



**Δ Happy Christmas and Properous
New Year To Δ All Anglers**

**From
Petworth & Bognor Angling Club**

A Christmas Message from Petworth & Bognor Angling Club

Seasonal greetings and here's looking forward to some excellent fishing on our clubs numerous waters. First of all a big "thank you" to those who attended our AGM. For those of you that did not attend and would like to read what happened we have a review of the evening proceeding here;

www.sussexangling.co.uk/News/ArticlesDetails.php?ID=37

Our rivers seem to be fishing particularly well this season there have been some excellent big fish catches from both the Arun and the Rother with big chub, barbel and carp being reported as well as good nets of silver fisher from both rivers. The sea trout have been very active on the Rother this year with quite a few anglers reporting them interrupting coarse sessions. The best fish I have heard of weighed in at a magnificent 10½lb and although it was caught on one of the stretches above us it would have been through our waters to get there. For next season we should have some good news for those that like to dip a fly on our rivers; so look out for further information.

So what is in store for the winter months?

Well hopefully our rivers will remain fishable this year, I don't think we could possibly have the high rainfall and flooding that we experienced last year which essentially meant that the rivers could not be fished from December through to the end of February. Now is the time to target the chub on the Rother and a simple roving approach with bread can pay dividends. Walk down your selected stretch and feed mashed bread into 5 - 6 likely holes on your way down. Take a rest at your last hole, have a cup of coffee and then try a big piece of bread flake on the hook, repeat this in the swims that you selected on the way back up the stretch, If you don't get a bite after half an hour move up to the next spot. You can spend a very pleasant few hours on the river using this approach.

If you are after pike then the Arun at either Stopham or Watersfield are worth a go together with the basin on the Chichester Canal.

Stemps & Cart remains our most reliable still water and you are almost guaranteed bites whatever the weather, but don't forget that Hurston is now reopened and although the Tench and Middle ponds can be hard at this time of year you should be able to get a few fish from the match pond.

Unfortunately when we mention Hurston we must mention KHV. It was obviously a big shock to us and it looks like we are not going to find out how the disease entered the pond, although the suspicion is that it was via an unwary anglers nets or equipment. We have had to install dips and sprays at Hurston and we took the decision to put these on our other waters as well. You must use these as per the instructions and very importantly when you get home after a session spread your nets and equipment out in the sun to dry. It might take a couple of days but helps ensure that the disease is not transferred from one water to another. If you fish frequent sessions and don't have the opportunity to dry your gear completely between sessions then we would recommend having two sets that you can cycle, giving you more time to get it dry. A spare landing net and mat could make an excellent Christmas present for the angler that has everything as it is well worth having two of these available.

Whilst mentioning Christmas presents, do you know anyone (young or old) who has expressed an interest in fishing - why not get them a club membership? Half years are available now and of course for the youngsters under 12's get free membership. It might even mean that you will then have someone to go fishing with!

I will finish with a few notices;

Keep a look out for litter and please pick it up if you see it, our bailiffs have reported a noticeable increase over the last month or so.

We are trying to track mink on the Rother at the moment so if you sight them please let us either by recording them in the catch book or you can drop us a quick e-mail at; fisheryofficer@sussexangling.co.uk Please let us know as accurately as possible where you have seen them.

All that remains is for us to wish you a very Happy Christmas and we hope to see you on the bank somewhere either over Christmas or early in the New Year.