

Fishing at Bintry Mill

A number of members have been in contact expressing concern about using the signing-in box which is a potential source of transference of the Covid-19 virus from member to member. While this concern is understandable is misplaced.

During the pandemic the Government has decreed that we must all stay at home and eliminate non-essential driving. Although when fishing there is no problem with keeping more than two metres apart from a fellow fisherman, fishing is not staying at home and driving to and from the river cannot - except with great semantic difficulty - be classified as essential. While every one of you must take personal responsibility for your health and hand hygiene, the effect of Government rules is that social distancing on the river bank is a non-starter.

The Angling Trust has the following statement on its website: "We must all do what is required of us by the Government and work together to fight this pandemic. Therefore, until further notice we should all refrain from fishing. This is about saving lives and supporting the NHS. We have been in contact with the Government regarding its view on fishing as a permitted activity and hope to update you all shortly." So far there is no update.

Please comply with Government restrictions and delay the start of your season until at least the end of the current three weeks of restrictions. It is to be hoped that the more strictly we obey these instructions and reduce social contact and the potential transmission of the virus the sooner they can be eased.

The planned river walk for new members will have to be postponed.

Like each and everyone of you I want to get the 2020 season underway as soon as possible. But sadly it won't be on 1 April.