

# Grayling

The Journal of The Grayling Society



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Autumn - Winter 2024

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Kris Kent  
Photo by R. Calbrade

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The editorial team receives many prospective articles from across the membership and wider. The articles published in "Grayling" are presented here in the interests of knowledge and information sharing across the membership. This includes opinions which may not necessarily reflect those of the Grayling Society.

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# This Issue of Grayling is dedicated to Kris Kent



**Kris's Memorial Bench in Dorset**



L to R: John Aplin, Olly (Orvis Stockbridge Manager), Shaun Leonard (Director WTT), Greg Payne.



## The Editor's Lines

Neil Auchterlonie

Firstly, an important, although incredibly sad, announcement to make. This edition of the Journal is dedicated to the memory of the Society's Public Relations and Marketing Officer, Kris Kent. Well-liked and respected, Kris had supported the work of the Society over many years, making an incredible contribution to the Committee in the name of angling and conservation, as he had equally supported the work of other similar organisations such as the Angling Trust and WTT. We were all shocked to hear the news of his passing earlier in the year, and his jovial charm, good nature and extensive knowledge will be sadly missed. We shall include an obituary for Kris in the next edition of Grayling.

It's difficult to follow such profound news with anything other than the mundane, but return to more prosaic matters we must. Apologies to our overseas readers, but as many will know the British people do like to discuss the weather. There is now some recognition that we have been in, or are in, a period of unusual weather. The National Drought Group, chaired by the Environment Agency, has "confirmed that water resources are currently healthy following the wettest 12 months (October 2023 to September 2024) on record in England" as reported by Defra on the 16th October 2024. It's interesting to me that a "National Drought Group" should view this as anything other than good news, but the web page does frame the extreme rainfall as essentially another aspect of climate change effects, where drought and heavier rainfall patterns may become the norm. From the grayling's perspective it is going to be interesting to understand what may be the impacts at the population level of the increased rainfall: Has it

been beneficial? Detrimental? Of limited impact? Time will tell on this as data on stocks is followed through, but in all likelihood river system geology, topography, and rainfall seasonality are all likely to have an effect. It is interesting also to note whether the weather has had an impact on fishing pressure. Have you been out angling for grayling as much in these last 12 months, or has the weather put you off? I doubt whether 12 months data is enough yet to indicate a new established pattern of weather, and if there is one thing we know about this small island we inhabit, the weather is forever changing. I don't think anyone would be surprised if we now have 12 months of very limited rainfall.

Finally, I need to reiterate my request for articles for Grayling. The Society has recently strengthened its links with the Grayling Research Trust, and alongside that we are now being well supplied with scientific articles (although these are also very welcome from other sources, of course). Recently, however, the numbers of articles relating to angling, and tackle and fly-tying, have dropped away. We could really do with more of these coming through, so if you have some time to put your thoughts down on the page we really want to hear from you describing recent fishing trips, strategies you have developed, or tackle and flies that you use. Feel free also to be even more creative with submissions of poetry, for example. We cover a broad range of subjects in the journal, reflecting the wide range of interests of the Membership.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025 when it arrives: Tight lines!

# From the Chairman

Rob Hartley

As always when the weekend event is held north of the border, the numbers were slightly down but nonetheless, the weekend was a great success. It is proposed that next year, when the event is to be based around the chalk streams, we will encourage local members to attend the Saturday session with the various speakers and AGM at a nominal cost to just cover the lunch. The intention is to allow members to get a feeling for the style of the weekend to see whether they would like to attend fully in future years. There will be a disinfection station provided for next year's events to minimize or remove the potential for introducing invasive species into any of the beats fished. The society has made a very substantial donation to the Yorkshire fishing group who are bringing action against the water regulators. However, this will be more fully

explained by our conservation officer.

At this time we have a few vacancies for the Grayling Society's Committee. Can I ask you consider helping the Society with a few days of your time each year? As with every other nonprofit organisation, we rely upon the membership to help organise and run the Society. None of the positions vacant are particularly onerous, most of our meetings now are virtual and I would hope to think, friendly places to be. If you would like to discuss the duties, John Walker or myself are more than happy to have a chat with you about how you may contribute. Please do drop us a line if you would like to make a contribution and support the continuing success of the Grayling Society.

## Vacancy - Scientific Officer

**The Society has a vacancy for a Scientific Officer.**

**The role would be to advise on scientific matters pertaining to grayling.**

## Vacancy - Public Relations and Marketing Officer

**The Society is looking for a Public Relations & Marketing Officer.**

**The primarily responsibilities of the office holder are:**

- Manage the society's website
- Along with Area Secretaries manage social media content
- Actively promote the Society and its work
- Liaise with other bodies, organisations and media on the Society's behalf
- Along with other committee members, organise attendance at fishing shows and game fairs
- Write a report prior to committee meetings - three meetings each year
- Attend at least one of the three meetings, either in person or electronically

Experience in PR or marketing would be an advantage but not essential, enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved and help promote the Society is more important.

The position is unpaid, however expenses for meeting attendance etc will be paid.

**If you are interested in either of the above roles and becoming part of the committee, please contact [secretary@graylingsociety.net](mailto:secretary@graylingsociety.net)**

**We also have several additional roles likely to come available in 2025, so even if the role above does not fit your expertise, but you would like to contribute to the Society, please do get in touch.**

# — Around the Areas —

## Area 2: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey, West Sussex & Wiltshire, and Area 3: London, Kent, Essex, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, East Sussex, Alex Adams

Not a lot to report at this stage for Areas 2 and 3 although we are looking at organising some Area fishing days (weather permitting). Hopefully we'll

be able to provide some more informative updates for the next edition of Grayling - if the river gets back to being fishable...!

## Area 6: Gwynedd, Clwyd, The Wirral & Cheshire

Steve Shotton

Area 6 members that I have spoken to have reported a disappointing year thus far with smaller and fewer fish being caught on the river Dee but conditions have been very variable - perhaps this is the new norm? Martin Harrison writes echoing experiences that others have experienced so far this year:

*"The majority of my fishing over the last four seasons has been on the Upper Dee. The previous three seasons were similar, but I felt that there was a marked difference this season, particularly during July and August when I tend to prefer the dry fly. Where I could typically find rising fish (in 4 quite dependable pools), I was fortunate to find a single riser, and more often than not the river went "dead" in the late afternoon with no sign of an evening rise later on. There was little sign of insect life on many visits, and on the rare occasion when there was a hatch, rising fish could be found. I felt that this was largely down to the cool blustery summer we endured. Grayling seemed to be particularly thin on the ground (or in the water!), and I heard many comments along the lines of "where have all the grayling gone" - there was a discernible tone of concern in these comments. September heralded a welcome change with some warm weather (for North Wales!), less blustery conditions, and high pressure. Cue insect hatches, cue rising fish, cue grayling. Where have you been ladies?"*

The Corwen & District Angling Club<sup>1</sup> (CADAC) have successfully purchased the riparian rights the Town Waters in Corwen. Since this is regarded as a

favourite spot for many of us, we all are pleased by this outcome.

CADAC will be hosting fly tying evening over the winter, these will be open to all, members & non members, complete beginners to experts! These will be informal meetings but hopefully some tuition will be available on request. Hot drinks, tea & coffee will be available. Under 18 are welcome with responsible adult supervision please.

These will be held at the **Sports Pavilion, Green Lane, Corwen, LL21 0DN**

**Dates** (All Thursdays) 1900 - 2100 7pm- 9pm  
**From** 07/11/2024 to 19/12/2024

**Christmas break**  
09/01/2025 to 20/03/2025 (All Thursdays)

**Costs** - donations on the door please.

Bala and District Angling Club likewise will be holding fly tying sessions after Christmas so it is encouraging to hear of clubs being proactive in our area. We have an Area 6 social day planned for 23rd October so are praying for favourable conditions as past attempts on the river Dee have been cancelled due to high water levels! Some Area 6 members were in attendance at the Annual Conference in Peebles giving us opportunity to catch up with our wider community and a good weekend was had by all.

<sup>1</sup> [www.corwenanddistrictanglingclub.co.uk](http://www.corwenanddistrictanglingclub.co.uk)



## Area 10: Lancashire, Merseyside, Cumbria, Greater Manchester & Isle of Man,

Paul Shorrock

Having stepped into the Area Secretary role in May this year my main motivation was to organise more Grayling Days with local clubs. I'm happy to report there are two arranged for this Autumn. The first is on the well-manicured beats of Warwick Hall on the Eden near Carlisle in October. The following month we will be hosted by a combined Ribblesdale Angling Association and Clitheroe Anglers Association on their sections of The Ribble near Clitheroe. I have come to realise that a pre-fishing bacon-buttie is an essential part of the offering to entice the members away from the comforts of home once the central heating goes on.

At the Prince Albert open day in Ribchester, I managed to hard-sell the benefits of the Grayling

Society to three new members. I have also been evangelical with any anglers I pass when walking by The Hodder, even sweetening the deal with a few free flies and a copy of the Journal recently.

I have taken over the administration of the Area 10 Facebook page from Kris Kent before his tragic death and have tried to keep it fresh, with new relevant content and lots of pictures of Grayling. I'm a firm believer in strength through diversity. It's clear from looking at the demographic breakdown of visitors to the page that they are almost exclusively male (>99%) and mostly over 50. The truth is we are represented by one demographic and unless we diversify, we will end up fading away.

## Area 12: Scotland

Merv Proctor

### Introduction

This report will cover recent events as well as plans for Area 12 members heading into the Winter 2024 / 2025 grayling fishing season.

### Grayling Society Conference

#### Cardrona Hotel - Sunday 28th September 2024

Having arrived at Cardrona Hotel, Peebles on the Wednesday before the conference, accompanied by my wife, Anne, and our two sons, it was good to have time during our stay there over the next few days to make final preparations with the hotel staff, and also John Gibson, Conference Co-ordinator. Other participants in the lead up to the conference included Fin Wilson of FishWild ([Fin Wilson | Fish Wild | Wild Fishing in Scotland's Rugged Landscapes](#)) plus guest speakers, Ben McCallum and Ronnie Glass, along with Connor Newcombe, who runs Kailzie Fishery on the River Tweed, located just upstream of Cardrona Hotel. A special thanks to Fin, who most kindly arranged

fishing access for GS members to four prime stretches of the River Tweed on Sunday 29th September.

