

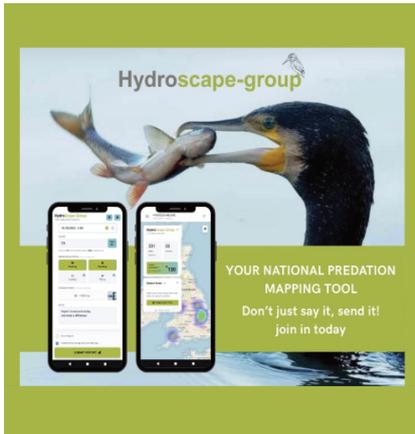


March 2026 Newsletter



As the curtain closes on another river season, attention turns to stillwater fishing. Stammerham Farm offers a choice of three beautifully maintained lakes, all of which are well stocked with common, mirror and ghost carp, as well as bream, tench and golden orfe. If you're looking to get away from it all, the relaxed atmosphere of Stammerham will instantly put you at ease. No doubt members will be delighted to hear that the club has just negotiated a new 3-year lease with the owners, commencing in April 2027 ><>

REPORTING CORMORANTS

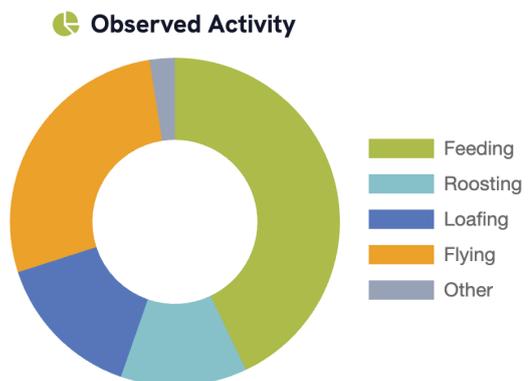


Rising cormorant numbers are having a potentially catastrophic effect on fish stocks. Figures suggest that up to 70,000 birds make up the UK inland population, with only 10 - 18% believed to be native. The adult birds consume around 1lb of fish a day so it's easy to see why there is concern among both anglers and fishery owners.

Until now, the absence of verified data on the impact of cormorants has hindered progress in pushing for change in controlling these birds. Claims by anglers are seen as anecdotal and so lacking in statistical validity.

The Hydroscape Group is a UK-based initiative designed for anglers to report cormorant sightings and map their impact on fisheries. This innovative platform collects real-time, user-submitted data to build-up a picture of cormorant predation across the country's waterways. The aim is to implement effective solutions and drive national change to protect the future of fish and fisheries.

Hydroscape is simple and fast to access, either by going online or using the phone app. It's important to remember that change will only happen if anglers get involved. To start reporting cormorant sightings, visit www.hydroscape-group.co.uk



GETTING PUDDENHOLE OVER THE LINE



Work on the Puddenhole project continued at pace throughout last summer and, as you'll see from the images below, Kenward recently completed the access entrance to the site. They have also kindly installed a temporary gate while construction of the ramp is finished and the new gate is prepared.

The club is very grateful to have received £3,264 of FIP funding from the EA for the cost of installing a new security gate, which makes up 50% of the overall cost.

Though great strides have been made, final delivery on the project is still some way off. In the interest of clarity, the club will provide financial figures at the AGM, including expenditure to date and the estimated cost to complete. Moving forward, it may be that a continued phased approach will be required.

FUNDING MANAGER

With a clear funding gap, it's difficult to provide an accurate timeline for when the extended lake will be open to fish. With this in mind, the club is looking for a funding manager who could pursue potential revenue streams. If you are interested in taking on the role, email chairman@dorkingas.co.uk. We'll also be setting up a Clubmate funding page if any members would like to donate.

The next stage of the project will involve raising the height of the ramp, applying a limestone surface, installing Armco barriers and preparing the car park area. We plan to eventually add grids to stabilise the ground, but the lake extension must be finished first.

It is hoped that the car park will be ready for the new fishing season. This will open up this tranquil stretch of the Mole to members who, until now, have found it difficult to access the river. As anglers who regularly fish this section will confirm, it holds good numbers of fish, including chub, carp, perch and quality silvers.



CASTLEFIELDS CAR PARK UPDATE

Regrettably, due to the unprecedented rainfall of the last few months, the club has been unable to complete work on the Castlefields parking area. We are truly sorry for the continued closure of the car park and the inconvenience to our members.

As you may know, Castlefields lake is closed from March 15th till May 1st. The club will therefore be using this time to finish laying the grids needed to stabilise the ground. We will also be reseeding the area in readiness for the re-opening of the lake in May.

This much-needed upgrade is part of an ongoing planned programme of improvements to our club waters and facilities, which will ultimately benefit all our members. Thanks again for your patience and understanding as we make these changes.



