



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

January 1993.

The next meeting of the Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. will be held in Sean's Bar, Athlone on FRIDAY 8th January at 8.30p.m.

Athlone Branch A.G.M.

We had a very lively and well attended A.G.M. on 4th December, '92. We were all sorry to lose Declan Walsh, Chairman and John Dingle, Secretary but both felt they needed a rest. They have given great service to the Branch over their years in office and all present at the meeting expressed appreciation for their hard work. Also appreciation was expressed to Jill Walsh who has typed the Aerial each month. Hope you all have a good rest but not too long a one!

Our Auditor, Reggie Redmond dealt with the Treasurers Report in a very able manner as our Treasurer was unavoidably delayed in some foreign country or other. One strange item under Sundry Expenses was the repair of two chainsaws - they are tough workers on the Royal Canal restoration work - it's not usual for the chainsaw to come off the worst.

The A.G.M. agreed our monthly branch meetings will in future be held on the first FRIDAY of the month; January excepted as it falls on New Year's Day.

The following Branch Officers were elected (volunteered, etc.):
Chairman - Damien Delaney; Vice-Chairman - Harry Nugent; Secretary - Cynthia Rice; Treasurer - Sean Fitzsimons; Auditor - Reggie Redmond; Pollution Officer - Archdeacon Cave. Aerial Committee: Eileen O'Brien, Steve Flannery, Archdeacon Cave, Rosemary Furlong and Reggie Redmond.

We wish all our members a very happy New Year. May there be plenty of sunshine and just enough rain to keep the levels right.

I.A.W.I. National Council - Report from our Delegates.

A meeting of Council took place in Mullingar on 4th December, 1992 and the following items were amongst those discussed:

Yachtmaster Certificates: Discussions are to take place between I.W.A.I. and Irish Sailing Association.

Royal Canal: Opening will be delayed until 1994, due to various technicalities, when a small rally with a limited number of boats will make a test run. Full access in 1995 (Dublin to Mullingar).

O.P.W.: A meeting is to be held with O.P.W. Reports from branches are required on matters needing attention on the Shannon and Grand Canal.

Newsletter: Improvement in presentation and lay-out are planned. Advertising income will be increased to cover the cost.

Environmental Policy: A discussion took place on whether our guide-lines should or should not be drawn up in very specific terms. Should the Association tie itself into strict environmental rules or is flexibility more desirable? i.e. should each issue be looked at on it's merits? Matter pending.

Pump-out Stations: These are now installed at Dromineer and Mountshannon. Facilities for flushing out tanks must be carefully checked. A query arose as to how much public quay mooring space will be permanently lost by the erection of these stations.

A.G.M. The National A.G.M. of the Association will be held in the R.I.A.C., 34, Dawson St., Dublin on Friday 5th March, 1993 (i.e. Boat Show week-end) - All members are welcome to attend.

Waterways 2.

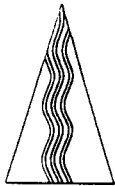
On 6th January, 1993 R.T.E. will be transmitting a second programme on Irelands inland waterways in the company of Dick Warner on a journey from the Suck to Acres Lake. If it is half as good as the first programme it will be looked forward to with great delight. Don't miss it.

January, 22nd. Mr. Neal Patterson will be in Athlone to talk about trans-Atlantic sailing. Watch local papers for further info.

February: Mr. Walter Borner's slide show will take place again. A venue will be arranged and will be given in next month's Aerial.

March: Ms. Ruth Delaney will present more footage from the archives - Dates and venue in latter Aerial.

ATHLONE BRANCH I.W.A.I.




Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1992

Income & Expenditure A/c - year ending 30th September 1992

	1992	1991
INCOME		
Subscriptions	£ 1,250	1,173
Donation	100	-
Surplus on slide & film shows	-	72
" " Supper Dance	439	98
" " Sales	30	74
" " B. & B. Outing	56	-
Deposit Interest	256	203
Creditor written off	-	49
	<u>£ 2,131</u>	<u>1,669</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Athlone Aerial - Production	£ 97	156
" " - Postage	463	433
Insurance	233	210
Capitalisation Fees	150	137
Loss on Tercentenary Cruise	-	211
Loss on Slide & Film Shows	36	-
Harry Rice Competition	20	31
Midlands East R.T.O.	25	50
Bank Charges	42	17
Contribution to Kilcock Festival	-	100
Sundries	343	74
Debtors amount (1991) written off	10	20
	<u>£ 1,419</u>	<u>1,439</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>£ 712</u>	<u>230</u>

	1992	1991
ASSETS		
Bank - Current A/c	£567	328
" - Deposit A/c	695	335
Building Society A/c	4,765	4,537
Cash on hands	414	937
Debtors	-	110
Stock for sale (at cost)	115	152
Prize Bonds	105	105
	<u>£6,661</u>	<u>6,504</u>
LESS LIABILITIES		
Creditors	774	1,329
NET ASSETS	<u>£5,887</u>	<u>5,175</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Accumulated fund at 30/9/91	£5,175	
Add : Surplus for 1992	712	
	<u>£5,887</u>	

I have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and Accounts which are in agreement with the books of the branch and have obtained all information and explanations which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of the audit. In my opinion the Balance Sheet and Accounts give a true and fair view of the branch's financial transactions for the period and of the state of its affairs as at 30th September 1992.


 Reginald Redmond, B. Comm.
 Hon. Auditor



FEB. '93

ATHLONE AERIAL

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All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

The next meeting of the Athlone Branch of I.W.A.I. will be held in Sean's Bar, Athlone on Friday, 5th February at 8.30 p.m.

A gentle reminder is herewith given to all who have not yet paid this year's membership fee - £IR10.00 - IT IS NOW DUE. The next reminder will not be so gentle - it will be Red X time- so pay it now, please.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Environment.

At our last Branch meeting we were told to give our opinion about what the official policy should be on the environment so that a formula could be devised by Council.

In the dictionary environment is defined 'surroundings, especially those affecting peoples lives'. A very broad definition.

So let's concentrate on the 'surroundings' which most concern us as inland waterways enthusiasts. Two basic 'surroundings' are obvious, water and bordering landscapes. I think there will be no argument that we all long for crystal clear waters therefore we must be vigilant in opposing the discharge of noxious effluent into our waterways.

In regard to the landscape, it is a much more difficult problem. While cruising down the river, it is lovely to see as little signs of human habitation near the banks as possible, except the odd ruin, or stately home of yester-year or a quaint village at least no younger than 150 years! But how perverse we are. How could you beat living in a home with a garden edged by a serenely flowing waterway?

It seems impossible to come to a compromise and yet we must. Somehow.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Future Events.

February: Mr. Walter Borner's slide show will be held in the Jolly Mariner, Athlone on Friday 19th February at 8.30 p.m. Best wishes to Walter upon his acceptance of the option of early retirement from Swissair. We hope his new found leisure will enable him to spend even more time at photography, and of course to expand his Water-Borne activities!

March: Mr. Sean Fitzsimons' rigorously censored slide show (Special

Wide Screen) will occur on March 26th at a venue which will be whispered in next month's Aerial.

April: Again we welcome Ruth Delaney who will give a Film show on April 16th. Venue advised later.

Easter Rally: Rally will take place to Shannonbridge and Banagher. It is hoped that many boats will visit Banagher on Saturday, 10th April for the official opening of the new harbour.

Ireland's Royal Canal by Ruth Delaney is now available in Sean's Bar Athlone. Price £14.95.

R.N.L.I. Sean Fitzsimons is looking for volunteers for Flag day for this worthy cause. Flag day is last weekend in March. Keep in mind please.

Pollution Particles.

For one reason and another we got diverted from discussion of pollution about a year ago, so first let us recap a little. There are three headings under which pollution is normally categorised - namely, chronic, intermittent and occasional. And secondly, if pollution is to be cleared in a natural way oxygen will be used up in the process, by what may be called the cleansing department, and this consumption of oxygen, which is measurable, is termed the Biochemical Oxygen Demand, or B.O.D. for short.

Now any area of water open to the atmosphere is a life supporting medium for animal and vegetable organisms, all of which, in life and death affect the composition of the water. In life the animals, fish, etc., consume oxygen and release carbon dioxide. Plants consume oxygen too, but they also use carbon dioxide and in the process retain the carbon and re-lease oxygen. So in a truly remarkable way there is a kind of balanced exchange between the two sorts of life maintaining the quality of the water.

If for any reason the oxygen content falls it will be replaced by absorbing oxygen from the atmosphere. But all living organisms die and when this happens in water the decomposition and recycling of the material is accomplished by bacteria which consume oxygen, so there will be a B.O.D.

