



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

February 1992

Next Meeting of Athlone Branch will take place in  
Seans Bar on Monday 3rd February 1992

N.B. Membership Fees are now due at £10.00. Please forward  
now so as to leave your minds clear for the important  
worries of enjoyment of the coming boating season!

Film Evening February 8th at 8.30 p.m. at the Jolly Mariner  
Mr. Walter Borner will present more of his  
excellent slides of the Shannon. Always of  
great interest - not an evening to be missed.

Also please note March 6th as the date for Eddie Slanes presentation  
on the Royal Canal - more details in March Aerial.

Bye Laws:- Shannon Navigation By Laws 1991 and Shannon Navigation  
By Laws (Construction of Vessels) 1991. The Drafts of these have been  
agreed by I.W.A.I., I.B.R.A. and O.P.W. The Drafts are now in the hands  
of the Attorney General.

A view was expressed at the meeting that the Construction  
of vessels laws when they became law should be printed immediately and  
be easily available so that boat owners may be given adequate time to do  
any necessary alterations in time to have their boats in an acceptable  
condition when they come to register them.

A word to the wise - those who have not at present got  
a private mooring for their vessel would do well to look immediately  
for one. If you should choose to put down a mooring in the river, make  
sure it is well clear of the navigation and also ask the permission of  
O.P.W. for the go ahead to place the mooring in the area you have chosen  
before placing the mooring.

Pump out Stations:- The meeting agreed to a pump out station at Athlone  
and also suggested one at Lecarrow and Shannon Bridge. Lanesboro is also  
another place which would benefit from such a facility.

## Down Memory Lane:

April 1978 "Naas Branch Rally - a most successful Rally. Last Month saw 20 boats up through the 1st Lock - the first boats through it for 25 years... the Naas branch is so attractive it must be conquered"

"Our Annual Dinner Dance is scheduled for the Prince of Wales Hotel with Syd Shines Band. Wine is included in the price of £4.50!!!

June 1978 "Congratulations to Gerry and John Schoular on the official opening of their Marina in Ballykeerin"

"I.W.A.I. - A.G.M. - Lough Corrib was elected as a new branch "

Pollution Particles

Three things have been bugging me of late:-

1. Green in the water.
2. Dead Perch Fry
3. Foam

A green scum on the surface is a constant worry to many people. It is in fact an algae that grows on the bottom, but when it dies it floats to the top (where it is called a 'bloom'), and in due course it decomposes and disappears. It is likely to be more noticeable in calm conditions, especially if such wind as there is should happen to be on shore. In heavy rain and windy conditions the algae tends to disperse quickly. The temperature of the air or water has little to do with it if the weather is warm, winds are usually light - and in actual fact the worst blooms tend to occur between November and the end of April, but most of us never see them as we don't go near the lake in these months and just one good stormy day and it's all gone.

It is not pig slurry, although where large quantities collect in bays and harbours it may give off a suspiciously similar smell. The smell is entirely due to decomposition. Anything that rots tends to give off a smell, some worse than others.

It is not a modern phenomenon. People who have lived all their lives on or around the lake will confirm this. One thing is certain - blooms are worse than they used to be, and the scientists tell us that this is due to increased quantities of phosphate in the water, but that is something for another day. In the meantime watch out for dead perch fry in our next issue.

Shannon Forum

14th January 1992

The participants were requested to submit their position regarding the principle of a Shannon Authority.

A meeting with the Minister has been scheduled for early February to discuss the ongoing flooding.

Mr Matt McNulty, Deputy Director General of Bord Failte addressed the meeting on the Tourism plan for the Shannon Basin.

Two main criteria exist

- 1) Increase river traffic
- 2) Focus business towards the river

/cont.....

The hire fleet this season is to increase its fleet by 100 new boats.

The estimated revenue at present is 10-12 m with a target of 35m.

The plan at present is to explore potential investors with an investment target of 125 million 2/9 of which is at present committed in projects.

A special deal for the remaining 7/9 is required in the form of BES and related tax incentive schemes and the Forum was requested to use its good offices to pursue this policy with Government through National and EEC Structural Funding. The boating density at present is estimated at 1,000 acres per boat.

Regarding development Mr McNally stated that this should take place in areas adjacent to existing facilities and Bord Failte are opposed to such development that would damage the natural amenity.

### The Hodson Pillar Story

Branch members some time previously had cleared away scrub and ivy from the little island just north east of Hodson Bay Hotel. A further expedition just before Christmas, the bricks and mortar gang set about recapping the pillar to prevent further deterioration.

Gabriel Slegator whilst balancing precariously atop a bad ladder noticed what appeared to be part of a stone carved boat protruding where some of the capping stones had fallen away.

On Saturday 18th January in the company of John O'Sullivan, Hodson Bay Hotel owner under the guidance of Gearoid O'Brien, President of the Old Athlone Society the work party removed the top stones to reveal a fine cut stone biblical replica of the Ark.

Resembling a clinker built vessel it is 79 cm long (c2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet) 50 cm wide and 24 cm deep with keel running to deck level fore and aft. The deck slightly curved has six symmetricall holes with an iron spike protruding upwards from one hole.

The National Museum have been advised of the find and authoritative dating is awaited.

It is believed that Hodson, an officer in the Cromwellian Army built his house, now the hotel, at the location which was the site of St. John Abbey. The Abbey was reputed to produce stone work. In 1949 whilst excavating to build the annexe to the Hotel a 14th C carved head was found. This is presently in the National Museum. Whilst opinion is that the boat may be 18th C if it could be linked to the head then the find would be of major significance.

Anyway as you can imagine there was great excitement and whiskey maccs.

How the boat ended up on the pillar, where it came from and why hide it atop the pillar leave a lot of mystery. Gearoid noted that one of the Hodson was a member of L.R.Y.C. in 1835 and posed its possible use as a beacon.

Everybody is agreed however that hopefully it will be kept locally.

The workparty for the record consisted of Archdeacon Dave, Sean

Fitzsimons, Stephanie Flannery, Declan and Rory Walsh, John Dingle,  
 Daniti Allison, Gabriel Sleator, Paddy Lenihan, John and Ciara Sullivan,  
 Gearoid O'Brien and P.J. Murray.

Photo by kind permission of P.J. Murray and Westmeath Independent.

