

R&DAA

INFORMATION SHEET

MARCH 2021

GREEN PARK STATION

Completion date has now been put back to the autumn of 2021.

JUNIORS & ANGLING TUITION

The E.C. will be receiving reports on the progress regarding the future when lockdown is completed. We need to prepare now for the Spring & Summer Programmes (covid allowing)

2021-22 PERMITS & CONCESSIONS

Now that the new 24 hour permit details are commonly known via Facebook and the website we will be looking to get emails out to all the members asking for their choice of permit. These will be issued in the first week of March. We also need to resolve how we deal with members that have suffered loss of income etc due to lockdowns. This will be advertised on the website

MATCH HUT

The Match Hut is currently undergoing a facelift and upgrade even though it is little more than a year since being established, the Hut has been very successful and as such will hopefully continue to do so. The Hut will re-open when the Government give us the green light to do so.

FISHERIES OFFICERS & FMMC REPORT

VEGETATION

I wrote of the trees at Pingewood in my last report. The 6 large Poplars that were cause for concern to our neighbours have now been taken down and cleared. We were able to keep the cost of employing specialist tree surgeons to a minimum due to them wishing to rent some unused land at Flint for storage of logs, I've agreed they can have the first year free of charge. While we were there, we have done a bit of swim trimming around the whole lake. There are still a couple of problem trees in awkward places, so we'll address these later in the year, once things dry out a bit.

WHISTLEY MILL

We have carried out a lot of work at Whistley Mill. However, it was hampered by the extremely high water and a huge amount of rain and even some snow. Unfortunately, we have had to keep the venue closed due to the track flooding during the course of us trying to repair it.

This highlighted a problematic area that was around 2 feet lower than the height of the surrounding land. We have tried to raise this area by importing over 60 tons of hardcore (supplied by Fleetwood, free of charge) in order to fight the floodwater. Although this has worked, the track is now still wet and unfinished, members vehicles would struggle to use it hence, closing the venue.

We will return to finish off as soon as we possibly can. There were also a number of problem trees that had fallen into the river, these have largely been removed now and we now have around twenty useable swims on the river. But, again the weather and conditions have conspired against us and a few of them will have to wait until the conditions improve. I must say a big thanks the Peter Dollinger and Andrew Fletcher (bailiffs) that spent the whole two weeks getting as wet as we did while helping out.

CANALS & RIVERS TRUST

I also wrote about the issues we were having with CRT.regarding their bankside clearance work. This has been sorted, to a fashion. However, I'm not happy with the way in which they have carried out the work and will be following it up with them again!

WILLMOTTS & CALLOWS POOLS

We have spent some time recently Electrofishing Callows pool with a view to removing some of the stock of small rudd. We had a fairly successful couple of days removing a few thousand fish including 20 small pike. These fish have now been transferred to the main lake. We have also introduced around ten thousand Crucian Carp between 8 and 2 inches. Willmotts has also received a 'top up' stocking of Carp from VS Fisheries. Two hundred fish between 8 to 10 inches. This in all likelihood will be a yearly exercise, as we thin out the bigger fish to then go on to our other venues.

PARASITE

While applying for the necessary EA permissions to electrofish etc, something has come to light. A good few years ago, a particularly nasty parasite called Monobothrium Wagneri was found in the Tench at Hambridge. This parasite was so unusual that it caused a bit of a fuss with the E.A.. So much so, we were informed that we could not remove any fish from the site. Somehow, the name of this parasite has now made its way onto the site permit for the whole of the Englefield/Flint/Pingewood complex. This is obviously a clerical error by the E.A. as we have moved fish on and of this site, had numerous health checks carried out, without any mention of this particular parasite. I have raised our concerns, as this will have huge implications for us going forwards. I have involved the local E.A, fisheries officer and he is of the same opinion as me. We are currently awaiting a response from the Fish Health Inspectorate.