



# LDAS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

**HOT WEATHER WARNING. . . PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE A LANDING MAT KEPT WET AT ALL TIMES. HANDLE FISH AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE AND RETURN TO THE WATER IMMEDIATELY. Please see important advice from the [Angling Trust here](#) but these are three important points to remember.**

1. Land fish as quickly as possible and handle them with extra care. Use wet hands when holding and unhooking fish. Wherever possible, keep fish in the water while unhooking. It's a good idea to plan where you can safely land and unhook fish before you start fishing.
2. If you want to take a photo, either keep the fish in the water or keep its time out of the water to a few seconds. This is especially important for larger and more sensitive fish.
3. Release fish as soon as they're fully recovered, making sure they're showing strong signs of movement before doing so. This may take several minutes. Hold them upright and with their head facing into any water flow. This will help oxygenated water to flow across their gills. You can also hold fish in a landing net so that they are away from the bank, making sure their head is facing into any water flow.

- Last month we included the following statement:

**DO NOT** leave any food or bait in your swim – this can attract rats. **TAKE HOME** any rubbish if the bins are full.

**DO NOT BE TEMPTED** TO swim in the ponds.

**DO KEEP NOISE** down and respect other members who are fishing.

**DO NOT USE** floating bait or bread at Long Copse.

It is well-known that the 'minority' in any large group always make the headlines when problems arise – unfortunately that is the situation we are facing in the LDAS.

**Our Bailiffs have been seeing members still using bread at Long Copse – THIS MUST STOP PLEASE. ANY member found using bread will be asked to leave at the discretion of the bailiff, or giving a verbal warning.**

- **‘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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1. **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July Parent/Junior Match.** Winners Trophy and Heaviest Fish prizes. **BOOK NOW**

Please book via the '[BOOK TICKETS](#)' icon on the Website or your Clubmate App. Or reply to this email to book a place.

2. **Sunday July 26th TOP POND OPEN MATCH** DRAW: 9.00am MATCH: 10.am to 4.00pm. ORGANISER: Paul Fidgeon and Clive Darby. **BOOK NOW.**

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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**

Since the adoption of the Clubmate tool by LDAS for the management of membership and recruitment, numbers have grown at a healthy rate.

It is apparent that a good number of new members may be lacking in experience and may well benefit from some basic instruction – not so much as a '*this is how you bag up*' session, but more how to best look after our basic and essential asset – the fish.

So, we are asking experienced anglers to lend a few hours of their time at Long Copse to help explain how to play and handle fish in a manner that is safe for the fish, how to select the most appropriate choice of tackle (hook size, breaking strain etc), to explain why certain baits and methods are not permitted and to emphasize measures to protect wildlife and the environment.

The proposed date for the event is **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August** and we are initially asking our experienced anglers to let us know if you are willing to help – please let me know on [geoff@leatherheadangling.co.uk](mailto:geoff@leatherheadangling.co.uk)

It is only with your help that the event can be staged.

Additionally, if you think you would like to attend the event as a 'student', please let me know on the same Email address. It will last probably only a few hours. Depending on the demand it may be necessary to operate a booking system using the Clubmate booking facility.

Geoff Ballinger Hon Sec LDAS

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## **Angling Club Alliance**

### **MOLE VALLEY ANGLING ALLIANCE**

In April, the Environment Agency convened the inaugural meeting of River Mole Angling Societies. This represents an important first step towards greater dialogue between clubs.



LADAS has played a major role in helping establish this collaborative initiative – something that could prove vital in securing the future of the River Mole for the next generation of anglers.

At the meeting a chair and secretary were elected for a 12 month period. A WhatsApp group was also set up among the nine member clubs to share relevant regional updates.

Meetings will be held quarterly to discuss issues affecting clubs ranging from habitat improvement to fisheries enforcement. The alliance will also look to partner with other interested parties such as the Angling Trust and the South East Rivers Trust.

Have your say on the future of the River Mole. Forward your views to any members of the Committee for inclusion at the next MVAA meeting.

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## **Kick Starting the Recovery of the River Mole**

### **The Eradication of Mink**

Maintaining a healthy, thriving fishery is about striking a balance between creating angler access and ecological preservation, including the control and potential eradication of damaging invasive species. Enter the North American mink.



*The North American Mink (Neogale vison)*

American mink are skilled, agile predators with a taste for a wide variety of prey. They adapt well to their habitat and will actively hunt whatever they can find – from mammals such as water voles and rabbits to water birds like moorhens and kingfishers as well as frogs and fish. With no natural predators in the UK to keep

their population in check, their numbers have surged and the River Mole has not been spared from their presence.

The story of how mink have come to infest our waterways is well known. Mink were first introduced in Britain from North America for fur farming in the 1920s. The industry expanded as the fashion for luxurious fur coats grew and by the 1950s mink farms were active over most of Britain and on some larger offshore islands. However, not all of the mink stayed in farms. Many escaped and hundreds more were released into the wild by well meaning but misguided 'animal liberationists'. By the time mink farms were banned in Britain, feral mink had become firmly established in waterways across most of England Wales and Scotland. Most feral mink now resemble the wild animals found in America with a dark chocolate brown coat and a white throat patch, 50-60cm long and weighing 0.7-2kg.

To control the number of mink on the Mole the club has joined forces with the Waterlife Recovery Trust (WRT) to engage in a programme of entrapment and dispatch. These will take place at selective sites along our Mickleham and Fetcham Splash fisheries.

Mink are inquisitive and research has shown that they find it hard to resist investigating a tunnel, especially if the tunnel is floating on a raft. If a cage trap is placed in the tunnel, any visiting mink is likely to go inside and be caught when the trap door closes. Traps are equipped with an electronic alarm unit which immediately alerts LADAS nominated conservation volunteers to the fact that the trap requires an urgent visit. One advantage of this capture method is that the animal in the trap is unharmed and can be quickly released if it is anything except a mink. If a mink has triggered the trap it is instantly and humanly dispatched with an air gun by a designated individual from the WRT.



*One of our mink rafts*

Mink can be caught throughout the year, but the most effective times are between February and March (the mating season) and June to September (when the young leave the den). Typically mink will have up to four young or kits, each inheriting the voracious appetite of their parents!

Research suggests that wildlife populations quickly rebound after mink have been removed. Dorking AC report after eighteen months of trapping they are beginning to see the return of a thriving bird population on the Mole. With each mink killing up to 500 native animals a year it is easy to see how entrapment and dispatch will become a key part of LADAS conservation strategy.

It should be stressed that LADAS is not working alone. Mink entrapment is a joint initiative with no fewer than eight other clubs along the Mole taking part. Already several of these clubs are reporting success with one club reporting nineteen captures to date. Removing mink from such a large area as the Mole valley will be a challenge, however, something similar has already been done in Scotland and along the River Colne in Essex where water voles have made a welcome return following the removal of over 100 mink. The lesson to be learnt here is that entrapment and eradication works.

If you want to find out more about the Waterlife Recovery Trust visit their website at [waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk](http://waterliferecoverytrust.org.uk)

How can you help? If you spot a trap please leave it alone. Alternatively become one of our volunteers. Contact Paul Fidgeon via the Clubmate App.