## Exciting discovery made at Hodson Bay



*An exclusive photograph of the carved boat which was discovered by the Athlone branch of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland on Hodson's Pillar, reputedly the centre of Ireland, on Pinnacle Island.*

### Sympathy

On behalf of the Inland Waterways we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of the late Lt.Col. Denis Madigan. Denis who resided at Portaneena was to be seen regularly on the inner lakes sailing his self built sloop, a gentleman and brother of the late Kevin Madigan of Shannon Navigation.

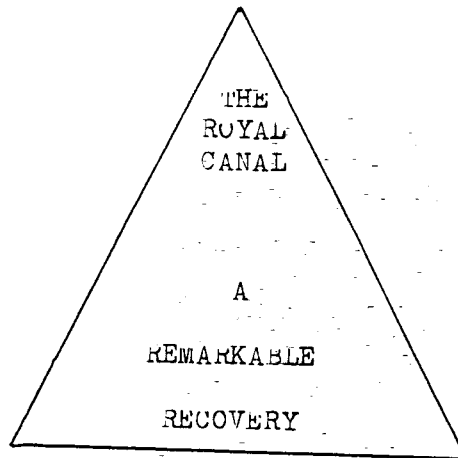
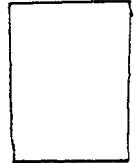


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March 1992

IF YOU HAVE A RED 'X' THEN ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS YOUR  
SUBSCRIPTION IS OVERDUE  
PLEASE REMIT £10 TO Hon. TREASURER I.W.A.I. Sean Fitzsimons  
c/o Seans Bar, Main Street, Athlone.



An Illustrated History of Restoration presented by:-

Eddie Slane

Chairman Royal Canal Amenity Group

on Friday 6th March 8.30 p.m. in 'The Jolly Mariner' Athlone

---oOo---

Next Meeting of Athlone Branch will take place in Seans Bar on  
Monday 2nd March at 8.30p.m.

---oOo---

### The Ballinamore & Ballyconnell Canal Outing

Athlone Branch are organising a days outing to view the ongoing  
restoration work

Saturday 14th March Depart the Docks Athlone 9.00 a.m.  
Bus Fare ..... £6.00 app.  
Pack Lunch..... Your own  
Evening Meal Option..

To allow us to organise please advise NOW on endorsed form with  
remittance Sean..0902 92358

---oOo---

Navigation Notice

SHANNON Tarmonbarry Lock closed from 11th February to 11th March to carry out essential work

GRAND CANAL Closed between Ticknevin and Ballycommon - Locks 20-21 for approx. 8 weeks from 3rd February for remedial work.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Ruth Heard Film Show Friday April 10th

---oOo---

The Third Annual Borner Evening

A special thanks to Walter and Ruth for yet another grand evening. A varied programme of the Shannon 1991, the boats, the people the crack. Well done.

---oOo---

Rally '92

Commodore Paul Garland  
 Vice Commodores Kieran Walsh/Tom Murphy  
 Chairman Marie Hyland  
 Secretary Patsy Manley  
 Treasurer Denis Skehan  
 Committee.. Bernard Delaney, Michael Brody, Frank Farrell  
 Denis Treasy, Michael Lynch, Connor Furey and  
 Fiona Furey.

<u>Itinerary</u>	Saturday 25th July	Tarmon
	Sunday 26	Kilglass
	Monday 27	Kilglass
	Tuesday 28	Carrick
	Wednesday 29	Lough Key
	Thursday 30	Lough Key
	Friday 31	Coothall
	Saturday 1 August	Carrick

---oOo---

FOR SALE Hein Goodewind

Westerly Pagent 23' Sloop Good Cruiser/racer. Excellent Condition  
 Bilge Keel 4-5 Berth Full Suit of sails including Spinikar.  
 Volvo 10 hp inboard engine Winter Mooring/Storage Trailer  
 Darragh 9' Dinghy Many Extras .....£10,250 o.n.o  
 Contact : Christa Lilge 0902 89067

---oOo---

Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to Gearoid O'Brien on the recent death of his Father Brendan.

To Eddie Slane on the recent death of his sister we extend our sincere sympathy.

---oOo---

Pollution Particles

## Dead Perch Fry

I came to live on the shore of Lough Ree in 1987 and since then have observed certain phenomena. One of these is gulls feeding voraciously along the shore. When this has happened a few times one begins to wonder 'on what'. It wasn't difficult to find out, it was just a case of going to have a look where you see the gulls, and there are two things in particular. The gulls feed on flies, particularly May flies. Indeed during the rise in May the gulls can be at it most of the day. But at other times of the year they will be found to be eating dead perch fry, nearly all small, this year's hatch. Certain other things were noted over the years. This feeding took place early in the day, and when the days were short - November to February. The water would be comparatively calm, and there was generally some bloom. And what does all this add up to; It is all a perfectly natural process, not directly connected to pollution, although blooms tend to be more frequent if the phosphate content of the water is high. To retrace our steps, as a bloom starts to decompose there is a B.O.D. This reduces the oxygen content of the water, especially in the shallows. When the wind ruffles the water oxygen is absorbed from the air and is the main way in which oxygen level is kept up in a lake. In calm conditions this does not work so well, so the B.O.D. of the bloom is not replaced. Oxygen levels are always lower at night and the cumulative result is - perch fry dying of suffocation, and some big kills have been seen at midnight or later. For all I know this may well happen at any time of the year after the perch fry hatch in June, but I never see it as I don't rise at dawn all the year round, and the gulls have generally finished breakfast within a hour of sun-rise.

---oOo---

Harry Rice Cup

The closing date for entries is Friday 27th March

Theme - Essay, Ships Log or Picture

on

Inland Waterways

Junior under 15 and Adult categories

Entries to Mrs Rosemary Furlong, Coosan Point, Athlone.

---oOo---

Copy of Letter

The Secretary  
I.W.A.I.  
Athlone Branch

Co.Dublin

February 13th 1992

Dear Sir,

I have just heard of the death of Myles Digby, he apparently died peacefully at his sister's home in Scotland.

I recall that in or around 1963 he asked me to bring down a cup which was to be a Perpetual Trophy for the Inland Waterways Shannon Rally. It was known as the 'Digby Cup' and it used to feature as a prize for outstanding performance in some sort of 'Boatmanship'.

I haven't been on the North Shannon Rally for a number of years now, but the death of poor old Myles naturally made me think about his association and the support of the Shannon and of the Athlone Branch in particular.

Is the cup still in existence and is it still featured on the Rally as a prize?

I would be glad to hear from you.