ANGLING TRUST COACHING OPPORTUNITIES



The work carried out by the club in recent years has not gone unnoticed. As a result of our endeavours, the Angling Trust's Head of Coaching has offered a number of bursaries to Dorking members who would like to undertake training to become angling coaches.

As you may know, we are keen to develop the junior section of the club, with young anglers being the lifeblood of our sport. Having a Level 2 coach at the club would also allow us to run 'Get Fishing' and 'Cast Aword' events, which are supported by the Angling Trust.

If fishing is to flourish into the future, juniors are central to its long-term sustainability. By getting more youngsters on the bank, we could just spark a lifelong passion for angling.

If you'd like to hone your skills and share your knowledge of fishing with the next generation of anglers, please email volunteer@dorkingas.co.uk. Of course, if you're a Dorking member with a Level 2 qualification and would like to get involved, we'd also love to hear from you.

NEW CLUBMATE UPGRADE LAUNCHED

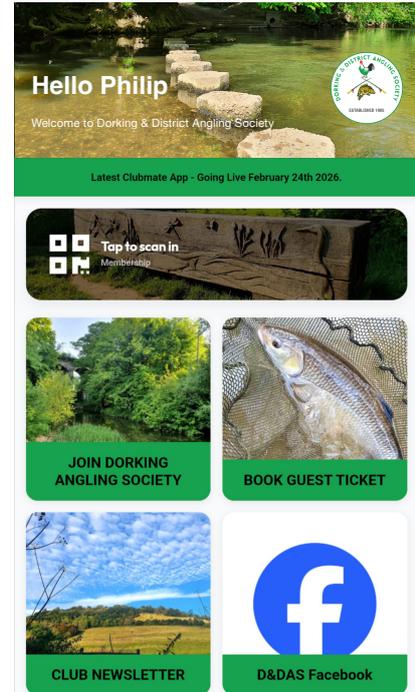


Clubmate recently launched an updated version of its app, introducing a number of user-friendly features. The intuitive interface and improved functionality of

this cloud-based platform will enhance the digital experience for both the club and our members.

Dorking's 'Advanced' Clubmate plan is designed for medium to large clubs, allowing for greater customisation within the app. One big plus point with this package will be the new offline digital membership card, as it can be accessed even when there is no internet connection.

The upgrade to Clubmate represents a major step forward for this flexible online management tool. Over time, it will replace the current Dorking AS website, which will then serve as a landing page to direct anglers to the app.



D&DAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our annual general meeting (AGM) is a vital gathering where members can review previous year's finances, discuss fishery improvement plans, vote for rule changes and elect committee members, among other matters.

The AGM also gives members the opportunity to question the committee on club management and fishery issues. Key officers, including the Treasurer and Fisheries Officer, will present their reports to all attendees during the evening.



Following a proposal by the committee to increase membership subscriptions, there will be a vote on the new fees shown below. A rise in club subs was deemed to be necessary in

MEMBERSHIPS	2025/26	2026/27
SENIOR CITIZEN OR REGISTERED DISABLED	£50	£60
SENIOR MEMBER	£90	£100
INTERMEDIATE	£25	£30
JUNIOR	FREE	FREE
JOINING FEE	£15	£30

light of the ongoing works to all our fisheries. Additionally, respondents to the recent survey indicated that they would be prepared to pay a little more for improved access and greater comfort to swims on the river.

As with last year's AGM, it will be held at Chart Downs Community & Social Club (RH5 4DD). The meeting will start promptly at 8pm and should last till around 10pm. Please be there a little before so proceedings can start on time. We look forward to seeing you on the 14th.

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN SATURDAY 28TH MARCH



For the second year running, Dorking & District Angling Society is proud to support the Great British Spring Clean through the 'Anglers Against Litter' campaign.

As with previous AAL events, volunteers will be focussing on litter hotspots, including the North Bank, Burford Meadow and Stepping Stones.



Recyclable rubbish will be separated from general waste in clear bags. The club has arranged for Mole Valley District Council to collect the bags after the weekend.

We will meet at Hillier Garden Centre Car Park at 9.30am on Saturday 28th March. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring refreshments - it can be thirsty work. Litter pickers, hi-vis vests and rubbish sacks will be provided on the day.

Dorking anglers continue to lead by example, working tirelessly to clear banks and pathways. These regular clean-ups are critical to maintaining a healthy river environment for all.

