

conditions were poor and no lock-keepers on duty on Saturday and Sunday and the two of us being rather depressed, we decided to take a break and rest up at home for a week.

We started out again on Tuesday 6 May and entered 'The Deep Sinking'. The calmness and beauty of this section on this sunny morning is memorable. Des once more saw us through Locks 13 & 14, passing Carton House and Maynooth which is a really well presented harbour and Lock 15 where we tied up for the night. The following day Des once more locked us through the double lock at Kilcock and another double Lock 17 where we said a huge thank you to Des for all his help. He had been with us from Lock 6 to Lock 17, with invaluable advice and cheerfulness. Enfield Harbour is a very beautiful place where we had lunch, then we

passed through a beautiful tree lined stretch and it was dark by the time we reached Thomastown.

On the Thursday we met Philip, our new lock-keeper, who accompanied *Miss Eva* to the Shannon. It was a very busy day, travelling through a steep climb through Locks 18 to 25.

Once more we were held up at Lock 22 with a towel wrapped round our prop! Philip did his utmost to free us but eventually Donie O'Neill from Mullingar Sub Aqua Club cut us free. We continued with road, rail and canal running closely together. Mike Moroney met us outside Mullingar and guided us to a safe mooring. Mike and Val entertained us royally in their home.

As we had family engagements to fulfil we returned home leaving the boat in Mullingar.

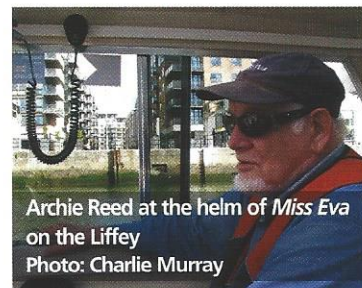
Archie returned to the canal on 17 May and Eric Herrievan (CC member) accompanied him on the final run from Mullingar to Richmond Harbour. Pat Morrissey, another CC member, joined them in Ballymahon.

The whole trip lasted from 9 April to the 20 May, much longer than we had anticipated. While it was very challenging at times, it was very worthwhile. The most memorable parts were: the aqueduct over the M50, crossing the Liffey from the Canal Basin into Spencer Dock, the descent into Grand Canal Basin via the Circle Line, The Deep Sinking, the long day travelling through the bog and the lovely harbours and well-kept locks along the way.

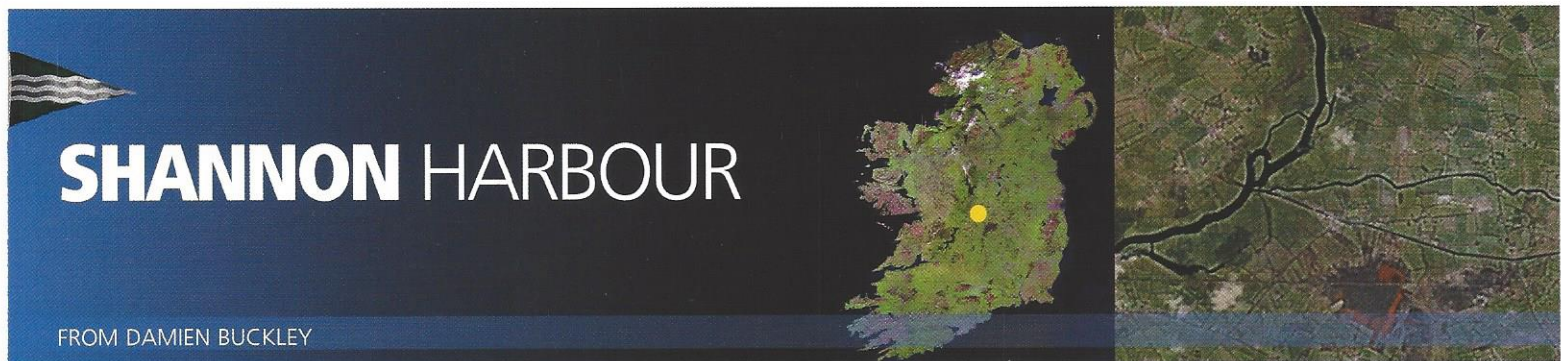
We would like to thank all those who helped us on our way: all

the divers, particularly John Dunne of the CC; Des and Philip, two of the most courteous and helpful lock-keepers on the canals and our friends the Moroneys, Eric Herrievan and Pat Morrissey. Also Jenny Blackford, who organised our passage through the Dublin locks, Shane Anderson who supplied our permit for passage through the canals and all those of the CC who gave us support by texts and telephone.

Photos: Paul Scannell (except as noted).



Archie Reed at the helm of *Miss Eva* on the Liffey
Photo: Charlie Murray



SHANNON HARBOUR

FROM DAMIEN BUCKLEY

JD McFaul
Photo: Conor Nolan



It's the end of another season and a second summer of good boating weather. We have

managed to pass the year without the proposed new by-laws being implemented due

hugely to the great efforts of the Canal Bye-laws Group and many thanks to them.

We would like also to give our condolences to the Farrell Family on the passing of our good friend Mick who was a regular in Shannon Harbour and a true character of the waterways. His quick wit will truly be missed.

We look forward to next year and again to the Canal Boat Rally on the 19, 20 and 21 June with our Commodore's Boat the *JD*

McFaul. I'm sure John and Co. will be great hosts and we hope to see lots of you there.

For the anoraks in the audience, *JD McFaul* started life as *Parcastle*, a 'Duker' barge built in 1952 for the Manchester Ship Canal Company. You can read her full history and more information on the 'Duker' barges on the Heritage Boat Association website.

Our AGM this year will be on Sunday 23 November in the Shannon Harbour Meeting rooms.

We wish all of you a safe winter a Happy Christmas and we hope to see you all in the New Year.