Yours truly yours,  
ROBERT HUGHES

Thanks Bobby for keeping us informed, let us salute Myles with a trip down memory lane:

16" Cup Inscribed as follows:-

I.W.A.I.  
Shannon Boat Rally  
Perpetual Challenge Cup  
Presented by  
Miles A Digby Esq.,  
July 1962

Awarded annually since 1962  
as the Class Award for Open  
Boats.

Early Winners

1962	Gannett	G.D. Hanna	A.J. Shirley
1963	An Spailpin	D O'Brien, T.Hynes, S Fitzsimons	
1964	Gannett	G.D. Hanna, M.V. Hanna , A.J. Shirley	
1965	Coosan Rover	W.Henshaw, T.Martin, B.Henshaw	
1966	J.Daly	B.Daly, F.Daly, M.Daly	
1967	Wild Thing	P.J.Chatterton , D.M.Foy, J.E.Heaton, H.G.Reid	
1968	Aileen	A.Furlong, R.Scott, P.Williams	
/			
/			
1990	The Razz	Bobby Garland	

a/Ed

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Our usual reliable sources in Carrick-on-Shannon have given us most interesting information on current developments on two Waterways.

- 1) Erne-Shannon Link This project is proceeding most successfully and on schedule, but the really exciting news is that it is coming out below budget estimates and that the surplus funds will be used to commence the opening of the navigation from Belturbet to Lough Oughter.

What a super waterway it will all be when linked to the Shannon!!

- 2) Lough Allen It is understood that a contract is about to be placed to survey the extension of navigation from Acres Lake to L.Allen. This would obviously entail the building a new lock at Drumshambo, but compared to the work on the B & B, it could be done very quickly and would be wonderful for the Shannon Navigation. We eagerly await further news!

Roving Reporter





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April 1992

Subscription Overdue

The response to the dreaded red X proves again most effective.

For those who can take the pain we present this month the double or quit.

£10 to Hon.Treasurer, Sean Fitzsimons, Main St.,Athlone



National A.G.M. Friday 27th March 8.00  
R.I.A.C. Club Dublin

Next Branch Meeting 6th April 8.30 p.m. Seans Bar.

Athlone Branch have great pleasure once again to present

RUTH HEARD

on

OUR INLAND WATERWAYS

Yesterday & Yesteryear

Friday 10th April 8.30 p.m. Shamrock Lodge Hotel

Programme will include Tercentenary Cruise and footage from the archives

Ladies this is Just Dessert Nite!

The B & B or nearly

Two buses, northwards, one red one white. A distinguished cast. Upon arrival at ESB site office at Ballyconnell, Dermot Byrne of ESB International took us in tow.

After a briefing on the historical and technical aspects of this 40 mile Erne Shannon link we visited the 2nd Lock located near the village on the Woodford river.

What man has put together man can take asunder, strengthen and replace in more or less the same place. Like a good plastic surgeon with a nip here a tuck there, like new.

And so the story went, sixteen locks and associated wiers, river widening, bridge strengthening with an end product in sight mid '93. This engineering feat blending massive machinery with minute stone masonry. Take a bow ESB International.

Two locks from Leitrim we took to the drink and then to Leitrim and then to Dromod. Two buses southwards, one red, one redder.

Lough Ree Yacht Club - Erne Link  
 on Saturday evening 4th April  
 LRYC are host to ESB International  
 presentation on the  
 SHANNON - ERNE LINK  
 Members of IWA1 are cordially invited

The Late Frank Waters

Frank, a founder member of the Inland Waterways Association, a life long friend of Lough Ree. A prominent figure in public life in the midlands. A voice of the ordinary man. A lover of the yarn and like Harry an authority on the Lough Ree monster!

An Athlone milestone, remembered

To Frank Junior and the Waters family we extend our deepest sympathy.

A Royal Night

On behalf of the branch a sincere thank you to Eddie Slane for his presentation of the Royal Canal, a remarkable recovery.

Like the Shannon Erne link the end product is the same, the difference, millions.

WANTED

6-8 Berth Cruiser or Barge wanted to rent for the period  
 25th July to 1st August next.

Experienced Helm and Crew

Contact: Lorraine (01) 612909 office  
 (01) 324174 home

or

Mark (051) 54372 home



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May 1992

## Boat Check List

Now have I got me!

Anchor  
Bailer  
Fire Extinguisher  
First Aid  
Brandy  
Bucket

Jeepers! wheres me registration

Registration of Boats ...apply... Shannon Navigation  
Office, The Docks,  
Athlone.

Now your right.

National A.G.M. of I.W.A.I.  
Held in Dublin - 27th March 1992

Presidents' Address: In the course of his address, our President Damien Delaney stated that the new Bye-Laws were expected to come into operation by May this year and that all members should make sure to obtain copies as soon as they became available. There are 2 sections or sets of Bey-Laws - those relating to the Navigation and those applying to construction of boats. The charge for locks on the Shannon would be £1.20. The President also stated that "Harbour-hogging" must be eliminated and this would be dependant upon co-operation and monitoring by all members and branches. He announced that the B & B Canal would be completed in mid-1993 and officially opened in 1994.

Secretary : Peadar Canavan announced that the Association had 1,116 members. Thanks were expressed to him at the end of his term of office.

Treasurer : Our hard-pressed Treasurer May Gallagher declared that "We must do better"! Two branches had not yet sent in their accounts and 9 branches were late. As a result the accounts were not finalised and it was agreed that the A.G.M. would have to be re-convened at the next Council meeting in Mullingar (15/5/92) to approve the accounts.

Elections : President Damien Delaney  
 Vice-President Des Leyden  
 Secretary Dermot Murphy  
 Treasurer Mary Gallagher  
 Editor Ruth Heard  
 P.R.O. Liam Kenny  
 Council Chairman & Secretaries of all branches  
 + 12  
 elected - i.e. Ruth Heard, S Fitzsimons, P.Hanna  
 S.Herraghty, F.Blake, B.Brislane,  
 A.Waterhouse, P.Canavan, C.Becker,  
 E.Slane, D.Tracey, M.Hyland.  
 (Retiring - not eligible for re-  
 election) I.Bath, R.Redmond, J.Waterhouse.

- Resolutions :
- 1) Erne branch announced that they wished to broaden the scope of their activities by including all interested groups and sub-committies in the North, as they felt at a big disadvantage in dealing with Government Departments. Their title, in effect, only gives them representation for the Erne. Accordingly they wished to change the name of their branch to "Inland Waterways Northern Ireland" and would of course remain a branch of I.W.A.I. A resolution to this effect was agreed.
  - 2) It was agreed that Charitable Status for our Limited Company should be investigated.
  - 3) It was agreed that affiliation Fees would be increased to £1.50 per member.

