

# Rod licence cash funds more barbel for local Upper Ouse!

**ENVIRONMENT** Agency fishery staff spent the count-down to Christmas giving the local Upper Ouse another boost for the future.

Around a thousand junior barbel from the EA's Nottinghamshire hatchery – and others may follow soon – were added to the river in the Sherington Bridge area.

**But, unlike the tens of thousands of mini-whiskers added over the past decade or so, THIS batch included larger samples, some around the pound to a pound-and-a-half mark.**

And where the survival rate among those of a few ounces has proved to be minuscule, just as it is with fish spawned in the river, the bigger ones stand a much better chance of living (predators apart) to spread along the river and become real rod-benders.



● 'MK Piker' with one of 20 or so Christmas Eve chub – fish to 2lb which look set to become Ouse monsters of the future



● LIVING the Christmas Day dream on Furzton: die-hard Frank Norford with 15lb common

■ AND on a different front there was another healthy sign for the future as 'MK Piker' sat on a swim near Wolverton and bagged more than 20 chub ranging from ounces to a couple of pounds on his home-made garlic paste.

The bigger fish – pushing all the way to 8lb – which have been such a feature of recent years – can only have a limited life expectancy and catches like MK Pikers' show that at least some of the masses of 'chublets' caught of late are surviving and on their way to becoming specimens.

■ MANY an angler daydreams of being bank-side on Christmas Day – but die-hard bivvie man Frank Norford did it, sitting the festive hours out on Furzton to bag a 15lb common and a smaller fish.

■ TOWCESTER & District got a real Christmas present – a £4,000 grant from the Environment Agency to part-

fund restoration of the club's Astwell Mill tench fishery.

Recent years have seen T&DAA fighting an uphill battle against silting, invasive Norfolk reed and Canadian pondweed.

**But the grant – rod-licence money coming back directly into grass-roots angling – is to help create an effective silt-trap to clean-up water coming into the lake, dredge out accumulated muck, and reduce the weed and reed.**

■ MKAA, Riverside, Ouzel: Steve Davies 15lb, mostly perch, Paul Hamilton 7-8 two chub, Paul Chapman 6-15

■ MK Vets, Stony Main, Ouse: Didder Hefferon 7lb (perch), Paul Swain 3-12, Austin Maddock 2-12. Ten did not weigh.

■ TOWCESTER/Nene, canal, Bugbrooke: Chris Howard 6-8 of roach to 1-9, John Balhatchett 5-13, Tosh Saunders 5-10.

■ FIXTURES: Jan 1 hangover open on Ouse, 01234 713144; Jan 7 Newport pike open 07896 782715; Lakeside open, book on Tove Valley fb.

**Happy New Year Everyone**

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](mailto:angling@intermediauk.com) (click link to email)