I.W.A.I. National Council - Report from our Delegates.

A meeting of Council was held in Mullingar on 22nd January and the following items were on the Agenda:-

Visitors. A group from the British I.W.A. are interested in bringing boats over next year and would like to co-incide their trip with the opening of the B. & B. Canel. More details to be obtained and matter to be checked also with O.P.W.

O.P.W. We have been informed that the following developments will take place:-

1. New Lock on River Suck to bring navigation into Ballinasloe.
2. New Harbour in Lanesboro, south of the bridge in the bay on the west side.
3. Extension of navigation in Boyle River from Drum Bridge to Boyle town.

A.G.M. Will be held on 5th March in R.I.A.C., Dawson St., Dublin. All members welcome. A short Extra-ordinary General Meeting may be held the same evening to amend our Articles of Association to enable us to achieve charitable status for tax purposes. Further details later.

Lanesboro: Bridge closed to navigation until 25th February for repairs.

Banagher: Official opening of new harbour at Easter weekend. All boats welcome.

Newsletter: Ruth Heard was congratulated on improvement in design and presentation of the Newsletter.

Next Meeting: 23rd. April.

Stop Press.

Eddie Slane of R.C.A.G. has asked us to correct our report on the opening of the Royal Canal in last month's Aerial. The latest information is that the lifting railway bridge will be replaced this year and that a 'Pathfinder' or trial trip will be made from the Liffey to Mullingar during the coming Season. The official opening Rally will be held in 1994 and not in 1995 as we previously stated. Sorry about that, Eddie!

Down Memory Lane - (From the Archives).

" November 1978: Since our last issue many activities have occurred involving members of the Branch. The 'heaviest' of these was the casting of a $1\frac{1}{4}$ ton lead keel by Damien Delaney. This effort, the first of its kind in the Athlone area (another 1st for us?) took place 3 weeks ago and many of the members assisted and lots more came to gape (as was to be expected). Bridie generously wine and dined all comers, and except for some difficulty with some Scots friends who tried to mould 50p pieces - the job was a great success. The sight of $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons of lead bubbling in a pot prompted some people to practice 'stirring' things accompanied by the usual incantations 'Bubble, Bubble, Toil, etc.'"

"Nov. 1978. The Lough Ree Yacht Club are doing a great job in laying a concrete launching apron which will greatly facilitate their members. This is stage one of their planned development."



March 93

ATHLONE AERIAL

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All Correspondence to: Athlone Aerial, Seans Bar, Main St., Athlone.

Next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I, will take place at Sean's Bar, Main st, Athlone on Friday, 12th March at 8.30 pm.

Dear Reader,

The square alongside I hope is empty but if it is filled by a red X, oh dear! I'm afraid you must still owe your subscription - £10.00. Please forward same to Mr. Sean Fitzsimons, C/o Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone, S.A.P.(S.A.P. is not a rude word, but stands for 'Soon as Possible', however it could be a rude name if you forget to send that tenner!).



I must report that the evening of Mr. Walter Borner's slide show was excellent. The slides were even better than previous ones and an appreciative silence greeted his beautiful slides of sky reflections on the Shannon waters.

For myself and I suspect others, the views were well known to us, but the intensity of light and shade, from approaching stormy weather to the still peace of early morning mists were so stunning that gasps of appreciation came from this Shannon experienced audience.

It was so refreshing to see these lovely scenes in mid-winter and whetted the appetite for more. Many thanks, Walter, for a lovely show.

COMING EVENTS.

- Friday, 5th March. A.G.M. of I.W.A.I. will take place at R.I.A.C., Dawson St., Dublin.
- 3rd-7th March. Dublin Boat Show, Point Depot. Mr. Michael McNerney, Phone 01-730211 (W) 01-574918 (H) would like names of people willing to give an hour of their time to manning the I.W.A.I. stand at the show.
- Friday, 19th March. A presentation of £500.00 will be made by Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. to Kenagh Restoration group towards

their efforts to restore their section of the Royal Canal. (I think they need more chain-saws). If enough interest is shown a bus (one only, late return) will be organised to bring us there and back. Please contact Sean's Bar or Damien Delaney.

Friday, 26th March. Large Slide Show presented by Sean Fitzsimons at the Shamrock Lodge, Athlone at 8.30pm. (Optical enhancers probably not needed!).

9th-12th April. Easter Rally. To Shannon Harbour but including visit to visit to Banagher on 10th to attend the official opening of Banagher Harbour. (If you intend to fall in, please do so at the north-west corner of harbour-easiest place to get out, in fact only place to get out!).

Friday, 16th April. Ruth Heard's Film Show will be held at The Jolly Mariner, Athlone at 8.30pm. On the same evening the Harry Rice Cup will be presented to the winner. You are still in time to enter, essays, poems, or paintings will be accepted. There are two age categories, under 15 and over 15. Get your entry in now to Mrs Rosemary Furlong, Coosan Point, Athlone.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor,

Re: R.N.L.I. Collection, Athlone town.

The lifeboat Flag days are on 26th/27th March this year and I am asking our members to make it a resounding success.

Now what I want you to do is volunteer to collect on Friday 26th from 4 to 9pm at the Shopping Centres and on Saturday 27th until 6pm. I also need some volunteers for a late pub collection starting at 10pm Saturday. Meeting point Sean's Bar but would appreciate names and phone numbers in advance. Also would any of you working in large firms bring a collection box, available from Sean's Bar, into work (with permission of course), Eg, Telecom, An Post, Elan, Army, etc.

Some of you I know are not into collecting so I would ask you to send us a donation or better still join up as a shoreline member. Send us the forms to help our grand total.

Years ago our secretary, Mrs. Cynthia Rice, was a well known and distinctive collector in her Oilies and souwester. I won't preach to the converted so come on all of you and help please.

Yours Sincerely,

Sean Fitzsimons,
Area Collector, R.N.L.I. Phone 92358.

Agents for Sheelin Fiberglass Boats now at Glasson - Phone 0902 85356

Pollution Particles. by G.N. Cave.

The main type of pollution in Ireland is almost certainly organic, and because farmers deal so extensively in organic materials they often get a bad press.

But they were often badly advised by officials who one would have thought should have known the dangers. Silage effluent and milk wastes are both grossly pollutent, yet many creameries were built beside rivers (one actually astride a river), presumably because the river was a convenient recepticle for the spills and waste, and at one stage the department advisers were recommending the building of silige pits close to rivers as a convenient way of disposing of the effluent - 10 gallons per ton of pure poison.

Other organic pollutants are sewage in all its forms, whether it comes from humans, cattle, pigs or poultry. And there are those produced by industry, sugar and food processing factories of various kinds. Breweries and distilleries all produce their quota, even sawdust.

The effect depends of course on the volume and its proportion in relation to the size of the body of water. It is a question of the ability of the self-purification capacity of the receiving water to deal with the load imposed upon it. If the B.O.D. is not excessive, the casual observer may notice nothing. But what happens when the cleansing department is not able to cope?

DOWN MEMORY LANE from the Archives. Researcher R. Redmond.

- December 1978:- "Glider" launched at Quigley's. The Glider is an 'Edwardian' Launch, originally from Lake Windemere, which is to be used to carry passengers on the river. She has successfully completed her first voyage from Killinure to Athlone. Skippered by Gerry Oakman, the rest of the passengers having been 'detained' in Glasson.
- January 1979:- Apropos O.P.W. taking over the Canals from C.I.E. - Think of walking down Main St. Mullingar (circa 1987) in sea boots, saluting the monument in the Square erected to honour John Carty and Ian Bath! (Editor's note:- only 6 years wrong - well done O.P.W. & Ian & Eddie.)
- February 1979:- The coming year is the 25th Anniversary of the Association, which was formed at a public meeting held in the Crescent Ballroom, Athlone in 1954. It is intended to hold an Anniversary Cruise-in-Company on Lough Ree on the Whit week-end.
- March 1979:- At the February meeting it was dicided to publish a history of Athlone Branch's first 25 years. A sub-committee was called and publication is due in early June.
- March 1979:- Letter to Editor:-
 "Sir, I believe this year's Shannon Boat Rally intends to visit the Inny Estuary. When 60 or 70 boats discover the beauties of this part of Lough Ree it will be ruined. A further infringement of the rights of those who like peace, quiet and solitude.
 Yours - A. Selkirk."



ATHLONE AERIAL

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April 1993.

Next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place at Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Friday, 2nd. April at 8.30pm.