Reports : Reports from each branch were then read out and the Athlone Report, given by our Chairman Declan Walsh, he thanked outgoing Secretary Peadar Canavan for his committment to the job with the usual Corrib flare.

### I.W.A.I. Quarterly Council Meeting

Athlone delegates report: Mullingar 28th February 1992

- 1) Pump-out toilet stations - Council is still awaiting submissions from Branches - May '92 is the deadline. Athlone have made a request for Pump-out Stations to be located at Decarrow and Shannonbridge.
- 2) L.Keay An Hotel and Golf course is planned for the Forest Park. Council is to inquire as to its likely effect on boat users.
- 3) Insurance + Subs It was decided that the general insurance cover would be levied on branches based on membership lists at £2.00 per head in future and not on individual rallies. Each branch is to have annual membership subscriptions at a minimum level of £10.00 (N.B. This is the present Athlone rate)

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RALLY RALLY RALLY  
 N.B. The enclosed form is the entry form  
 for this years Rally. Our thanks to  
 sponsors Atloat Magazine and Emerald Star.

- 4) Shannon Bye-Laws - The final version is now approved and could be in operation by April. If harbour-hogging is not eliminated, the regulations will be increased in severity for 1993. All members and branches must help to monitor this situation.
- 5) Shannon Authority - Discussions are still proceeding between I.W.A.I., An Taisce and the Shannon Forum on this subject.
- 6) Next Meeting - Next Council Meeting - Friday 15th May

Best Wishes : To Archdeacon Dave and Eileen O'Brien who are at present convalescing. Our best wishes to you both.

#### Ruth Heard Evening

This very enjoyable evening of both film and video of yesterday and yesteryear. Always a popular night. Our thanks again to Ruth for her annual visit to the Bog of Allen Yacht Club.

The evening finished traditionally with delicious delicacies, our thanks to Bridie Delaney and the ladies.

#### Harry Rice Competition

The results of this years competition were announced at the film show. Ruth presented the cup to a very deserving and delighted Kieran Sloyan overall winner

2nd.	Jane Walsh
Joint 3rd.	Andrina Sloyan
	Oona Herraghty

Congratulations to Kieran and all the winners and thank you to Rosemary Furlong, competition co-ordinator, well done.

#### Pollution Particles 3. Foam

The third of my buggs is or was foam. When I mention foam on Ree people look at me as if I was mad. Everybody knows there is foam on the lake. Haven't we all seen streaks of foam on the water when there is a good breeze blowing. Haven't fishermen been casting their flies or dapping their may-flies in this foam from time immemorial, in the hope that the wily trout will be the better fooled. Well if that's what you think you were not on the lake on Sunday 8th December last. I happened to take a run up the lake as far as Robin's Island. There was a nice breeze, the wind was East. There was some foam on the surface but not anything unusual, but in big patches rather than streaks. But along the shore it was heaped up for all the world like snow shovelled up on the side of the road after a snow storm. Well what about that? It had to be investigated. The foam is very persistant, like when you over-do the liquid in the washup. Could it be that somebody was letting large quantities of detergent into the lake, or someother equally obnoxious substance. I ended up with Trevor Champ, scientific officer with the Central Fisheries Board, and the answer? When a certain type of weed, perhaps best described as a dense long haired moss, and quite common in parts of the lake, when this weed rots it releases large quantities of charophyte, which is the basis of the foam, and a substance not unlike the one that makes foam in detergent. In some lakes it really does pile up, sometimes as high as three feet. A perfectly natural phenominia which most people have never seen. Not being mad(?) they dont go boating in the winter months. So much for my three buggs - all basically, natural phenominia.



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June 1992

Our next committee meeting will take place in Seans Bar on 1st Monday in September 1992.

Please do not forget last date for leaving your winter mooring on the quays or public jetties in Athlone is 31st of May - so please make sure your correctly registered vessel is on your summer mooring by 1st June 1992. Thank you.

Well, Holy God, (to quote a well known fictitious character) did you read the 'Diary' in the enclosed Inland Waterways News. The length of it! The number of Rallies, week long and weekends; how will we get to them all! Twenty eight different events from the Erne to the Derg, from the Corrib to the two canals. But isn't it great. Plenty of hard work committies have been active over winter months when you thought nothing was being done. Wait for the B & B canal to come on stream! Oh boy.

I hope as many of you as possible will be able to support as many of the events as you can and that this summer will be full of happy Inland Waterways holidays enjoyed in sunshine and especially in safety. And please, please, remember that courtesy costs very little.

P.S. - Special Local plug - dont forget to send your entry for the Shannon Rally, Friday July 24th to Saturday 1st August. If you cant do so by letter a phone call would help to Patsy Manley at 01-450958.

Have a nice summer.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

From our Delegates - Mullingar 15th May 1992

Co-options: Following on the A.G.M., two members were co-opted to council :- Ian Bath and Reggie Redmond

L.Key Development: Drummans Island will be safeguarded and all existing landing and access points will be retained

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cont.....

Shannon Forum : Declan Walsh reported on a proposal to monitor levels and quality of water (information technology system), out only if EC funding is received.

Shannon Navigation Act: The President, Damien DeLaney reported that the new Bye-laws are now in operation. He made the following important points:-

- a) Copies of the Bye-laws may be purchased at Athlone Docks.
- b) Registration is now compulsory, but it is "once off" and free. Forms may be obtained at the Docks (i.e. the lock) and should be returned to same.
- c) Visiting boats from the Corrib, Slaney, Grand Canal etc., must register.  
Boats coming from the Erne (by road or F & B) which are already registered there, will have reciprocal recognition i.e., no need to register.

Ulster Canal : Ian Bath reported strange goings-on at parts of this navigation. O.P.W. Drainage section are tearing up some of the canal and locks, while O.P.W. Navigation section are wringing their hands and trying to get them to stop! Ian, of course, was the one who discovered this vandalism and reported it to Navigation.

Pump-out Stations: Athlone branch are recommending locations at Shannonbridge, Athlone, Hodson Bay, Lecarrow and Lanesboro. A complete list for all Waterways is now ready and will be submitted by Council Officers to the Department of Environment.

National Newsletter: A proposal is under consideration to improve the production and appearance.

Next Meeting : Friday 25th September.