It was wonderful to meet and welcome our members as they arrived for the Conference, assisting John Gibson and the committee members with the running schedule, and handing out information packs I'd put together for each of the four fishing areas, Glenormiston, Kailzie, Traquair and Upper Caberston.

And then, Feargal! I can only feel sorry for those who were not there in person to see our President in action. From his afternoon riverside presentation of a cheque to Tweed Foundation to help fund their Tweedstart initiative for young anglers, to masterminding the fleecing of every available pocket at the evening auction, Feargal was a whirlwind of inspiration. The following link shows a video of the cheque presentation: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/881744247227802>

It has been a privilege to have spoken with many of the attendees both during and after the Saturday events, and without exception, everyone had praise for John in organising such a great gathering of the clan, even though most of it headed up from South of the Border! Likewise, there was lavish praise for our four speakers, Professor John Dart of the Grayling Research Trust, Jonny Archer, Fish Biologist, and Ben McCallum, Education Officer, both of Tweed Foundation, along with Ronnie Glass, former Scottish River Champion. All had so much knowledge to impart, along with great hope for the future of our noble art of the angle, and recruitment of the next generation of Grayling Society members.

### Grayling Society Fishing Day

#### River Tweed - Sunday 29th September 2024

Following a hearty Cardrona breakfast, attended by Feargal, Fin Wilson arrived to assist with updates on the river, and to personally guide those anglers allocated to Glenormiston.



Grayling being returned at Glenormiston, River Tweed (Photo F. Wilson)

In total, 26 anglers excitedly headed for the four stretches of the River Tweed made available due to Fin's relationships with owners and angling authorities. Priceless! Especially considering that Sunday fishing on the River Tweed is not allowed as a general rule.

Conditions were very nice weatherwise, and the river

was running clear after a small freshet a few days before. Final catch results are yet to be compiled, however, some very large grayling were landed, with one angler reporting a 10 minute battle on nymphing gear prior to admiring a true Tweed "Lump" nestling in his net. As a result of Fin's efforts and my ongoing discussions with various decision makers, we now have much greater access to the River Tweed as GS members.

### Other News

#### Area 12 WhatsApp Group

Prompted by events at Cardrona, I sent a round robin e-mail to Area 12 members seeking their thoughts on setting up a WhatsApp group so that we could better communicate about grayling fishing in general, and most importantly, plan outings over the coming Winter season. Thus far, we have 11 participants. Some very interesting conversations have taken place and there is a buzz of activity once more. Our first scheduled fishing trip is on Saturday 16th November to the River Tweed.

### Tweed Foundation

Following the research I've conducted over the past year and more in assisting the committee select a suitable venue with nearby fishing for the 2024 Conference, a really good rapport has been struck with Tweed Foundation. It is evident that there will be many future benefits, including information on grayling fishing and biology ([Tweed Start | River Tweed](#)) and particularly the opportunity to recruit young anglers to the Grayling Society via the TweedStart programme ([Tweed Start | River Tweed](#)). Any GS members wishing to assist with this initiative are welcome to forward their thoughts via our website or by contacting me at 07769 089 853.

### Finally...

Thanks to everyone involved with the 2024 Conference, especially John Gibson. All the best John with organising next year's event. Hope you won't be fighting through the pain barrier as you did so bravely at Cardrona.

Cheers,  
Merv

[www.facebook.com/gsarea12/](https://www.facebook.com/gsarea12/)  
Facebook Area 12 Scotland

# Notes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Apologies, MS, Ed, AS2-3, AS5, AS11 Attending, Chair, Sec, Tres, CO, CC, AS4, AS6, AS8 (Abbreviation key below)			
Notes from meeting of 12 May 2024 were approved			
Committee reports and supplementary papers were circulated prior to the meeting for comment.			
<b>Actions brought forward from previous meetings</b>			
Item	NOTE - ACTION	WHO	DATE DUE
181	Agenda Item 2. Any outstanding items covered under new business		Note
<b>New Business with agenda number</b>			
182	Agenda item 3, ANLRS bins sponsorship: Neil to consider Journal article to provide details of scheme to members	Ed/CO	Jan 2024
183	Agenda item 4, Angling and Awareness strategy: Donation to Fish Legal (FL) to Pickering Beck appeal agreed in principle. Ron to ask FL to apply to the Society for the funds.	CO	ASAP
184	Agenda item 5, Officer roles, vacancies & composition: PRO/Marketing Officer's role to be combined and advertised Suggestions for scientific advisors to be forwarded to Chairman.	Editor All/Chair	ASAP
185	Agenda item 6, Constitution changes: Ron to review constitution and send recommendations to Brian and John	Conservation Officer, Sec, AS8	Jan 2024
186	Agenda item 7, Youth ambassador: Area Secs to email their members to ask for recommendations. Gen Sec to contact Area Secs to ask them to do so.	Area Secs, Sec	Immediately
187	Agenda item 8, Succession and emergency planning: In light of recent events committee can voluntarily provide an emergency contact No. to Gen Sec, That will only be used in emergency. Committee members reminded that they should endeavour to have a successor when standing down.	All All	
188	Agenda item 9, Permanent agenda slots: A brief summary report to be provided by all committee members prior to meeting. Whilst we will have a slot to update your report in the meeting, this is ONLY for items that have occurred AFTER your report NOT to read out your report.	All Note	

189	Agenda item 10, Grant proposal: Unanimous approval in principle, but additional info needed before release of funds. Approval for weir work. Quote from contractor to support cost breakdown, one required for grant below £1,000.	AS5/CO	
190	Agenda item 11, Editor's questions: 1. Journal publication dates August and March. 2. E journal sent as attachment, as now, at least a week before paper copy. Link provided to few that don't receive it. 3. Rob to continue paying to printing.	Editor Editor Ed/Chair/Tres	Immediately
191	Agenda item 12, Commemorating Kris: 6 for and 2 abstentions to part fund with, Orvis and WTT, Kris's memorial bench.	Note	Immediately
192	Agenda item 13 Conference update: Tweed Trust £500 donation approved, 7 for and 1 abstention	Note	
193	Agenda item 14, AOB: AS8 updated on area activity.	Note	At Conference
Date of next meetings			
28 Sept 2024 – AGM Macdonald Cardona Hotel, Peebles 12 Jan 2025 – Virtual meeting 11 May 2025 – Location TBC			
<b>Meeting Ends</b>			

Committee Members		
Chair	Chairman	Rob Hartley
Sec	General Secretary	John Walker
Tres	Treasurer	Nick Moate
MS	Membership Secretary	Nick Gough
PRO	Public Relations Officer	Vacancy
Ed	Editor	Neil Auchterlonie
CO	Conservation Officer	Ron Taylor
SO	Scientific Officer	Ross Gardiner
CC	Conference Coordinator	John Gibson
AS1	Area Secretary 1	Ian Elford
AS2 & 3	Area Secretary 2	Alex Adams
AS4	Area Secretary 4	Geoff Bevan
AS5	Area Secretary 5	Alex Swann
AS6	Area Secretary 6	Steve Shotton
AS8	Area Secretary 8	Brian Clarke
AS9	Area Secretary 9	John Gibson
AS10	Area Secretary 10	Paul Shorrocks
AS11	Area Secretary 11	Stuart Wardle
AS12	Area Secretary 12	Merv Proctor

# Conference 2024

## 2024 Conference Report

by Rob Calbrade

This year's Conference took place over the Scottish border, at the Macdonald Cardrona Hotel near Peebles. It was decided to hold it earlier in the year, late September, to give the attendees a chance for some dry fly fishing on the River Tweed.



Photo by Martin Harrison

Following the opening by Chairman Rob Hartley and Conference Organiser John Gibson, the day's proceedings started with Jonathan Archer, a Tweed Foundation biologist, updating us on the work undertaken by the Foundation on the whole of the Tweed catchment including the recording of catch data which showed that the Tweed's grayling population is in a very healthy state.

The recently appointed Chair and Secretary of the Grayling Research Trust, Prof. John Dart, gave us an interesting talk on the recent work of the Trust as well as his hopes for the way in which the GRT will develop in the future.

After lunch, fishing details of the Sunday fishing were provided by Merv Proctor, the Area 12 (Scotland) Secretary.

Ben McCallum, the Tweed Foundation's

Education Officer detailed the work which is ongoing in the Tweed Valley in trying to bring more youngsters to the joys of fishing through their "Tweedstart" initiative. Details can be found on the Foundation's website.



Photo by Martin Harrison

It was good to see two young and very knowledgeable members of the Tweed Foundation team giving such excellent presentations on their respective areas of expertise - it bodes well for the future of the Foundation on this wonderful river. The main afternoon slot was taken by the well-known Tweed Valley fisherman, Ronnie Glass, who regaled us with stories of his home river, an excellent finish to the day's activities.



Photo by Martin Harrison

The afternoon finished with the AGM, which will be detailed elsewhere in this publication.



Photo by Martin Harrison

Finally, with all members in their best "bib and tuckers", we sat down to a delicious dinner followed by the Auction, hosted by our President Feargal Sharkey, who gave a very spirited performance as the Auctioneer and achieved in excess of £5,000 for the Society funds.

Overall, an excellent day full of interesting and fascinating information primarily about the

wonderful River Tweed.



Photo by Martin Harrison

### A message from the Chairman

Just a very quick e-mail to thank all of those of you who either donated auction lots or bid for them. We held the auction at the annual get-together on the Tweed last weekend. Admittedly, our President, Feargal, was on absolute top form as the world's most determined auctioneer, but we managed to raise the enormous sum of £5000 on the night! As you will see in the next edition of the journal, we are using that money and more to help an action that will hopefully ensure that both the regulators and the water treatment companies start to actually do the jobs they are supposed to do. Well done again to both the donors and bidders, if you get the chance, we would love to see you at next year's event on the chalkstreams.



