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## **The culture, nature and land choices influencing our chalk streams**

**Dylan Everett**

Countryside Manager

Mottisfont, New Forest &  
South West Hampshire



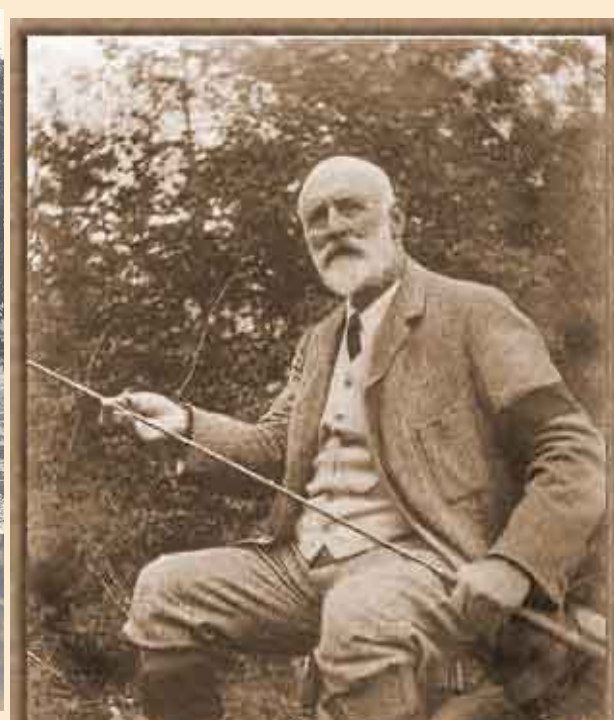


# Mottisfont

The water at the heart of Mottisfont brings constant energy, a forever changing flow of inspiration that connects past, present and future.







**“Dry fly fishing is presenting to the rising fish the best possible imitation of the insect on which it is feeding in its natural position. To analyse this further, it is necessary, firstly to find a fish feeding on the winged insect; both as to size and colour; thirdly, to present it to him in its natural position or floating on the surface of the water with its wings up; fourthly, to put the fly lightly on the water, so that it floats accurately over him without drag; and, fifthly, to take care that all these conditions have been fulfilled before the fish has seen the angler or the reflection of his rod.” F.M. Halford**

**Tony Hayter, F.M. Halford and the Dry-Fly Revolution**







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Only four Head Riverkeepers managed the water at Mottisfont for over a century 1903-2004, each succeeded by his Assistant Riverkeeper. Dick Coxen was Halford's keeper, succeeded by his son Bob in 1918. Bob's Assistant Bert Pragnell took over in 1959, and his Assistant Ralph Collins took over in 1975, retiring in 2004. In the same period there were 9 Popes, 14 Editors of The Times and 19 Prime Ministers.



# “WE LIKE IT SHAGGY”

On famous waters once frequented by Halford, a new fishing club has emerged whose keepers don't mow the banks into bowling-green perfection, writes **Andy Anderson**



At Mottisfont, banks are lovingly tended, but not trimmed to bowling-green perfection. Weed is cut, but to the river's needs, rather than t

36 | *Trout and Salmon*







"...one of the most important factors determining the success of a fly is the degree to which the angler pins his faith on its superiority." Frederic Halford (1844-1914)