#### MOORINGS AVAILABLE

Short Term or long term in private harbour in Derry Bay opposite Saints Island L. Ree

Telephone Mary 01 973207 Mon - Fri 12.30 - 5.30

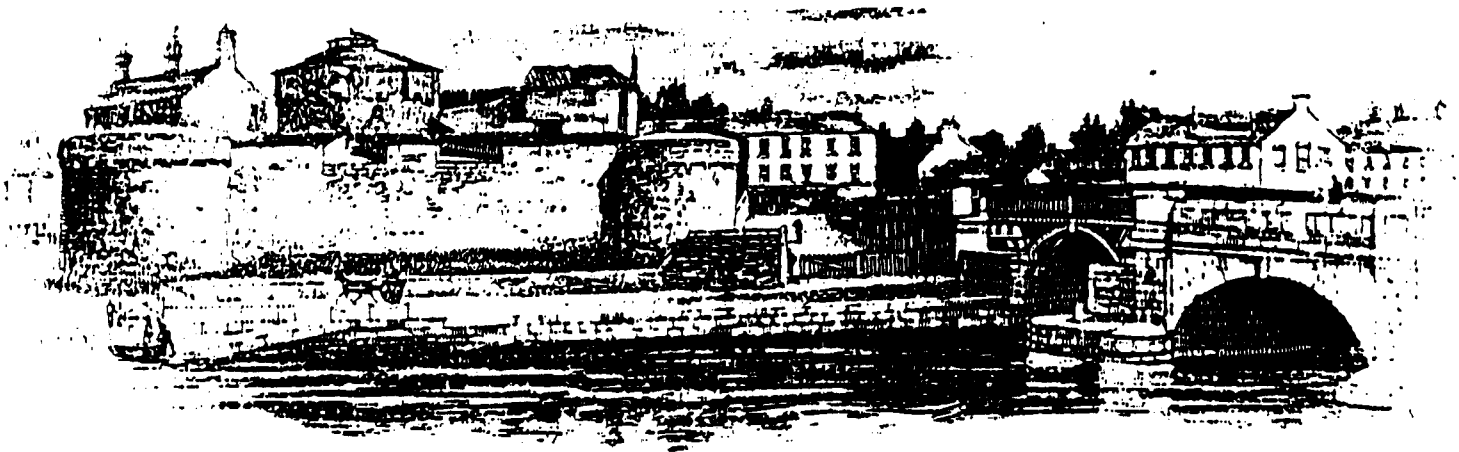
Also

Fully equipped 8 berth cruiser for hire - 01 973207

WANTED Childs life-jacket, in good condition, suitable for 10-14 yr. old  
Contact Sheila Redmond on "Crannagh".

1992

# HEINEKEN PEOPLES REGATTA



Sunday 5th July

## Itinerary

11.00 Junior Fishing

2.00 Fun Afloat

Row Boat races  
Barrell Race  
Water Sports  
Jet Ski Display  
Sub Aqua Display  
Jazz Water music

Fun Ashore

Bouncing Castle  
Street theatre  
Pony Trips  
Fancy Dress  
Childrens Disco

4.30 ROUND THE ISLAND RAFT RACE

Evening Pageant Athlone pre 1691

Grand Fireworks Display

All I.W.A.I. members throughout the land are cordially invited to Athlone, the heart of the Shannon for weekend JULY 4th & 5th

N.B. The I.W.A.I. are coordinating the water sports programme. President Damien Delaney is looking for volunteers to join in the fun, that means conscription.



one Chamber of Commerce  
presents



## A Carnival Week of

★ Art & Culture ★

★ Sport ★

★ Fun & Frolics ★

June 28 ~ July 5 1992

in

# ATHLONE

*the Heart of Ireland*

- ★ Colourful Fun Parade
- ★ Art Exhibition
- ★ Busking Competition
- ★ Theatre
- ★ Peoples Fun Regatta
- ★ Spectacular Raft Race
- ★ Angling Festival
- ★ Poetry Readings
- ★ Children's Jamboree
- ★ Open Air Concerts
- ★ Sculpture Trail
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- ★ Sports Events
- ★ Festival Radio
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# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

September 1992

Here we go again, the party is over or almost. The piper will soon have to be paid. A good season on the weather front but August was a wicked month.

The response from the boat owners regarding registration has been slow. Presumably all I.W.A.I. members have by now registered and every effort should be made to encourage all. Positive benefits are apparent from compliance with the berthing regulation.

There is good news on the provision of a marina complex at Athlone. The local authorities have requested submissions by all interested parties as to location, facilities, usage etc.

Next Meeting : Monday 7th September  
8.30 Seans Bar

## Remember

September 12th and 13th Eric Henseys Tradition Black Pudding Rally  
Lecarrow  
September 25th and 27th Athlone End of Season Bash and Rally  
to Shannon Bridge

## Sympathy

On behalf of our membership we extend our sincere sympathy to Eileen O'Brien Aerial Editor on the recent death of her Father Marney To Des Barry on the recent death of his brother Niall.

## Peoples Regatta Draw

The winner of the September Cruiser Holiday was won by Mr. Paddy McCaul Palace Bar Athlone.  
Our thanks to all that supported this draw and to the Sloan Family of Athlone Cruisers for sponsoring the prize.

## Thirty -Second Annual Shannon Rally

The Rally this year attracted a near record entry of 65 boats, and except for the opening week-end enjoyed beautiful weather. After the meeting of the Athlone and Carrick fleets at Tarmonbarry, the rally under Commodore Paul Garland headed for Kilglass at the back of Carnadoe Waters, where two nights were spent and many of the serious and not so serious competitions got under way. The "Lady of Dublin" created a sensation and earned well-deserved applause by arriving dressed overall as the "Bish-Ship", complete with a hierarchy of "bishops" and sacred music! The local community had extended a big welcome and many facilities, but the loud disco music until 2.30 a.m. was not appreciated by everyone!

The usual mid-week stop in Carrick gave opportunities for shopping etc., and at the Fancy Dress that night the "bishops" found themselves upstaged when His Holiness the "Pope" arrived! The R.N.L.I. auction at Cootehall raised a record £650.

A new venue on arrival in Lough Key was "The Moorings" pub and restaurant, although the small cut and harbour became extremely over-crowded and some anchored off, whilst a few wise ones slipped into Paddy Gilboy's nice new facility at Tara Marina, Knockvicar.

Rockingham saw the finish of competitions, with lots for the children, sports, treasure hunt, and talent contest. A popular innovation was the closing dinner in the complex, which avoided the usual rush for the lock on Saturday to get back to Carrick.