Photo by Martin Harrison



# Grayling Society AGM 2024

## Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of The Grayling Society

Held at the Cardrona Hotel, Peebles on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Craig Watkins, Clement Booth, Robert Borrenbergs (Holland), Vincenzo Penteriani (Spain), Christian Moir, Hans Van Klinken, Andrew Thompson, Ivan Alsop-Pick, Mike McGowan, Alan Ayre, Howard Waldoock, Paul Shorrock, Brian Clarke, Nick Moate, Nick Gough, Ross Gardiner, Neil Auchterlonie.

### 2. Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting held at Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed by John Gibson, Seconded by Geoff Bevan.

### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 4. The Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented his report.

### 5. Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts

The Treasurer provided the audited accounts of the Society for the financial year ending 2024. The accounts were approved by the meeting. Proposed by Rodney Dibble, Seconded by John Gibson

### 6. Election of Honorary Auditor

Steven Kavanagh was appointed as the Society's auditor as Proposed by Rod Calbrade and Seconded by Geoff Bevan.

### 7. Membership Secretary's Report

#### Headlines

- 14 new members June-August including from Finland, Sweden & Germany

- Small number of resignations/cancelled DDs
- Several failed registrations (9)

### Membership stats on 31st Jan 2023 - see tables on next page

### 8. Election of Chairman

Rob Hartley indicated that he was prepared to stand as Chairman for a further year. As there were no other candidates Rob Hartley was duly elected. Proposed by John Walker, Seconded by John Gibson.

### 9. Election of Officers

All Officers indicated their willingness to serve for another year, and as no applications were received for any of the roles, it was agreed to elect them en bloc, Proposed by Christopher Fildes, Seconded by John Blewitt.

### 10. Any Other Business

There was no other business raised.

### 11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

To Be Confirmed

### 12. Presentations:

*Righyni-Roose Trophy:* As there were no entries this year, the trophy was not awarded.

*The Broughton Trophy:* The Broughton Trophy for conservation, or work on behalf of the Society for 2024 was awarded posthumously to Kristian Kent for his long and dedicated service to the Society.

The meeting closed at 16:25

## Membership stats on 31st Jan 2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Sep-24
Membership at Year end	855	877	914	899	881	855
New members	105	148	122	95	107	47
Resigned/cancelled/deceased	138	126	85	110	125	73

Membership class	Number Aug 22	Number Dec 22	Number Dec 23	Number Sep 24
Club	16	17	16	17
Joint	19	19	19	21
Senior	176	178	257	247
Standard	585	631	488	457
Junior	0	0	4	5
Trade	14	16	16	16
Honorary/Life	38	38	37	37
Non-Paying				9
Holland			44	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>855</b>

## Area membership

Area	2023	2024
1	46	40
2	125	119
3	95	90
4	71	72
5	77	70
6	62	54
8	90	84
9	85	86
10	64	67
11	28	27
12	42	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>747</b>

## Country membership breakdown

Country	2023	2024
Denmark	4	3
Finland	4	7
France	3	3
Germany	10	10
Austria		
Holland	44	46
Ireland	4	4
Italy	4	4
Poland	1	1
Spain	2	2
Sweden	6	6
USA	6	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89</b>



## Conservation Officer's Column

by Ron Taylor

Now tell me, how much deception, incompetence, greed and failure will it actually take before the Government, all its departments and every single member in the population realises that the whole water industry needs an in-depth review and radical reform, however much it costs or how long it takes. Our Society has advocated this for months and months without being taken a great deal of notice of by the terribly important and pompous people who are running DEFRA, Environment Agency, OFWAT and Number 10. Until there is complete change grayling will continue to die in polluted rivers and streams, with the additional risk that sooner or later humans will be falling ill or even die from the disease caused by the filth dumped in our waterways. We all live in an environment that has been allowed to become an open sewer and dumping ground for all sorts of noxious substances, it has to be stopped and if it isn't, every single member of our Society should hang their heads in shame. The Society donation, announced at Conference, of a £10,000 contribution to the Fish Legal Appeal to fund the costs of fighting the Government and Environment Agency, on behalf of Pickering Fishery Association (#EveryRiverCounts). This support of the Court of Appeal battle relating to the pollution of Costa Beck and the failure to implement the Water Framework Directive is a significant indication of our resolve to achieve progress. The High Court decision being appealed has a massive impact on all our rivers and streams as it exposes that no lawful plans are in place to clean them up. The River Basin Management Plans introduced all over the country by the Environment Agency are a deliberate sham, a pretence at compliance with the rules they knew and still know they must follow. The reason they have appealed is obvious

as the decision exposes not only failure to carry out their duty competently but deliberate lack of action with plans to conceal it. The result of the hearing on the 14th and 15th January 2025 will be awaited eagerly by all with a genuine resolve to clean up our rivers and if the High Court decision is upheld the start of real change will follow. Well, done to the Society, its President, Committee and members for appreciating the opportunity to support such an important step in the interests of conservation not only in Costa Beck but every river in the country where grayling swim. Our President announced and explained the circumstances of the donation at the Conference and it was a pleasure to meet and work with him to progress implementation.



Ron Taylor pictured with Grayling Society President Feargal Sharkey at the 2024 Conference

The High Court decision was groundbreaking and everything must be done to stop it being overturned. Maybe then it will become obvious that the Environment Agency and the whole water Industry needs that review and radical reform. The Grayling Research Trust continues to make constructive progress with the speech of the Chairman John Dart at Conference, the

recommendations for research proposed by members, agreed and made to the England and Wales Trout and Grayling Strategy Meeting and a well-attended A.G.M. The Trust is an invaluable constituent of Society policy on conservation, the more we know about grayling the better positioned we are to protect them.

A Conservation grant of £999 has been made to Leek and District Fly Fishing Association for improvements to Bentley Brook and a donation made to the Tweed Foundation which will no doubt contribute to their conservation efforts and their admirable efforts to engage young people. The Society continues to look for and assess appropriate grants for the conservation of our Lady: If your Club or Area have plans, let me or one of our committee members know and you will be sent an application form.

The Water Companies on the other hand continue to look for and assess ways they can make inordinate profits from discharging raw sewage into the environment. It appears that never a week goes by without we hear in the media of one of them being exposed for scandalous conduct showing total disregard for the environment, the Regulators who are supposed to control them, and you and I, the bill payers, who finance them. I have not changed my view, that overall collaboration with all stakeholders involved in river pollution will be necessary to resolve it, even after radical reform, but patience is wearing thin as a result of the cynical conduct of the Water Companies. There are numerous other polluters than them, of course and I continue to discover problems such as seepage into the rivers from capped off landfill sites. Our Local Authorities and other organisations have been placing a vast array of waste into these landfill sites for generations, covering them up when they are full and expecting all to be fine. Unfortunately, the chemicals contained in them are washed out over

the years into the environment and, eventually our rivers, and we are hearing more and more about the forever chemicals such leakage produces. Then there is the problem of our beloved pooches swimming in rivers having been lovingly treated with an array of sprays which are designed to control ticks but wash off their fur in the water.

The chemicals contained in these treatments do absolutely no good to the environment and are toxic to grayling, other fish and invertebrates. I suspect any suggestion that dogs should not be treated in this way or to keep them out of the rivers, if they have been, is likely to meet with less than universal approval with all the dog lovers, just another problem for us to address.

We now have that new government, the majority elected, together with a new Secretary of State for the Environment, Steve Reed. He has started off saying many of the right things and introducing the Water (Special Measures) Bill to Parliament giving, amongst other things, regulators stronger powers to take enforcement action against polluters, as well as control the payment of bonuses to water company bosses if they fail to meet high standards to protect the environment. The problem with that is the Environment Agency have had powers for decades and failed miserably to use them, why should we believe, they will be able to apply even tougher powers without considerable review and significant reform. As I finish writing, the Government have announced an independent Commission to undertake a review of the water sector, a step which we must welcome while having reservations that their powers are insufficient to ensure the necessary reform or abolition of the Environment Agency, OFWAT or DEFRA. But let's close on an optimistic note that constructive steps are being taken coupled with the Costa Beck decision in January which the Commission will find instructive.

## Where Have All the Grayling Gone, Part 2?

by Tony Bostock MBE, FIFM, Cenv.

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When the editor kindly published my offering “Where have all our Grayling gone?” in the Spring/Summer 2024 edition of Grayling I could not have expected the amount of correspondence it generated. E-mails backed up and phone messages remained unanswered while I caught breath. Given the interest I thought it might be worth a sequel. However not on the scale of the Empire Strikes Back or the Return of the Jedi!

Habitat restoration work undertaken by the Cotswolds Flyfishers rivers team on the Upper Windrush continues with flow deflectors installed to scour gravels clean, large woody material added and overshadowing reduced. However, water quality remains the major issue and, with the current state of finances and restructuring at Thames Water, there appears little chance of vital water quality work and promised infrastructure projects being delivered in the short term. The Cotswolds Rivers Trust have completed a significant two-year project identifying road run off, diffuse pollution and agricultural issues, but again the solutions are long-term requiring the goodwill of local landowners and possibly Government intervention.



Stuart Keable (EA) with the precious Grayling cargo

I’ve never been a great supporter of stocking unless pollution has caused the complete extinction of a species and there is no possibility of natural recovery. I have always subscribed to the three-legged stool theory that if water quality is what it should be, river flows acceptable and the habitat good then the best hatchery of all is the river itself, but in this instance it’s a case of needs must.

The grayling stocking programme in conjunction with the local Environment Agency is continuing, as was promised, and a further 1,500 fry reared at the excellent Calverton fish farm were introduced to the Sherborne Brook this June. The Cotswolds Flyfishers control substantial fishing rights on the Windrush and the annual catch returns for 2024 are eagerly anticipated in October and it is hoped that the promising upturn in grayling catches of recent years, from the commencement of the Windrush Grayling project, will reveal continuing improvement.

As discussed in the Summer/Autumn 2024 issue of Grayling, the reduction in grayling stocks is certainly not restricted to the Windrush. Its near neighbour, the River Coln, widely regarded as Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds premier trout and grayling stream, has endured a similar decline. Renowned fishing hotel The Bull at Fairford controls the fishing downstream of the town and the beat for many years was regarded as the best grayling fishery on the whole river. Due to its fame, back in the day it was frequented by the great and good of the angling world. F.M. Halford, James Ogden and ‘Mr. Crabtree’ himself, Bernard Venables, to name just one trio, found its water irresistible.



