



A YEAR TO VIEW

At the request of some members, this “Year to View” has been produced to guide you through the major annual activities of the Syndicate and the River we fish. It does not address everything: many questions will remain but you can look at the Members Information Pack with its FAQs and the Beat Map to answer some of those.



January: This is the quiet, after the enjoyment of welcoming the New Year, cold and wet month as we struggle through Winter although there is coarse fishing to be had by the hardy. As rain often falls on saturated ground, the River will rise quickly and colour: these flushes of water help to cleanse the River but can bring unwanted debris down the water course leading to log jams etc.

We may also have storms which cause damage that we will deal with during our monthly **Work Parties** where we can and are able. We review and do a

stocktake of our Tools and Equipment: disposing of old/unserviceable items and planning to buy new ones. It's a time to tie flies beside the fire with your slippers on.

February: This is an important Month as we renew our membership, pay our subscriptions, receive our **Membership Card and Catch Return Cards**. The Cut Off date is 28th February, even in a 'leap year'. We are also able to invite new members to join from our Waiting List.

It is a quiet month as the countryside gently drags itself out of Winter: again, we hope for rain. It is a cold time to fish but it can be very productive chasing coarse fish, particularly, grayling on a frosty morning.



March: The 14th March is the **last day of the Coarse Fishing Season** and we may not target such fish again until 16th June. The Trout Season remains closed. For the last 2 weeks of March there is no fishing and the River rests. It is time to check through your gear, clean and prepare it for the coming seasons.

Our **AGM** takes place in March and we usually hold our **Annual River Walk** on a late Sunday of the month in the morning: new members are introduced to the

River and many matters “fishy” are discussed. Present members may also join the walk. On warm afternoons, there are small hatches of Olives and Grammon that the fish greedily take although it is vexing that we cannot fish. Depending on the year, Easter appears this month or next.



April: The **Trout Season** opens on the 1st of April. The countryside is rapidly waking up provided we don't have a cold snap. Wild garlic and Bluebells cover the ground in many areas and wildlife abounds along the River. The Hawthorn is in flower and terrestrial hawthorn flies (which have no relationship with the tree) are often blown onto the water making an excellent meal for many fish. It is a good time to fish as, in warmer weather, there can be good hatches.

We often publish the **Dates for all Work Parties** so you can plan ahead and attend as many as you can.



May: This month is supposed to be the zenith of the Trout Season although the Mayfly do not start to appear in any numbers until the last 2 weeks, hence the term “Duffers Fortnight”. The weather can be very changeable, often cool with heavy rain that can impact on the hatches. That said, it can be an exceptional month to fish and experiment with different flies. The Trout certainly come out of their post spawning, winter survival lethargy and seem very keen to fatten up on dry flies.

The trees and bushes are in full leaf, the undergrowth can be thick and the nettles high: we leave them like that to discourage the Himalayan Balsam that we ask you to pull up by its roots every time you visit the River.



June: We like June! Warm, overcast days with a gentle breeze are best and the Mayfly are often abundant in the first 2 weeks. It is a great time to fish. Then on the **16th the Coarse Fishing Season opens** so we can all enjoy our fishing.



This is **Berkeley Show** Month and time for our Show Tent with Display. We prepare for, attend then clear up after an enjoyable day. Unfortunately, if the weather is warm, we suffer from anti-social behaviour of the mindless masses who may visit the River. Fear not, there are always places to get away from these people. Please note the Telephone Numbers for **CRIMESTOPPERS** and the **EA HOTLINE** at the end.



July and August: These can be frustrating months for fishing due to the weather: being typically British we will just complain about. There are often hot, sunny days that warm the water and make fish torpid, reducing feeding to the essential minimum. The evenings can be a very different matter as the

heat of the day reduces so the fish come on the feed. A few hours before the pubs close with rod in hand can be very productive.



September: For many, September is the best month to fish as the days shorten and the nights become colder the fish feed to put on weight for the Winter and leaner times they know is coming. This is a great time for nymph fishing or trotting.

As the bankside vegetation slowly starts to die back, it is easier to access the River but be careful: Know where you will get out before you get in!



October: We have until **7th of the month to fish for Trout** as that is the last day before the season closes. The weather is changing, it is much colder,

and the nights rapidly start to draw in. We can have rain, wind, even storms. There can be unseasonably warm days and excellent hatches of fly. Go prepared so that you can fish comfortably.

November: Parliament still stands, Fawkes failed. More importantly, it is a time to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice that we might enjoy life as we do.

The chance of a Trout has gone but we have the Grayling to chase and these can be excellent sport! Frosty mornings are usually good for Grayling and a few hours chasing after these superb fish is never wasted. The trees are nearly bare, ground vegetation has died back and some blighter changes the clocks in late October so we are all confused except nature. And it's Advent. This is the last chance to attend 2 Work Parties in the year.



December: We all know what is coming and no matter how we celebrate it, Yuletide can be a wonderful time. Before it arrives, there is time to fish, if we can brave the weather and conditions that can be challenging.

This is the month for the really addicted fisher who can have amazing success albeit with very cold fingers and toes. Happy Christmas.



Additional Pointers:

NEWSCASTS: Monthly Newscasts are published via email with important details and advise on activity. Please read them.

Work Parties: As a BEFS Member you are asked to attend 2 Work Parties each year. Try your very best to do so – there are tasks for every ability!

Volunteers: We are always in need of Volunteers to do a variety of tasks. Contact us via the Website.

Environment Agency Fishing Rod Licence: please remember that you have a Rod Licence if you are 12 years or older. This can be purchased from a Post Office or online at <https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences>

Getting In versus Getting Out: The River is often difficult to get into due to the high steep banks but, more importantly, it is a difficult place to get out of once in. Always ensure you know where you will get out before you get in to wade.

CRIMESTOPPERS

The number is **0800 555 111** to report any thing to the police.

ENVIROMENT AGENCY HOTLINE

The number is **0800 80 70 60** to report incidents of pollution, flooding etc.

Please ensure you get an INCIDENT NUMBER when reporting anything and let us know via the Website that you have with the ***Incident Number***. Thank you!