During the course of her speech at the dinner Chairman Marie Hyland referred to registration and the new bye-laws and requested that I.W.A.I. members should comply with mooring restrictions, speed limits and registration requirements, and stated that we should show consideration for others by not creating oil slicks or mooring to marker buoys.

Our President Damien Delaney brought the gathering up to date on developments on the Waterways and stated that so far only 250 private boats have registered.

Results of the competitions gave a hugely popular win to Derek Molann on Lady of Dublin, but by the narrow margin of just one mark from Michael Miller on Duiske

This was a well-organised and well run rally, enjoyed by all and thanks are due to Commodore, Chairman and Committee.

RESULTS

<u>PREMIER AWARD</u>	:	D McCann (Lady of Dublin)	577
2nd	:	M Miller (Duiske)	576
3rd	:	D O Siochain (Iron Lady)	568
4th	:	D Herraghty (Dunross)	558
5th	:	E. Senly (Sheba)	551
6th	:	D. Moffett (Lady G)	511
<u>CRUISER CLASS</u>	:	DUISKE	
<u>SAILING CLASS</u>	:	GILLAROOII	512
<u>BARGE CLASS</u>	:	Not awarded	
<u>OPEN BOAT</u>	:	Not awarded	
<u>INSPECTION OF BOATS</u>	1 :	P. Wanser (Mirabooka)	
	2 :	R. Redmond (Crannagh)	
	Open Boats :	G. Lanigan (Kelly anne)	
<u>MAN OVERBOARD</u>	1 :	Gillaroo II	
	2 :	Sheba	
<u>TIME RELIABILITY</u>	1 :	H. Hanahoe (Ouidnunc)	
	2 :	R. Anderson (Santa Royale)	
<u>MOORING</u>	1 :	Lady of Dublin	
	2 :	Duiske	
<u>NAVIGATION</u>	1 :	Dunross	
	2 :	Iron Lady	
<u>FIRST MATE COMP</u>	1 :	T O'Neill (Lady of Dublin)	
	2 :	S. Herraghty (Dunross)	
<u>RESCUE OF CRUISER (over 25')</u>	:	Lady of Dublin	
	2 :	Sheba	
	(under 25') :	F. Rountree	
	2 :	Gillaroo II	
<u>BODRIG SAILING RACE</u>	:	D. Delaney	
<u>BACARDI</u>	:	Gillaroo II	
<u>LOUGH REE</u>	:	Damien Delaney	
<u>YOUNG MARINER AWARD</u>	:	Paul Gillette	
<u>VISITORS CUP</u>	1 :	Mirabooka (Switzerland)	
	2 :	Santa Royale (Malaysia)	
<u>HIRE BOAT AWARD</u>	1 :	T. O'Siochain (Lock Star)	
	2 :	M Eustace (Shannon Star)	
<u>BOAT BY CANAL</u>	:	Duiske	
<u>LADIES BOAT HANDLING</u>	:	J Moffett (Lady G)	
<u>DENIS BYRNE CUP</u>	:	D. Gillette	
<u>DOC FARRELL CUP</u>	:	Leamore	
<u>FLORAL COMP</u>	:	R. Borner (Winkelreid)	

## POLLUTION PARTICLES

Water Quality Lough Ree: While occasional samples may be taken there appears to be no regular monitoring of the water quality of the lake, so any observations cannot be other than subjective. Algae blooms occurred regularly from the end of May to mid August, and while severe they did not last long. The bloom seems to sink if there is heavy rain and we have had plenty of that, this having been the wettest August for many years. Water clarity seemed better, you could sometimes see the bottom in 3 or 4 feet of water.

How Green are you? There is a depot in Athlone, which takes glass, newspaper, cardboard and aluminium. Do you know where it is? Have you ever used it? if not, why not. Perhaps most of our members dont live in Athlone. What is going on in your area. Do you use the local depot? P E T bottles (the large ones for fizzy drinks etc) can be recycled and yet there does not seem to be any collection of these outside the Dublin area. Near Mullagh in Co.Cavan there is a plastic recycling plant, oneof the largest in Europe, and a godsend to the local community because of the large number employed. Yet, believe it or not, all the waste material is imported.



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch, Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

October 1992

Next Branch Meeting - Monday 5th October 8.30pm. Seans Bar

At the September meeting it was decided, subject to permission from Shannon Navigation, to renew the IWAI moorings at Ballykeeran.

It was noted that of the six courtesy moorings on Lough Ree there remains presently only Ladywell and Safe Harbour buoys. It is hoped that the missing markers will be renewed next season.

ATHLONE BRANCH END OF SEASON DINNER DANCE

Friday 25th September 9.00pm.

in

THE HODSON BAY HOTEL

Buffet and Dancing + the divil and all

Book your tickets now from Seans 0902 92358      Subscription £12.00

B & B Hodson Bay Hotel £22.00 pps.

---ooOoo---

SAT/SUN 26th 27th September END OF SEASON RALLY SHANNONBRIDGE.

---ooOoo---

## Launching Ceremony of Lough Ree Cruiser Recovery Vessel

On Thursday 10th September to a distinguished gathering Mr Martin Dully, Chairman Bord Failte, officially christened the Irish Boat Renters Recovery Boat to the memory of the late Jim O'Brien. Jim, a past colleague in Bord Failte was instrumental in supporting the Shannon Hire Boat operation during its infancy.

The present strength and quality of craft available today is testimony to the wisdom of that support.

The craft will be based at Athlone and available for all IBRO companies use in the recovery of craft on Lough Ree.

Ireland has an inland fisheries resource which is unique in Europe. This resource makes a very valuable contribution to the social and economic fabric of our community. As a pastime for local anglers and an amenity for tourist anglers it has enormous potential for development and for employment generation. It is therefore vitally important that it continues to be developed.

For this reason I have now formally set up eight fisheries co-operatives. These co-operatives will assist the development of trout and coarse fishing facilities for enthusiasts. They will also provide a unique opportunity for individual anglers to participate in and contribute to this development.

These new co-operatives are novel in their structure and approach. They will be responsible for raising and providing funds for developments which are for the benefit of anglers and the wider public. To ensure a healthy start for the co-operatives funds raised by them will be matched by the Government in the initial period.

The co-operatives will provide hoteliers, tourist interests and fishing tackle suppliers with an opportunity to participate in the development of angling by becoming corporate members of their local co-operative.

The co-operatives will work closely with the Regional Fisheries Boards.