Juvenile Grayling reared at Calverton

The River Coln is divided into two water bodies under the Water Framework Directive, the Upper River from its source to Coln Rogers and the Lower River from Coln Rogers to its confluence with the Thames. Regrettably neither water body reaches Good Ecological Status (GES) with the 2022 assessment for the Upper River reporting as only “Moderate”, and the Lower River “Poor”.

In terms of grayling the decline has been dramatic as seen from recent data. The latest EA fisheries survey near Whelford (NGR: SU 18482 98417) conducted in October 2013 revealed only 6 Grayling from 7.3 cms to 24.3 cms, and although the data has not yet finally been collated an independent fisheries survey undertaken in early August this year, at the same site, produced no grayling whatsoever.

As we are all aware the water quality required for grayling to survive and prosper must be good, if anything appreciably better than for trout. On the Lower Coln the Monitoring points for fish, inverts and water quality are between Fairford and the rivers confluence with the mighty Thames. Fairford town sewage works discharged raw sewage into the river on 162 occasions in 2023 amounting to a total of 3391 hours, the equivalent of just over 141

days. Therefore, there is little wonder that under the Water Framework Directive the Lower Coln water body (GB 10603902990) fails for fish.

What nobody can understand is that invertebrate surveys reveal good results, particularly as the sampling site is only a short distance below the Fairford sewage works. The most recent result, from October 2023 gave a BMWP, (Biological Monitoring Working Party), score of 222, high on the EA scale. Furthermore, the number of Taxa was 38 and ASPT (Average score Per Taxa) 5.84. This was an increase from May 2022 when the BMWP score was 165. During a recent walkover between Fairford and Whelford, I waded in with sampling net to undertake a quick kick survey. There were good numbers of freshwater shrimp, a few Baetid olives, (mainly *Baetis rhodani*, the large dark olive), but only the odd juvenile mayfly (*Ephemera danica*), caseless caddis and cased caddis. No Stoneflies, flat bodied nymphs or the once prolific Blue Winged Olive (*Serratella ignita*).

Other than the cased caddis all the invertebrates were surprisingly small. Does this tell us anything? Well, its late in the summer so a larger proportion of the invertebrates should have reached a fair size. Perhaps there had been a pollution incident, and the invertebrates are in recovery mode, or are the almost constant discharges from Fairford sewage works and above inhibiting normal growth? In the past it was normal to find luscious beds of aquatic vegetation particularly *Ranunculus*, but during the same walkover, referred to above, not a strand of trailing weed could be found. Yet another problem highlighted.

During the walkover it was apparent there were more Signal Crayfish than fish. These invaders wreak havoc on invertebrates and fish fry. They burrow into riverbanks causing erosion and when active, particularly under the hours of darkness, increase turbidity. As yet there appears to be no



effective method of control. However anecdotal evidence and new research shows that where eels are thriving Signal Crayfish show signs of decline. It would seem that eels can access the crayfish burrows and prey on them as do otters. But eels are just another aquatic species in serious trouble.

The consensus is that pollution, from sewage discharges is the major factor negatively impacting on our grayling stocks in the Windrush and Gloucestershire Coln. Both rivers fall within the remit of Thames Water, the UK's largest water company. They are much in the news of late and their finances are in a parlous state. There is much talk of sanctions, special administration, even returning the company to public ownership. Yet, while we just talk, *Thymallus* continues to struggle and the downward population spiral increases. Surely, it's time for the incessant talking and arguing to stop and constructive action implemented. Our grayling is a wonderful and important species and a vital component of the ecosystem. Certainly, much more than of interest to a few anglers, and deserves better.

Tony Bostock MBE, FIFM, Cenv.  
[arwbostock@btinternet.com](mailto:arwbostock@btinternet.com)



Stuart Keable (EA) releasing 1500 Grayling fry

## #Every River Counts Petition

May I respectfully draw your attention to the above campaign which is being run by Fish Legal and arises out of the ground breaking decision of the Supreme Court in the Costa Beck case pursued on behalf of Pickering Anglers. You may not have heard of this matter yet but you will do so after January 2025 when the Court of Appeal deliberates as the Former Government have chosen to Appeal rather than correct their own and the Environment Agencies gross failures over many years. Please look at <https://www.change.org/EveryRiverCounts> and sign the petition if you feel able to do so, no need to make donations or anything else unless you should wish to do so. Thank you for your consideration.

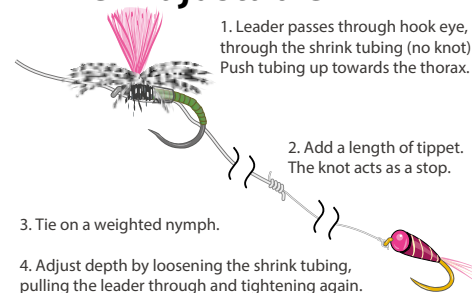
**Ron Taylor, Conservation Officer**  
 Contact [conservation@graylingociety.net](mailto:conservation@graylingociety.net)

# Angling Section

## Fishing the Adjustable-Klink

by Paul Shorrock

### The "Adjustable-Klink"



The Duo, New Zealand or Klink'n'Dink method can be a very effective way to run a weighted nymph through moderately fast water. It's an each-way bet on rising or nymphing fish. When targeting bottom-feeding grayling it helps to make sure your nymph is fishing close to the riverbed. Too shallow and your nymph will pass above the fish unnoticed, too deep and you will snag the bottom too often. I developed the idea for the Adjustable Klink to overcome this weakness in the fixed depth Klink'n'Dink method. Who wants to be constantly retying tippets on a cold day? The simple addition of a few millimetres of clear shrink tubing makes the fly act like a tiny float, the tubing cinched onto the line holds it like a float rubber. Depth can be adjusted in seconds by loosening the tubing towards the bend of the hook. Pulling the leader through without loosening the tubing will almost certainly result in "pigtail" kinks in the line, weakening it and reducing good presentation. If you tie the tippet around the shortest depth you are likely to be fishing, you will be able to fish a little deeper whenever you need to.

Having fished through a run, it's easy to add or subtract a few inches to the depth and perhaps pick up a few more fish. The Adjustable Klink is not just a fancy indicator though. It will catch rising fish in its own right. The fact that the fly will slide down the leader under the weight of a taking fish until it reaches the tippet knot makes it an imperfect dry fly; the chance of a clean hook set is slightly reduced, but I have hooked and landed trout and grayling of over two pounds on this fly. If you find more fish are coming to the emerger you could replace the weighted nymph with a second dry fly. I have caught some decent grayling on a small Grayling Witch when not spotting the actual take but seeing the progress of the more easily sighted Klink suddenly pause.



Of course, there's nothing to stop you fishing the fly as a straightforward emerger without the "dink". No need to remove the shrink-tubing, it's lighter than water and doesn't put the fish off. If they see it at all it might resemble the shuck, or the gas bubble seen during emergence.

If you wish to tie your own, the heat-shrink tubing is cheap to buy from eBay (Ed. Other sources are



available). Its principal use is in electrical fitting and it is available in a huge variety of sizes and colours. I use 1.2mm clear. A metre length cost me about £1.50 delivered and is plenty for two-dozen flies. I shrink mine over the steam from a boiling kettle using one of those corn-on-the-cob forks as a former, two at a time in batches of at least a dozen that I keep in a small ziplock bag until needed. The resultant tapered shape helps grip the leader against the dressing.

Speaking of dressings, the materials I have used are as follows:

**Hook**, Fulling Mill barbless Czech Nymph sz14,  
**Thread**, Sheer 14/0 Black,  
**Body**, Hends Body Quill, black or olive,  
**Thorax**, mix of seals' fur and Hare's Ice dubbing,  
**Wing Post**, Tiemco Aerowing, pink  
**Hackle**, Whiting Bronze, Hebert Miner, grizzle cock.  
**"Float rubber"**, 1.2mm clear heat shrink tubing, shrunk to tapered shape.

Practice threading the fly onto your leader at home, in the warm and dry, it's a bit fiddly at first but second nature once you get the hang of it. It'd be a pity to lose the tubing in the long grass! Keep the hook point uppermost and slide the tubing almost to the point of the hook using an opposing fingertip to prevent pushing it off the end. There should then be enough slack to pass the tippet through the tubing before returning it to a snug position, tight behind the thorax. I leave a tag end of at least six inches to tie the tippet to. You

can leave the upper tag a little long to reduce the chance of the knot passing through the fly when you lift into a fish.



I tie my Klinks with a skinny abdomen of Hends body quill and add a build-up of extra thread wraps just behind the thorax to give something for the tubing to grip against, a bit like the way you might build a head on a buzzer but not so pronounced. Dubbed bodies would be difficult to slide the tubing over. I use a mix of natural and man-made dubbing in the thorax, a little UV flash to catch the eye and a little hairiness to catch the teeth!



With a sufficient hackle of stiff genetic cock feather, it's possible to suspend a weighted nymph with a 2.5mm tungsten bead. I give all my dries a dash of Hareline Water Shed at my tying desk and carry a bottle of desiccant and floatant (Dilly Wax for preference) in my vest to keep the Adjustable

Klink as buoyant as possible for as long as possible.

Feel free to experiment with the dressing. Good luck fishing the Adjustable Klink!

**Paul Shorrock**

# WANTED

## ARTICLES

We are always looking for material to publish in "Grayling"!

Please send articles (500 – 1500 words) or items of news relating to grayling, and their habitats to the Editor through the link: [editor@graylingsociety.net](mailto:editor@graylingsociety.net)



# Tackle and Fly-tying Section

## Thoughts on Grayling Flies

by Ari Savikko

As a versatile feeder, grayling is a favourite target for fly fishermen. You can fish for them on the surface, in the middle of the water column, or at the bottom. Choosing the right fly requires some knowledge of the insect world and the grayling's feeding habits. Smaller grayling can be caught quite easily, but larger ones, weighing over a kilogram, can be very selective when it comes to flies.

Many consider surface fly fishing to be the best experience in fly fishing, and grayling is the perfect target for this type of fishing. During midsummer, when insect hatching is at its peak, grayling are most active. Choosing a surface fly is a natural choice during this time. It's also worth trying surface flies at other times, even when the fish are not actively rising.

