

# Future of Navigation for the EA

The Environment Agency has set up a Future of Navigation (FON) project aimed at establishing a sustainable navigation business. The project is co-ordinating and supporting a range of activities being carried out across all its waterways in the Anglian, Midlands and South East regions, the latter incorporating the Thames. The overall aim is to become more financially self-sufficient and reduce reliance on Government funding.

The FON project is also responsible for preparing the information needed for the review being carried out in 2014 on the potential transfer of EA waterways to the Canal & River Trust. This transfer will be subject to: the agreement of CRT's trustees; and affordability for Government. If the transfer is confirmed, the earliest implementation date is likely to be 2015/16.

The River Thames Society, along with numerous other trade, conservation and user groups, argues against the CRT taking over responsibility for the non-tidal Thames.

# Heritage Boat Museum at Beale Park



The Consuta Trust and the Thames Boats Trust are working on plans to establish a Thames Heritage Museum at Beale Park. The initial planning application - funded by Consuta Trust - will shortly be submitted to West Berkshire Council by the Beale Park Trust.

The Consuta Trust already has two historically important boats, *Consuta* and *Cygnet*, and there are several other

private historic Thames craft that would be appropriate on a loan basis; in addition there is the National Maritime Museum's former inspection launch *Donola* which is currently languishing in storage near Swindon.

As the project hopefully gathers momentum, support from RTS members and local residents will be invaluable. To find out more email [brian.smith@consuta.org.uk](mailto:brian.smith@consuta.org.uk) or visit [www.consuta.org.uk](http://www.consuta.org.uk).