

Thames Valley Fly Dressers Guild Branch
Instructor's Report to AGM Jan 2026 at mid-point of 2025-26 Tying Season

Overview of Meetings

We have held our bi-monthly fly tying sessions at The Baskerville Arms in Shiplake during the past 12 months. During the year part of the group has been tying Stillwater Trout and Grayling flies under the guidance of John Watkins and continued tying a selection of Salmon and Sea Trout Flies and Tubes under my guidance.

The Baskerville Arms is proving an extremely welcoming location for our regular group and will accommodate around 12 tiers. Their food is excellent and we have enjoyed two meals during the year.

Members Attendance at Meetings

Season	2022-23	2023-24	2024	2025	2026
Location	Cherry Tree	Cherry Tree	Cherry Tree	Baskerville	Baskerville
Av. Attendance	7.8	9	8	8.6	
Low - High	3 - 15	4 - 12	7 - 11	6 - 12	

Fly Tying Instruction for FDG Awards

Richard Logan is the only member progressing with the FDG Awards at present. He completed the Silver Award successfully and is well on with tying the Gold Award flies. Congratulations!

Fly Tying Instruction

John Watkins has led a very successful Stillwater Trout & Grayling flies 'which catch fish' course.

New Members

We have welcomed two new Members during the year. Elizabeth S, who has since left temporarily to get more tuition at Sportfish, and Ashley P who has stuck with us!

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. Any of you could win a prize from Veniard.

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

It is all getting a bit pricey on the Test and Itchen for a day's Grayling fishing.

Reservoir Fishing

Apart from during the very hot days of summer, Farmoor has fished well this year and Draycote has reopened under new management in April 25.

The TV FDG 'Invictas' team of John H, Peter H, Richard E & Peter W achieved **4th place** this year in the annual John Watts boat fishing competition at Grafham Reservoir in August 2024.

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

7th January 2026