Condolences:-

The deepest sympathies of Athlone Branch go to our members Mr. Frank Egan, Birr on the death of his wife Carmel and to Mr. Gerry Cox on the death of his sister Rita. May they rest in peace.

Keenagh, 19th, March. - It is always pleasant to meet up with people who are enthusiastic about their own place. And in Keenagh enthusiasm was in great evidence among the people we met at the presentation of a cheque from Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. to the Keenagh Branch of R.C.A.G. Also presented on the same evening, a cheque of £100.00 donated by the members of the F.A.S. team working on the restoration of the Royal Canal in the Keenagh Area. How is that for dedication? There was a wonderful air of 'Up and Doing' and hope that the restoration of the Canal, where it passes close to Keenagh, would bring visitors who in turn would bring prosperity and jobs to this village.

Our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Newman who organised a lovely evening with music, drink and loads of lovely fresh sandwiches. Thanks also to all the Keenagh R.C.A.G. members who presented Athlone Branch with a tastefully mounted ratchet. The ratchet was found in the canal during the restoration work, and is reckoned to be about two hundred years old.

Finally, we left, full of porter and sandwiches, on the very late bus for Athlone.

FOR SALE :- Converted Ships Lifeboat, double diagonal Hull, 30 ft LOA., Kelvin Marine Engine, Sleeps 5. - £2,750.00 ONO.
Phone (01) 6245312 (Evenings)

Coming Events:-

- 9th - 12th April. Easter Rally. To Shannon Bridge including a visit to Banagher on Saturday, 10th to attend the official opening of Banagher harbour.
- 16th April. Ruth Heard's Film Show in the Jolly Mariner, Athlone at 8.30pm. Reminder that the Harry Rice Cup will be presented to the winner of the best essay, poem or painting. Categories are under 15 or over 15 years of age. Still time to get your entry in to Mrs. R. Furlong, Coosan Point, Athlone.
- 17th April. There will be a work-in at Coosan Point on new moorings for Ballykerrin Lough. All active able bodies welcome. Contact Sean's Bar, if you would be free to help.
- 23rd - 31st July. Shannon Boat Rally.1993. Entry forms and Brochure are now available from the Hon. Secretary : Bairbre McCann, 80, St. Lawrence Rd., Clontarf, Dublin 3. Phone 339972. Commodore is Connor Furey and Chairman is Bernard Delaney. We wish them all every success in their work for the Rally.
The Itinerary, however, does look a bit familiar, with not much imagination used. One of these years the Rally should visit the River Inny and also the new facilities provided by O.P.W. at Portrunny.

Boat Show by Roving Reporter.

This year's Boat Show at the Point Depot in Dublin at least had plenty of boats! For anyone in a purchasing mood there was plenty of choice, including several brokerages with photos of dozens of second-hand boats for sale.

Outside in the Liffey were moored the Asgard II and the Naval Corvette L.E. 'Ciara', while on the hard-standing at the entrance doors was the familiar sight of a large new Tara hire cruiser.

Once inside our inclination is to start looking for familiar and friendly faces, and where better than at the I.W.A.I. stand. The stand itself, it must be said, was a little disappointing in its presentation, with very little sign of the River Shannon in the display. However, of friends there were plenty. Norman and Rosemary Furlong showed up looking for Fred Waterstone (he was in the bar!). We had a chat with former Shannon Rally winner Jack Craig and also with another Rally veteran, Duncan Bain. Former President Alf Delaney said he was 'mitching' from work and had to hurry away.

Touring around the stands, we said hello to the ever helpful Met. Service and asked them to please include an Area Forecast for the inland River Shannon during the summer. Our colleagues in R,C,A.G. were showing off their progress in Royal restoration and selling raffle tickets for a £100 note, (when did you last see one of those?).

Shane Matthews (with daddy Sean in tow) was displaying his new range of Sealion cruisers. These came in all sizes and are being made and/or fitted

out in their Marina at Rosebank (new), Carrick-on-Shannon. A very smart looking tender with forward wheel-house had a 'Sold' notice on it and Sean says further inquiries are coming in. Brian Cullen of Derg Line, Teddy Knight and Celtic Cruisers, all regular supporters of the Show, were busy booking in eager holiday makers, while Paddy Dolan was selling Du Barry deck shoes by the new time.

Former racing driver, Adrian O'Connell of Kilrush Marina reminded us that their sea-lock is usable at all stages of the tide - just radio in and there is a 24 hour service.

However, as usual at the Boat Show, the nicest boats were those under the auspices of the I.S.A. and their various class associations. One beauty that caught our eye was an exquisite renovation of a Mermaid, gleaming and perfect in every detail.

There were loads of other interesting stands - chandelery was represented by Windmill, Downers, Union and Dinghy Supplies. You could buy magic polishes jewellery, spanners that worked (almost) without human assistance, food mixers, water filters and lots, lots more. Interesting - very, Tiring? - yes. Fred, where's that Bar?

National Annual General Meeting of I.W.A.I. - 5th March 1993.

President's Address:-

Addressing the meeting at the end of his 3 year term of office, our President Damien Delaney stated that there were now about 650 Private Boats registered with O.P.W. but that this left at least 200 that still had not bothered to register. He also announced that, as he spoke, 'harbour-hogging' boats were being towed away from Dromond and Portumna harbours.

He mentioned that the Association was insisting on full toilet and flush-out facilities at all new Pump-out stations and announced that O.P.W. has postponed enforcement of these 'holding-tank' regulations to a future date until more infra-structure is in place.

He said it was his view that O.P.W. should broaden the scope of their activities to cater more comprehensively for the Waterways. He issued a strong statement in support of O.P.W. in view of the criticism they had incurred recently over Interpretive Centres. He pointed out that much of this criticism appeared to be ill-informed and ill-advised. I.W.A.I. had always found O.P.W. to be willing not only to consult us on a regular basis but to accept our advice on many important issues.

I.W.A.I., he said, were more than happy with the manner in which O.P.W. administered our Waterways.

Hon.Treasurer Report:-

Mary Gallagher distributed Draft Accounts which she said were not yet audited or signed due to shortage of time. It was agreed that the A.G.M. would re-convene on next Council meeting date, 23rd April to approve same. She announced that due to pressure of work she was forced to retire.

Elections:-

President:- Des Layden, Vice-President:- Ian Bath, Secretary:- Dermot Murphy; Treasurer:- Reggie Redmond; Hon. Minute Sec:- Marie Hyland; Editor:- Ruth Heard; P.R.O.:- Liam Kenny; Auditor:- Robert Duffy; Hon.Legal Adviser:- Authur Lavery; Council:- Chairman and Secretary of all Branches plus 12 elected - P. Hanna, S. Herraghty, F.Blake, B. Brislane, M. Hyland, E. Slane, D. Tracey, A. Waterhouse, P. Canavan, E. Ganley, J. Molloy, T. Murphy.

The new President, Des Leyden in thanking the meeting for his election, expressed the deepest appreciation of the Association to Damien Delaney for his hard and successful efforts during the past 3 years. Many thanks were also offered to Mary Gallagher for acting as Treasurer since 1991.

Branch Reports:-

Reports from each branch were read out and the Athlone Report from Secretary Cynthia Rice is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of the Aerial.

The meeting then adjourned.

Athlone Branch Report I.W.A.I. A.G.M. 1993.

Athlone Branch had a reasonably active year, with the usual selection of film shows, slide shows, monthly meetings, and outings during the winter months, and we joined forces with Carrick-on-Shannon Branch to organise the Shannon Boat Rally, in addition to organising our own Whit and End of Season weekend rallies, we also played a major role in the organising of the Peoples Regatta in conjunction with the Athlone 301 festival committee.

The Peoples Regatta consists of fishing competitions, rowing races, a sailing display, fancy dress, water croquet, a barrell race, sub-aqua display, parachute jump and rescue, and a unique raft race, all on the water between the town bridge and the railway bridge in Athlone, as well as a host of land-based side-shows and amusements. We have been invited to act as co-ordinators for this years regatta, and we have accepted the invitation.

The Branch is currently engaged in negotiations with Athlone UDC to provide additional floating jetties with security at the 'Apparel' jetty in Athlone. Negotiations are at an advanced stage and we are confident that the jetties and security will be provided in the near future.

We are also at an advanced stage of preparation to place additional floating mooring buoys in Ballykeeran Lough, this work should be completed early in the coming season.

We have noticed a growing number of planning applications during the past year, for developments which we consider to be unsuitable in the areas concerned, and in co-operation with other local groups, we have spent quite a lot of time contesting these applications. So far we have been reasonably successful, but the pressure is growing, and we are trying to convince the relevant local authorities to adopt a firmer policy in these environmentally sensitive areas.

