

1. As you know, following Decembers stocking of Throckley Reigh, I have applied for help from the E.A. for the installation of some new fishing platforms and improving access around the ponds. I am optimistic we will succeed, even though grant money is being reduced, but of course we will have to part with some money we have held in our account for such work. They have not forgotten about it!! We have a sight meeting with Gillian the Ranger on Tuesday the 28th at 2pm at either her wardens office or at the Reigh itself.

2. The next Angling Trust NE Fisheries Forum meetings to be held in 2014 are thus: Tyne: May 14th Tees: September 18th Wear: December 4th

Last year the North East AT ran their first open day event in March and as we are expecting the final results and report on the fish passage monitoring and analysis that has been ongoing at the Tees Barrage, John Cheyne has suggested a review of this information might make a good basis for another Open day this year when an update on the position of that and the Freemans Reach Hydro application on the Wear could feature.

As now is the time for making New Year Resolutions, one that anglers of all persuasions should consider in to join the Angling Trust, anglings national spokes-body. Visit www.anglingtrust.net and membership is not expensive as they now have a direct debit option that will only cost you £2.50 per month.

3. Its not just pike anglers that are enjoying the winter fishing on Esthwaite at present. The coarse fishing on Esthwaite is still on top form with some cracking bags reported from the boathouse stretch and the point opposite the ticket office. Clive Charter took a cracking 40lb net of roach, perch, general coarse fishing tickets are available for £10.00 until 14th March.

4. Scotts Coarse Angling Club, based in the Scottish borders at Selkirk are an organisation that grows from strength to strength and ended 2-13 with a double figure waiting list. At the recent AGM the Adult Membership fee was increased by £5 to £55 with additional money generated going straight into the re-stocking programme of more carp and tench. Current members have from now till the 31st of January to rejoin thereafter any spaces go to those on the waiting list and memberships can be obtained at Border Angling, Galashiels.

5. As part of the flood alleviation scheme at Morpeth a major fish rescue was undertaken recently on a 100m section of the Wansbeck by the E.A. prior to the installation of a diversion channel. About 800 fish were rescued, including 100 trout, 25 lamprey, minnow and bullhead. An interesting result was the presence of 30 salmon parr, a rare capture for the River Wansbeck.

6. As you will probably have all read the E.A. are making redundancies but it is too early to say how this will affect local fisheries staff. A reduction in rod licence money due to a decrease in sales will also have a dismal effect on E.A. work, but local fisheries staff I have talked to are still keen to do their best for us.