

Neil's Santa has whiskers... and swims in the local Ouse

CHRISTMAS came early for Neil Andrew on a cold and dark river bank near Newport Pagnell last week.

And it came via a bucking rod and singing line as he connected with the seemingly almost impossible dream – a double figure Upper Ouse barbel!

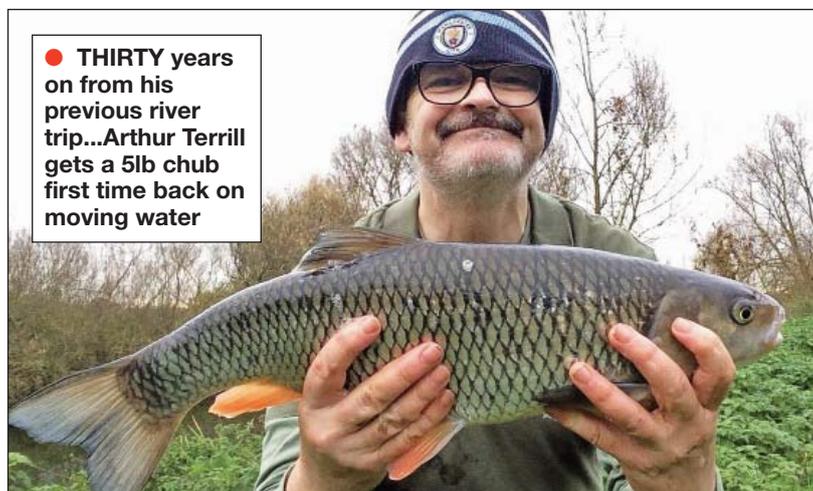
His Thursday evening fish pulled the scales down to 14lb – a fish which must have a charmed life to have avoided all the predators, furred and feathered, which have decimated local whiskers' stocks in the 20 or so years since Adams Mill was in its heyday.

Go buy a lottery ticket Neil, while your luck holds!

■ *HOURS earlier, and a few miles upstream, Arthur Terrill (below) had been looking every bit as happy as Neil.*

In his first river session for almost 30 years (he only returned to angling four years back) he bent into a 4-15 Ouse chub back of Bradwell Lake.

Having used the time-honoured methods of his youth – breadflake on swan-shot link – he is still getting over the fight his first river-fish in three decades put up. He said: "It must have tried to get into every bush and snag in the swim before I netted it."



● THIRTY years on from his previous river trip...Arthur Terrill gets a 5lb chub first time back on moving water



● NEIL Andrew's 14lb whiskers proves big upper Ouse barbel DO still exist

■ OUT on the river before daybreak, again, Phil Mapp had two five-pound chub, Sunday.

■ DESPITE the frosts Jason Pratt and his stepson shared carp to 15-8 on a trip to Lodge.

■ ALDERS midweek open saw Trevor Price win with 55lb followed by John Light on 54lb and Danny Wallace with 42lb.

■ BIG perch from noted Stony Main swims dominated Sunday's DATS' match with Steve Chilton leading the way on 17-13, well clear of Nigel Steele 11-6 and Colin Chart 5-11.

■ CALVERT's Itters Pit do saw Ben Holdaway top with 12lb of perch and silvers as Austin Maddock caught 7-5 and Barry Witteridge 4-10.

■ MK Vets' do on the Ouse at Stony went to Bob Gale on 10-8. Kevin Osborne had 9-3 and Barry Witteridge 8-3 as 23 fished.

■ LINFORD, Xmas match, Boatyard canal: Roy Hefferon 4-12, Pete Whatley 2-6, John Hough 1-12.

■ TOWCESTER/Nene, Stoke bottom lock: Bob Gill 4-2, Kevin Nightingale 2-5, George Mynard 1-4.

■ FIXTURES: Sunday, MKAA golden peg river match, 01234 713144; Dec 2 MKAA Xmas match Stony-Bradwell Ouse tickets local tackle shops; Dec 5, Olney Ouse Xmas match Dec 9, 01234 240061.

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