

Foster Brothers, Ashbourne i Derbyshire, har fremstillet stænger og andet grej siden 1793. De var blant de første der lavede splitcane-stænger. Hardy Bros. fik hjælp af stangbyggere fra Foster's, da man begyndte at lave stænger.

Firmaet er nok ikke så kendt, selvom en dansk importør forsøgte at markedsføre nogle stænger - engang i 70-erne.

Stængerne er monteret i klassisk engelsk design, og er noget af det bedste der findes på markedet idag.

David Foster



DAVID FOSTER, patriarch of the Company, was one of those men who leave their mark. He did not quit the world as he found it but impressed upon it the character of his mind and heart.

David Foster was born at Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England, on September 22nd 1815; the son of a respectable tradesman. At an early age he was apprenticed to a jeweller but he was buoyant and energetic preferring to roam the fields and woods, prying into the secrets of insect life.

His delight was to talk with old fishermen on the banks of the River Trent and to learn from them something of the habits and haunts of fish.

The art of angling so fired his imagination that he arranged to enter the famous fish-hook manufactory of Messrs. Allcock & Co. at Redditch.

The work absorbed him. Responsible for many improvements in fishing tackle he was rightly valued for his cleverness and ingenuity.

David Foster was a born student of nature — angler and naturalist — his whole life being spent in the pursuit of knowledge appertaining to his chosen way of life.

He frequently visited the noted fishing rivers, lochs and streams of Great Britain often making long tours in Scotland and Ireland.

In the year 1841 he removed to Ashbourne to be near the famous River Dove. Here he rapidly grew into notoriety as a naturalist and was significantly styled the "Amiable Angler of the Dale".

He applied his great energy and ingenuity to the improvement of fishing with the artificial fly, the study of aquatic insects, the forms and colours of flies found on certain waters, the times of their appearance and departure, and the methods of imitation.

A student of entomology, a man of keen observation and quick discernment, witty, courteous, patient, kind, and hopeful, he was a great favourite with men who made angling their recreation.



Gifted with a natural fluency of speech, he was a ready and amusing companion.

For a period of forty years he was the innovator whom the fly fishermen of England referred to for guidance and instruction.

"Born a naturalist", he sought to make nature in her insect creation a thing of practical wisdom. Men spoke of him as a clever, original, well informed man — "just and true in all his dealings".

David Foster was the original exponent of the art of dry fly fishing and wrote the classic book "The Scientific Angler". This book, now unfortunately out of print, ran to eleven editions and is still today a treasured possession of many expert anglers. It is said that David Foster was the last of the classic experts of fishing the Derbyshire rivers.



Early Years

The firm of Fosters is known to have manufactured fishing tackle through the reigns of nine British sovereigns. The oldest reliable records take the firm back to the year 1763 during which time King George III was on the throne.

It is however accepted by local historians that a fishing tackle maker was present in the town long before the days of Izaak Walton. Reference to a John of Ashbourne whose profession was that of a fisherman can be seen in the 14th century register of Ashbourne Parish Church.

We first came into the limelight in 1841 when David Foster introduced drawn silkworm gut to the sport.

He invented in 1841 a method of drawing gut through steel plates which enabled anglers to use extremely fine leaders in clear water.

Later his son William Henry Foster made many improvements, the first major ones to the design of fishing tackle for over 100 years. Much is owed to the inventive genius of William Foster who took out many patents which gained much prestige for our firm during the late 1800's. At that time exhibitions were the vogue and William Foster's patents were always in the forefront winning many gold medals at home and abroad.

It is not difficult to see how the name Fosters of Ashbourne became an international name in the world of angling. At the turn of the century Fosters could and did boast that our tackle was used by anglers throughout the civilised world. Almost every year we introduced some innovation to the sport of angling.

Some of The Inventions Credited to Fosters

- 1839: Plaited silk waterproof lines.
- 1841: Fine Gut drawn through steel plates.
- 1847: Balanced handled rods.
- 1854: Improved Winged Dry Flies.
- 1879: Metal centred lines.
- 1881: Steel centred rods.
- 1891: Diamond ribbed rods.
- 1908: Improvements in Rod rings.
- 1910: Registered designs of spinning baits.

