



## BEYOND THE CHALK with CHARLES JARDINE

To an American angler, all too often, fishing in the UK is a tapestry of tweedy, bewhiskered, crusty gents in itchy tweeds and ties, flailing the crystal, hallowed, exclusive, and expensive chalk streams of Southern England.

**The island where fly fishing began has been transformed.** The days of Walton, Halford and Skues have made way for a new breed of fisher. Now, it is claimed that more people fish the English reservoirs than attend soccer matches. And not just trout..... Have the fly fishers echoed the Punk revolution of the 70's and 80's and dispensed with tweedy tradition....? Really? Who better to update us on the many non-exclusive and reasonably priced options within driving (on the wrong side of the road) distance of London, than our May presenter, Charles Jardine? No stranger to our speaking circuit, Charles will open our eyes to lesser-known rivers and species – pike anyone?

As you read Charles' biography you will appreciate why we kept his words intact and unabridged. Charles Jardine has been fly fishing for 56 years: which is a very long time to not have learned much.

During that time, he has cast, fished, written, and painted around a good bit of the globe. Won a few awards and made as much chaos as he possibly can. Jardine guided (and still does, sometimes) on the Southern English Chalk streams; been extraordinarily fortunate to be honoured by Fly Fishers International, with the Ambassador Award; the President's Pin awards (which he cherishes) and being honoured as a Legend of American Fly fishing (curious, for someone from Southern England.) which was very flattering! He has written and illustrated a number of books, which have, curiously, done quite well.



Notably the Classic (Sotheby's: in the UK) Guide to Fly-Fishing that was published in 5 different languages and sold over 80 thousand copies world-wide – quite a lot for an angling book! He has also written, illustrated, and contributed to over twenty more, including George Daniel's classic *Dynamic Nymphing*.



Charles was humbled to be awarded Game Angler of the year by Sky Sports a couple of years ago, and silver medallist at the ESPN Outdoor Games in upstate New York. He was in at the very start of the IFFF Casting certification programme. He maintains a close association with Sage and RIO products. He has been associated with Sage as long as any normal person can remember. He has been Chair of the prestigious Fly Dressers Guild and remains vice Chair. He recently won the prestigious Commonwealth Casting Championship trophy.

Currently he is the very proud director of the England Youth Fly Fishing Team; and working on his opus – Fishing 4 Schools. Directing operation with TCAF and taking our fabulous sport into urban areas and less privileged populations, where he sees fishing as a true opportunity for young people to learn and heal from, and a chance to enthuse a future generation as well as address mental health issues – an area where the calm of angling can play a significant role.

His passion remains undiminished. And whilst a little slower, to the amazement of his contemporaries, still runs marathons, and does his best keeping pace with his fabulous two children Alex and Annabelle.

Jardine loves life... and fishing. And this will be Jardine's last tour of Duty...let's make it special.

