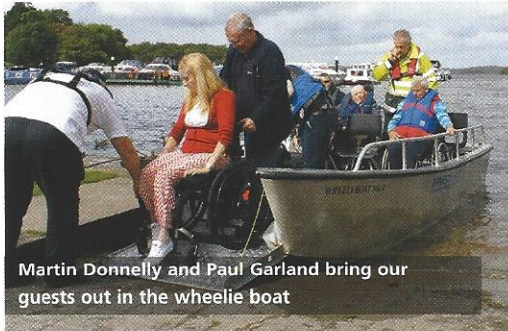


CARRICK BITTS

FROM CONOR MEEGAN



Martin Donnelly and Paul Garland bring our guests out in the wheelie boat

Another season's cruising is now behind us and it was a busy one for the branch. The theme for the season reflected our 60th celebrations culminating in a gala weekend of festivities in July.

As usual, we had our branch meetings, a very successful June Bank Holiday CIC hosted by Paddy & Irene Bowen, followed swiftly by the branch and association's 60th anniversary in both Carrick and Jamestown. This was a fantastic weekend of celebration, saddened only by the untimely passing of IWA past President Bill Child RIP.

The highlight of the year for many is the Shannon Boat Rally. Now in its 54th year, a truly fantastic family event held on the mid Shannon this year and culminating in a trip to Ballinasloe. The competitions were very highly contested and once again a north Shannon boat took home the premier award; congratulations to the O'Dowd family (*Shifty*).

As ever, these events don't happen by themselves and their success is down to both the work carried out by the Carrick Executive along with participation and attendance by our members. Thank you all for making this a wonderful year on the river.

CARRICK CARES DAY.

Now in its third year, this event has proven to be a most rewarding day for all in attendance, either as carers, members or special guests on the day.

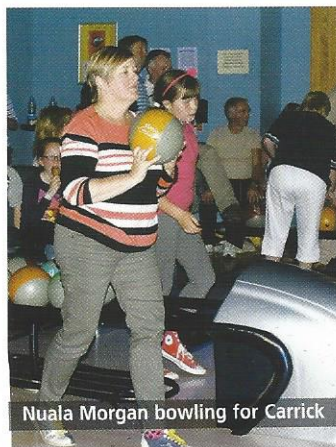
Once again, Rockingham proved the perfect base for the event

and with the sponsorship received from Waterways Ireland we had a very special day with some 250 people attending. We had participants from: Childhood Days,

Drumshanbo; Brothers of Charity, Boyle; L'Arche, Baldoyle; Irish Wheelchair Association branches from Sligo, Drogheda, Athy, Letterkenny, Manorcunningham & Carrick-on-Shannon; and the Carmel Mullen centre in Dublin.

A wide range of activities were enjoyed on the day by all such as, trips in cruisers, professional fishing coaching by Bodo Funke and his team, fantastic interactive games for all levels of ability supplied and run by Aueven & Robbie Wilson of *Mondello 2*, not to mention over 200 hot dogs, 240 burgers, endless cups of tea and coffee, buns and sandwiches being served by a team of Carrick members. The whole event was a huge success and the interactive music activity hosted by *DeBand* and their honorary members was a very lively affair. Rather than name people individually, we would like to thank each and every person who attended and participated on the day for their wonderful contribution.

BOWLING CHALLENGE



Nuala Morgan bowling for Carrick

In September the branch challenged Boyle Branch to a bowling competition, now an annual event in our calendar. As ever, a highly competitive event with both branches competing for the coveted bowling cup. After much exertion and flinging of bowls the winners were announced to much merriment in Ging's new basement bar, where food was provided and music supplied by *DeBand*. Congratulations to Carrick Branch members for winning the overall prize. Many thanks to Brendan Whelan from Ging's Bar for the use of one of the finest riverside bars on the Shannon.

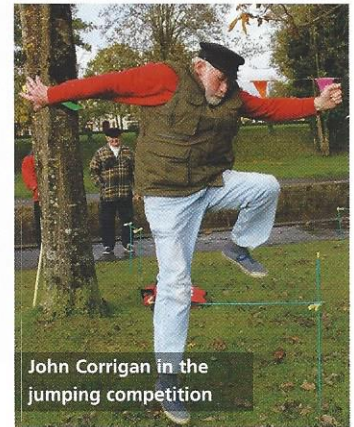
OCTOBER CIC.

The season finale continues to grow in popularity every year.

The hugely popular commodores Peter and Ruth FitzPatrick (*Fusspot*) put a fantastic array of events together to create a busy and entertaining weekend in Dromod. Following registration on Friday night in the Bush Hotel, 42 boats made their way to Dromod on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the weather turned out to be very unkind to us, but didn't stop all the planned events taking place. We had pool and darts in the Poinit Still with the dingbats, picture quiz and penalty shoot out all taking place in the harbour.

The quiz took place in Cox's on Saturday night and was won by the crews of *Iron Lady*, *Magellan* and *Norseman*. On Sunday a coffee morning was held in Cox's and that night 142 people, all dressed as Sailors/The Navy, sat down for a wonderful meal and prize giving event. Music was provided by *DeBand*.

A fantastic weekend was had by all and the very popular winners Cormac, Eibhlin, Blathnaid and Muireann Smith of *Coreibh* will be the commodores in 2015.



John Corrigan in the jumping competition

AGM

The AGM and election of officers will be taking place on Saturday 15 November in the Bush Hotel followed by the Carrick Branch launch of the new IWA book *IWA and The Waterways of Ireland* including an introduction by its author and IWA past President Brian Cassells.

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to remind all that membership is now due and is a requirement to partake in any branch event, CICs or rallies. The easiest way to renew is online at www.iwai.ie if you have any trouble doing so please contact the branch membership secretary at membersiwai@gmail.com.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Branch members are continuously informed of upcoming events by text and/or email. If you have changed your phone number or email address recently, please advise us by texting your details to 086 2154585 or email iwaicarrick@gmail.com

Photos: Brian Fitzgerald



Winners of October CIC Cormac, Blathnaid and Eibhlin Smith with Commodores Peter and Ruth FitzPatrick (l & r)