ADVERTISEMENTS. NOW READY. THE NEW ACME REEL,

(PATENTED).
Compensating balance centre fitting, detachable
(either by spring or by screw action), with or
without movable click.
A Plan of the principle of the above is given in the
Scientific Angler.

THAT this Wrench is a great improvement on the existing and old type is universally conceded, by all who have used it. The advantages claimed for it are as under:
1.—The great speed, the delicate fly reel is by its use no longer given in one direction. The Wrench being in the center, the reel may be used (clap, upward, or vice versa, at the angler's discretion.
2.—The position of the reel at the extremity of the line gives an additional 9 to 12 inches swing power and length to the reel, saving also in bulky balance and effectively shortening the line.
3.—The Wrench being devoid of any part, indispensable to the old reel, is a valuable addition of having a much greater length of line. Thus a 3 mile line 1 foot will convert the Trout fisher's purpose, in being capable of working easily a 40 yard length of strong waterproof line.
4.—No obstacle (the handle being come off in given to the line working of the line). Fishing from bank or reel, may thus be practised without the possibility of entanglement and loss, as in the existing sailing reel.
5.—It is more portable and convenient than anything hitherto constructed.

PRICES.	
2 ft. 6 in. without click and spring	10/6
3 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	12/6
4 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	14/6
5 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	16/6
6 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	18/6
7 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	20/6
8 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	22/6
9 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	24/6
10 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	26/6
11 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	28/6
12 ft. 6 in. " " " " " "	30/6

The above are applicable to any reel, old or new, by means of the spring break, which latter is fixed permanently at bottom end of the handle. Any one to order must give an extent of measurement payable to
**D. & W. H. FOSTER,
FISHING TACKLE MANUFACTURERS,
ASHBOURNE.**

Above
An early advertisement of the
company's about 1880

AWARDS FOR QUALITY

AWARDED THE
ONLY
GOLD MEDAL.
International
Sports
Exhibition, LONDON.
1904.

HIGHEST AWARD
FOR RODS
DERBY INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

SILVER

GOLD MEDAL
LONDON 1904.

KOLN 1895

BOLTON 1885

BOLTON 1885

FISHERIES LONDON 1885

HIGHEST AWARD FOR GENERAL EXHIBIT

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES LONDON 1885

OUR ONLY TIMES OF EXHIBITING

Firmaet har en begrænset produktion, men laver også stænger "built to order". Ingen stang forlader værkstedet, uden at være gennemkontrol-leret og prøvekastet.

En stang herfra repræsenterer noget af det fineste inden for stangbyg-ningskunsten - med aner helt tilbage til Izaak Waltons tid.



Fosters shop front as it now is.

- 1913: Improvements in fishing reels.
- 1924: Improvements in gut casts, traces and the like for Angling
- 1925: Camouflaged gut (Patent).
- 1939: Improvements in and relating to joints for fishing rods.

From 1939 to the present day we have continued this tradition making many improvements to rod construction and fishing tackle generally including the introduction of such well known lures as "The Nailer" fly and Red Eyed Derbyshire Beetle, etc.

Today we export fishing tackle to almost every part of the world and though our business is forever on the increase we still prefer to remain craftsmen and supply the needs of individual anglers rather than enter upon mass production.

Our workshops are busier today than they ever were. The accumulated skills of past generations of rodmakers have been carefully handed down and effectively linked with modern materials to produce rods which are a joy to handle. We take pride in the craftsmanship of our present workforce.

Når man køber eller bestiller en stang, følger der en pæn lille brochure med, og ikke kun et papkort, med prisen på den ene side og firmaernes navn på den anden !

På de følgende sider gengives nogle sider af nævnte brochure, der bedre end sædvanlig omtale - fortæller lidt om firmaet.

