

LAGAN NEWS

FROM TERRY NEEDHAM & ROBERT MAGEE



Drontheim from Portrush

LISBURN FESTIVAL

by Robert Magee

On Saturday 27 September Lagan Branch of IWAI participated in the Lisburn Festival. Several members launched their small boats at the slipway just upstream from Lock 12 at the Island Centre. This took some time but with everyone helping each other all boats were successfully launched. There was quite a lot of banter going on while this was happening. Boats then went down into the lock to take on passengers and crew.

We decided to walk round to see what was happening. While

talking to some people in front of the Civic Centre a very tall pirate followed by a very tall lady (on stilts) came up to shake our hands. Then we looked over the stand of stuffed wild birds where there was a competition to name the birds on display. Further round there was face-painting for the kids. At the rear an archery range was set up for budding Robin Hoods and across from this a barbecue was in full swing.

Now the boats were ready to pass through the lock and Robert Magee with Charlie Sloan were volunteered by Jim Henning to be the lockkeepers, which they did admirably. All boats were safely put through the lock and away on their journey down river. Once the boats came back through and the gates shut again, then Brian Cassells and Jim Henning put hundreds of ducks into the water, sluices were opened to create a current so that they raced downriver to the other end and a winner was announced. A very fitting end to the day, and all done in excellent weather. Charlie and Robert were rewarded with free apple tart and custard from O'Hara's mobile tea and coffee vehicle.

We were very pleased to welcome Eamonn Burke and crew from Newry and



Robert Magee at work

the Belfast Welcome Centre crew who brought their new self-built Foyle punt.

BOOK LAUNCH 16 OCTOBER

by Terry Needham

Lisburn City Council hosted the first of the regional events to celebrate Brian Cassells' new history of IWAI. Full justice must be given to this mighty work elsewhere and all that I can say in very few words is that every member of our association will find it to be a treasure.

On a night of floods and heavy rain members, some of them contributors to the book, travelled from far and wide to hear Brian give a resume of

some highlights. Deputy Mayor Thomas Beckett welcomed the gathering to Lisburn Island Centre, President Carmel Meegan spoke on behalf of the IWAI and Jim Henning, chairman of Lagan Branch reported on the recent arrival of the barge *Industry*. At the reception buffet afterwards, generously provided by our hosts, Brian was kept busy signing copies. The musical entertainment by duo 'Bakerloo Junction' was outstanding as they are already well known for their own composition *My Lagan Softly Flowing* and we were treated to a first airing of a new song about the *Industry* and its life story.

Photos: Charlie Sloan



Eamonn Burke: sailor meets lady



Industry, just launched at Lock 3