



## Newsletter January 2025

Dear Members,

As I write this newsletter it is pouring with rain once more with winds in the 40-mph range which seems to have been the norm throughout much of the 2024 season. However, despite the many storms, torrential rain and often gale force winds the 2024 season was generally a great one!

Over 2,500 trout were stocked with c. 88% caught at Piplye and c. 63% at Cinder Hill. It is likely that we lost a lot of fish from all 3 lakes at Cinder Hill at the beginning of August due to the damaging storm, heavy rainfall and ensuing flood down the valley, the like of which we have never seen before. Thanks must go to Kevin Reeves, the stocking team and Duncton Mill for the well-balanced flow of stock throughout 2024 specially making the last 3 months provide such brilliant sport.

In August we embarked on the long-planned project to drain the top lake at Piplye which meant it had to be closed for several weeks. Around 20,000 tonnes of silt was removed and spread over adjoining fields by our contractor and took less time than we had planned which saved important funds.

Special thanks go to those who helped with the Piplye top lake project, over 4 very hot days the team waited while the water slowly drained away and succeeded in trapping and successfully moving most of the remaining stock to the middle lake. It was muddy dirty work but rewarding once it was completed!

The plan is to focus similar work on the middle lake at Piplye in the summer of 2025.

The refilling of Piplye should have taken several weeks with 'normal rainfall' but once again we were blessed with tropical rain conditions late September which filled the lake in 2 days! After discussions with our stockist at Duncton Mill we restocked immediately, and the results were brilliant giving us a great last few weeks of sport. Cinder Hill also fished well right to the end of October and those who ventured to the bottom lake in the final days were well rewarded.



In May 2024 we held the annual MacMillan charity fishing day at Cinder Hill with great success raising £900 for this worthwhile charity. A big thank-you once again to member Laurie Storer who has both initiated this event and sponsored extra stocking since 2017. Thanks once again also go to Mandy Reeves & Val Orchin for providing the catering and member Jim Awcock for the generous sponsorship of the BBQ. This event is planned for early June so watch out for details.



A regular event in the calendar was our attendance at both The South of England Show at Ardingly in June and the Autumn Fair in September to promote both Cinder Hill Fly Fishing and fly fishing as a sport.

The syndicate annual lunch was well attended in November at The Green Man in Horsted Keynes, plus our annual work party outing to Brick Farm Lakes in Herstmonceux in December.

We now look forward to the start of the 2025 season anticipating another season of great sport.

Thank you to those members who were able to help at the regular working parties, it is very much appreciated, we hope you can support us again in 2025.

### **Membership 2025:**

It is just two months before our season starts again at Piplye on the 1st of March. You will have received the membership renewal email already from the Cinder Hill email.

To reiterate what was in the email, our stocking costs are set to increase again this coming season and the rent on the lakes has also increased. The Committee has decided that we have little option but to put up the membership fee to cover the increase in costs. The Full Rod membership this season has increased from £315 to £325, which I am sure you will agree is reasonable and still incredibly good value for money.

Could you please renew your membership before the 1st of March as we have a large waiting list of potential memberships and need to know if there is sufficient space for them to join. If you do not intend to renew your membership, can you please let us know as soon as possible by responding to the Cinder Hill email or by phoning either Robert Nathan or Kevin Reeves.

Here's wishing everyone a Happy New-Year and a great 2025 season, we look forward to seeing you back on the banks soon.

Best wishes,

**Mark Orchin, Cinder Hill Secretary / Organiser**