



## Cinder Hill Fly Fishing Spring 2023 Newsletter

Dear members,

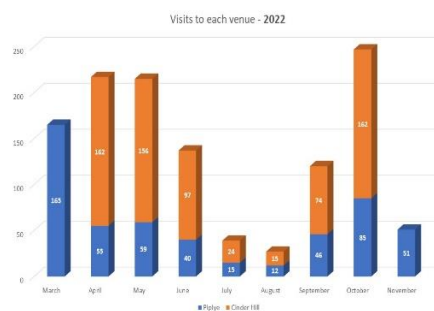
I hope you had a peaceful Christmas and New Year; it is now time to reflect on last season at our lakes and plan forward to the coming 2023 season.

2022 had everything in it (didn't it just!) we hit the ground running in March at Piplye with excellent catches and stocking was at its highest ever level for both Piplye and Cinder Hill in the early months. I detailed the successful Macmillan charity day at Cinder Hill and our attendance at the South of England Show in our last newsletter and mentioned that things were warming up, and boy did they indeed!

The 3 months through July – September saw record breaking UK temperatures with virtually no rain, and this created extreme water temperatures and very low dissolved oxygen levels in waters all over the region and our lakes were no exception. The aerator was deployed on several occasions, but conditions beat us this time, and with water temperatures exceeding 25 degrees Celsius and dissolved oxygen falling to below 3% we saw inevitable fish deaths at Cinder Hill (particularly in the shallower middle lake); however, many fish did survive and were caught going into the autumn.

Many trout fisheries in the south of England closed for weeks and some day ticket waters were offering a 1 fish ticket at reduced price just to get some business, but we are fortunate in our membership having up to 25 annual visits which meant we just had to wait until things improved which they did. A few members took advantage of the warm summer just to visit and enjoy the lakes and a few fish were caught too.

We experienced excellent fishing again at Cinder Hill in the early October weeks and several stockings fully restocked the lakes and our extension to 18<sup>th</sup> November by our landlords went some way towards the loss of fishing in the summer. However, following the hot summer we then experienced rain in biblical proportions into most of November which certainly ruined the last few weeks of the season, particularly at Piplye which was completely out of everyone's control.



The chart to the left clearly shows the impact of the hot summer in terms of visits to each venue, and with fewer members on site during these long hot weeks it gave the cormorants a free run at our stock. We would like to thank members who have written in the catch returns books about cormorant sightings as this will be discussed with our landlords. This problem is not unique to Cinder Hill and Piplye and affects all types of fisheries in the UK.

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing attended the Autumn fair at Ardingly showground in September again to represent our sport, and we thank those members who assisted with erecting, dismantling, and manning the stand over the weekend. We were able to let many first timers have a go at fly casting and talk about our fishing in general and being opposite the food stands was an unexpected bonus!.



Congratulations go to Kevin Reeves (Chairman) who has now successfully gained his level 2 coaching qualification which means we are able to run fly casting / fishing courses once more. We hope to introduce some dates in 2023 for both beginners and juniors plus those wishing to try our sport with a view to joining us. For anyone interested in these opportunities please contact Kevin through [Cinderhillflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:Cinderhillflyfishing@gmail.com) so that he can build up a planned course schedule. (i.e. Juniors, beginners, improvers, mentoring etc).

During 2022 our stockist Dan Young from Duncton Mill Fish Farm took over the running of the whole site (including the fishing) and has already made some excellent changes to the famous fishery. We have been impressed by Dan's expertise and knowledge and the standard of our fish stocks are second to none. In the coming season we hope to introduce some Sparctic and Tiger variants in 2023 along with a slightly larger average trout size overall.

Cinder Hill Fly Fishing is unique in our region and very special, we are a self-run non-affiliated syndicate / club for the sole benefit of our members and all committee and members pay the same annual fees. I would like to thank my fellow committee members and those who were able to attend the working parties for their valued input during 2022.

It will have come to everyone's attention over recent months that the cost of living is escalating and we as a fishing organisation are not immune to this either as our stocking costs are increasing in 2023. Our stockist has shown us correspondence to confirm that fish rearing feed has increased substantially, and we will regrettably have to increase our annual membership by a small amount to go towards these increased costs, details of this are on the renewal forms.

Whatever the climate change impact and increased costs, Cinder Hill Fly Fishing still offers the best value for money trout fishing in the Southeast and we finished 2022 with a waiting list, so please respond to the membership renewal forms as quickly as possible and let's hope for a grand start to our 2023 season and beyond. Our AGM date will be advised in the next few weeks.

*Best wishes,*

*Mark Orchin*

*Cinder Hill Secretary / Organiser.*