

Navigation Notices

GRAND CANAL

MN#5 of 23/1/14 - Sallins

The Grand Canal at Sallins will be closed to navigation from Mon 27 Jan until Thurs 13 Mar 2014 while new moorings are being constructed. Due to the presence of workboats, pontoons and chains across the canal, no passage will be permissible.

ERNE NAVIGATION

MN#2 of 9/1/14 - Crom Jetty

The public mooring jetty at Crom on Upper Lough Erne is closed for improvement work until Mid-March 2014. For further details please contact: Lough Erne Warden on +44 (028) 6632 2836

SHANNON-ERNE WATERWAY

MN#129 of 7/11/13 - Lock 6

The SEW will be closed to navigation at Lock 6 Ballinamore until early April 2014 to facilitate the necessary repairs to lock gates. A section of the canal bank walkway adjacent to Lock 6 Ballinamore will also be closed for the durations of the works.

Editor's Corner

You'll have heard of the old Chinese saying that goes along the lines of 'May you live in interesting times' – supposedly a curse. Well, these have been interesting times for our association, not least because of the challenge presented by WI's proposed new bye-laws. In preparing this issue of IWN I was actually struck by the amount of activity that is going on. Aside from the bye-law topic, there's also the ongoing discussions about *Dunrovin*, the proposed change to vessel registration requirements from the Dept. of Transport (RoI), the work the CSIG is doing, the training activities at branch and central level, the restoration projects on the Newry, Boyne & Lagan and then there's all the various rallies, CICs, meetings and other gigs presented in the enclosed Annual Events Calendar. The truth is, we are actually a pretty busy organisation and we get a lot done and that makes life interesting. I don't see that as a problem.

Colin Becker Editor, IWN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESPONSIBLE BOATING

Sir,

About thirty years ago we were tied up outside Sean's in Athlone, my exuberant teenage children and I. It was one of those warm summer evenings and all was well with the world, almost. My eldest could not resist the water and being a good swimmer he was in there splashing about as we liked to do at various spots along the way. It was my unpleasant duty to put an end to the fun and point out that in fact he was swimming in sewage. Athlone was not the only place where you might find yourself dipped in the proverbial but thankfully all that has changed and on a recent trip upriver I found myself tied in the same area and it was wonderful to see the water in such good condition. I accidentally dropped my bicycle pump in the water and was amazed to clearly see it two meters down. I wasn't able to retrieve it but its image, easily visible on the river bed, made me conscious of the improvement since that summer so long ago.

Which brings me to the point of this piece, we boat owners have an important part to play in the health of our beautiful inland waterways. On my return journey I shared Roosky Lock with two other private boats. They left the lock ahead of

me and as we meandered south I was appalled to find myself motoring through an oil slick. One of the boats ahead of me had decided to empty his/her bilges. It was a sad reflection on our attitude to this wonderful facility we have here in Ireland and prompted me to consider whether the person responsible didn't think there was anything wrong with emptying oily bilge-water into our rivers and lakes or perhaps they just didn't care?

We are a community and if one boat is prepared to pollute our rivers and lakes it reflects on all of us. If we can afford a boat then we can afford to deal with oily bilge-water responsibly. There are filter systems available or we can empty it by hand and dispose of it in a less damaging way. Our waterways are a priceless heritage from which we derive endless pleasure. We have a duty to protect them and we have an obligation to not pollute them. We are today's caretakers of this treasure. How are we going to pass it on to our children and grandchildren, healthy or polluted? It is our choice.

Yours etc,

Hugh Lynch. *MV Rupanco*, Cloondavaun Bay Marina

NEW HOME FOR NEW FOX



Fox at work
Photo: BJ Goggin

The 12th Roscommon Scout Troop are entering into an agreement with Waterways Ireland to take over the former workboat *Fox* (aka *113B*). The vessel was withdrawn from service with WI a couple of years ago. The Scouts credit their interest in a barge to an IWAI Rally visiting Lanesborough four years ago. The plan is to

refurbish the boat over the next 24 months and put it into service as an Ambassadorial Barge for the Scouting movement.

113B was the second boat in the Shannon Navigation maintenance to carry the name *Fox*. The original *Fox* is still in use in, based in Athlone.

ADVERTISING IN IWN

IWN is the only magazine published in Ireland aimed specifically at those interested in using our inland waterways. The magazine is published quarterly and circulated to 3000 members in IWAI's 22 Branches throughout RoI and NI.

IWAI also offers advertising opportunities on its website. See www.iwai.ie/advertise.html

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

1/8 Page	€110
1/4 Page	€200
1/2 Page	€370
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*Except for these pages, ads are positioned at the editor's discretion. All display adverts are full colour.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

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