

# CONSERVATORS OF THE RIVER CAM

*Navigation authority for the River Cam, between Cambridge and Bottisham Lock*

## MEDIA RELEASE

**DATELINE:** Wednesday 13 December 2006

**EMBARGO:** No embargo

### NEW WORKBOAT FOR RIVER CAM

The Conservators of the River Cam are celebrating the maiden voyage of their new workboat on the River Cam at 2 pm on Thursday 14th December 2006 at Baits Bite Lock, Milton, Cambridge.

The boat was commissioned by the Conservators in 2006 and built by a small boatbuilding business, HMS, of Brundall, Norfolk, at a cost of £35,000. Its purpose-made crane will improve river maintenance operations on the river Cam, helping the Conservators' staff to clear hazardous debris such as fallen trees and discarded bicycles and shopping trolleys from the waterway.

The boat has been named 'Michael C' in honour of their Chairman, Professor Michael Chisholm, who will be standing down from this voluntary position at the end of 2007. The Conservators' previous workboat was named the 'Cyril C' in honour of a previous Chairman, Cyril Cooper.

The boat will be toasted by the Conservators at 2 pm and they will be taken on a short cruise to demonstrate the boat's capabilities.

The boat will join the Conservators' other workboat, the Berky weed harvester, on moorings beside the Conservators' House at Clayhithe Bridge, Horningsea.

#### Technical specification:

- Boat dimensions: length 8.5 metres, beam 3.1 metres, draft 0.75 metres, airdraft 2.85 metres.
- The boat has been equipped with a 45 h.p. Nanni diesel inboard engine, supplied by A R Peachment of Brundall, Norfolk.
- Sheet steel used to build the hull and cabin was supplied by Stanley Steel, Windham, Norfolk.
- The small crane – capacity 300 kg at 2.5 metres - was designed and hand-built by HMS, Brundall. Machined parts were produced by H S S, Hingham, Norfolk.
- Toughened windows were supplied by B W Windows, Brundall.
- Paints were supplied by Witham Oil and Paint Ltd, Lowestoft, Suffolk. The yellow paint is standard BS08E51.

### Notes for Editors:

The Conservators of the River Cam are an independent navigation authority formed by Act of Parliament in 1702. Subsequent Acts passed in 1851 and 1922 provide their statutory duties and responsibilities within the Cam Conservancy Area. This Area stretches from Grantchester to Bottisham Lock near Waterbeach. There are thirteen Conservators, appointed from Cambridge City Council, Cambridge University, the Environment Agency and Cambridgeshire County Council to represent the various interests in the management of the River Cam. The Conservators are unpaid volunteers. They hold quarterly meetings at the Guildhall in Cambridge which are open to the public. The Conservators employ five full-time staff to oversee their operations, based at the new office at Baits Bite Lock and the Conservators' House at Clayhithe Bridge, Horningsea.

HMS Marine is a small, independent boat-building business based at Brundall Harbour, Norfolk Broads. Its proprietor is John Halstead. John started work as an agricultural engineer but slowly moved into marine engineering over a period of 5 years. HMS has been established for over 25 years. The business started in Kent undertaking work on the Rivers Medway and Thames but relocated to Norfolk to operate a hireboat fleet about 12 years ago. HMS moved its workshop to Brundall Harbour 2 years ago. John is a RYA-qualified offshore skipper and holds a dive coxswain ticket. He has cruised the east coast for most of his life and has also spent time cruising European inland waterways.

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