



PETWORTH & BOGNOR ANGLING CLUB

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LATEST COVID SITUATION

As you will be aware we are slowly returning to a degree of normality and our opportunities to fish have greatly expanded since the beginning of the year. A lot of us will now have had at least one vaccination and some might even have had both injections, however, please still remember to maintain social distancing and if you are exhibiting any of the signs or symptoms of Covid you should remain at home.

GUEST TICKETS

Members have been asking when we can make guest tickets available again and we have decided to coincide this with the next step of the government's roadmap out of lockdown. Guest tickets will be available from **May 17th** onwards. These will only be available from the **Secretary**. We will also be trialling an electronic guest ticket which can be held on your phone and the image can be shown to bailiffs / other members when requested. If you do not have this facility we can still issue paper guest tickets but these will take a bit longer to process. You will be able to pay for guest tickets by cheque or Bacs, we will give you more information when you apply. When applying for guest tickets it is important that we have enough time to process your application. We would recommend that you request guest tickets at least a week in advance .

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

We are beginning to get towards the limit of our membership, if you have not joined the club yet but want to join we would urge you not to delay and get your application / renewal in to us as soon as possible. We have decided that the best way to monitor membership levels is to continue to process postal applications only.

ROD LICENCES

We would remind you again that you must have the appropriate Environment Agency rod licences with you when you are fishing. These can be obtained online or from post offices.

SOCIAL EVENT - COULTERSHAW

This was originally planned for June 11th, we have looked closely at the logistics of the event and have decided that it would be better to move this to a bit later in the year,. We are currently looking at dates in mid July / beginning August. This should enable us to be less restrictive on numbers and social distancing etc. It would also mean that if the weather turns against us we will have the opportunity of much freer access to the indoor space at Coultershaw. As in previous years you will have to book in to help us with making sure that we have enough food and drinks available for all.

AROUND OUR WATERS

STILL WATERS

A warm April has triggered our still water fish into life and good catches are coming from most venues

PETWORTH PARK

Fishing at Petworth Park has picked up from where it left off last season. Certainly a fairly breezy April has helped, the Park always fishes best when there is some wind on the water. There have been some good catches of Bream but the highlight so far this season has to be the fish below which was caught by Clive Fennel on 19th April.



Clive's fish which weighed in at 2lb 15oz, Clive suspected that it was a Rudd / Bream hybrid and a couple of club experts have subsequently confirmed this

HURSTON LANE

Spawning seems to be very much on the mind of the fish at Hurston at the moment both the Carp and Bream in the match lake have been observed 'crashing around' which is typical of spawning time. Hopefully we will get a decent recruitment which will give us sport for the years to come. Despite the spawning activity, Keith our bailiff at Hurston and Match Secretary, reported some decent weights from the first match of the season on the Match Pond with two anglers bringing over 20lb to the scales.

Hurston will be closed for the late afternoon and evening of **Wednesday 12th May** for weed clearing, concentrating particular on the Tench Pond.

THE GRANARY

In our last newsletter we reported that The Granary was beginning to fish as it does during the summer months and the venue is proving popular with members both old and new. One little story I have heard, and it is a useful reminder that we should be vigilant at all times. An angler, who shall remain nameless, took his eye off his lines for a couple of minutes (probably trying to find extra sugar to put in his tea!), during this time one of the Canada Geese, that are very active on the lake at the moment caught on his line where it entered the water and proceeded to drag his Hardy rod and Shimano reel - around £500 worth across the lake. The bird managed to disentangle itself, leaving the rod and reel just visible. Our angler finally managed to rescue his gear and all was well.

Please remember to always keep an eye on your tackle and never leave it unattended even for just a moment.

AROUND OUR WATERS

HOLMBUSH

We have a big day of work planned for Holmbush and hence the water will be completely closed on **Saturday 8th May**. Over the winter, the water level has been gradually reduced and has now been stabilised at 2 - 3 feet lower than the level we found when we took the water over almost a year ago. This has revealed a number of old platforms and swims which will now be restored. There is also quite a bit of tree work required both on the bank and from the water to finish opening up all the available swims on the water. These tasks together with brush removal and more rubbish clearance mean that the team have a full and busy day ahead of them.

If you can help out then please contact [Steve Pentecost](#) who will be able to find plenty to keep you occupied whatever your skill level. The work party will commence at 09.00 with a briefing on what work is being done and how this can be achieved safely with the appropriate social distancing measures that we still need to observe. A BBQ lunch will be available for all that help out.

STEMPS & CART

Our fishery at Walberton continues to be one of our most popular venues with plenty of fish coming from both ponds. Although the hard fighting Carp are probably the most popular attraction some excellent mixed silver fish bags have been reported over the last month with good Skimmers / Bream and Roach reported from both ponds. One member has misplaced the top section of a float rod, he is not sure exactly where and it was a couple of weeks ago as he did not realise until he came to use the rod again. If you find it please contact the [Secretary](#) and we will put you in the contact with the owner.

OUR RIVERS

Our river sections have obviously been closed to coarse angling for the last month or so, but we know a few of you have been having a go at fly fishing the Rother in particular. We have also been asked the usual questions with regard to flies to use etc. We published a short article in one of our previous [newsletters](#) which will hopefully give you some clues. Inevitably the other question being asked is where are the best places to try a fly, I am by no means an expert but you might like to try the following;

The top end of Shopham up just below where the old canalised section rejoins the main river.

The riffles at the top end of the Coates section, access from Shopham bridge and fish from the south bank only.

The shallows at the very bottom end of the Fittleworth north bank stretch.

Please remember that our trout are precious and we operate a strict catch and return policy.

RIVER WORK PARTIES

Coultershaw

The river team had a very successful work party at Coultershaw on 11th April concentrating on the top end of the stretch, clearing fallen trees, opening access to swims and repairing steps etc. There is a further work party planned for **13th June** (please note: dates in the magazine and handbook are incorrect). This will concentrate on clearing paths and trimming back spring growth on the bankside vegetation.

Shopham

There is a work party scheduled for **9th May** at Shopham, if you can help out, please contact us here for more information.

Finally, it is still the case that you absolutely cannot leave home to fish if you have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating.