

# THAMESIDE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2013

**DEAR MEMBERS,**

## SOME WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello and a warm welcome to you all.

A lot of work has been carried out since the last newsletter, so please read thoroughly and make note of various updates/comments since then.

- The results of the fish survey, (received 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013) carried out by the Environment Agency on the 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, on the Long Lake at Shorne Wood Country Park, were of concern to the Committee, as it identified that the fish were only at 25% or less of their potential size. Discussions with various fishery specialists came up with conflicting suggestions as to the reason why there is a lack of growth, reproduction, and also poor catch rates.

Based upon this, Derek Graves then arranged a meeting with James Wright from Hadlow College which subsequently, (with the approval of the Committee), led to a full Fish Survey being carried out, this time on both lakes. This was carried out by Hadlow College Fisheries department on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013 by James Wright and students from the College as part of their Course training. Both lakes were netted and/or electro stunned and samples of various species of fish were taken away for analysis by a specialist aquatic consultant, Bernice Brewster. This will determine growth rate, state of health, etc. A report was speedily received on the 4<sup>th</sup> of Nov. and it was not good reading. Without going into details at the moment, in this newsletter, the conclusion was that we need to remove fish, predominantly carp. This was also muted by the Hadlow College representative at the previous week's survey. We are still awaiting a report from the College at this moment in time, but the wheels have already been put in motion to start the process to ensure the future well being of the fishery. The report will include a progressive management plan for the future.

- A similar survey is also proposed to be carried out at Cobham.
- As mentioned in the previous newsletter, with the exception of Shorne Wood Country Park, members are not allowed to take, **or send**, friends, work colleagues, wives, civil partners to view the lakes. on **any** Thameside fishery without the written permission of the Head or Assistant Head Bailiff. The licence for Cobham, for example, stipulates all members must carry a current valid ID at ALL TIMES even if not

fishing. The usual comment of, "you know me I have been a member for years" is no excuse. Apart from the fact that there is a large notice at the gates saying private, members only, do not enter, trespassers will be shot etc.

- The replacement bridge adj. T19 at Cobham (to the right of the Pump House) has finally been replaced by Derek Graves, Dave Shirley and Roy "the Sturgeon" Stedman. A lot of positive comments have been received from members about how well it blends in with the surrounding area. Derek has also received comments from Terry Curran saying how impressed he was with the bridge and how it complimented the pump house. The only people who can use the bridge are bailiffs and members during a work party. This is a request from the Estates Manager for Cobham. to that end "out of bounds" notices will be put up by T1 and T19. These will be fixed to the bridge so they cannot be moved ( as a member did last time.)
- On the front of your membership card are several contact phone no's and even inside are two more for Committee Members. These are there for your use should you spot any abuse or rule breaking on the lakes or even if you just require advice. It's no good reporting a matter to my bailiffs several hours or days after the event. The numbers on the front can be used for general information regarding the fisheries as well, so please ring us. *If you want any other form of advice regarding PPI's, marital probs. or STD's etc, then please ring the Citizens Advice Bureau (or Dave Shirley as it's known locally.)*

Tight Lines

**Dennis Hammond, Chairman and Head Bailiff.**

### **Committee Nominations for Next Season**

- Our next AGM will be on the 31st January, 2014. Agenda details to follow later.
- You can nominate any Society member for any of the Committee positions.
- All nominations must have a Proposer and a Secunder.
- Ensure that anyone you wish to nominate is prepared to stand.
- Nomination forms available by request from the Society Secretary Mick Mount (address as below).
- Closing date for nominations is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- Send nominations by e-mail to, [djhangling@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:djhangling@blueyonder.co.uk) or by post to, M. Mount, 4 Northridge Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5AY.

### **Treasurer (Barry Sims)**

- It is with deep regret that I must step down from the position of Society Treasurer. It has been a most enjoyable 2 yrs working as Treasurer and

John Young and Albert Murray (previous holders of this position) were a great asset in helping me find my feet in this role. Unfortunately my wife has other uses for my feet now and hence my resignation. If there are any accountants or book keepers in the Society that would be interested in the job, then please contact myself for further info. twapstreasurer@btinternet.com. Alternatively you can apply through the channels mentioned above. Everything has been computerised with spread sheets etc. to make the job easier.

### **Membership Secretary (Jeff Buxton)**

- There's not a great deal to say this time as we have not taken on any new members since the last news letter went out, but I'll have ago. At this present moment in time we have got well over 120 new people on the waiting list, so when membership is due for renewal please don't forget. Regrettably some previous members didn't get back in to the Society as they left the renewal of their membership too late.
- The renewal date is the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, **Not** at the AGM, **Or Before** the AGM, on the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2014. Please do not send in your renewal slips too early either because after the AGM we have to wait for the new cards etc. to be printed and obviously this takes a little while. We did have quite a few members ringing myself and Derek Graves (Match Sec) to find out where there membership cards had got to. You will be reminded again nearer the time.
- Regarding the above and renewals, if you change your house address, change your email address, (or any dress to that matter), change your contact details then can you please let me know. We get a lot of enquiries from members, wondering why they're not receiving anything by mail, or e-mail, and then when you ask them, you get the apology, "sorry forgot to tell you". For some members, we only have your mobile number, and if you subsequently give that phone to your child, that doesn't help either. So please let me know.
- As some as you may know I took a short vacation to Manilla in the Phillipines not so long ago. Whilst there I encountered some monetary problems which some of you were kind enough to help out with. I'm now planning a further trip to Mogadishu in Somalia. I'm not expecting any trouble even though I'm planning on doing some sailing whilst out there. But should you receive an email this time saying that I've been kidnapped by pirates then it is most probably true, so please have your credit cards at the ready. Thanking you in advance, Jeff Buxton.

### **Match Secretary (Derek Graves)**

- This year has been one our best for the number of people regularly attending the matches. I would like to think that it was down to my natural charm, charisma, wit, good nature, time keeping, etc but somehow I think it was down to the choice/variety of venues and the banter on the day. There are two more matches to go before the end of

the season, one at Monk Lake 4 on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, and then the eagerly awaited Fur and Feather on the 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. There will be limited places for this match so make sure you book your place quickly when the booking day arrives. **Details below.**

### **Website (Derek Graves)**

- Pictures have been a bit thin on the ground this past few months and due to other commitments with work and the Society, information and updates are still yet to go on the website. this will happen in due course. If you do still have any pictures of catches from the last few months then please feel free to send them in.
- We also have a facebook page and group which you can join and use. Ian Collier is a frequent participant and blogger on this page.

### **Head Bailiff (Dennis Hammond)**

- Despite a request in the June newsletter for support at work parties, with dates given, on the 9<sup>th</sup> June the work party consisted of 4 bailiffs and 1 member, and the work party on the 19<sup>th</sup> June was attended by 3 bailiffs and 2 members. Following the email sent out for the 3<sup>rd</sup> August work party which offered a BBQ, 24 members attended, yet despite notices being prominently displayed, the next two work parties were attended by 6 and 4 members/bailiffs only. The result is that the Society is now having to pay for routine work and maintenance to be done.
- Please note, cormorants have been spotted on our lakes at Shorne, Cobham and Inn on the Lake. We are taking advice on how to deal with these birds (pests) Please immediately report any sightings to, Dennis Hammond on 07957 870245 or Assistant Head Bailiff, Dave Shirley on 07766 830482, as these birds can eat their own weight in fish every day!

### **Shorne Country Park.**

- A huge amount of weed removal and path clearing was carried out throughout the year particularly up the cut/carp alley on Long lake. Unfortunately due to Council cut backs the Park have very little funds so we, the Society are having to fund the work ourselves.
- A lot of the swims are in need of some serious repair and the matter is in hand and being processed at the moment. (again at the Societies expense)

### **Cobham Hall.**

- The Middle lake is fishing very well and a lot more members are fishing this lake now. The fish are starting to put on weight and will continue to do so the more people fish it.
- In the last news letter you were asked to park **between** the yellow markers. In this news letter you are also being asked to park between the yellow markers on the post and fence boards. Your Match Sec. and Asst. Head Bailiff toured Kent measuring car parks to find the right

dimensions for your various vehicles. From a bike to a van they will now all comfortably fit if parked correctly. Failure to park correctly will result in your vehicle being towed away, set alight, crushed and the resultant cubic picture being put on the website. LOL

- We have also been asked by the Estate Manager for Cobham not to drive up the path opp. the Gate House. This is a **DRY WEATHER ACCESS ONLY**. The grass has been seriously chewed up and despite it being taped off recently, members are driving around the tape. If you are caught doing this or your vehicle registration number taken by a member of the college and reported to us, you may end up with your membership being suspended. Alternatively the track access may be disallowed all together.