Towards the end of season we had a work-in with the Foygh/Keenagh branch of the RCAG, clearing the canal bank near the 41st lock. We are also making a donation of £500 to the Foygh/Keenagh branch, which will be presented at a function in Keenagh on the 19th March. Great progress is being made on the Royalrestoration in this general area, and we hope to give further assistance to the RCAG in the coming season.

Published The Brady, Shipman, Martin 'Rivers and Canals Strategic Survey' was launched in Dublin on 25th March. Copies would be available from the Government Publication Offices, Molesworth St. 2.



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May, 1993.

Next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.I.A. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Friday, 7th May, 1993 at 8.30pm.

Well it's here again, at last, long summer days and bright evenings. We are all feeling that pull to be on the river again. There is frantic activity going on in garages, back gardens, on the hard in marinas or where ever boats have been stored during the winter. Plans for holidays, arguments about 'will we be able to do this or that Rally?!

It is really a privilege to be able to enjoy our waterways, though I know it is not everyones cup of tea, but when the bug bites it is impossible to get rid of the infection of loving boating.

OK, so there are problems to overcome like how much can we afford on repairs?, how will the engine perform, will it last out the summer? will we get a new engine or even a new boat?

I think the attraction of going boating on our inland waterways is that they give us all whatever we enjoy, fun loving groups, or the solitary recluse, lovers of flora or fauna, the waterways give and give. So lets try, by our behaviour, not only to take but to make return by being a little bit responsible. Do dispose of rubbish in a bin, not overboard; Do make sure no fuel escapes into the water; Do make sure carelessness causes no accidents.

Probably a little care can be the best way we can give to our waterways.

Coming Event:

Saturday, 8th, May. Fund raising evening in aid of R.A.C.G. at Duffys', Lough Ree Inn, Coosan Point, Athlone, at 8.30pm ('ish.). Music and crac guaranteed!

HARRY RICE CUP.

Joint prize winners of the Harry Rice Cup competition were Kieran and Andrina Sloyan. We can only reproduce their essays and not their beautiful illustrations here. Congratulations, Kieran and Andrina.

'On the River' by Kieran Sloyan.

We went to Coosan Point for our Holidays. Andrina and I went swimming when we got there. Then after dinner, we went fishing.

During the morning I met some friends. After a while we went to S.G.S. There were weeds and we went back to Coosan. We were back before the thunder. It was a bad night. Daddy looked out and saw a mink. It was after the ducks.

Another day we went to Lecarrow. We brought along the two cats. We had great fun with them on board. That afternoon we caught a trout. Daddy ate it all by himself.

In the morning we went to Hodson Bay Hotel. We went over for the opening of the new Hotel. It looked like a palace. There were thousands of people. They were celebrating the opening by putting on a dance. We stayed up to one or two in the morning. We were all very tired after the holiday.

'The Princess' by Andrina Sloyan.

Our boat is called the princess. The princess is brownish and white. The princess is a lovely boat. We go to Coosan Point on the boat.

I like going to Coosan Point. I like to go swimming and I like to go fishing.

Every year Daddy paints the Princess so that she looks nice and clean.

Recipe by 'The Galley Slave'.Quick Tuna Pate/Dip.

7 oz. can of tuna fish drained (Picnic sandwich tuna)
4 oz. cream cheese (Philadelphia), 3 level tablespoons mayonnaise
2 teaspoons lemon juice, Salt and black pepper.
Lemon wedges to decorate.

Place all ingredients, except the lemon, into the food processor. Blend together in short bursts to make a fine mixture.

Turn into a serving dish, garnish with lemon wedges, and serve with toast or crusty bread.

Shannon Navigation:-

On the last page the Lock and Bridge opening times are reproduced, for the current season. N.B. The amount of charge for the passage of a vessel or boat through a lock or a movable bridge on the Shannon Navigation is £1.20.

MINISTER COWEN OPENS NEW £0.75 MILLION HARBOUR AT BANAGHER.

Mr. Brian Cowen, Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications formally opened the new harbour on the Shannon at Banagher, costing £0.75 million and capable of accommodating 40 cruisers, double its original capacity, on Saturday 10 April 1993.

The new harbour has a depth of 1.8 meters at ordinary summer level. Watering facilities, lighting and seating have been provided in the project which was completed in 9 months.

Speaking at the formal opening, Mr. Cowen said "This is another fine example of the efforts of the office of Public Works to continue the development of the river as one of the major pleasure cruising waterways in Europe.

The original, smaller, harbour on the same site was adequate in its day but, in the 150 years which elapsed since, its ability to cater for the vastly increased volume of cruiser and other traffic using the river was greatly eroded.

We have seen the long-term mooring problem on the river being resolved to a major degree by two separate developments.

The first of these was the provision by the O P W of additional facilities at such centres as Lecarrow, Hodson's Bay and Portrunny on Lough Ree, at Rooskey and at Terryglass. The new harbour at Banagher will further improve facilities.

Secondly, an important development was the introduction, a year ago, of the new Shannon Navigation Bye-laws made under the Shannon Navigation Act, 1990. One of the main provisions of these Bye laws was to impose a limitation on the length of time boats could berth at public quays and jetties, a factor which greatly increased the availability of moorings during the boating season.

I would like to thank those using the river who, with very few exceptions, have co-operated in ensuring that through their observance of the Bye-laws, the facilities on the river can be enjoyed to their fullest potential by all.

The greatest progress has been made in the area of extending the navigation to new waters through three specific projects. The first, the restoration of the Ballinamore/Ballyconnell Canal linking the Shannon and Erne Navigations is scheduled to be opened early next year.

The second is the reopening of the canal into Lough Allen which it is hoped to complete later this year. The third project is the extension of the navigation along the River Suck town of Ballinasloe, the final stage of which is expected to get underway shortly.

The nature of the waterways is such that the benefits of investment in them are not confined to any single area but are being and will be felt across the length and breadth of the country.

I know that the O.P.W. has a long standing vision of creating an extensive network of connected navigable waterways as well as developing some other waterways which have potential

in their own right. Much has already been achieved, especially since E.C. funds have been available under the Tourism Operational Programmes and I hope that further progress will be possible with the assistance of the next tranche of E.C. funds."

(Editors note - The above is an edited version of the Minister's speech. What a pity no one mentioned I.W.A.I., which was represented in force (by water and land), headed by our new President, Des Leyden.)

FOR SALE:-

24ft. Darragh, cruising on Shannon. 25 H.P. inboard engine. Cooker/Grill. Fridge. Sea Toilet. Heater. Water tank to sink. 3.5ft. Draft. Complete with mast and sails. Sleeps 5 plus 1. ca10,800.
Telephone David 01 8255379 day; 01 8255278 evenings.

NATIONAL COUNCIL I.W.A.I. - Mullingar 23/4/93.
Report from Athlone Delegates

This was the first meeting chaired by the new President, Des Leyden.

The approval of the Annual Accounts was again postponed due to doubts over the presentation (or format) of accounts if we decide to apply for charitable status. The Officer Board were authorised to approve same when matters have been sorted out.

The following items were amongst those dealt with:-

a) Brady, Shipman & Martin Report.

This has been adopted by O.P.W. and is now available.

b) Training and Certification Courses.

Reg Redmond reported on his membership of the Irish Sailing Association Motor-Boat Committee re Training. The proposed "Power Boat" syllabus is not yet suitable for our members and he was authorised to negotiate alterations more suited

to the Inland Waterways including canals. Shannonside Activity Centre on Lough Derg are authorised Examiners and Wineport Centre on Lough Ree have applied. Council members approved the concept and thought it would be worthwhile. However the I.S.A. will be publicly launching all their 4 Training Schemes in May, even if our requirements are still being negotiated.

c) Sub-Committees.

The President announced the formation of 5 committees to deal with ongoing matters and to save time at Council meetings. The nominated Chairmen are free to co-opt their own committees of interested and informed members. The committees are:-

1. Charitable Status negotiations - Damien Delaney.
2. Insurance problems and re-negotiations - Brian Briallane.
3. Opening of B. & B. Canal, co-ordination with O.P.W. & E.S.B. (Int) - John Maher and Liam Darcy.
4. Opening of Royal Canal and co-ordination with R.C.A.G. - Padraic O'Brolchain.
5. Environment. Statement of I.W.A.I.'s aims and guide lines. - Peadar Canavan.

d) A.O.B.

