

## 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 IWA 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 IWA's 22 Branches throughout RoI and NI.

IWA also offers advertising opportunities on its website. See [www.iwai.ie/advertise.html](http://www.iwai.ie/advertise.html)

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES

1/8 Page	€110
1/4 Page	€200
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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

50 words for €30 or 30 words plus a photo for €50

To discuss your requirements call Derek Whelan on +353 (0)87 211 4324 or e-mail [adverts@iwai.ie](mailto:adverts@iwai.ie).

# MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION OF SHIPS) BILL 2013

Martin Donnelly

While boat registration has been in the melting pot for some time, the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport Leo Varadkar has now come forward with the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Bill 2013. The Bill together with the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum, Regulatory Impact Analysis and Bill Question & Answers papers are available on the Departments website at:

[www.dttas.ie/maritime/maritimetimesafetydirectorates/maritimetimesafety](http://www.dttas.ie/maritime/maritimetimesafetydirectorates/maritimetimesafety)

Boat registration is not new to this Association. Many of the IWAI membership are registered with Waterways Ireland and may also hold registration with other marine voluntary bodies similar to IWAI. In the not too distant past this Association engaged actively with the previous administration's Minister and Department officials to seek rational and workable solutions to the previous ship registration proposals.

The new Bill has sixty-nine sections and four schedules covering the Preliminary & General, Registration of Ships,

National Colours & Character, Enforcement, Legal Issues, Private Law Provisions, Proceedings, Amendment and the Safety Convention with Schedules.

In overview the previously well articulated arguments by this Association have borne fruit in that the Bill seeks to exclude vessels with a load line length of under 24m (ref: section 11 (2)(a)) from the requirements of mandatory registration. This provision is to be welcomed. However, personal watercraft (jet skies) and small fast powered craft with a length overall of less than 7m and a total propulsion power of equal to or greater than 150kW (200hp) will be required to register. While at first glance the power requirement for compliance may appear high and to exclude many owner's vessels, the Minister has retained the powers under section 11(5) of the Bill to prescribe the length and power requirements of both personal watercraft and small fast powered craft for registration in the future. The rationale for this appears to be

drawn from the Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) reports on incidents and fatalities in 2003, 2006 and 2007, and fast powered craft/RIBs in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Irish Coast Guard maintains that registration will support search and rescue and identification of the owners of such craft.

The Bill seeks mandatory registration for defined or prescribed vessels, however the Bill is silent on the status of other current registry requirements such as Waterways Ireland.

The Bill is also silent on the level of fees other than to allow the Minister to set fees or level of fees for different types and classes of vessel.

The Bill requires an initial registration of five years with a renewal thereafter for ten years without regard to the fact that details of a vessel or its owner may not have changed from those details originally submitted.

While the Bill is quite prescriptive on the mechanism for

registration the Minister may make regulation in respect of measurements, engine power etc.

The Bill provides for powers of direction, boarding, document examination and detention to a wide range of authorised officers drawn from the Marine Survey Office, Sea Fishery Officers, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Irish Coast Guard. The Bill provides for fixed payment in lieu of prosecution consistent with that already established under the Maritime Safety Act 2005.

In overview, the Bill is generally an 'enabling Bill' providing the Minister with the mechanism to introduce wide ranging powers. The IWAI has made a submission on behalf of the membership to the Department on the areas of particular concern and will monitor and lobby as appropriate on the Bill passage through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

**Martin is a member of Carrick-on-Shannon Branch and the IWAI Executive.**

## THE GATHERING



(l-r) Sínead McDermott, Sheelagh Wickham, Carmel Meegan, Martin Donnelly

The 2013 Shannon Boat Rally was a registered Gathering Event. A Parade of Sail took place on Sunday 28 July in Carrick on Shannon as part of the town's 400 year celebrations. In recognition and appreciation of their participation in the Gathering in Leitrim, Tourism Officer Sínead McDermott

presented the Shannon Boat Rally with a certificate to mark the occasion. From its origins the rally has been bringing boating enthusiasts together to enjoy the Shannon, its tributaries, canals and facilities in the company of friends, a true Gathering indeed!

**Phyl Foley** Leitrim Tourism

### CLASSIFIED ADS

#### MARINE SURVEYORS

Mid West Marine Surveying Ltd. Yacht and Small Craft Surveying.  
Contact: Paul Glynn RMS Mobile: 0876591300  
Email: [paul.glynn1@gmail.com](mailto:paul.glynn1@gmail.com)

#### MARINE FITOUT SERVICES

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