If you would like to make a difference by joining the Great British Spring Clean, please email volunteer@dorkingas.co.uk



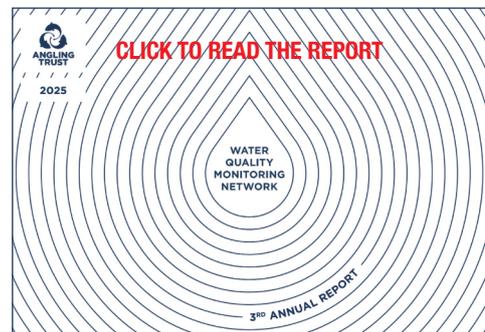
WATER QUALITY MILESTONE



January saw the club carry out its 30th water quality test on the River Mole, marking two and a half years of crucial testing. The readings are uploaded to Epicollect, an online platform from which the Angling Trust collates the results.

The findings, provided by over 280 angling clubs across 220 rivers, are then used to expose pollution, drive local action and campaign for stronger environmental regulations.

The 3rd annual WQMN report has just been published, with the River Mole featuring again thanks to our dedicated team of club volunteers. To ring the changes, we are looking for new recruits to carry out water quality sampling on the North Bank. Testing is carried out once a month and takes no more than 45 minutes.



UK rivers are under severe stress, with fewer than 14% achieving good ecological status. If you feel passionately about tackling pollution and you'd like to be part of this vital citizen science project, please email volunteer@dorkingas.co.uk

LIFTING THE LID ON THE POLLUTERS

In light of the impact of 'Mr Bates vs The Post Office' on public awareness of institutional corruption, Channel 4 has aired this much-anticipated docudrama, which uncovers illegal sewage discharges and corporate neglect.

Dirty Business exposes the UK water companies' scandalous disregard for human health. It reveals how they continue to put profit first in the form of shareholders' dividends and executive bonuses.



[Click to view](#)

This hard-hitting three-part series focuses on the efforts of campaigners to uncover illegal dumping. It lays bare the human and environmental effects sewage pollution can have on ordinary people who use, live near, and love our beaches and waterways. For anglers, who care deeply about our natural surroundings, Dirty Business is a must-watch.

CRAYFISH TRAPPING RESUMES IN MAY



Our club began to trap signal crayfish on the Mole last season in order to control numbers. Trapping will resume on May 1st and will continue until the end of September, as crayfish are generally much more active during these warmer months.

Aside from being a nuisance to anglers, crayfish cause serious bank erosion with their burrows. They prey on all manner of aquatic life, including invertebrates, frogs, newts and, of course, fish eggs. These destructive omnivores are bad news.

Needless to say, trapping these non-native, invasive species is absolutely essential to the long-term viability of a fishery. Club volunteers have been successfully setting, checking and removing large numbers of crayfish on our Castlefields section of the river over the past year. We have also had the support of a team of commercial fishermen permitted to net crayfish along this stretch of the Mole.

In order to spread the load, the club is looking for more volunteers to help when trapping begins in May. The tasks involve emptying, baiting, and setting eight traps, which normally takes around 30 minutes. We work to a rota to ensure the work is spread fairly among our willing helpers.

If you'd like to lend a hand with this important work, please email volunteer@dorkingas.co.uk



“ SOME KIND WORDS ”

There are many of you that put in a lot of time to help the project to be a success, however I'd like to take this opportunity to give a special call out to both the Byfleet and Dorking fishing clubs. Between them, these two have attended countless trap activations and have hauled 40 mink out of the River Mole within the last seven months.

Every time I walk along that river and see the fabulous Kingfishers flash by, my heart is warmed by the thought that those few have somehow survived the onslaught from the mink and will now be able to reproduce in peace.

Rob Martin
South London Project Officer, Water Life Recovery Trust

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

Access to pegs on the river was one of the major issues raised in the membership survey. Older members in particular have been prevented from fishing certain sections due to steps having fallen into disrepair (see opposite).

As a direct result of your call for improvements, new gravel board steps will be installed on pegs along the North Bank to enhance accessibility. Not only will new steps make swims safer for anglers, they will also help to stabilise the banks against erosion. This is just another example of how the club is listening to its members.

In addition to the planned restoration work on the Mole, we will be carrying out our usual pre-season work parties. We want the riverbanks, pathways and swims to be in peak condition for the 'Glorious 16th'.