I am confident that the co-operatives will have the support and goodwill of all anglers and all associated with angling throughout the country. Their success will help put the future development of this great resource on a firm financial footing.

Dr Michael Woods, T.D.,  
Minister for the Marine.

an opportunity to participate in the development of trout and coarse fish angling in Ireland on a co-operative basis.

**WHAT CO-OPERATIVES WILL DO**

The co-operatives will participate in the development of the fisheries by raising funds and making grants or payments available for the development of trout and coarse fisheries for the benefit of the public.

They will work closely with the Regional Fisheries Boards.

They will raise funds by issuing share certificates to individual anglers, angling clubs and other bodies. The amount raised through the issuing of share certificates will be matched by the Government in the early stages to help the co-operatives to get off the ground.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

Membership of the co-operatives is open to all.

Anglers can participate in the following ways, by becoming a shareholder in one of the co-operatives, by seeking election to the Management Committee of their co-operative, by voting in the election of the Management Committee and contributing to other issues related to the development of their co-operative. Angling clubs and other bodies and organisations can also participate by becoming corporate members.

individual anglers, angling clubs and other bodies or organisations can become shareholders in their co-operative by buying annual share certificates.

For each annual share certificate paid for by an angling club one shareholder may be nominated.

Bodies or organisations other than angling clubs may only nominate one person as a shareholder.

**SHARE CERTIFICATES**

Annual share certificates will cost £12 but a 21 days certificate at £5 and a 3 days certificate at £3 will be available for tourist and occasional anglers.

Only an annual share certificate holder will be able to become a member of a co-operative and to vote in ballots and elections.

Angling clubs may become corporate members by contributing to the co-operative a sum at least ten times the cost of the annual share certificate.

A club may receive recognition for fisheries development work undertaken by them for the benefit of the public depending on the level of the club's contribution to the co-operative, an allowance may be given of up to 50% of the costs incurred by them in undertaking the work.

A body other than an angling club can become a shareholder by making a contribution which must be at least the fee for an individual annual share certificate.

**MANAGEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES**

When the Management Committees are being elected members of each co-operative will decide whether or not a share certificate is required in order to fish in their area.

unemployed people who receive social welfare assistance and people in receipt of invalidity pensions will not have to hold a share certificate.

If a co-operative decides that a certificate is necessary in its area enforcement will be carried out by the Regional Fisheries Board for the area at the co-operative's request.

**MANAGEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVES**

Each co-operative will have a

Management Committee comprising seven members, five elected by the members and two nominated by the Minister. Each Committee will elect a Chairman, appoint a Secretary and operate according to a set of rules. Copies of these rules will be available to all shareholders.

The first elections to Management Committees will take place in December 1992. At the same time co-operative members will be entitled to vote to elect trout and coarse fishing representatives onto the Regional Fisheries Boards.

Between now and the election of the first Management Committees the co-operatives will be managed by Trustees appointed by the Minister for the Marine.

**REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARDS**

The Regional Fisheries Boards will continue to have responsibility for the protection, conservation, development and management of fisheries. The co-operatives will complement the work of the Regional Fisheries Boards in developing the trout and coarse fisheries.



# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch ,Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

November 1992

The next meeting of Athlone Branch I.W.A.I. will take place on Monday 2nd November 1992 in Seans Bar, 8.30 p.m.

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A.G.M. 4th December 1992

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Remember! remember! the 4th December - This is the date of the A.G.M. of the Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. which will be held in The Shamrock Lodge Hotel, 8.30. Cheese and Wine. Please attend and show your interest and support for your branch. As stated before there is much work on hand and your help is really needed.

Now as regards the development of new harbours in our area, we all agree that the Bord of Works have done splendid work in regards to the harbours at Lanesboro, Lecarrow , Hudson Bay and Banagher. Also congratulations to the Roscommon Co.Co., and Offaly Co.Co., for their very imaginative landscaping of these harbours. It is appreciated by all our members. However there remains one old problem - i.e. the difficulty of getting out if one has the misfortune to fall in to the water in these harbours. It is not to bad during the boating season as there is usually plenty of people around to come to assistance as happened recently in Lecarrow - well done Bridie Delaney, one person had a very lucky escape from a watery grave due to your prompt help. But what happens in the off season? The harbour in Banagher is a case in point. The entrance to the harbour is close to the public road but the only steps out of the harbour are diagonally across the other side. It is a very long swim, if you are able to swim, to gain easy access to safety. A couple of chains set into the walls of the harbour could make a great difference to safety of this harbour and also to the other harbours.

It is an unfortunate fact that harbours are an attraction to people not just boating people, at all times of the year. Please could something like this be done to help.

Our waterways are both beautiful and dangerous. It is up to us all to make sure that we make sure we do not turn our attraction to water into a fatal attraction!



Report from Council MeetingSanitary Stations

D.Delaney reported that Mary Harney T.D., Minister for Environmental Protection, has undertaken to advise the local authorities that (a) male and female toilets, (b) Pump out station (c) disposal facility for chemical/portable toilets and fresh water supply, should be provided at each sanitary station. Approval has been granted for pump out facilities at :- MountShannon, Carrick on Shannon, Athlone, Lanesborough, Banagher Portumna, Killaloe, Dromineer, Tullamore, Edenderry, Loughtown/Robertstown. Sites under consideration are :- Lough Key Forest Park, Hodson Bay, Lecarrow Dromod/Rooskey, Drumsna, Tarmonbarry, Ballyconnell, Leitrim, Keshcarrigan, Ballinamore, Garradice Lake/Haughtons shore. A further submission is to be made to the Minister of Tourism and Communications for further sites including the Corrib and the Royal Canal.

Newsletter

A subcommittee was formed to examine ways of improving the layout and appearance of the Newsletter, and to examine means of covering the additional cost through sponsorship or advertising.

Ulster Canal

Dr. Ian Bath reported regarding damage at Rooskey Bridge; Restoration at Benburb; intention to rewater at Clones; and he stressed the need for urgent action in Monaghan to prevent development which could interfere with restoration of the canal.

Policy

Council were asked to set down an environmental policy for the Association. D.Delaney undertook to prepare draft headings.

Lough Derg

An ad-hoc committee, representing various interested parties are proposing to prepare an accident plan to set up a rescue service for Lough Derg.

Summer Ramblings - No 1

The conclusion of the Shannon Rally up to L.Key gave us the opportunity of spending quite a few weeks up North and finding out how the other half lived.

