

Thames Valley Fly Dressers Guild Branch
Instructor's Report to AGM Jan 2025 at mid-point of 2024-25 Tying Season

Overview of Meetings

We have continued with our bi-monthly fly tying sessions at The Cherry Tree Inn in Stoke Row during the past 12 months. During the year part of the group has started tying Salmon Tube flies and some under Geoff's guidance have been tying trout and Grayling flies.

The Cherry Tree Inn location has stretched some journeys and discouraged attendance during bad weather. Following a vote at our Christmas dinner we are moving our activities to the Baskerville Arms in Shiplake.

Members Attendance at Meetings

Season	2022-23	2023-24	2024	2025
Location	Cherry Tree	Cherry Tree	Cherry Tree	Baskerville
Av. Attendance	7.8	9	8	
Low - High	3 - 15	4 - 12	7 - 11	

The best attendance was 13 at our Christmas dinner in the Baskerville Inn, Shiplake. Maybe we should be a dining club? Many thanks to our dinner co-ordinator for arranging a successful evening.

Fly Tying Instruction for FDG Awards

Our established Members have not been fly-tying for FDG Awards; they are competent tiers and happy to be tying for their own fishing. Anyone who wishes to strive for their next Award badge is encouraged to do so.

Fly Tying Instruction

We started a salmon fly tying course in January 2024 and from September continued with sea trout flies and a separate group tying trout and grayling flies. These were flies for fishing, not for pictures!

We are having a major effort to submit some flies for the FDG annual fly tying competition in March 2025 and are concentrating on learning to tie the Carson.

New Members

We are always delighted to welcome newcomers to our Branch – beginners, novices, and experienced tyers. Please ask your angling colleagues if they would like to come and join us. We need more members – please get the message out that all are welcome!

Asking for Instruction and solving problems

We have several registered instructors and even more very competent fly tyers in our Branch: All can answer questions and solve tying problems. Please ask if you need a demonstration or guidance on materials or tying.

FDG Tying Competition – Branch

We have not had a Branch Fly Tying Competition recently. Please let me know if you would like one.

FDG Tying Competition - National

Please enter the national FDG Fly Tying competition. All of you are capable of gaining a prize from Veniards.

Materials

We all have stacks of 'surplus' fly tying materials and tools. Some of us have 'unlimited' access to game bird and waterfowl feathers & deer hair – if you need something, do ask before buying - it is probably readily available.

Grayling Fishing

Five of us had a good but pricey day grayling fishing on the Test at Wherwell between Christmas and New Year. Make yourself heard if you would like a weekend organised in the autumn on the River Dee at Llangollen or on a Wye tributary in mid Wales.

Reservoir Fishing

Farmoor has fished well this winter and (fingers crossed) Draycote might reopen under new management in April. The TV FDG 'Invictas' team of John H, Peter H, Richard E & Peter W achieved 7th place, **again**, this year in the annual John Watts boat fishing competition at Grafham Reservoir in August 2024. It was a tough day fishing.

Next Year's Programme

If you have any requests for next season's programme or a fly pattern or demonstrations of particular tying techniques or would like to volunteer to demonstrate for 10 minutes – then please let me know.

Peter Watson
Windsor

1st January 2025