CLOSE SEASON MAKEOVERS

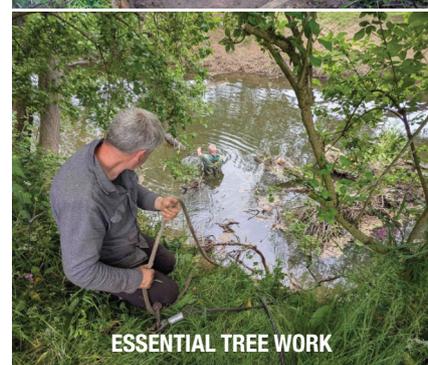
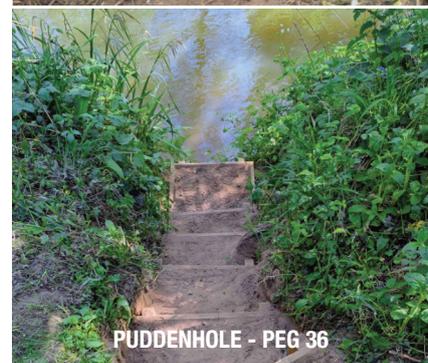
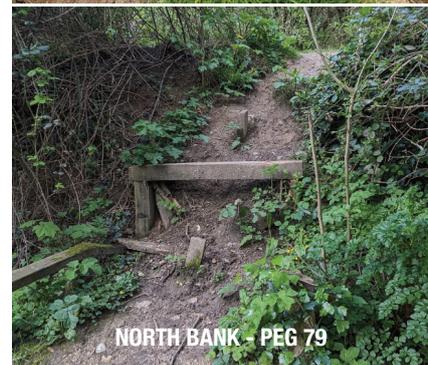
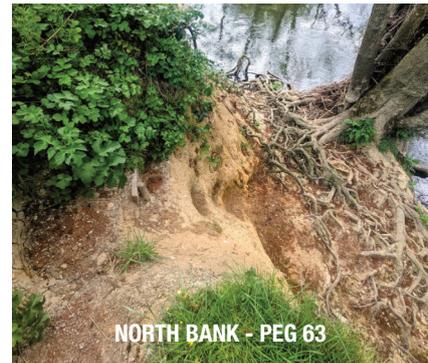
In anticipation of Puddenhole car park becoming available to anglers, we plan to open up more pegs, clear existing swims and erect new peg markers on this quiet stretch of the Mole.

The 15-acre site, which is owned by the club, has the potential to become a true fishing oasis - a haven for both anglers and wildlife. Free from the general public, it's somewhere you can fish in peace and enjoy the natural surroundings.

Donkey Field is another under-fished section of the Mole that will be undergoing a major makeover, with new steps being installed from the road entrance down to the river.

Following much-needed tree work on the River Mole last year, the club will once again be calling on resident tree surgeon Simon Johnson to remove fallen trees, woody debris and overhanging branches. We view regular management of our fisheries as an absolute priority to enrich our members' fishing experience.

If you'd like to help with the club's efforts to maintain our fisheries, please email volunteer@dorkingas.co.uk



HOW YOUR FEEDBACK WILL SHAPE THE CLUB'S FUTURE



DDAS 2026 Survey Feedback

[CLICK TO REVIEW RESPONSES](#)

The Dorking membership survey has proved to be a resounding success. Of the 565 anglers who elected to receive the survey, 46% chose to complete the comprehensive online questionnaire. This is an excellent response rate and indicates high member engagement. It also suggests that the data is reliable and representative of the club's overall membership.

The full 21-page survey report will provide the committee with valuable insights into anglers' wants, needs, and fishing habits. In turn, your responses will help us plan for the future more effectively.

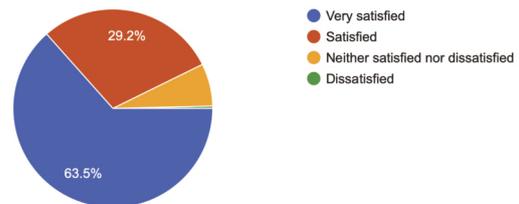
Dorking member Geoff Martin designed, collated and analysed the survey results. Drawing on key findings, he produced a summary report with recommendations and suggestions for the club to consider. The committee would like to thank Geoff for all his hard work.

We launched this survey to give Dorking anglers a platform both to voice their opinions and share their experiences of fishing our waters.

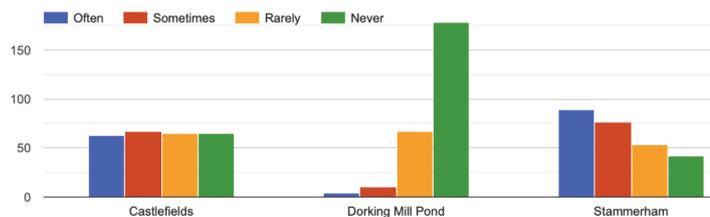
The club's communication with its members has been vital in building a strong sense of community and belonging. It may also account for the recent sharp increase in membership numbers.

You can view the survey responses by clicking on the document above. Rest assured, the club has taken your comments onboard and we are already acting on them.

How satisfied are you with the way the club keeps you informed about the latest updates and events?



On average, which lakes do you fish and how frequently?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Saturday 28th March, 9.30am - Great British Spring Clean (Litter Pick)**
- **Tuesday 14th April, 8.00pm - D&DAS Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
- **15th March - 9th June - Work Parties (TBC)**
- **1st April - 31st May - Gravel Cleaning (TBC)**
- **Monday 22nd June, 9.30am - Balsam Bash on Castlefields**