When it comes to flies, focus on three factors: size, shape, and colour. In my opinion, colour is the most important of these. The right-coloured fly can attract both large and small grayling. Shape becomes crucial when the fish are feeding poorly and are more selective in their choice of prey. A surface fly for large grayling can be tied to a size 10 hook, but you can downsize the hook when the feeding is slow.

The size of the hook matters as well. A general rule of thumb is that in warmer water, you should use smaller flies. However, this rule is not as straightforward as in salmon and trout fishing. Sometimes, even in warm water, the so-called "meatball phenomenon" works. If the fly's colour and shape are right, a larger imitation can be irresistible. A size 10 hook is a good choice for an all-purpose fly. It's big



enough to hold on to larger grayling securely. Grayling can also take very large flies, and often you can catch them while targeting salmon, even with a size 2/0 fly. (*Ed. See article on Big Flies from the archives later in this section.*)

Fly shape typically imitates the silhouette of grayling's prey. Remember that grayling sees the fly from below. Therefore, it's a good idea to observe how flies look in water, for example, by placing them in a glass of water. The shape doesn't necessarily have to mimic the exact shape of the insect or fish, but there should be some resemblance.

When choosing the colour, take inspiration from nature and observe the floating insects on the water's surface. Especially when large caddisflies hatch, grayling can be very selective in their feeding. The colour of the insect's body is crucial, as it's closest to the water's surface. So, when brown-bodied caddisflies are hatching, your fly's body colour should be a precise shade of brown. Even a slight difference in colour can make a big difference. Wing colour is not as critical, but it's still preferable to match it with natural colours.

Sometimes, "surprise colours" can also work, which are completely different from what's found in nature. For some reason, these colours can also be effective, so it's worth trying them

when it seems like grayling are not accepting anything else.

However, the most important factors are local knowledge and patience. Large grayling are rare, and they usually inhabit small territories. Their territory usually consists of a riffle and the nearest pool. A favoured feeding spot for big grayling is often just below the pool's tail, where they descend to feed on drifting insects. The largest grayling typically claim the best spots, which are often under rocky overhangs right at the head of the pool. The water depth may not need to be more than half a meter.

Generally, large grayling don't linger at their feeding spots for long and return to the pool. During the best times, in July and August, they can feed for several hours in good weather. On bad days, they may not even come to the head of the pool. This is why patience is the most essential virtue for a big grayling angler.



If you've ever caught a big grayling from a certain pool, it's likely that you'll catch another one. That's why it's worth spending a few empty days at these spots because they usually reward your patience. One grayling weighing over a kilogram can make the whole trip worthwhile, and you won't even remember those empty days afterwards.

Ari Savikko

## The Hirst Spider Web Rod

by Victor Bonutto



One of the Society's members recently brought to our attention a very interesting story concerning the development of a rather unique fishing rod.

Victor Bonutto,

an angling historian and antiques expert, mentioned that he happens to have *"much tackle of the late J H Hirst who was the captain of the Bradford match anglers and selected Reg Righyni as a team member. Hirst's family tell me stories of how he coached Reg in his early years with Reg calling at their house for guidance. JHH was a fantastic angler and great British eccentric. I have some All-England match programmes that show JHH as captain and Reg as a team member.*

....

*I just thought to mention this as I know Reg is well known in grayling circles. I believe he and Hirst caught some lovely grayling on Hirst's own water on the Wharfe."*



For those who have access to the internet, if you start a Google search using the terms "Hirst Spider Web Rod" you will come across more information, including an article from the



JHH with the Hirst Spider Web Rod

Daily Mail in 2016 which details some of Mr Hirst's military experience as well as his angling exploits. It is truly a fascinating story about the development of a rod that employed an engineering approach to its design thus allowing for the production of rods of increased length from the materials that were available at the time. A design that is perhaps not so relevant now, in these days of graphite and carbon fibre, but an interesting story, nonetheless.



## Big Flies for Grayling

by Stanislaw Cios

(From the Archives)

In the angling literature it is generally accepted that the best grayling flies (both dry and wet) are small ones, usually on hooks no.10-18. Hardly anybody seems to consider larger flies or other large bait as effective or worthy of interest. Therefore, in this article I would like to call the angler's attention to the possibility of using some unorthodox bait for these fish.

The analysis starts with a brief summary on the role of large prey in the diet of grayling, in general the European grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) thriving in rivers may be considered a typical invertebrate eater. Items such as fish, larval lampreys and crayfish are reported from grayling stomachs, but rarely and in small numbers. Usually in a sample of a hundred or more fish one may find not more than one of these organisms. Therefore, these prey may be considered as accidental. Apart from the crayfish, the largest invertebrates eaten are usually caterpillars (up to 5cm in length) and some large Diptera larvae (*Tabanidae*, *Tipulidae*, etc., up to 3-4cm). On the other hand, according to scientific data, some brackish water populations of grayling in Scandinavia, as well as some populations of *Thymallus arcticus* in Siberia, are known to be highly piscivorous.

From this short account it results, that grayling indeed takes larger prey, though conditions favouring such phenomena are yet unclear. In the angling literature the most interesting observation known to me has been presented by W.C. Platts (Grayling Fishing, A and C Black, 1939). This author presents some highly impressive catches of grayling in British rivers using live minnows (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) as bait. Apart from this, several anglers on occasions

state that they have caught grayling with various rotating lures, but they don't analyse the problem any deeper.

From my experience I would like to present here some considerations on three large baits: wobblers, rotating lures and large artificial flies.

As regards the wobblers, in northern Poland in the River Cxernica, I have once caught (unintentionally) a 20cm (!!!) grayling with a 6cm long artificial, and I have seen a 38cm grayling attacking twice my 9cm Rapala (the fish was soon caught by my friend, with a No.3 Mepps). The two cases don't permit me to draw yet any conclusions.

As regards the lures, I have caught many grayling in Polish rivers, both large and small fish, with various sized artificials Nos. 1-3). On the basis of my experience I may draw the following conclusions:

- In lowland rivers (mainly chalkstream-type) grayling are caught much more often with lures, than in torrential mountain streams. I am not able to put forward a sound explanation of this fact, though in general in chalkstreams these fish are more aggressive and voracious than the mountain grayling.
- More grayling are caught when fishing upstream (with the lure coming downstream). This is in strong contrast to catching trout, but it is understandable in view of the feeding habits of grayling.
- Almost all of the grayling were caught when the lure passed just over the bottom.
- The grayling are more easily caught at the end of May and early in June; when they feed voraciously.





Kris Kent fishing the Hodder at the 2022 Symposium Photo by R. Calbrade





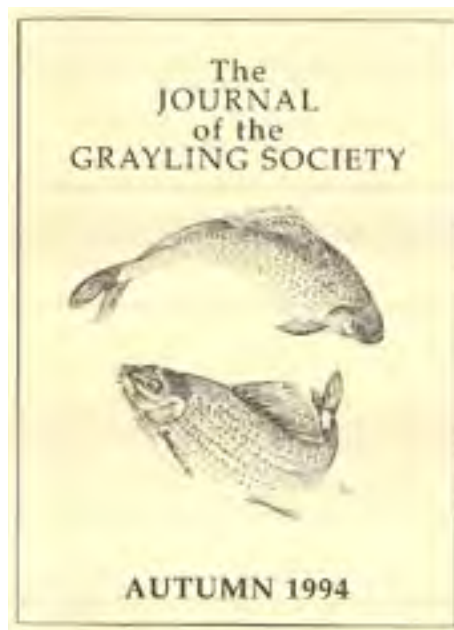
As regards the flies, I have caught many grayling in Poland with artificials constructed on hooks nos 1-8. Some of these fish were caught unintentionally, when I was fishing for trout, but some of the flies were used deliberately. On the basis of my experience I draw the following conclusions:

- Under normal conditions, large flies are effective mainly in deep (1.5m or more) lowland rivers, when the bait is presented near the bottom.
- In mountain waters, large and dark flies are effective mainly when the water is turbid. Probably this results from the grayling's reduced visibility in such conditions. My experience points to the fact that under such conditions grayling consume few organisms, mainly the larger and more visible ones.
- Large flies are effective when the fish feed heavily on terrestrials falling on the water (in this case the flies may be presented at any depth).

I am unable to draw yet any conclusions on the shape or colour of the best flies, since my grayling were caught on a variety of artificials: From a Matuka-type streamer (!), through large Black Zulu to various nymph-like patterns. Neither I am able to state the best mode of presentation of the flies. Some fish were caught when nymphing (the fly drifted in a natural way), while some in a typical wet fly manner (the fly was dragged, usually at a greater depth).

Concluding the point, the large bait on occasion can become an effective bait for grayling, but still a lot has to be learned – when, where and which ones should be used.

*Ed. This article was published 30 years ago in the Autumn 1994 edition of Grayling. It is recorded there as being first published in "Mosca & Spinning", No.9 1991 – Italy. Stanislaw, of course, continues to be active in providing articles for the Journal.*



Grayling Autumn 1994



## Science Section

### European grayling and brown trout co-occurrence and co-existence

by Stephen D. Gregory<sup>^(1,2,\*)</sup>

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A fundamental and persistent paradigm of ecology concerns how species that compete for limiting space, food, and other resources, are able to co-exist or inhabit the same place at the same time. When species are found together - and especially when they have (comparatively) similar physiological requirements - it is generally expected that they are competing for limited resources. For example, invasive black rats compete with a little-known species of rice rat endemic to the northern shores of Isla Santiago in the Galápagos Islands where they consume many of the same plant species during the wet season [1]. In the unusual circumstance that both species had very similar physiological requirements, then we could imagine that one species might out-compete or exclude the other - an outcome known as competitive exclusion that was assumed to have resulted in the extinction of 9 of 12 endemic rice rat species [1] (although a later study also added predation by introduced domestic cats to the list of suspected causes [2]). Given sufficient opportunities or time, the struggle for survival should motivate species to develop behavioural (short term) or

physiological (evolutionary term) differences that allow them both to survive, such as the seasonal dietary switch to cactus by the endemic Isla Santiago rat that allows it to tolerate potentially intense competition with invasive black rats when resources become scarce in the dry season [1].

