

DOWN ON DERG

FROM NATALIE MC GOWAN & CARMEL BYRNE

Terryglass Arts Fest: (l-r) Yvonne Duffy (Festival Committee), Des Byrne (Lough Derg IWA), Joy Gerrard (Artist), Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Inez Heenan (Festival Committee), Evelyn Flynn (Flynn's Jewellers, Nenagh), Carmel Byrne (Hon Sec. Lough Derg IWA)
Photo: Gerardine Wisdom



The weather remained very favourable for boating activities well into the Autumn this year with many people continued using their boats much longer that they did in other years.

TERRYGLASS FESTIVAL

The Terryglass Arts Festival continues to grow and the activities are enjoyed by many. The branch is delighted to continue to support this event and it was great to see the harbour full of boats for the week of the festival and many families participating in the various activities and workshops.

BANK HOLIDAY CIC

The final event of the season was the CIC that took place over the October Bank Holiday weekend to Terryglass. The go karting outing to Pallas Go Karting Track was a great success. Well done to John Mullins on getting the best track times during the afternoon, it must have been the lucky high vis overalls he was wearing!

WILLIAMSTOWN

Williamstown Harbour has been bought by Shannon Sailing Marina which is based in Dromineer. Denis Dillon, general manager, of Shannon Sailing has plans to develop Williamstown as a marina but will bear in mind its strong historical significance.

Gandelow racing in Limerick
Photo: Gary Mac Mahon



The Dublin Steam Packet Company ran a steamer from Williamstown from 1835 and also operated a hotel on the site. The new plans for Williamstown include a coffee shop, chandlery, fuel supplies and workshop facilities. It is hoped the hire fleet will be reopened next spring. Boaters on Lough Derg will be fortunate to have 2 well run marinas so centrally positioned on the lake.

LOUGH DERG RNLI

A public meeting has recently taken place regarding the building of a permanent station for the RNLI in Dromineer. Following the meeting, the RNLI project team are considering some of the feedback received from the meeting. The proposed site has been offered by Tipperary Co.Co. and is on the lake shore close to Nenagh Boat Club. It is hoped to have a final decision on the site in the next few months so the project can go forward for full planning permission. The RNLI have had a presence in Dromineer for the past 10 years, based in the grounds of Lough Derg Yacht Club. During that time the lifeboat has launched 240 times, 60 of those at night. Volunteer crews have rescued 340 people and saved the lives of three people.

CITY OF CULTURE

20 September saw a river based event as part of Limerick City of Culture. Almost 1,000 spectators watched Gandelow rowing races and the newly created CityOne sailing boats. The 23ft traditional wooden rowing boats had recently been raced in The Battle of Clontarf races in Dublin and also in Venice no less! But the main focus was on the colourful CityOne; it was especially designed for sailing along the river in Limerick City Centre. It was designed by an international and local team of boat builders in the Ilen Boat Building School based in Roxboro. The school invited international designers to submit graphic designs for the sails and hull and the winning entries came from Texas, Portugal, Kenya and Limerick. The Ilen school is dedicated to maintaining and promoting the craft of boat building through

community based projects. The CityOne also formed the basis of an exhibition in St Marys Cathedral opened by the Minister for Finance Michael Noon TD and visited by the President Michael D. Higgins. For further information check out Ilen.ie

CityOne boats racing in Limerick
Photo: Gary Mac Mahon



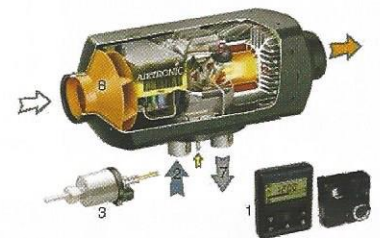
Williamstown Harbour under new management
Photo: B J Goggin

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