

Thames Valley Fly Dressers Guild Branch

Secretary's Report to AGM Jan 2026 at mid-point of 2025-26 Tying Season

Formal Meetings etc.

The only formal meeting to report on was our AGM, held on January 2nd, 2025, in *The Baskerville Arms*, Lower Shiplake. Draft minutes have been previously circulated. As no comments or corrections have been received, a final version of the minutes accompanies this report.

There were two actions on your secretary arising from the AGM: 1) update the central guild with Thames Valley branch officer and venue details and 2) locate the camera and tripod. Both actions have been completed. I collected the camera and tripod from Mr Sean Doyle and have them in Goring now. If anyone else would like to store them, please let me know.

Membership, Attendance and Venue.

I thank our branch Instructor, Mr Peter Watson for keeping excellent attendance records and for the statistical attendance analysis in his reports. There are about 30 names on the current email list, but several members are long term inactive or have moved away from the area. Other, previously regular attendees, have ceased coming. We welcome new members, but unfortunately have not been able to retain them all.

Our current venue, *The Baskerville Arms*, Lower Shiplake, is very well suited to our purposes: we have privacy, adequate space for the numbers attending, and a welcoming management who are responsive to our requests. I thank Mr Charles Lowe for interacting with the venue, and for organising our branch meals there.

Communications

Secretary's duties have been light, mainly to pass on notice of FDG competitions and to keep the FDG informed of our activities, officers and contact details.

I thank Mr Richard Ellis for organising our entry to the 2025 John Watts competition, fished afloat at Grafham reservoir. Captain John Hurst distinguished himself with an excellent performance, 3rd best individual: the rest of us need to practice much more, and as a team we came joint 4th out of 10. It is not certain if this competition will revert to Draycote in 2026.

Website

Many thanks to Mr Simon Walter for his maintenance and addition of new material to our website. See <https://www.thamesvalleyflydressers.co.uk>.

Peter Huggard
Goring
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4th January 2026

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