

WHY IS SCHOLAR GYPSY WEARING GOLD AND BLACK BUNTING?

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Photo taken at Adderley locks, Shropshire Union Canal, July 2008 by the RBO.

Royal acclaim for Brasenose Narrowboat

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated on **3 June 2012** with a **Pageant on the Thames** in London. A long procession of boats (which will take over an hour to pass any given point) will move downstream from Putney through to the Tower. It will be led by a floating belfry - saluting and being answered by the bells of all the riverside churches - followed by the Royal Rowbarge (propelled by muscular oarsmen), kayaks and skiffs, and then a whole convoy: the Queen herself, of course, heralds and trumpeters, orchestras, the surviving little boats of Dunkirk, historic vessels, cruisers (the so-called 'Tupperware Navy'), forty narrow boats, and a miscellany of London trip boats.

Among the narrowboats will be the 56 foot **Scholar Gypsy**, representing the College, and dressed overall in Brasenose traditional colours (gold on black). It is there to mark another - for us - important anniversary - four centuries exactly since

the granting of a charter to the College by Henry VIII. The boat is named after the poem written by Matthew Arnold, an undoubted Oxonian, and John Wain wrote a poem for its launching - a ceremony at the boathouse - the boat was blessed by **James Bell**, then our Chaplain and now the Bishop of Knaresborough. It is the Judge family boat, built for **Harry Judge** and his son Simon, who will be at the helm on The Day.

The College has yet another association with the waterways of England, and their improvement. Later this year work is due to begin on the construction of a marina on College land at Cropredy (where the Brasenose Arms is to be found). This new haven will shelter over 200 boats and rescue stretches of the canal from the unsightly ribbon development represented by long lines of moored boats. That development will also be fruitful for the College and assist it in discharging its



△ *The Scholar Gypsy*

historic obligations to generations of future students.

There will be full TV coverage of the Pageant. For further information on The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant see www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org

Dr Harry Judge, *Emeritus Fellow (1948)*