HVJ

The Birthplace of Dry Fly Fishing

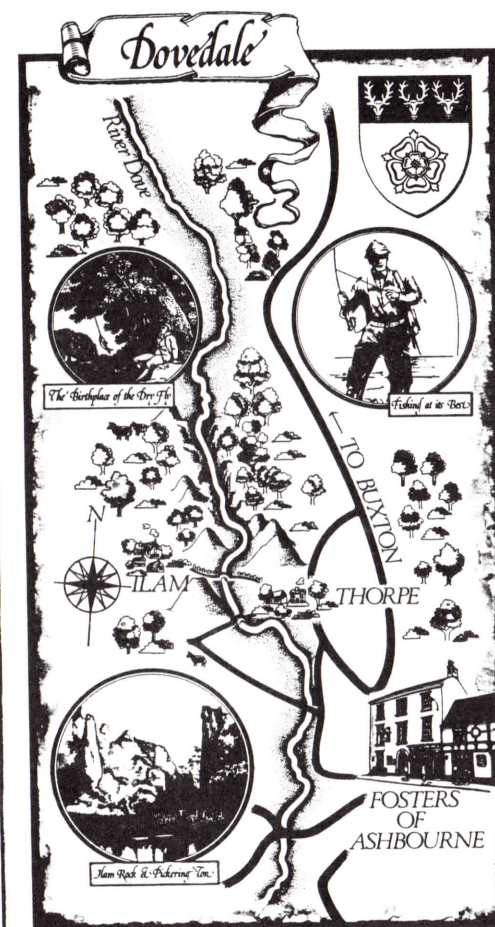



The Dove and Manifold valleys renowned for their beauty and association with historic developments in angling have for many years been a place of pilgrimage for anglers.

The River Dove from its source just south of Buxton to its confluence with the River Trent at Burton is the county boundary between Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Its length from Axe Edge to Ashbourne, where the firm of Fosters is situated, is at least 26 miles and together with the Manifold covers over 40 miles of the most beautiful and sought after angling waters to be found anywhere.

The Dales are of limestone, the bed of a prehistoric sea which is prolific in fossils and rare plants. Thousands of years ago ancient man fished these waters with net and spear leaving a profusion of evidence in his burial mounds and rock shelters.

Down the ages many famous people have been associated with the Dale. Byron wrote after his visit: "I assure you there are things in Derbyshire as noble as in Greece or Switzerland." Tennyson, Daniel Defoe, Samuel Johnson, Boswell, Rousseau, Michael Drayton, Rossetti and the pre-Raphaelites were all inspired by this gem of English scenery. However, the two men who immortalised it in their book: "The Compleat Angler" published in 1653, were Izaak Walton and his adopted son Charles Cotton.





SEA RODS
OF QUALITY.
IN
**BUILT CANE
GREENHEART
OR
WHOLE CANE**
FOR ALL TYPES OF SEA FISHING.

MANY MODELS HAVE OF NECESSITY BEEN WITHDRAWN IN WAR TIME. THOSE WE HAVE TO OFFER RETAIN SUPERLATIVE QUALITIES IN CONSTRUCTION.

**FISHING ROD MANUFACTURERS
FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS.**

Publishers of the "Anglers Exchange," full of secondhand bargains. Copy sent post free 3d.

FOSTER BROS.
Manufacturers of
Gold Medal Brand Fishing Tackle.
MIDLAND WORKS, ASHBOURNE.
Established 1763.



With their long rods 16 to 18 feet in length and using horse hair line, these two men fished every section of the Dove, Manifold and surrounding waters. It was here in this quiet corner of rural England that the two fathers of angling developed their craft and compiled the world's most famous book on the subject "The Compleat Angler" (a first edition of which recently realised over £400).

Beresford Hall, the home of Charles Cotton was demolished over 100 years ago. It was situated above the Dale on the west or Staffordshire bank. In its former grounds there still remains the small square-shaped fishing temple with its pyramidal roof, built by Cotton and Walton as a shelter. Their initials are entwined on a stone over the doorway together with a companion stone marked "Piscatoribus Sacrum 1674" (Fishing Temple 1674). In this retreat they would sit and discuss all matters concerning their sport of angling.

Nearby is the Pike Pool, named by Cotton not after the fish of the same name, but after the tall spire or "Pike" of rock reaching up from the pool. Even today this is the haunt of jealously preserved trout and it does not require much imagination to see two friends trying their skill with the rod and fly some 300 years ago.



Isaac Walton

*The Isaac Walton
& Charles Cotton
Fishing Temple*

