

# Inland Waterways News

## Estuary attractions

*John Dimond*

**New Ross**, the gateway to the waterways of Ireland, is the ideal base for cruising the waters of the south-east and the estuary, just 12 miles downstream, through scenic countryside, of the tidal lock at St Mullins on the Barrow. New Ross is a welcome stop to overnight and get fuel and food on board. The New Ross Boat Club have pontoon moorings, which they are willing to share with visiting craft.

In New Ross the recently completed **Dunbrody** is a full-scale authentic replica of the three-masted barque built in Quebec in 1845 for the Graves family of New Ross. It provides visitors with an insight into the conditions emigrants endured on their journey of hope across the Atlantic during the famine years. The ship has been a major tourist attraction in the south east since it opened its gangplanks to visitors in May.



**Waterford City Marina**  
during this year's spring floods.

Outside New Ross Slieve Coillte Hill provides a spectacular view over the estuary and surrounding countryside. It is home to over 4500 types of trees and shrubs from all regions of the world, forming part of the John F Kennedy Arboretum, and it overlooks the Kennedy Homestead, birthplace of the great-grandfather of US President John F Kennedy.

**Inistiogue** is the picturesque village from which the Kilkenny Canal should have taken boats and crew up through Thomastown to Kilkenny City. The village is well worth a visit, as is Woodstock House and the gardens, which are being restored. The entrance to the planned canal is above the slipway: the cut stonework for the sea lock is all that remains of the project, which started in 1755. Maybe some day the short distance from the quay to the village might be completed to allow visiting craft to moor up in the village itself.

Down the estuary from New Ross to **Cheekpoint** and up the River Suir to **Waterford City Marina**, in the heart of the city and in the shadow of its oldest building, the 12th century Reginald's Tower, part of the old Norman wall. Until recently, the only moorings available on the quays were the iron hulks built in the Neptune Ironworks in 1858 as berthing for the schooners which were built 8' deep and not very user-friendly for today's craft. So in recent years, under the City Engineer Tom Mackey (himself an avid sailor), the first marina was built. Such was the demand that the second was constructed within two years. Waterford can now cater for 100 craft, which it attracts from all around the world, including the inland waterways. Local boating enthusiasts — many of them IWAI members — have established the Waterford Marina Motorboat and Yacht Club, which organises its own calendar of events.

Waterford's attractions include Christ Church Cathedral, designed by John Roberts in the 18th century, as was Holy Trinity Cathedral in Barronstrand St. The French Church was founded by the Franciscans about 1240; King Richard II received the submission of Irish chiefs here in 1395. Waterford Viking Show and the Waterford Museum of Treasures are housed in the Granary Building on the Quays. A visit to Waterford Glass is a must, to see the skills of the master cutters and blowers as they exercise their centuries-old art.

