

## Inland Waterways News

### Richard Shackleton, 1916 – 2000

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*Ruth Heard*

Dick Shackleton, who died in July, was a member of the IWAI from the very early days and had a lifelong interest in and love of the waterways. The Shackleton family was first introduced to the waterways by Jane Wigham Shackleton, who undertook adventures in an open boat in the 1890s, recording her trips in detailed logs accompanied by photographs. These magnificent photographs, which form part of what is now referred to as the Shackleton Collection, were carefully looked after by Dick who shared them on occasions at IWAI functions over the years.



Dick's father John and his brother George and brother-in-law Fred Carr had commissioned a boat for the Shannon, the **Seagull**, and it was aboard this boat that Dick and his brother David acquired their early experience of the waterways. Back in the days when there were very few boats moving on the river, Dick and his family became frequent visitors, keeping the boat at Walter Levinge's in the Inner Lakes. Under the watchful eye of Dick, David's son Jonathan took over maintaining the **Seagull** and has continued the Shackleton family interest in the waterways.

Dick also took a great interest in the history of the waterways, frequently attending waterway events organised by Dublin Branch. Through his profession as a miller, he also took a great interest in the history of milling and it was good that, some time before his death, he learnt that the local authority was to take over the Anna Liffey mills and restore them and their contents as a major heritage enterprise. He had been greatly concerned that the mills would fall into the hands of a developer and that the contents, including some early turbines, would be lost.

Just recently he had sent me an excerpt from an early log of the **Seagull**, which I had passed on to our editor. It appears on page 27, verbatim, as a tribute to Dick, who acted as such a careful custodian of these archives.

We extend to Mary and his sons and daughter our deepest sympathy.