Based on these classic ecological theories and empirical studies, a comprehensive review has suggested that competition among different salmonid species & life-stages is likely [3]. European grayling *Thymallus thymallus* (hereafter grayling) is frequently found in rivers alongside brown trout *Salmo trutta* (hereafter trout), whether within their natural geographical ranges, or where one or both species has been introduced outside of their natural geographical range [4–6]. Potential competition among these species has been the subject of many studies. Some such studies have provided circumstantial evidence that the species interact via competition for limiting foods [7–9]. Although this evidence ranges from weak [10,11] to strong competition for food [9], in all cases there is limited evidence that these interactions result in meaningful changes to individuals or populations of either species. For every study that produces evidence of interspecific competition between these species, there is another study that provides reasons why these species might co-exist. For example, studies have suggested that grayling could be behaviourally dominant to trout and thereby out-compete them for food [12]; that competition is highest among juveniles, but



that grayling might be more efficient feeders than trout [8]; and that trout use more foods of terrestrial origin than grayling [7,13].

One river in which they co-occur and that has received considerable attention, is the River Wylfe, a tributary of the River Avon, which passes through the UK counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire [14–16]. Historically, grayling were considered a pest species on the River Wylfe, thought to impact more desirable fish species, including trout and Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, by competing for food and habitats, and eating their eggs that are not properly deposited in redds. Consequently, there was a period when River Wylfe grayling were routinely “dispatched” in an effort to protect populations of more desirable species. The Piscatorial Society Water Warden Hal Thirlaway did not subscribe to this view and felt that the two species were able to co-exist. In pursuit of evidence that they co-exist, Hal was instrumental (among others) in starting an annual grayling and trout monitoring programme, that is now known as the River Wylfe Grayling and Trout Survey (WGTS). Several studies have now been done using the WGTS data, and some have found evidence for a positive association between juvenile grayling and trout [14] or between subadult grayling and adult trout [15]. Together, these circumstantial findings suggest that both species share their preferred environmental conditions at multiple life-stages, although these studies do not provide unequivocal evidence that they can co-exist under environmental conditions that limit individual grayling growth. Indeed, one study using WGTS data found evidence that juvenile trout negatively affected juvenile grayling growth, although no such effect was found on subadult or adult grayling growth, by juvenile or adult trout [16].

If the River Wylfe grayling and trout competition or co-existence conundrum can be resolved, assuming that it is not a dynamic

system that moves between both states, then there are some important bits of advice that should be followed. First, several studies have noted that exploring such a problem will require long and detailed population surveys, much like the WGTS [3,17]. Only by collecting data over longer periods can we hope to collect sufficient data to overcome variations due to, for example, individual specialisations and preferences for different and changing habitat [e.g., 18,19] and environmental conditions [e.g., 20]. Furthermore, to understand the nature of the interactions between these species would require mechanistic studies that consider the species’ physiological tolerances [e.g., 21] and behaviours [e.g., 1], in addition to population census data. To date, there have been myriad studies of competition and co-existence, and yet their prevalence in most systems is still equivocal. In this author’s opinion, designing a study to resolve this conundrum for River Wylfe grayling and trout would need a lot of careful experimental design and power analyses, possibly including new types of data. Such studies will be of substantial theoretical interest in terms of the whole question of inter-species competition in an environment with limited resources. However, a pragmatic view of this evidence to date, for those managing salmonid fisheries (individuals, owners, lessees, and regulatory organisations), is that the provision or maintenance of the diverse riverine habitat that is required for all life stages of both species is likely to reduce any inter-species competition that may exist. Furthermore, the current evidence for significant competition between these species is slim and does not justify the human intervention of culling one species to promote the survival of the other.

**Acknowledgement:** I thank John Dart for his comments and edits on this article.

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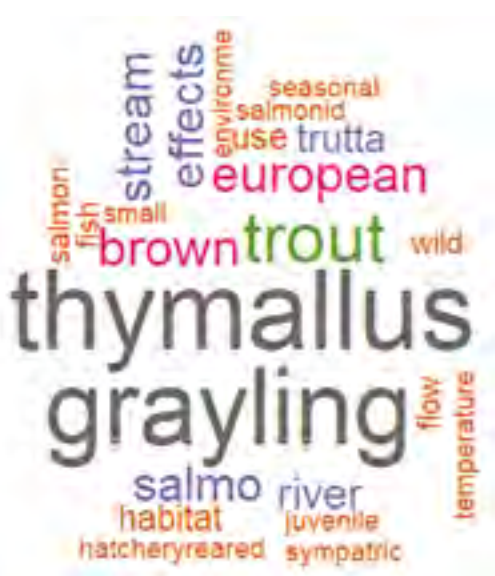
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*Ed. For those receiving the Journal electronically: Please note that clicking the links in the references above will take the reader directly to the articles that have been cited in the text, aiding your further reading.*



A Wylfe young of year (YoY) grayling



## Invertebrate Monitoring to Measure the Health of Rivers

by Prof John Dart

Invertebrate monitoring as a biological measure of the health of freshwaters started in the 1970s and has been adopted as one of the key systems used to assess the health of rivers. A great deal of careful scientific work has gone into evaluating the sensitivity of different species of macroinvertebrate to environmental factors. The result has been that this approach has become one of the most important tools providing one of the major data sources. It is used not only in the UK and Europe, to evaluate the health of rivers in the context of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), but also worldwide for water quality testing.

The data sources used for river health monitoring can be grouped into three: (1) in situ monitoring data (including conventional biological sampling, (2) in situ sensors and (3) several novel approaches including environmental DNA analysis, remote sensing (e.g. satellite) imagery, modelling (e.g. predictive hydrological models) amongst others (Humbert, Kuehne et al. 2023).

The WFD uses invertebrate biological monitoring partnered with hydro-morphological measurements (flow, connectivity to flood plains, connection to ground water, substrate), and physico-chemical measurements (e.g. temperature, pH, nitrogen, phosphorous) to evaluate river health (Humbert, Kuehne et al. 2023).

### The background to invertebrate monitoring

This is described in detail in the Freshwater Biology Association's Handbook on Invertebrate Monitoring (Murray-Bligh and Griffiths 2022)

and is summarised here.

A large body of scientific work since the late 1970s has identified macroinvertebrate species that are sensitive to five major water quality indicators:

1. Chemical: measures the effect of unidentified chemical pollution.
2. Siltation: sediment naturally moves into rivers through erosion, but unnaturally high levels may follow human activity including agriculture and industry. Toxic chemicals can bind to sediments increasing their concentrations.
3. Phosphorous: the main cause of eutrophication (over nutrification) that leads to choking algal growth reducing dissolved oxygen (and sometimes producing toxins).
4. Organic enrichment: measured by the saprophobic index. Saprophobes are organisms including bacteria, some molluscs, water snails and mussels that feed on dead organic matter. This enrichment comes from wastewater and farm runoff leading to oxygen depletion as these are broken down.
5. Flow: measured by the LIFE (Lotic Invertebrate Flow Evaluation) index. Lotic is a term describing invertebrates that live in flowing water. Flow dictates water quality - important as when flow is reduced pollutants are less diluted and sediments with organic matter can settle more easily. Flow is affected by, for example, abstraction, dams & weirs.



In addition, the data from invertebrate monitoring is used to provide 2 overall indicators of river health:

- The BWMP (Biological Monitoring Working Party Index) Each invertebrate family in a sample is given a score of 1-10 depending on their tolerance to pollution (10 = sensitive and 1 = tolerant). These values are summed to give a total score. The BWMP index has been largely replaced by the more recently validated WHPT index.
- WHPT (Walley Hawkes Paisley Trigg Index) is used by the Environment Agency (EA) since 2017 as a tool for measuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It is also used by two "citizen science" organisations: the Riverfly Partnership's Extended Scheme which is an expanded version of the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI) and Wildfish's SmartRivers project. Unlike BWMP, the WHPT includes both abundance, together with presence or absence, to provide a score. It measures 33 taxa (the term taxon includes any of the biological classification levels e.g. phylum, class, order, family, genus and species) and classifies these to species level which on a typical readout can include more than 100 species.

#### How is invertebrate sampling done?

This employs the RIVPACS (River Invertebrate Production and Classification Scheme) sampling technique in which representative sites are repeat sampled.

Sites are sampled 2 or 3 times per year (spring, summer and autumn, or spring and autumn) to account for seasonal variations in invertebrate populations.

Locations to be sampled are identified on a map, or by GPS location.

- In a narrow stream the sampling area should be within 7 channel widths upstream or downstream of the location.
- In a wide stream 50m up or downstream of the location.
- The substrate type is recorded, and flow estimated on each occasion.

Three techniques are used depending on the water depth:

1. Up to 0.8m (averaged across 3 depth measurements  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the width: 3-minute kick-sample and 1 min manual search split proportionally according to the cover of all the different habitats in the location.
2. Deeper water < 15m wide: 1 min manual search, 1 min marginal sweep and 3 mins sampling with a long-handled pond-net similarly split between habitats as above.
3. Large deep rivers: 1 min manual search, 1 min marginal sweep and then using an airlift technique (suction pump) from a boat.

Most trout and grayling rivers are shallow enough for the kick sampling technique.

When kick-sampling, first start downstream and work upstream dividing the time (3 mins kick and 1 min manual search to include the removal of invertebrates off rocks into the net) between the different micro-habitats at the site. Use the net to sweep up into macrophytes to sample the invertebrates in those as well as kick sampling the riverbed. The 3 mins might be divided into several locations at the site. A really good video from the Anglers Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (ARMI) is: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k\\_TB-amZiBA&list=PLNT4EGApz8s28v5cByd7BKVf8prAymPmS&index=7&t=47s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_TB-amZiBA&list=PLNT4EGApz8s28v5cByd7BKVf8prAymPmS&index=7&t=47s).

Samples are then either assessed by citizen scientists using identification charts like the ones available from the Riverfly partnership or are sent to a professional laboratory, such as the Aquascience Consultancy, for speciation and reporting (costs about £250 for a sample) <http://www.aquascienceconsultancy.co.uk/analytical-services.html>.

