



## Cinder Hill Winter Newsletter 2021

What a year 2020 was for us, after a cracking start in March at Piplye with excellent catches we went into Lockdown until May 13<sup>th</sup> when both venues reopened fully for the season. We managed to complete fishery maintenance with just a limited number of committee members during lockdown and with smaller groups through the season and were rewarded with some great catches until the hot weather slowed us up. Our return to fishing was supported heavily by the Angling Trust's successful lobbying at Government which has also allowed us to return to fish locally in January this year. We thank the AT for promoting angling in all forms as a worthwhile outdoor pastime with excellent health benefits, and this gives us great confidence that we will fully open at both Piplye & Cinder Hill on the usual dates. Many of our members might have been vaccinated by the time the season gets underway, but we will expect the usual social distancing rules to remain in place along with the continued use of hand sanitisers for padlocks, huts, and catch return books etc. for the foreseeable future.

There were many times in the year when being at Cinder Hill or Piplye felt like any normal year and miles away from the troubles caused by the pandemic, and we hope this will be the same in 2021.

Most of the usual events we attend to represent our sport were cancelled including the South of England Show, Connect with the Countryside our MacMillan charity day, and although the Game Fair at Ardingly went ahead we took the decision to stay safe and away. If conditions are suitable, we will consider returning to events this summer.

In July & August we experienced 'tropical nights' and high daytime temperatures along with an extended period of no rainfall. This trend is becoming a recurring problem each summer, so we purchased a pump and aerator equipment which was deployed at both venues multiple times to alleviate the problems of low oxygen levels and high temperatures. This led to difficult decisions regarding stocking in early September which resulted in some fish losses at Cinder Hill which occurred even after water testing and assurance from our stockist. This problem faced all fisheries and climate change has been a contributory factor in several South East fishery closures in the past 3 years, in addition to the recent sad loss of Arlington Reservoir at the end of the 2020 season.

However, the season ended well at Cinder Hill with good catch returns up to the end of the extended period into November, and although Piplye was well stocked for the autumn the fish proved a lot more elusive which has sometimes been the case in recent seasons.

In 2020 we welcomed back past and new members and completed the year in good shape for a small and privately run fishery and would encourage you to re-join promptly this year to get the best of the early season fishing. We are incredibly lucky to have a thriving syndicate and wish to thank members for their support and look forward to everyone returning this season and seeing you on the banks very soon, it will not be long before we are able to see the stunning display of bluebells at Cinder Hill on a warm spring morning.

***Kevin Reeves Chairman / Mark Orchin Secretary.***