Ashford Angling Society

Notification of 2026 AGM – Saturday 4th April 2026

***** NEW LOCATION *****

Coachworks, Dover Place, Dover Place, Ashford TN23 1HU

Start Time - 7:30pm

Agenda

- Verification of Officers
- Finance update
- Constitution Update
- Surrenden update
- Other waters update
- Projects completed / planned
- Awards

Overview by the Chairperson

2025 was a very busy year for both the right and wrong reasons. Our main challenge during the year was water quality in the bottom complex due to adverse weather conditions in the summer. We spent about 2 months relying on volunteers to maintain the operation of the pumps and aerators on Jay, Nightingale and Crabtree. Thank you to all those who helped. Their action certainly ensured that we did not have a very large fish kill incident. This meant that the work on Moorhen 1 (Top Lake nearest the car park) could not be done. This will be done this year. There will be a small increase in membership fees this year, the details will be on the new website.

New Website

For 2026 and beyond we will be updating the website and the link will change. You will receive an email about this when it is ready. It will look very different so don't be surprised when you see it. We hope you like it. We are also trying to make it easier to find things and easier to use.

Treasurers Report

Our 2025 accounts have now been audited by Mr Matt Missons ACA. The highlights are that we ended the year with a surplus of £18,000. While this sounds good, we did not complete the planned works on Moorhen 1 which is estimated at £20,000 so that would have given us a small deficit of £2000. For 2026 the committee have approved a project to enhance the aeration and water quality monitoring on the bottom complex to prevent the issues we have during the summer last year. They have approved £25,000 for this. The project is estimated to cost circa £50,000 but we are hoping to gain matched funding from the Environment Agency.

Moorhen Lakes

Moorhen Lakes

2025 was very busy on Lake 2 and 3 to make sure that we are ready for the work to start on Lake 1. Sadly, we had to delay this work. However, as soon as the weather permits we will be making a start on here. We are aware that a lot of you enjoy fishing this lake near the car park but we have to ensure that we remove all of the silt and gain back the depth in this lake for its future success. Please bear with us. We have spent a lot of time and money making sure that there are plenty of places you can now fish instead. Why not try Jay lake.

Mallard Lake

We are delighted to report that we are seeing the benefits of the cropping that we have been doing over the last few years. The quality of the carp and the size and condition of the carp is getting better and better. We will continue with the cropping to ensure that the size and quality of the fish in this lake continues to improve. This is also the same for the silver fish.

Jay

Sadly, we lost many of the Chub from this lake during the summer last year. We will be enhancing the aeration in here and breaking through the berm to ensure water movement in all areas of the lake. Once we are satisfied with the results, we will consider re-introducing more chub. Watch out for the 2 new Perch that are in here. They were found in Nightingale during the netting and moved into here. The team from Hadlow College estimated that they were both 4lb+ fish.

Nightingale

We have replaced most of the pegs on here with new platforms. We also netted the lake to check the condition of the fish after the issues in the summer and found that they had recovered well. During that process we moved some of the carp to the Stock Pond. The plan is to use those fish to replenish Moorhen 1 when the work has been completed. For 2026 we will be finishing the remaining pegs and repair the inlet bank which has collapsed into the lake.

Crabtree

We have identified an issue with the water that is coming off the land into Crabtree which could be impacting water quality. We have also recognised that there is very little air movement in that area. For 2026 we will be widening the path that comes down from Mallard and clearing the draining ditches and re-routing the water to improve the water quality in this lake.

Stock Pond

We now have more stock in here due to the netting of the other lakes in the bottom complex. We will continue feeding this lake as per the advice we get to produce quality fish of all species to support the rest of the complex. We were particularly surprised and happy with the growth rates and condition of the fish in here during our autumn netting

The complex

We have been busy working in many areas of the complex. This includes re-opening Moorhen 2 with all new pegs, Joining Moorhen 2 and 3 together, General grounds maintenance and flailing of the boundaries, lake sides and roadside, phase one repair of the main point on Mallard (more to do in 2026 on this one), tree clearance on banks to allow for easier fishing.

Other waters

We still have access to Singleton Lake and the 2 syndicate tickets for Spider Hall. With Spider Hall we have noticed that there have been very few bookings in 2025 which is not viable in terms of the cost of maintaining our tickets. Unless we see an increase in the take up of these tickets we will have no choice but to return them and lose access to some of Kent's finest specimen carp angling.

Competitions

2025 saw an increase in the number of people fishing our competitions. This is great news as they are also new members of the Society. Welcome to you all. Nightingale has fished superbly throughout 2025 and after the netting we have returned to fishing as opposed to fish racing. We also have new series' on Saturdays and for 2026 we will be introducing out own Wednesday series.

Do you want to help?

We have various little teams who look after the lakes ranging from the regular maintenance team (Mondays 9-2) and the regular project team (Saturdays or Sundays 9-2) who can always do with a little help. If you want to join us (especially on the project team) please email membershipaas@gmail.com to express and interest and we will add you to our WhatsApp group so you can see what we do and maybe join us.

Final Round-up

That's about it. We hope you have found this informative, and you can see that we have a busy year ahead in 2026. Wishing you all Tight Lines for 2026.