The first and most obvious thing that strikes one this year when rambling around the North end of the river is the proliferation of moorings and marinas which are now available - a very welcome development. We had based ourselves in Tara Marine, near Knockvicar Bridge. This is, perhaps, the most impressive of all the new developments and has great potential. Owner Paddy Gilboy has built a very large harbour, which has individual floating 'fingers' for about 30/36 boats, complete with water and electric power points. His new admin building is equipped with toilets, showers and washing-machine facilities.

Further down-river, we visited Shane Matthews in the 'new' Rosebank where he has a large new shed, lift out facilities and almost all his jetties occupied. The 'old' Rosebank - now called Carrick Marine - is being developed very nicely for private boats, with one jetty temporarily being used by the new hire-fleet Tara Cruisers (not to be confused with Tara Marine!)

Down at Cloonart Br. on the Rinn River (L.Forbes) a large harbour is in process of being built on the site of the old Vic Halland hire base.

This already has 2 sheds and a slip, and is trading as Rinn River Marine.

Up at Orange, near to the Silver Eel, we inspected a new facility under construction which has a large concrete jetty no less. Rumour has it that this is being built by a Mr. Hanly and will be complete with marina facilities for private and hire-boats, plus a restaurant. Above Knockvicar, at the southern end of L. Key the pub/restaurant "The Moorings" have provided their own cut and harbour, although it could be a bit exposed in certain conditions.

In addition to all those facilities, more and more individual private little harbours and cuts are to be seen everywhere, as boat-owners decide to buy their own little patch.

All in all, then, its all "go" up North and well worth a visit.

/to be continued by our Roving Reporter

Dublin 12,  
October, 1992

Dear Editor,

Re: SPEED LIMITS

It is nice to see that in accordance with the new Bye-Laws, the O.P.W., are putting up speed limit signs at some places on the navigation. To date I have spotted these at Lanesborough and below the new bridge in Athlone. I hope that this means that in future we will no longer be rocked to the gunwales by hire-boats and lake boats when moored at such places.

However, I must regretfully express some criticisms. The size of these signs and of the figure '5' and K.P.H. is far too small to attract the necessary notice. Secondly, the two signs below the bye-pass bridge are at each end of the marked narrows facing outwards - does this mean that the speed limit applies only on this short stretch and not in the rest of Athlone? Thirdly, who will enforce this 5 K.P.H. limit or must we continue to shout and wave our hands at the culprits, only this time holding up five fingers instead of two!

Yours sincerely,

Reggie Redmond.

THE SHOEMAKERS CANAL - A history of the Royal Canal  
by Ruth Delaney

'During the 1780's a director of the Grand Canal company fell out with his colleagues and vowed he would build a rival canal.

The full story of the canal, from its strange origins to its present day revival, is told by Ruth Delaney, who has made a life long study of Ireland's Waterways. It is accompanied by aerial photographs, archival illustrations and maps, and contains useful appendices detailing directors, company finances and tonnage'

The provisional publication date is 4th December 1992. Published by the Lilliput Press.

(Editors Observation - "What a lovely gift for Christmas")

Record Passage on Shannon Navigation.  
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On Friday 9th October 1992 a record was established for a passage trip on the Shannon Navigation from Battlebridge in Leitrim to Limerick Docks, a distance of 218 km.

Three Army officers, Stewart McNamara, Mick Dillon and Kevin McDonald from the Western Command at Custume Barracks at Athlone are now in the record books.

The crew and support teams drawn from volunteers of both Army and Navy personnel got it right first time. The craft used was a Navy Sea Rider semi-rigid powered by twin 40 h.p. outboards. The time taken 4 hours 58 min.

Good planning, naval training, army grit, assisted by mobile phones, Shannon Navigation co-ordination and favourable weather set a record that will not be easily broken.

Congratulations, well done.  
  
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# ATHLONE AERIAL

Athlone Branch Inland Waterways Association Of Ireland  
All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

December 1992

The next meeting of the Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. is the A.G.M.

Shamrock Lodge Hotel Athlone  
at 8.30 p.m. on the 4th December  
Wine and Cheese.

Please note this date. Your attendance at this meeting is really necessary for the continued success of our Branch.

December is a good time for remembering the happy moments we had during the summer spent on our lovely Inland Waterways. Maybe those memories include the time we successfully recaptured the dinghy which broke away or the time we were pulled off the shallows by helpful strangers or towed to harbour with engine failure. Nothing is ever dull about journeying on our waterways. There is always friends to be made, the tall tales of rescue over a drink on deck in the warm glow of a sunset.

The Shannon river gives so much enjoyment to us all. Maybe in the dullness of winter we might think about how we as individuals could make a contribution to keeping up the work of our I.W.A.I. Branch. If so, please offer your help at our A.G.M.

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our members a very Happy Christmas.



Summer Ramblings - No 2

by

Roving Reporter

In addition to the mooring developments mentioned last month, there are a few other items from our visit to the North Shannon which are worthy of putting on the record.

1) ACRES LAKE The trip up the 2 locks from Battlebridge is nowadays made very easy and comfortable by the friendly help given by Lock-keeper Paddy Joe Carty. He is always very careful when locking boats up and down, particularly at the deep No 2 lock at Drumleague. Delays can occur if one arrives at Battlebridge when he is locking boats up and down at Drumleague or vice versa, therefore it would be helpful to record his daily schedule - but please note these times are approx. and can vary with the number of boats to be locked:-

Battlebridge	:	9.30 a.m;	2.00 p.m;	5.30 p.m.
Drumleague	:	10.30 a.m;	3.00 p.m.	

2) LOUGH ALLEN The new lock into L.Allen (near Drumshanbo) is well under way and will be ready 1993-94. This will provide access for boats from the north end of Acres Lake into the large expanse of Lough Allen. Admirable as this project is, one must express the hope that lots of mooring facilities and shelter will be provided. A look at the map will show that there are no towns or villages on the lake-shore, and there are very few islands. The high mountains nearby, must mean that the lake (rather like L.Derg) is liable to sudden and violent squalls.

3) B & B CANAL This is nearing completion in many places, and a visit to the Leitrim end shows locks completed, together with traffic lights, electronic control panels and electric eyes. Lets hope that we ( and especially the hire-boats) can amange to press all the right buttons at the right time!

For Sale : Electrolux Fridge 2 cu.ft. Gas, 220V 12V  
Little used - £175.00 o.n.o.  
Contact David Dickson, Athlone or  
Audrey Dickson 01 322923

Christmas Presents? - 'The Shoemakers Canal' A history of the  
Royal Canal by Ruth Heard.