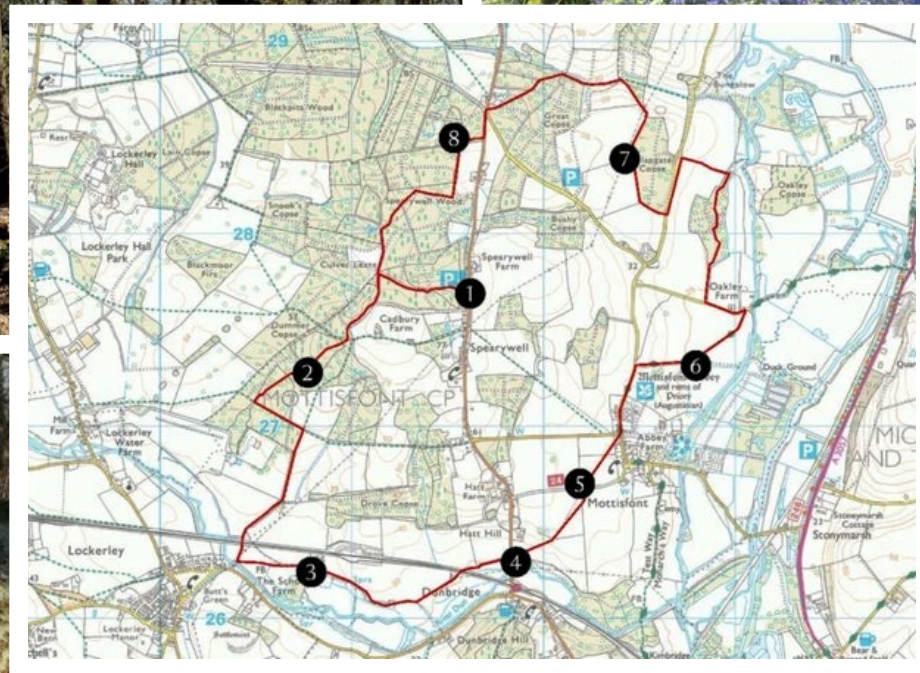








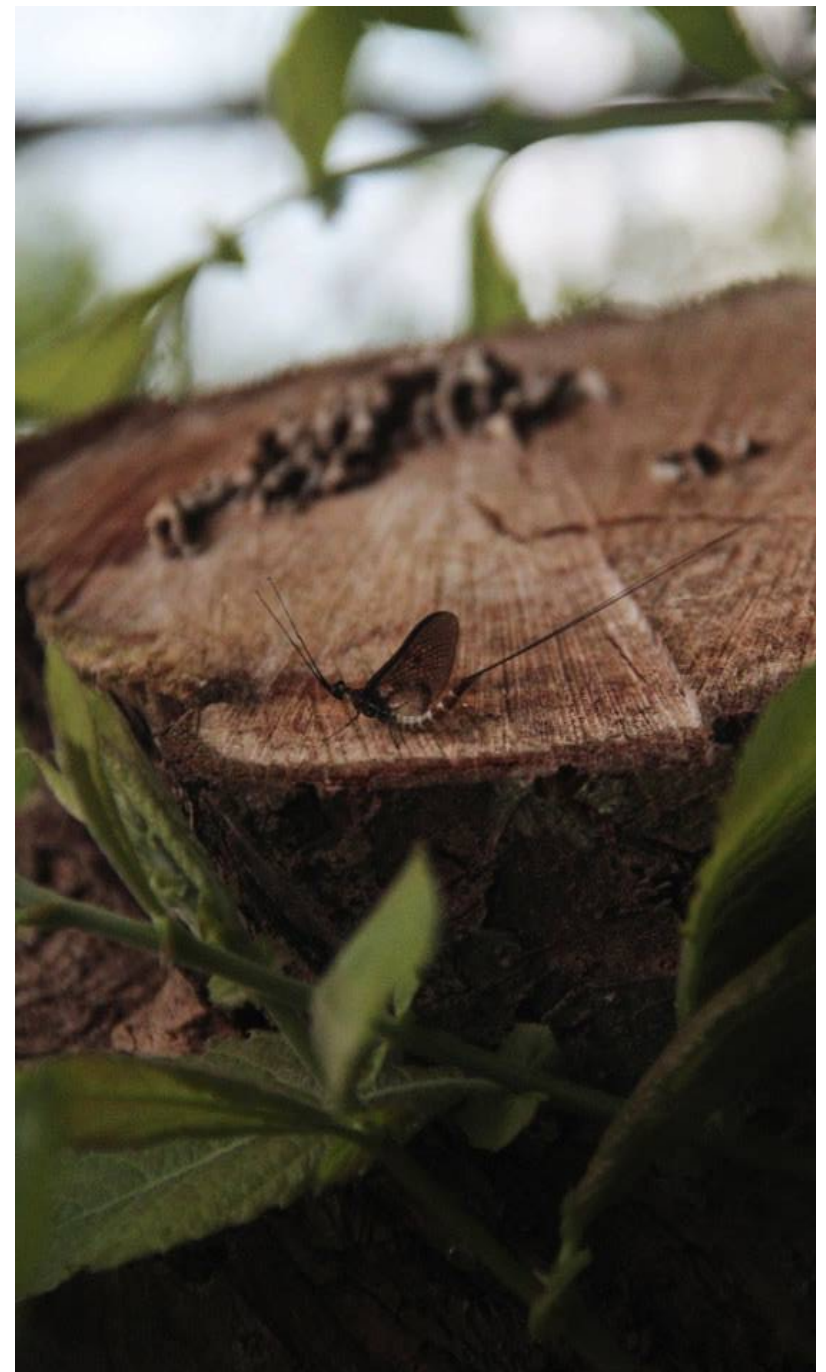
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Thank you.....

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