### Inn on the Lake.

- A fallen tree that came down across the footpath on the opp. bank to the entrance gate, earlier in the year, was removed by D Hammond and others.
- A motor vehicle decided to go off road, left Thong lane and took out a load of boundary fencing. This has been roped off and is to be replaced in due course by the owners of The Inn on The Lake.
- Reminders:- The maximum line size was increased to 15lbs, and Junior's (with an adult) are permitted to fish 2 rods on all **three** waters at I O T Lake.

### Blue Lake.

- no reports received so far

### Paddock Wood.

- Thameside only have the fishing rights on the bank adjacent to the car park field. Members must not cross the river via the conveyer foot bridge.
- Member Ian Collier has put in a few hours on these lakes now with various results. There are fish in them, Roach, Rudd, Bream, Carp, Eels and a frog. We can still do with more feedback from other members that have fished them .

## **Tight Lines to one and all from your Committee.**

### JUST FOR FUN

A monastery is in financial trouble, so it goes into the fish-and-chips business to raise money. One night a customer knocks on its door. A monk answers. The customer asks, "Are you the fish friar?" "No," he replies. "I'm the chip monk."

**Two good books to buy:** "How to Fish" by Will Ketchum or "Saltwater Fishing" by Barry Cuda.

Mother to daughter advice: Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend.

*I think the only reason my husband likes to go fishing so much is that it's the only time he hears someone tell him, "Wow, that's a big one!"*

Two blondes rented a fishing boat, and were having a great day catching fish. The first blonde said "This is such a great spot, we need to mark it so we can come back." The second blonde proceeded to put a mark on the side of the boat. The first blonde asked "What are you doing?" The second blonde replied "Marking the spot."

"Don't be stupid" the first blonde said. "What if we don't get the same boat next time?"

**FUR AND FEATHER COMPETITION**  
**HORSHAM LAKES, UPCHURCH**  
**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**Draw 8.30**  
**Fish 9.15 a.m. until 12.15 p.m.**

The prize presentation, raffle and sit down Christmas dinner will be held at :-

**The Three Mariners P.H.,  
509 Lower Rainham Road,  
Rainham,  
Kent, ME8 7TN**

**Fishing is limited to 35 places**, accepted in order of booking from 15<sup>th</sup> November, so please, either ring Derek Graves on : **01634 221445 (answer phone)**, **text only 07771528633 (please do not ring)**, or **email [twapsfishing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:twapsfishing@hotmail.co.uk)**. with your name and membership number, **no later than 30<sup>th</sup> November**. Should you however say you wish to fish the match and then don't turn up you may be liable for the cost of the Christmas dinner and charged accordingly.

You must book your place in order that sufficient notice can be given to the P.H. for the Xmas Dinners and for Derek to arrange the necessary competition and raffle prizes.

Main points for you to note:

- 1. Free Parking** at the lakeside.
- 2. Free Fishing** - the Society will be picking up the tab for Day tickets
- 3. After match function** will be at the Three Mariners PH.

4. **Free Food** – Traditional Xmas Dinner including mince pie and crackers.  
You do have to buy your own drinks at the bar but there will be free tea and coffee
5. **Lots of Prizes, Raffle, Banter, Ribaldry and Raucous Behaviour.**

### **Directions to Lake and Pub**

Horsham Lake is in Horsham Lane at Upchurch, Kent near Rainham. It can be accessed either from the old A2 between Newington and Rainham OR from the Gravesend area via the Medway Tunnel and the Lower Rainham Road. (B2004) The post code for the lake is ME9 7AP.