In the course of various discussions, the following information and comments were made known, which may be of interest to members:-

28th May 1994, has been provisionally set for opening of B.& B. A test or "soft" opening may be held this Autumn for authorised boats only.

Eddie Shane stated that there were still problems with the lifting Railway Bridge and April, 1994 has been tentatively set for the re-opening. The question of avoiding a clash of above two events was discussed at length.

It was revealed that Emerald Star Line is opening a new Hire Base at Belurbet in anticipation of the B.& B. opening.

Ruth Heard, Editor of the Newsletter, stated that she would like details of Branches' Winter Programmes for inclusion in September Newsletter. Closing date 31st August.

Next meeting of Council, Friday, 24th September 1993.

LOCKS AND MOVABLE BRIDGES

PERIOD	WEEKDAYS	SUNDAYS	
MARCH 14	APRIL 3	09.00-18.00	11.00-16.00
APRIL 4	SEPTEMBER 25	09.00-20.00	09.30-18.00
SEPTEMBER 26	NOVEMBER 1	09.00-19.00	11.00-16.30
NOVEMBER 2	MARCH 13	09.30-12.30	10.00-12.30
		09.30-16.00*	

LUNCH BREAK 13.00-13.30

*SATURDAY ONLY

PORTUMNA BRIDGE

PERIOD	WEEKDAYS	SUNDAYS	
MARCH 14	APRIL 3	09.45 11.00 12.30	11.00 12.30
		14.30 16.30 17.30	14.30 16.00
APRIL 4	SEPTEMBER 25	09.45 11.00 12.30	11.00 12.30
		15.00 17.30 19.30	15.00 17.30
SEPTEMBER 26	NOVEMBER 1	09.45 11.00 12.30	11.00 12.30
		15.00 17.00 18.30	14.30 16.00
NOVEMBER 2	MARCH 13	09.45 11.00 12.00	11.00 12.00
		14.30* 15.30*	

*SATURDAY ONLY

LIST OF COLLECTORS

STATION	NAME	PHONE NO.
PORTUMNA BRIDGE	MARY BOURKE	0509 41011
	BERNARD McCARRY	
VICTORIA LOCK	BRENDAN McCARRY	0902 51359
	PERCY HEWITT	
ATHLONE LOCK	TIM CONNOLLY	0902 92026
	FRANK DOYLE	
TARMONBARRY, CLONDRA & RICHMOND HARBOUR LOCKS	TOM FEENEY	043 26117
ROOSKY LOCK	TONY HUDSON	078 38018
ALBERT LOCK	MICHAEL BOURKE	078 20715
CLARENDON LOCK	PADRAIC LYNCH	079 67011



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

June, 1993

Next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Friday, 3rd, September 1993.

Important Notice.

Would all members who have not yet paid their subscription for this year please do so now.

Subscription is still only £10.00.

Remember your subscription goes towards the cost of many of our activities. E.g.; the placement and replacement of courtesy moorings, donations to waterway developments, i.e. the recent contribution to R.C.A.G. at Keenagh, and our ongoing fight against developments which would in any way contribute to pollution of our Inland Waterways. Quite frankly, we have all benefited from the work of the Athlone Branch in the past and with your help, in the future also.

Vandalism.

This scourge is an on going problem for private boat owners as well as the terrible damage caused to our tourist industry.

Recently four private moorings at Coosan Point have been vandalised and the matter has been put into the hands of the local police.

I don't know what motivates a vandal - Envy?, Ignorance?, or a distinct lack of grey matter between the ears?

The destruction of private or public property does nothing for the vandal. There is no gain for him/her. But there is tremendous financial loss to the community purse, the same purse which pays for the work of the O.P.W., Sewerage Works, Maintenance of our canals, etc. the list is long.

I won't say any more because I'm sure none of our members are vandals, we all love our waterways too much to engage in such acts, but if any of us have the misfortune to know a vandal please let them know the stupidity of their actions.

All vandalism is uncivilized.

Keenagh Branch, R.C.A.G.

A very enjoyable evening was held at the Lough Ree Inn, Coosan Pt., when Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. ran a fund-raising event and raised £243. towards the work being carried out by Keenagh Branch on their section of the Royal Canal. A group from Keenagh, led by Mr. Newman, also enjoyed the evenings entertainment.

The music, singing and craic was great and we would like to thank all who contributed, the musicians, singers, sandwich makers, sellers of raffle tickets, and last but not least, Mr. and Mrs Duffy of the Lough Ree Inn.

Courtesy Mooring Buoys.

Five new mooring buoys have been placed in Ballykeeran Lough and a second mooring buoy has been placed at Rindoon, (Safe Harbour). The mooring buoy at Blackbrink Bay has been replaced.

Editors Note:- A lot of brain work was done by Declan Walsh and friends during the winter months, not to mention the brawn power that went into getting the moorings into place. Well done to all concerned!

Pollution Particles.

What happens when the cleansing department is not able to cope? Normal fairly clean water is kept that way by what is called aerobic bacteria, that is to say they require oxygen, and when because of pollution they multiply, a stage is finally reached when they have used up all the available oxygen and die of suffocation. But the water does not become dead, another sort of bacteria, which does not require oxygen, takes over. It is called anaerobic and does its job in a different way. The chemistry is not all that easy to understand or relevant for the lay-person, but the results are obvious. There will be bubbles rising to the surface, tip them with a lighted match and they burn - methane gas. You may not know what hydrogen sulphide is but you will have smelt it - rotten eggs.

The bottom will be covered with a black muck with a green tinge to it and every now and then a bubble of H₂S forms underneath and a lump is lifted to the surface. It looks like and if broken smells like but it isn't. All this can be experienced at O'Connells Bridge, Dublin, at low tide on a warm summer's day.

Recipes by 'The Galley Slave'

Chicken Tikka:-

Cold chicken cut into bite size pieces (about half a chicken would do).

2 to 3 teaspoons Tikka paste

2 to 3 Tablespoons cream or yoghurt

2 to 3 tablespoons mayonnaise

1 chopped up apple

Add raisons, sultanas, parsley, chutney or apricot jam as you like.

Mix all together and serve with a salad.

Cold Tea Barn Brack:-

1 lb. mixed fruit; 2 ozs cherries; 2 ozs. peel;

Half lb. Sugar; 1 breakfast cup tea; 1 egg;

1 lb. selfraising Flour.

Soak fruit and sugar in tea and leave over night. Next day add beaten egg and flour, turn into a greased tin and bake at degrees 350 - 375. for 1 hour but test after 40 minutes.

Shannon Boat Rally - 1993.

If you are thinking about doing the Rally this year please send your completed entry form as soon as possible. Last date for receipt of entries is 25th June 1993. If you have not received a form, phone Bairbre McCann, 01-339972.

Whit Weekend Rally.

This Rally will take place from Saturday 4th June to Monday 7th June.

The Itinerary is as follows:-

Saturday to Portrunny
Sunday to Lecarrow
Monday to Hodson Bay

(A little secret! If you haven't been to Portrunny recently, you'll be pleased with the improvements there. I'll say no more.)

Cruise-in-Company, 4th July 1993.

This event takes place in conjunction with the Peoples Regatta in Athlone. Assembly will be at Hodson Bay, Saturday, 3rd July and departure from Hodson Bay on Sunday to arrive in Athlone at 13.00 hours.



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

Next meeting of the Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St, Athlone on Friday, 3rd September 1993 at 8.30 p.m.

That was some summer that was! Welcome back all you mariners to dry land (well it has dried out now). Mind you, some of us mariners may take longer to dry out! Never mind, according to reports the poor weather did not dampen the enjoyment of our rallies and other waterways events and sure there is more to come before the season has ended.

Good news for Athlone this summer was the increase in boats through Athlone Lock. It was very noticeable that many more boats over-nighted in Athlone such is the success of the River Warden Scheme. Better late than never! Well done to Athlone U.D.C. and also a pat on the back to Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. which back in the mid 1980's pushed for such a scheme, even donating a small sum of money towards the cost of employing the first warden.

During the course of this year's Shannon Rally, the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, T.D. joined the rally for a few days. In the course of a short address to the Rally, Minister Higgins gave a brief outline of the development of Inland Waterways from the Hydro-electric scheme of the 1920's on the Shannon to the current development of the Ballinamore and Ballyconnell Canal due to open officially in May 1994.

Mr. Higgins also stated "As you may know, one of the commitments in the Programme for Government between the Labour and Fianna Fail Parties is to introduce legislation which will formally establish the Heritage Council. The Council advises me on all heritage matters including Waterways. I am very pleased to announce here this evening that Ruth Delaney has accepted my invitation to be a member of the Heritage Council."

