



FORE-END



Greetings from Beggarlee Wharf

It was very encouraging to learn of the formation of the Young Working Boaters Society at the Shackerstone gathering. Their enthusiasm is very infectious. See page 13. Speaking of young boaters, congratulations are also due to Michael Pinnock Jnr, who for the second year running was awarded the Alfred Ritchie Cockerel, for the best turned out working boat attending the IWA Festival, this year for his butty **Fazeley**, the prize last year being awarded for his motor **Clover**. Also to another young (ish!) boater Nick Wolfe for his work on **Aldgate**, which was highly commended by the judges.

As many of you know the Chesterfield Canal Trust have taken over the lease for **Python**, and we were wondering how **Python** would cope with the extremely narrow locks on the Chesterfield Canal. Pete Ramsell reports that after the handover of **Python** on Friday 9th October, he spoke briefly to Sean McGinley the new BW East Midlands area manager about Morse, Stret and Shireoaks Locks, who replied that they are to take a close look at these problems this coming winter. This was confirmed at the User Group Meeting on 13.10.09 and that a series of tests will be carried out as soon as is practicable. There will then be a short stoppage while work is carried out. BW are determined to get these locks to a standard that will take our historic craft and allow many more people to explore the canal north of Worksop. It will be interesting to have a historic boat gathering adjacent to Norwood Tunnel, when the proposed work has been implemented.

British Waterways are in the process of settling down after yet another re-organisation. These seem to take place with rather depressing regularity, and we need to give time for the new people to get into gear with their re-organised positions. On the bright side, I see that they are now prepared to sell some of their historic craft to private owners, a policy which the Club has been advocating for some time now.

As you will see from the Chairman's Notes, we are proposing to hold our Easter Gathering in Coventry Basin. We are hoping to have finalised some of the details in time to announce this at the Members' meeting in November. See below.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you at Braunston in November.

Val

MEMBER'S MEETING - SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER

to be held at

Braunston Village Hall, commencing at 2.30pm

Martin O'Keeffe will give his talk entitled

Tugs on the BCN

A talk not to be missed. See you all here!

The Club sales stand will be set up

Last chance to save on postage when buying your Christmas Cards etc.

The new edition of The George & The Mary will also be available for sale