Fishing Clubs & Societies that survey their invertebrate populations do this either through the Wildfish SmartRivers network or through the Riverfly Partnership's Extended Scheme which is an expanded version of the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative (RMI). These data fill the monitoring gaps in the EA's national monitoring network using high quality citizen science.

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## Recently published Scientific Article on Grayling

**Ed.** I include here the copy of an abstract of a recently published scientific paper as an article perhaps of interest to the readership; a study of the stocking of grayling fry success in South Bohemian rivers in the Czech Republic.

Can stocking with advanced European grayling fry strengthen its populations in the wild? Avramović, M., *et al.*, 2024. This paper is published in *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, Volume 54, 2024, Pages 165-176, and is Open Access, accessed via Science Direct using this link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/org/science/article/pii/S0137159224000232>

### Abstract

European grayling, *Thymallus thymallus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Actinopterygii: Salmoniformes: Salmonidae), represents one of the highly attractive riverine fishing species in Europe. Its populations have declined in the Czech Republic due to various adverse factors. Current approaches for strengthening these populations based on restocking with artificially reared 1+ or 2+ old individuals have proven to be ineffective. This study focuses on the possibilities of supporting or restoring these populations by reintroducing two-month-old, fast-growing fry reared in ponds. In June 2021,

5400 advanced fry marked with Alizarin Red (ARS) were introduced into three free-flowing South Bohemian streams. The recapture rates and biometric data (length and weight) of stocked grayling were assessed at the release sites as well as further downstream. The first electrofishing monitoring was conducted at the end of the growing season (October) and after their first winter (March). Water temperature and flow rate at the stocking sites were monitored throughout the growing season. The substantial number of recaptured individuals across all monitored sites suggests that the fry successfully adapted to their new habitat and significantly contributed to the composition of local fish communities. Downstream movement of stocked fry correlated with lower water temperatures and higher flows. Our findings demonstrate that some introduced individuals successfully overwintered at all three reintroduction sites. Marking with ARS has proven to be a very effective non-invasive method of group marking juvenile fish and is suitable for monitoring stocking programs. The production and stocking of fast-growing advanced fry of European grayling is thus a promising strategy for revitalizing and strengthening the populations of this threatened fish in running waters.

## The Righyni Roose Trophy 2025

The theme of this year's Trophy competition is Photography / Written Word / Fly-tying

Members are invited to enter prints or digital files

Entries must reach the Chairman  
Rob Hartley by September 30th 2025



## Book Reviews

by John Roberts

### The Feather Bender's Advanced Flytying Techniques

Author: **Barry Ord Clarke** Publisher: **Merlin Unwin Books** Price: **£30**

*As a very average tyer of flies, I was a little daunted to be confronted a book on 'Advanced' flytying. For sure there are many styles and techniques in the book I've never used; but isn't that the point? I'm reading this to learn something new. None of it so difficult that you end up thinking 'well was it worth it?' Such is the accessibility and convenience of the book that the skills are easily picked up.*

*This new volume is just a subtle step forward from the author's excellent and accessible Flytying Techniques. Along with that earlier volume they are the two most practical and informative ever on the subject. As a world-renowned flytyer of exceptional skill and innovation Barry Ord Clarke is revered by all who tie their own flies. A winner of prestigious tying awards he is now asked to judge those competitions. He demonstrates all over the world. Some of his fifteen previous books on tying justifiably have been best sellers and translated widely including into Japanese.*

*Of the 28 trout or grayling flies described at least half of them could be used for grayling. Almost all are of relevance to the river flyfisher. Inevitably there are some patterns I wouldn't normally choose to use but it is clear their selection is to maximise and illustrate the greatest number of tying techniques. The potential significance for the reader is unlimited as the tying methods, advice and materials could be adopted and adapted into their own fly choices. Within each of the 28 patterns the author particularly highlights three different techniques to master; a total of 84 skills among many to incorporate into the reader's own flies. In the introduction to each dressing the author explains why the materials and techniques are so integral to that fly. The benefits of a particular material or nuance in tying are explained with their significance to the imitation, its durability or ease of tying.*

*The photography of the tying sequences is outstanding and unsurpassed in any UK published book. There are up to 42 images of each tying sequence. Nothing is left to chance; every turn of the thread or movement of the*

*material is clearly illustrated. Barry Ord Clarke is a professional photographer and it shows.*

*The unique selling point in this book is what makes this and Barry's previous two books from Merlin Unwin Books invaluable is that there is a QR code alongside each dressing. This links to a YouTube video of the author tying the fly in vivid and unambiguous detail with a commentary of exactly what is happening. Barry was the first flytying author to include such links in his books. It is like buying the film of the book at the same time. It really is added value to the price of the book.*

*The author was at the front of the queue when the gifts of dexterity and an eye for detail were handed out. If you are like me, you will stumble through your fishing seasons with some fairly scruffy flies which will take a few fish. With this book there is the opportunity to up our game with a book (and video) to dramatically improve the quality of those flies.*

*I ought to declare a minor interest in that 2 years ago Barry Ord Clarke provided some grayling flies for my book Grayling On The Fly. He also did the fly photography. I chose wisely.*





## Testament of a Trout Fisher

Author: **Laurence Catlow** Publisher: **Merlin Unwin Books** Price: **£20**

*If its true what they say about buses arriving in pairs then it should be applied to books about the river Wharfe. Last year I reviewed for this journal Chris McCully's encyclopedic The River of all the Goodbyes: An Angler on the Wharfe. In praise of his compelling book I declared that he wrote with an erudition rarely matched by current angling writers. When I wrote that I had in mind, as one of the select few, Laurence Catlow who now has produced his own book, a lifelong testament to his fifty year association with the upper Wharfe. Mr Catlow too writes with style and craft providing a highly entertaining and sometimes provocative resume of his trout fishing experiences and how his own life has been influenced by the beneficial presence of time spent on a beautiful river high in the Yorkshire Dales.*

*Had it not been purloined earlier A River Runs Through It would have been another apt title for this book. The author's life has been dominated by the upper Wharfe of Kettlewell, Kilsay and Yockenthwaite, where incidentally there are no grayling. A few other rivers are mentioned, particularly the Rea and Foston Beck, and even some grayling fishing on the Irton but none can hold a candle to a river that produces its 'special trout'; 'something sets them apart from and raises them high, high above the trout of all other becks and rivers and streams.' A bold statement but in reading the chapters leading up to his declaration I concede he is entitled to make the claim. This man has been captivated and beguiled by a lifelong love. I found his passion for the river and its trout totally endearing.*

*My guess is that the author would not be put out if I described him as in the old school of doing things. His preference, when conditions allow, is for the upstream team of spiders, a style centuries old, fished in the footsteps of famous anglers of old like T.E.Pritt whose ghosts haunt the same pools and glides. He writes eloquently of the joy of casting a light line and detecting the subtle takes. There is no hint of instruction or pedagogy from this ex-classics master; just a very enlightening and entertaining review of decades of fishing in this way. However, as we all know rivers are changing and that requires second thoughts by the flyfisher.*

*Most of the author's fish now succumb to a dry fly,*

*often one of a handful of his own patterns. The opportunity for productive fishing in the upper layers of the water column are getting fewer. The decline of aquatic fly life, particularly the Ephemeroptera whose hatches could once be relied upon, is no different from on other British rivers. The days of regular predictable and sustained appearances of duns and spinners of the various olives, iron blues and pale wateries is past and so therefore is the viability of upstream spiders whose principle function, in the eyes of the author, is to imitate the ascending nymphs. Alternative methods are now employed like the ubiquitous sedge or a Klinkhamer. The author wistfully regrets the lack of opportunity to fish the old spiders upstream and promises himself (as I suspect many of us do) to fish them more frequently but fails. I know where he's coming from.*

*If the river and its trout are an obsession for this man, and I use the word as his own description, one other quirk of his fly fishing life is his compulsion to kill a brace of trout on almost every occasion. The modern angler may balk at this regular reduction of re-catchable trout or in the case of wild fish, breeding stock. Earlier in his fishing life a single good takeable trout was deemed 'a glorious day' but now is unsuccessful. The necessity for a second good fish brings anxiety, a burden until completed. Smaller fish don't count. They have to be ten inches and killed. The stress dissipates after the brace is killed and peace and fulfilment descends. The author is a religious man and had he been of a different inclination he would have described this as Nirvana. Blank days bother him less than those of a single fish. It's a state of affairs that the author has considered he needs to address, but as yet unsuccessfully. It is a ritual in his worship of this river. A single trout is like the bread without the wine.*

*The book is appropriately entitled a 'Testament', a summation of his trout fishing life to be passed on to those who want to listen and, I might add, be thoroughly entertained. Amongst his themes I can relate to is the thought that the accidentally caught whopper means significantly less than a hard earned brace of a quarter the weight. Another is how he managed for forty five years to not catch a trout on a Mayfly or to fish the Test, both being resolved late in life on the same trip. Or how 'the emotional coherence' of a fishing*

*day can be so upset by a big fish; whilst its success is celebrated the anxiety that precedes the capture or the trauma of its loss sublimates the rest of the fishing day. Written from an entirely autobiographical perspective the book is an entertaining and insightful analysis of the emotions, motivations and enjoyment of fly fishing.*

*Each chapter becomes part of a philosophical discourse by an ageing angler, much of it very relatable to every angler in their sixties and beyond. River fly fishers take note for most of us are in this category. He reflects on seasonal changes on his well being, the impact of changing weather and its effects and problems for the angler, managing our expectations, our attitude to tradition or lack of it, the benefits and misuse of modern methods, the necessity for satisfaction at the end of the fishing day, the absolute bliss of a perfect pork pie, all of which are fuelled by frequent imbibing of beakers of lunchtime wine. Whatever each day on the river brings for the author, the unsuccessful hours of disappointment are revised by the first takeable fish of the day; his spirits lifted, in excited anticipation he is now hungry for the brace.*

*The author admits to being an emotional angler often moved, even to tears, by a day's fishing. As one of a similar age I relate to his feelings about September fishing, a month which speaks more powerfully to a man of seventy than it does to one of twenty-one. He writes of the month aware of the year's and life's decline. One senses a sadness as another season passes and the uncertainty of autumn and winter beckon. I wanted to shout 'Laurence, dispel the melancholia of leaving your favoured upper Wharfe and find a grayling river' but I share his emotional attachment to special fishing places and seasonal changes. There is a metaphysical thread running through the author's fishing life, indicative of a thoughtful religious man in his eighth decade.*