We all hope that Mr. Higgins and his colleague, Mr. Noel Dempsey, Minister of State with responsibility for O.P.W. will with wisdom guide the future developments of all our waterways.

COMING EVENTS.

11th September. Eric Hensey's "Black pudding & Porter Evening" (and morning after) at Coffey's,

24th September. End of Season DINNER DANCE, in the "Jolly Mariner" Tickets €12.00. available in Sean's Bar. Lecarrow.

25/26th Sept. End of Season Rally. You have a choice, Lough Ree or Shannon Bridge.

BOOKS

Now in stock in Sean's Bar are:-

Shell Guide to the Shannon £12.95

Ireland's Royal Canal by Ruth Heard, £14.95.

HELP

Help is required to launch the book, "Green & Silver". If you have some spare time, please attend September meeting for information.

33rd SHANNON BOAT RALLY

The Rally under the command of Commodore Conor Furey got underway on Saturday morning 24th July with the 2 fleets meeting in Lanesboro. Some of the Athlone starters felt a bit nervous after hearing the weather forecast, but in fact the trip was quite pleasant and all arrived in good time. Mass at the Harbour was followed by a Wine & Cheese party which was hugely enjoyed, particularly since the supply of wine (dispensed by a genial Denis Skehan) seemed to be endless! Sunday saw the departure for Lecarrow, which some couldn't get to quick enough - the Iron Lung called in on the way up the lake and never got to Lanesboro! A Table Quiz in the local Community Hall that night was a great success and attracted a big attendance. Hodson Bay on Monday saw all the serious competitions well underway as boats were inspected, cruisers rescued and "men" thrown overboard. Fancy Dress for children and adults availed of the new and welcome facilities in the fine hotel.

The short trip from the bay to the Yacht Club incorporated a diversion into the Inner Lakes where many of the fleet rafted in the reeds for the afternoon. In the L.R.Y.C. we received a warm welcome from Club Commodore, Lola Leech, ably assisted by Alan Algeo and John Keane who supervised the Bar-B-Q. Later the R.N.L.I. Auction, under the baton and scathing wit of Sean Fitzsimons, raised a record £700.

The equally short journey into the Town Quays left plenty of spare time and the high-light of the day was a tour of Custume Barracks, which Commodore Furey described as a bit of a busman's holiday for him! The Army had laid on a Band, a tour with guides and best of all a "hands on" exhibition of guns, grenade launchers, armoured cars, etc. The young (and not so young) had a ball playing at being soldiers. And so down to Banagher and afterwards Shannonbridge, where competitions were concluded, Talent contest held and the now notorious Eistamaid Competition for the Committee was this year run by Des Gillette with predictably wet results!

When results were announced on Saturday, Paul Garland on Samantha II was the Premier Award winner. Last year's commodore, Paul was a deserving winner - his contribution to the charity "champagne breakfast" in Banagher will long be remembered. Sam Herraghty came in 4th overall - equalling (but not beating) Donies fine performance last year. Fred Rountree in Leamore was a deserving 6th.

At the Closing Dinner, Government Minister Michael D Higgins, who had joined the rally for a few days in a hire boat, announced that his Department of Arts and Culture now had responsibility for future planning and development of inland waterways, while O.P.W. would continue to look after "operational procedures". Surely a recipe for bureaucratic conflict and confusion!

The Shannon Rally, although down on numbers this year, was most enjoyable and as usual contributed to the advancement of the cause of safety and good boat-handling. The Committee from both Athlone and Carrick-on-Shannon branches are to be congratulated.

RESULTS - 33rd SHANNON BOAT RALLY.

Premier Award: 1st Paul Garland; Samantha II 615 mks.

2nd P. O'Brolchain; Barcarol 571 "

3rd T. Murphy; Corbiere 535 "

4th S. Herraghty; Dunross 528 "

5th R. Little; Steelaway 526 "

6th F. Rountree; Leamore 521 "

7th K. Walsh; Shantrek 512 "

Cruiser Class:	1st Barcarole; 2nd Corbiere
Barge Class:	1st Shantrek; 2nd Palo Alto
Sailing Class:	1st Gillaroo II
Man overboard	1st Samantha II; 2nd Steelaway
Inspection of Boats;	1st Day Dream 2nd Gillaroo II
Time Reliability;	1st Blue Haze; 2nd Samantha II
Mooring	1st Samantha II; 2nd Steelaway
Navigation	1st Samantha II; 2nd Adventurer
1st Mate	1st Barcarole; 2nd Corbiere
Rescue of Cruiser	1st Samantha II; 2nd Dunross
Under 25'	1st Leamore
Bacardi Sail-ing Race;	1st Philos
L.Ree Sailing Race;	Gillaroo II
Hire Boat Class	1st R. Cadwell (Silver Line) 2nd M. Eustace (Lowtown Cruiser)
Ladies Boat Handling;	1st Steelaway
" Novice	1st Aloma
Boat by Canal;	1st Dunross 2nd Inny
Young Mariner	1st Leamore
Denis Byrne Trophy;	Kieran Walsh
Doc Farrell Trophy:	Crew of Inny

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

by Roving Reporter.

As usual when the Rally finishes down Athlone way, we continued in a southerly direction for the rest of the holidays and spent about a week on Lough Derg. On reading through the ship's log afterwards, the following items come to notice which are worthy of comment.

1) Speed limits:- these are completely ignored by hire-boats and some private ones too, be it noted, everywhere on the river including Athlone. The signs are far too small, they should be twice the size, and the hire companies must draw the attention of their clients to this rule, both in writing and during instruction. In Shannonbridge, where we stopped for lunch, the scene was incredible as boats came creaming downstream under the bridge, sometimes with children at the wheel. Question - are the children insured?

2) Moorings below locks:- Once again it became so obvious that the facilities below Athlone and Meelick locks are quite inadequate. Mooring space in both places needs to be doubled.

3) Kilgarvan:- Always difficult to get into, the wind is for ever blowing straight in from the lake and it is impossible to see if the very limited mooring space is free until one has reached the "point of no return". Surely the reedy and swampy area immediately to the South would make an ideal site for a good harbour. How about it O.P.W.?

4) Woodford River:- Always a lovely quiet and safe mooring (rather than the noisy Rossmore Quay). This time we went all the way to the little jetty where there is ample turning space. In places the trees are just starting to show signs of growing out over the waterway - it would be such a shame to let John Weaving's pioneering work become overgrown again. Perhaps Derg Branch might have a look sometime before it becomes a major task.

5) V.H.F. Radio:- Once again the abuse of Radio came to our notice. It ranged from over-use by people who treat it as a toy, to children messing, adults making rude and anonymous comments and abuse of Ch.16. It came to a head one Sunday when there were no less than 4 May-Days and other emergencies under the control of Shannon Radio. During such times total silence must be maintained. To the shame of the inland waterways, several times during that day Shannon had to ask boats to get off the air, as there was a rescue underway. We have too many unlicensed and un-trained radio owners and these comments apply as much to Lough Ree as to Lough Derg.

6) New Private facilities:- As we noted up North last year, these are ever growing. Here, there and everywhere we spotted cuts and little harbours. The private development at Gortmore is worth a visit. Eddie Brunner proudly took us on a tour of the complex and they even have a jetty marked "Visitors". How nice!



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

October 1993.

Next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I., will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Friday, 1st October 1993 at 8.30pm.

Well it's happened again! I have heard of the Rocky Road to Dublin, but this September we have the "Rocky Shannon Way".

Oh! I know about the necessity to lower the Shannon levels at this time of the year to allow for winter precipitation, but really, when the opening of the sluice gates and a spell of dry weather coincides, is there no one who has the responsibility to cry "stop" before the levels fall too low?

Sometimes I imagine a Dickensian Official in an underground office somewhere in Ireland, possibly Dublin or Dingle or North Donegal or as far away as possible from the Shannon River Basin, who looks at his calendar and says "time to open the sluice gates". And that's that.

I wonder would it be possible that my imaginary official could be contacted by another official based very near the River Shannon who would be authorised to say "stop" in time, before private and hire boat owners get apoplexy every time their boats go cruising on the Shannon in these conditions.

And when one does make harbour, how does one get on to the quay wall? Must we now bring extension ladders on board?

I.W.A.I. National Council Meeting
in Mullingar, 24/9/93.

Report from Athlone Delegates.

At the commencement of the meeting votes of sympathy were passed and a minutes silence observed for the late Dermot Murphy (National Secretary) and for Willie Knight of Lough Derg (a former winner of the Shannon Rally).

