

EA's continuing barbel stocking programme sees the...

# Ouse get a New Year boost

**RISING floodwater streaming down the local Ouse throughout the festive break hasn't stopped some people catching fish – or others from adding them for the future!**

As 2015 drew to a close, the Environment Agency was busy adding yet thousands more 'mini-barbel' (reared at the EA's national fish farm) to the upper river – including big batches at Adams Mill and Sherington Bridge.

Their programme, started five or more years back, has seen tens of thousands of fish added, all paid for with anglers' rod licence money.

Whether local big barbel stocks will ever get back to pre-otter levels only time will tell – but the EA, and the clubs and land-owners backing them, deserve full marks for trying.

- AMONG the happy anglers proving that some decent-sized barbel still exist in the upper river was Gary Teer, banking a 9-2 from Newport's length – a stamp of fish seemingly only marginally more common these days than the proverbial rocking horse droppings!
- NOT known for losing big fish, Olney-based Kevin Osborne lost a huge roach – a potential 2lb+ river PB – at the net in a Radwell Ouse match. He finished third with 4lb.
- DOWNSTREAM at Olney Dave Partridge had a PB 2-12 perch on worm.
- AND on MKAA's section of the Ouzel – an Ouse tributary – Gary Maton saw the year out with four nice chub, plus some chublets, on bread on the lead.



EA man Alex Malcolm helping add thousands more mini-barbel to the Ouse

● NATIONAL angling icon Bob Church hit his 80th birthday on Boxing Day, but in typical style had given himself an edge by celebrating a week early...to get a party that wasn't swamped by Christmas festivities!

● A SPELL on Stanwick's Elsons saw Nathan Bartwick netting carp of 19, 22 and 23lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Barby Banks: Trevor Griffiths 132lb, Dave Chapman 98-12, Tom Griffiths 48-5.

● RINGERS pairs, Boddington: Jack Eades & Tom Challingsworth 2 points (91lb), Tony Wykham & Mark Jennings 2 points (100lb), Wally Walton & Fred Coxon 2 points (82lb).

● FLORE & Brockall, Dog Lane: Rob 'I'm a legend' Rawlins 31lb, Terry Smith 27lb, Steve Smith 15lb.

● TOVE Valley, silverfish, Lakeside: Lee Jones 21-10; Kevin Elliot 20lb, Dave Martin 19-4 as 16 rods totalled some 250lb of roach!

● GLEBE, Shearsby: Martin Shaul 12-8, Paul Latter 7lb, Dave Jones 5-4.

● ABINGTON fur & feather, park lake: Vince Battams 11lb, Norman Westbrook 5-10.

● FIXTURES: Jan 17, British Pike Champs qualifier, Sherington Road Pits, 07952 812527



HAPPY as a turkey on New Year's Day – Gary Teer with 9-2 Ouse barbel