

# As the old year goes out in style - work goes on for a better future!

**B**IG-fish hunter Gary Teer finished his year off in style, banking a 9-2 barbel from Newport's length – a stamp of fish only marginally more common these days than the proverbial rocking horse droppings!

But a group determined to bring the species back to the Upper Ouse in strength – the Environment Agency's fisheries team – were also out working the banks.

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

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

Whether local big fish 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.

■ **MATCHMAN** Andy Skelton finished his year on a high, too, netting 23-4 (mainly perch) to win Newport's Riverside Meadow river sweep. Barry Glidewell had six bream in his 14-7 with Kevin Osborne on 11-14.

■ **AND** Gary Maton saw the year out on the Ouzel with four nice chub, plus some chublets, on bread on the lead from the OU to Woolstone Ouzel; before heading for a private lake to bag some big perch and a carp or two off the top.

■ **FISHING** the cut with a mate, Ethan Tabrar caught his first ever perch –

within five minutes of starting. He posted on facebook: "Best Christmas present ever!"

■ **VAUXHALL's** match on the Radwell Ouse saw Kevin Osborne third with 4lb...after losing a mega-roach which could easily have been a PB at the net. Better luck this year, mate.



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

■ **GREAT** Linford tackle shop-man Alf Walker made a three-week trip to Thailand, but had to be content with 'small' (sub-50s) Mekong cats – though pal Mark Valentine did land an 86-pounder.



■ **INVESTING** in the future – EA fisheries man Alex Malcolm giving Newport's Ouse a shot in the arm with another 'mini-barbel' stocking

■ **OSPREY**, Decoy: Mark Carter 89lb, Des Proud 57lb, Pete Carter 38-8.

■ **MK VETS**, Alders: Ernie Sattler 76-1, John Hewison 61-2, Paul Swain 60-12.

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

■ **CALVERT**, Hill Cottage: Charlie Green 23-4, Dave Lewis 18-6, Barry Witteridge 12-8.

■ **KINGFISHER**, rapidly rising Ouse at Stony: John White 0-5, Jeff Duguid 0-1-8, Colin Chart 0-0-8. Full marks for trying, lads.

■ **FIXTURES**: Jan 17, British Pike Champs qualifier, Sherington Pits, 07952 812527

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