Colin Becker of Lough Derg Branch was proposed and elected as National Secretary.

The President, Des Leyden, briefed the meeting on the following matters:-

1. A letter has been sent to Minister Michael D. Higgins requesting a meeting to discuss future plans and developments. In this connection the President congratulated the Shannon Boat Rally on their initiative in inviting the Minister to join the Rally and the Closing Dinner.

2. Representations are still awaited from the Branches with their comments on the Brady Shipman report. These would be particularly valuable in preparing for the meeting with the Minister.

3. O.P.W. have written requesting our opinions on the question of horse-riding on the canal tow paths.

4. O.P.W. have prepared a new Royal Canal Guide which will be on sale for £5. It is possible that in future they will assume responsibility for all waterways guides.

The Treasurer, Reggie Redmond presented the Annual Accounts for 1992, which had been postponed from the A.G.M. due to various auditing problems, and these were duly passed.

Heritage Council. Congratulations were offered to Ruth Heard on her appointment to the Heritage Advisory Council.

Sub-Committee Reports:-

1. Charitable Status for our limited company. This matter is still pending and under active review. The question arises as to whether the restrictions which would be imposed on us by the Revenue in relation to accumulation and use of funds would be balanced by the benefits to be gained, i.e. is it worth it?

2. B. & B. Canal. The meeting heard a report and correspondence from Tom Maher on the matter of this waterway and on the possibility of organising a rally for the Official Opening. A long discussion took place, with many questions still unanswered, i.e., with whom do we negotiate about the rally?; will the canal be legally "handed over" to O.P.W.?; will Canal rules or Shannon rules apply?; what is the permitted draught?; in the event of a rally how many boats could the waterway handle in 1 day?. Carrick and Belturbet branches are to formulate proposals and inform the President who will then lead the subsequent negotiations.

3. Royal Canal. Opening to Mullingar planned for end April 1994. Those wishing to take part should notify their intentions now. (See National Newsletter).

4. Insurance. This matter is still on-going with various questions to be asked re the extent and limits of our cover.

5. I.S.A. Certification. Two meetings have been held and the proposed syllabus is still under discussion.

Levels of Lough Ree.

The Athlone Chairman, Damien Delaney raised this matter and informed the meeting that Athlone Branch were deeply concerned at the present low level of Lough Ree, which is not in accord with the norms which had been promised. He stated that Athlone Branch would be taking up the problem with E.S.B.

Next Council Meeting was fixed for 26th November. The meeting concluded at 11.00p.m.

Green And Silver by T.C.L. Rolt.

Enclosed with this Athlone Aerial is an Order Form for this third impression of "Green and Silver" by L.T.C. Rolt. If you want your copy of this beautiful book by Christmas, do fill in the form and return as soon as possible.

Ballinamore & Ballyconnell Canal.

If any of you are considering going on the official opening Rally next year, please send details of your boat's dimensions, together with your name and address and phone no. We need this information to try to gauge the time it would take to get a number of boats through the locks on the Canal.

Corrections! PLEASE NOTE in respect of the enclosed

"INLAND WATERWAYS NEWS"

The following date changes to events listed in "For your Diary" on page 14:-

Saturday 23 October should read Sunday 24 October. This is in connection with a walk planned from Main line of the Grand Canal at Ballycommon to the harbour at Kilbeggan. Also

Friday 4 February should read Friday 28 January.

This is in connection with the Dublin Branch Annual Dance in the Court Hotel in Killiney.



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

November 1993.

Next meeting of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I., will take place in Sean's Bar, Main St., Athlone on Friday, 5th November 1993 at 8.30pm.

NB. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ATHLONE BRANCH OF I.W.A.I. WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER 1993 IN THE PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL AT 8.30 pm.

On Wednesday 20th October a few of us from Athlone travelled to Dublin for the official launch of L.T.C. Rolt's book "Green & Silver" in the Portobello Pub.

It was a lively gathering with many Dublin members attending. Dr. Ian Bath of R.C.A.G. and Mrs. Ruth Delaney, who wrote a forward in this 3rd. issue of this classic book, were also present.

The Launch was sponsored by A. Guinness & Co. Ltd. who gave very generous sponsorship towards the publication, for which Athlone Branch is very grateful.

Damien Delaney, Chairman, Athlone Branch opened proceedings by expressing our thanks to Guinness, Mrs. S. Rolt, Mr. J. McGinley who is in charge of distribution of the book from Dublin, and to Mrs. Ruth Delaney for her forward in this 3rd issue. Also thanks were expressed to I.B.R.A. and Era-Maptek Ltd, for advertisements on the back cover of Green & Silver and to Temple Printing in Athlone.

Mr. David Deegan of A. Guinness & Co. then spoke of Guinness' pleasure in being associated with this publication of T.C.L. Rolt's "classic" book on the Inland Waterways of Ireland especially because of Guinness' long association with Barges on the Canals. He quoted from Mrs. Delaney's forward "Many of those who are more recent

arrivals on the waterways have tried without success to beg, borrow or steal a copy of this book which is frequently referred to as quoted. It is only right that this classic of our waterways should once again be available so that everyone may enjoy it once more".

Damien then introduced Mr. Dick Warner, (who didn't really need any introduction to the now relaxed gathering) who remarked on the influence Rolt's book had on him in his own interest in our waterways and mentioned how Rolt had been despairing in his remarks in the 2nd issue of Green & Silver concerning the then apparent deterioration of all our waterways. Mr. Warner then went on to say how the developments we are all now enjoying would have delighted Rolt. He gave great praise to the O.P.W. for their diligent work in relation to the waterways mentioning their assistance to him during the making of the R.T.V. program "Waterways".

Mr. Warner warned us not to become complacent but we should have good lines of communication between Government, O.P.W. and all others who have interest in the waterways, both developers and users. We should remember that for our waterways to be healthy they must be used.

Mr. Noel Dempsey T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works then addressed us. He praised Mr. Rolt's "classic" book, noting that his account "gives a great insight into the pleasures of the actual voyage and is also a very interesting document on the social history of the Ireland of 1946". He also noted that this launch was at a very appropriate time as the National Plan, just unveiled, includes provisions of £20M over the next six years for the development of our waterways. He congratulated Athlone Branch for its initiative in reprinting this book and expressed his appreciation for the work of voluntary groups and was pleased to see Ian Bath present here, and he assured us of the full co-operation of O.P.W.

Damien then presented the Minister with the first copy of "Green & Silver".

Everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon and the Athlone group, flushed with success and Guinness went home on the late bus, but Bridie and me got the early train home. ha! ha! ha!

GREEN & SILVER.

You will have received with your October Aerial an Order Form for Green & Silver and we would like to remind you of this. The book is a most lovely account of our

inland waterways and will add to your enjoyment of your voyages on either the Shannon or Canals. So please send in your order or go into your bookshops and ask there for a copy, many of the larger shops have this book in stock now.

Coming Events:-

- 11th February; Mr. Walter Borner will give a slide show of his beautiful photographs.
- April. It is hoped that Mrs. Ruth Delaney will once again hold a film show.
- March: To be announced later.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

From the Archives of the Aerial.

April 1979:- "Diddley Idle" lies in waiting for her new owner, alas no more to resound to "the bog below Belmullet in the county of Mayo". Frank is taking up sailing. Quigley Boats are producing their own GRP lake boat from a mould designed by Peter for Lough Ree. We wish him every success in this new venture.

June 1979:- "Congratulations to Bridie and Damien Delaney on the launching of Philos, a GPR 28ft. Shipman which should be of particular interest to those of you in the "home construction" market. The owner's original intention was to make up a name for the boat out of the initials of the people who helped, but the hull wasn't long enough to include everybody, so they simply called her "Philos" which means friendship."

Sept 1979:- "Please note that due to Pope John Paul's visit, the end of season rally to Shannon-bridge has been put back to October 5th. (34B has a new bed fitted - Bord Failte please note!)"



ATHLONE AERIAL

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

December 1993.

The A.G.M. of Athlone Branch, I.W.A.I. will take place on Friday, 10th December 1993 in the Prince of Wales Hotel, Athlone at 8.30pm.

Another boating season is over! Later than usual due to the unusual weather of September and October which saw such lovely dry days stretching into frosty clear evenings. Those of us lucky enough to have our boats on the water, had a bonus added to a rather disappointing summer. However, as usual there was a downside to all the dry weather, many found harbours dried out or had difficulty getting boats out for winter because of very low levels. Sure if we didn't have something to complain about we would think we weren't in Ireland at all, at all!

