel your **Standing Order** and change to **Direct Debit**. If you are still paying the incorrect amount or **Standing Order** or have any queries about your subscriptions please give me a ring and we can sort it out. Remember The Grayling Society subscriptions are due on the **1st of January**.

**To pay online go to; Grayling Society web site and follow "Members Log in"**

**£28.00 Adult**

**£47.00 Joint**

**£22.00 Senior (over 70 years)**

**£5.00 Junior (16 or under)**

*Please phone me on:*

*01246 271324 or 07711 905776.*

*Thank you for your co-operation*

*Brian*



**BFFI 2018**  
**BRITISH FLY FAIR**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

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HACKLES

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