



LDAS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

Repeat of 2022 – another drought. . .

We are taking steps to protect our fisheries during this hot weather, and your continued support is very much appreciated.

- 1. LOND COPSE: Both ponds currently open for fishing**
- 2. ASHTED PARK: Wildlife Pond open for fishing. The Rookery is CLOSED for fishing.**
- 3. The SPLASH is open for fishing.**
- 4. RIVE MOLE from Young Street to Mickleham Bridge is CLOSED for fishing. Anyone found disregarding this temporary closure will be asked to leave the club.**

We have been working closely with the EA on the matter of a fish rescue on the Mole, and here is a letter from Harry Hicks, Fisheries Technical Officer, outlining the situation as of 30th July.

As the river does still have flow then we will not be conducting a fish rescue just yet. It is much better to leave the fish in-situ for as long as possible because the fish are already going to be stressed which can lead to fish dying unnecessarily if a fish rescue is not needed. The fish will currently be stressed as the river is low, warm and clear although due to the section still having some flow, we would not be looking to move the fish until we no longer have flow and fish do start to become pooled from the river. A fish rescue is always our last option with events like this.

We are currently monitoring the groundwater levels and river levels along with monitoring the water temperatures and dissolved oxygen within the river. The local field team are helping to monitor the river so that we can continue to understand any changes in the levels along the section. The fisheries team are unable to regularly visit because of other on-going work, but we are keeping close contact with the other team out on-site who are looking for these changes in levels as well as fish in distress. We would still ask that if anyone does notice the levels dropping lower and causing pooling or any fish in distress that this would be called in on 0800807060.

If we do require a fish rescue a plan is already in place on how this would occur. As this is an event which we are acutely aware of, the team have already organised the equipment which will be used in the event a fish rescue is required. This will only occur if the fish are to become trapped and we lose all flow through this section of the river as a fish rescue is always a last resort option as mentioned above. Alternatively, if we had scheduled rain over the coming day and was on the verge of completing a fish rescue, we may wait to see if level could again be maintained. This may be wishful thinking for rain! We are using our groundwater teams to investigate level changes as well so we can continue to use visual observation and data to make the correct decisions going forward.

I hope that this clears up any questions for the club. If the level does continue to drop, then please do notify us. Any pictures from different times of day will be great to see as levels will slightly fluctuate and change throughout the day.

Many thanks,

Regards

Harry Hicks, Fisheries Technical Officer – South London & River Mole Catchments

There has been further major improvements to paths and drainage at **Ashtead Park**, which is still on-going, so please be aware of path access and any areas closed during the repairs.

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- **‘Parents of junior members are politely reminded that under 12’s may only fish on our waters if supervised by a responsible adult at all times.’ The **responsible adult** MUST be 18 years minimum to supervise any member under 12. THIS WILL BE ENFORCED BY OUR BAILIFFS**

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As all members are aware, **Anti-Social behaviour** at any of our waters will not be tolerated. There is the Incident Report found on the App to send a report to our bailiffs, but the committee have introduced a faster way of alerting us of anti-social behaviour by calling a dedicated phone number where immediate action can be taken. This number is **07395 835986** It can also be found on the App. in a new Icon called **ANTI-SOCIAL REPORTING**

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Teach-in for Novices/New Junior Members 9th AUGUST

As we have not received any response for this initiative, we will not be running it.

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STOP PRESS: WORK PARTY DATES FOR LONG COPSE

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th at Long Copse, Bookham.

- Working on repairing the leak on bottom pond
- Clearing the inlet on Top pond
- Tidy up and trimming back the undergrowth
- Reed removal
- Litter picking

PLEASE CONFIRM WHICH DATES YOU CAN HELP OUT Stuart Stafford over this weekend.