This is also A.G.M. time! No don't stop reading - we know you are probably fed up hearing the same plea at this time, but we really do need YOUR ACTIVE interest in the branch.

Committee meetings are not the most entertaining way of spending an evening, but that is not their purpose.

Good ideas; things needed to be done, rallies organised; membership subs; environment matters; this newsletter; etc, etc, - all these things have to be planned, organised, kept track of, and a committee does most of this work. In fact ideas would remain just ideas, things would remain undone, and the experience of older committee members would not be passed on, and without new people a committee could just fade away.

So please, if you have the time to spare, do consider being an active member of your Athlone Branch committee.

Finally may we wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Shannon Form.

A meeting of the Shannon Forum was held in the Jolly Mariner, Athlone on the 10th Nov. 1993.

Dr. Jim Bowman of the Environmental Research Unit presented a report on the Water Quality Study of the Shannon downstream of Athlone. This report was commissioned by the Lough Derg Working group, who contracted the Environmental Research Unit and Teagasc to undertake the study. The study cost £75,000 and was funded by:- Bord na Mona, £30,000; ESB £15,000; Dept. of Environment £15,000; and Clare, Galway, Nth. Tipperary Co. Councils £15,000 in total.

The study area covered the Shannon downstream of Athlone, Lough Derg and over twenty tributaries.

The study concluded that Lough Derg has deteriorated dramatically over the past 10-12 years to the degree that unless urgent remedial action is taken, plant, fish and bird life could begin to be seriously affected by 1995. The study suggests that two years of remedial work, if begun quickly will result in a dramatic improvement by 1994 and the quality should improve to the early 1980's quality by 1995.

Phosphorous was identified as the most significant pollutant and the main sources were identified as:-

- a) discharges from municipal and industrial waste treatment plants. Phosphorous removal facilities are recommended for the treatment plants at Nenagh, Roscrea, Tullamore, Athlone, Ballinasloe, Birr, Moate, Portumna and Nenagh Co-op Creamery.
- b) Agriculture, due to the spreading of excessive amounts of natural and artificial fertilisers, and the disposal of animal manure wastes on land, and farm yard run off. Pollution could be reduced by strict adherence to the Teagasc and the F.A.I. recommendations for fertiliser use, soil sampling, improved farm yard practices and an education programme for farmers.

Further improvements could be achieved:-

- a) by the use of phosphorous free detergents in domestic, agricultural and industrial cleaning.
- b) by improved efficiency of the peat silt entrapments at the Bord na Mona workings. Peat silt is not regarded as a pollutant by the study group, but it does act as a nutrient carrier.
- c) Tertiary treatment plants must be insisted upon as a minimum condition for grant aid for industry in the Lough Derg area.
- d) Cruising craft generally make an insignificant contribution to the pollution problem. The difficulty arises from craft discharging into the water at public

and private harbours and piers. Enforcement of the 5 day byelaw and completion of the pump out facility programme is recommended.

The remedial measures are estimated at £3.4 million capital cost with an operational annual cost of £261,000.

A further study is about to begin upstream of Athlone.

A second presentation was given by Thomas Hayes of E.S.B.I. on the survey methods and databases used by E.S.B.I. to determine and predict flood levels. The meeting felt that this type of survey would be useful in the long term, it would be expensive and would have to be funded outside the Forum. The short term requirement of the Forum was to prepare an estimate of land affected by floods as part of a submission for inclusion in a third tier of Extremely Disadvantaged and the E.C. Agri-Environmental Scheme. A sub committee of E.S.B, and O.P.W. representatives are to investigate.

Mr. John Donnelly, I.F.A. presidential candidate addressed the meeting.

Charles Whitton Restoration Fund.

A brief history of the "Charles Whitton". She was paid for by a legacy from C. R. Whitton, Hants. A 34'11" x 8'6" self righting, pulling and sailing type lifeboat with No. 1 rig and ten oars. Built by G. Hollwey & Sons, Windmill Lane, Dublin. After completing her trials on the Liffey she was in service as lifeboat at Clogherhead from 1899 to 1927.

Converted to cruising by Mahony of Kingstown and brought to the Shannon by the Smallman family of Roscrea and called the "Benaghmore". In the early 1930's sold to Mr. Ernest Bell of Dublin, rigged for sailing and renamed the "Maeve". Many photographs from this and subsequent owners will feature in the 1994 Waterways series to be broadcast by R.T.E. The next owner was Mr. Charles Harvey and the name reverted to "Charles Whitton". In 1951 it was sold to Mr. Barney Heron and kept on hire on the Grand Canal then sold to Mr. G. O'Brien-Kennedy. In 1962 Peter Dobbs and Maureen Denham became the next owners. In 1983 she was bought by David Beattie and Brian Redmond while Peter Dobbs retained a small share.

In March 1993 the owners were approached by members of the Clogherhead RNLi Branch to see if the "Charles" might return home. The owners agreed to present the boat to a new Restoration Trust that has been established with a view to restoring her to original condition and using her ashore and afloat for fund raising for the RNLi and for youth training in basic boat-handling and seamanship.

Tyrrell's of Arklow have been engaged to do the restoration work which will cost between £25,000 and £30,000 which will be raised by voluntary subscription. The "Charles Whitton" is believed to be the oldest RNLI lifeboat still afloat anywhere in the world and if you are interested in this project, for a contribution of £10. you will get a sweater with the name "Charles Whitton" on it. Please send your money to Mr. David Beattie, "Woodstock", Marlboro Rd., Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

I.W.A.I. National Council, 26th November.

Report from the Athlone Delegate.

Lough Ree Levels:- These have been exceptionally low during November and many complaints are still being received, i.e. problems with slipping boats out and others resting on the bottom in harbours.

Dublin Branch:- Presented a cheque for £1,000 to Kilbeggan Harbour Restoration Group.

Clogherhead RNLI:- (see above article). Council gave a £50 donation to the fund.

Accounts:- The Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts of Council for the year and these were adopted.

Environmental Policy:- Peadar Canavan presented a draft Policy document and this was circulated for consideration and comment by branches.

B. & B. Canal:- A possible clash of this official opening and the Erne Rally (on 27th- 30th May) was the subject of a lengthy discussion. It was decided that rather than a B.&B. rally that a week-long "Celebration" should be held incorporating the Erne Rally week-end and the following June bank holiday week-end. The 3 Branches involved (N.I., CK-On-Shannon, and Belturbet) are to finalise the arrangements.

Royal Canal:- Arrangements for the opening to Mullingar at end April are well in hand. The new lifting Railway Bridge (near Amiens St.) is under construction and is due to be installed in January. Spenser Dock in being dredged at the present time.

I.B.R.A.:- A meeting is being arranged to discuss items of common interest.

Co. Kildare Branch:- The meeting was informed that Kildare Co. Co. are planning to install the pump-out station in Robertstown instead of Lowtown, which is the preferred site of all users and Bord Failte.

A.G.M.:- This will be held in the R.I.A.C. in Dublin on Friday 25th March 1994.

Shannon Forum:- Damien Delaney gave a report to Council. (See article above).

Next meeting of Council - 25th February in Mullingar.

FOR SALE.

Seeing the time of year it is, with Christmas approaching rapidly, we thought you might like to browse through our extensive stock of I.W.A.I. ideal gifts currently available from Sean's Bar, Athlone:-

IWAI Cloth Badges (sew-on)	£1.00
IWAI Ties	£6.00
IWAI Burgees	£6.50
Grand Canal Guides	£5.00
Royal Canal Guides	£3.00
Barrow Guides	£6.00
Ireland's Royal Canal - Delaney	£14.95
Green & Silver - Rolt	£16.00

Regarding "Green & Silver" the sales are really hotting up, thanks to Gay Byrnes mention of the book on his morning radio show! Thanks Gay! If you haven't got your copy yet, what's keeping you?

Shannon Navigation

The navigation on the River Shannon at Lanesboro is closed from 29th Nov. to 27th Dec. due to maintenance work to the bridge.

Coming Events.

January '94	It is hoped to have an evening organised so watch next month's Aerial.
February 11th	Walter Borner's slide show.
March 18th	Ruth Delaney's film show and the presentation of the Harry Rice Cup. Have your entries ready, poem, essay, or painting. We have some entries already!
March 25th	AGM of Council in RIAC, Dublin.
April	Mr. G. O'Brien, our Athlone Librarian, will give a talk on some facets of history connected with the Shannon.

Please read notices of coming events on the back page of the enclosed "Newsletter" and especially the item - Grand-Royal 1994 Rally.