*A Catholic background comes through as he writes of the guilt of using flies of which he disapproves. Desperation overcomes his objection when the desire for success is preferable to the alternative. Temptation is his word for going against his natural inclination and experience of fishing high in the water. Bead head nymphs are for many of us the first line of attack on a river without surface activity but Mr Catlow only reluctantly succumbs. 'I am a sinner who acknowledges and condemns his sin but sometimes finds its appeal irresistible. It is moral frailty rather than hypocrisy.'*

*One gets the impression that the possibility of Euronymphing would bring out the Inquisition. He is though an adaptable angler. The Klink, CDC, IOBOs all are employed.*

*Laurence Catlow found that the 'alchemic power' of trout fishing is able to diminish all else life throws at us. He permits us to know that his mental well being was restored by a therapeutic dose of fly fishing aided substantially by the beauty of the upper Wharfe.*

*Concluding that the reason for his fishing is, to quote Arthur Ransome, to 'establish a relationship with nature that is invaluable in all ages.' Specifically in writing this, his final book, 'there is something about my intercourse with rivers and trout that takes me deeper into nature and brings me deeper healing and reassurance, deeper comfort and nourishment.' Of course for him, and for many others too, fly fishing is not just another pastime but part of the structure of his day, his month, his year, his life.*

*This is a book I enjoyed reading for its own sake, not necessarily to learn anything new but to be entertained and stimulated to think about the how and why of my own fishing, and to be grateful that within the hobby that we love peace and contentment are two of its profound rewards.*





## Letter to the Editor

George Ashton has been in touch with a request for Society Journal binders as he is now running out of space! George writes: *"I have a copy of every A5 journal that has ever been printed by the Grayling Society in my bookcase at home, a total of 11 binders but I only have room for another couple of Journals. I wish to keep my collection of Grayling Society journals in matching binders. Can I please ask if any of the members of the Society have any of the A5 binders spare or if they no longer wish to use that I could purchase from them."*

Anyone who is able to help out George should get in touch with him by:

email: [georgeashton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:georgeashton@yahoo.co.uk)  
or mobile: 07821899770.

Unfortunately, the Society no longer supports the production of these binders, but there may be some unused ones out there?

Ed. I happened to notice in the archived edition of Grayling mentioned on page 27, that there is an advert for the A5 binders. This dates from 30 years ago, so there could well be some spare binders out there. Please support George in continuing the organisation of his collection.

## From the Archives

We previously alerted Society Members to the work that was progressing with the scanning and archiving of historic versions of the Journal. If you have not already seen this resource, I would draw your attention to the "Publications" section of the Members section of the Grayling Society website. There you will be able to access editions of the Journal that go back to Spring 1979 in digital format. There may be some gaps as there would appear to be some missing editions of Journals and Newsletters plus there may be some other Grayling Society and Grayling Research Trust documents

that exist but are not in the archive.

We would like to ask the collective memory of the membership whether they recognise any items that may be missing, and if so, whether they could draw the Editor's attention to them, or even scan and email them in and we will add them to the archive ([editor@graylingsociety.net](mailto:editor@graylingsociety.net)). We have included an article in this edition, republished from Autumn 1994 to whet your appetite for reading through the past Journals.

### Guidelines for submission of articles to "Grayling" and "Grayling News"

This is a brief resumé of the Society's guidelines for submission and should be sufficient to help you to submit articles. A full set of requirements is on the Grayling Society Website.

The article must be relevant to grayling and / or grayling habitats, river or science. Check with the Editor if you are unsure.

Each article should be 800-1200 words long, unless specifically agreed with the Editor.

Supply text using Microsoft Word or Apple Pages format. If you do not have access to those, contact the Editor.

Do not put any Bullet points or other forms of formatting in the text.

Keep all images separate from the text, again keeping captions separate but identifiable with the image.

**Please ensure all images contain good fish handling techniques, preferably with fish still in the water.**

If in doubt, contact [editor@graylingsociety.net](mailto:editor@graylingsociety.net)

## Grayling Society Merchandise

We have stock Grayling Society branded merchandise and publications for sale. They can be purchased via the Chairman.

Please contact Rob Hartley for details on [chair@graylingsociety.net](mailto:chair@graylingsociety.net)

Payment to be via BACS to the Grayling Society. Post and packaging to be added, £1.00 per item.

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she is not the sole participant or beneficiary. Once again, this can be a member, or not.

Nominations should be in writing with supporting evidence in order that the President can make a credible decision. The submission should be made to Feargal Sharkey, the President, and, if he considers that he needs to discuss the merits with anyone, or with the Committee, that remains his sole decision. The Trophy will be held for one year only. The Trophy certificate will be presented at the AGM.

Submissions should be made, by 30th September 2025, to the President via: [secretary@graylingsociety.net](mailto:secretary@graylingsociety.net)



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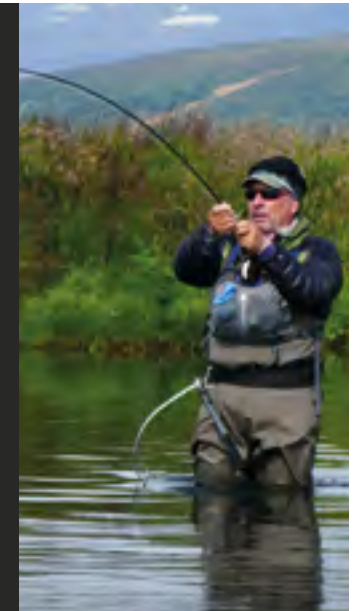
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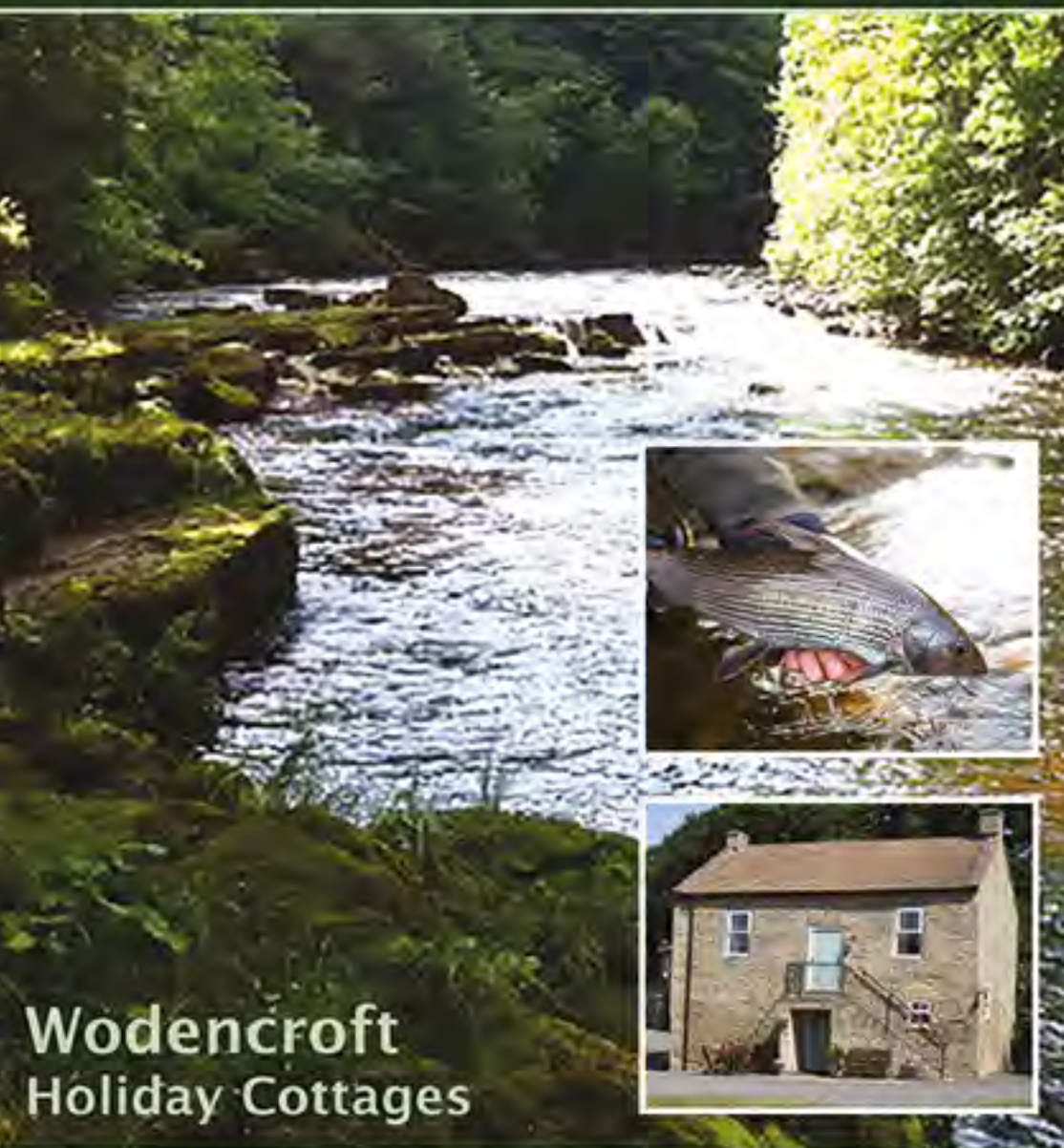
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Membership is essential to ensure that there is no overfishing, and to ensure that the river is kept in good condition. The Society has a team of anglers who patrol the river daily. There is a clubhouse, guest parking, and a bar for both the river and the clubhouse.

Conservation measures are being taken to ensure the river is kept in good condition. The Society is a member of the Kent Angling and Conservation Society, and a full member of the Kent Angling and Conservation Society. The Society is a member of the Kent Angling and Conservation Society, and a full member of the Kent Angling and Conservation Society.

Full details on the Society, and listings, can be found on the website:  
[www.teiseanglers.org.uk](http://www.teiseanglers.org.uk)



**Memberships are currently available.**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Secretary.  
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