

Latest phase of Environment Agency improvement plan gives...

# Rivers a mega Christmas boost

**THIS week has seen tankfuls of young fish – totalling more than 23,000 – stocked into the Upper Ouse and four tributaries.**

They follow 6,000 young barbel which went in this side of Bedford in September – with thousands more going into the upper Ouse and Ouzel over the two years before that.

This time the bulk were 4 to 8 inch barbel, with the rest junior dace, chub, and roach, all reared at the Environment Agency's fish farm, which is funded from rod licence sales.

it could easily have taken two million or more fertilised fish eggs to produce that many 1 year+ fish.

It is all part of the EA fisheries team's practical efforts to resurrect a river hard hit by increased predation from crays (eating vast quantities of eggs, fry and fry food) to cormorants, otters and human thieves.

They are working hard to improve spawning sites so that resident fish and those being added (when the survivors reach maturity) will be able to repopulate the river at much higher rates than at present.

● This week's AT records 'Northants schoolboy' Raphael Kyte, 14, as bagging a 7-11 Ouse chub on maggot feeder.

● Santa was smiling on Osprey at Lakeside where Tony Winnock had 130lb of carp with Des Proud on 97lb and Barry Mason 74lb.

● Meadowlands' 50 peg Christmas match was won by James Hipkiss, 59-8, ahead of Adam Waklin 41-4 and Alan Walton 39-12.

● After **FIFTY YEARS** of trying, Newport secretary

Richard Dorrill finally won the club's Christmas match (Abbey pits) with 7-12 of roach to 1-6. Dave Adams 7-5 and James Mead 6-6.

● CASTLE Ashby, Saturday, Scotland, Phil Wintle 47-2 (21 bream), Keith Garratt 45-6, Frank Pizmenti 42-12; Sunday, Grendon, Mick Waddham 38-6, Chris Garratt 34-2, John Kent 25-6.

● GLEBE, Holly Farm: Dave Haddon (annual points winner) 25-8, Dave Jones 12-6, John Kirton 12lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Barby Banks: Rob Wykham 8-12, Dave Griffiths 4-15, Gary Muddiman 2-12.

● NENE fur & feather, Heyford cut: Gerald Greene 4-15, Andy Law 3-2, Bob Eales 2-7.

● TOWCESTER, Castlethorpe cut: Grenville Read 3-8, Les Goodridge 3-1, Dave Martin 2-5.

● CASTLE, Canons: John Lewis 2-1, Fred Prior 1-14, Pete Lawton 1-4.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Muscott Mill cut: Steve Smith 0-9, Paul Humphries 0-5, Gareth Abraham 0-3...

● **FIXTURES:** Christmas Day 'Scrooges' open, Castle Ashby, 016004 712346.

Flore & Brockhall teams of 3 starts Jan 6, 01327342127.  
Wellingborough teams of 4 league starts Jan 13, 01933 389309.

MK teams of 4, starts Jan 13, 07703 556788.



■ EA fisheries officer Lewis Thomas releasing hundreds of mini barbel into the Adams Ouse

Adams Mill, the Ouzel/Ouse junction at Newport, Lavendon and Radwell were among the more local sites to benefit.

While 23,000 may not sound huge when spread over tens of miles – normal fatality rates mean that, in the wild,

Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 (office) or 07801 183381 or [angling@intermediauk.com](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com) (click link to email)