

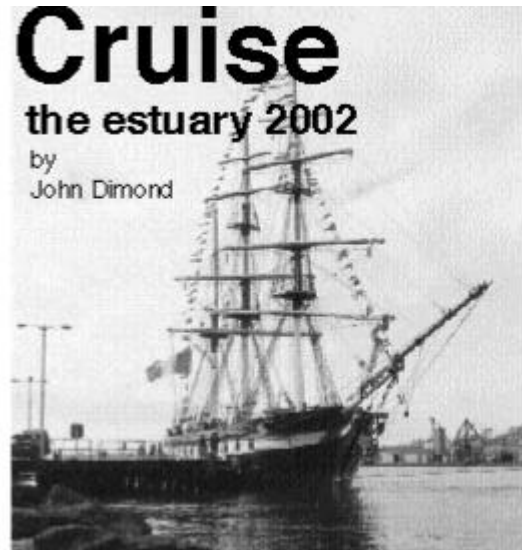
Inland Waterways News

Way back in history, when Ireland was a wooded island on the edge of a flat world, when maps were first drawn by the Greek geographer Ptolemy, the River Birgos appeared on the first drawings of Ireland. This, the River Barrow, with the Nore and Suir, allowed easy access into the rich countryside.

Their importance is shown 60 miles up the Barrow from the estuary where, after more than 1100 years, the first example of a Viking garrison in the British Isles was found at Dunrally, a fortress that housed 1000 warriors and up to 70 longships. It was a base for raids into the Irish countryside, attacking the monasteries that had sprung up along the rivers during the ninth century. However, on 9 September 892, the combined forces of the Kings of Ossory and Laois destroyed the fortress after the dry weather allowed an overland attack when the protecting marsh dried out.

The history of the rivers shows their importance from early times and, from the 6th century, the first light at Hook Head was established, while the present tower dates back to the thirteenth century, where now the black and white lighthouse protects mariners who approach Waterford Harbour, the entrance to the waterways of Ireland. The Hook Lighthouse is now open to the public but there is no access from the water because of the rugged coastline of which it warns sailors.

Fear not, for your journey to the tidal waterways of the estuary should not be hampered by attacking Vikings or the rocks under Hook Lighthouse but you shall be greeted with a warm welcome by the natives, many the descendants of those Vikings. So come on down in 2002, find your way around the estuary — and prepare to revisit in 2005 when the Tall Ships Race has Waterford City and Estuary as one of the main ports of call.



Cruising the estuary

- Always stay in the marked channel
- **Red** to your **right** going downriver
- **Green** to your **left**
- Stay clear of **yellow**
- Give right of way to commercial shipping. They are bigger and have right of way, so stay clear
- Remember red is to your left and green to your right coming upriver

The ***Guide to the Barrow Navigation***, available from Waterways Ireland and other suppliers, covers the Barrow, with sketch maps of the Nore and Suir. A scanned version is available in the drill-down maps and charts on the IWAI website www.iwai.ie. For tidal waters (below the sea lock at St Mullins), you should be equipped with admiralty charts and must be aware of changing tidal and weather conditions.

Events on the estuary in 2002

18 May: Barrow Branch annual dinner and dance. Guided tour of the **Dunbrody** sailing-ship followed by dinner on board the Galley Cruising Restaurant and dance at New Ross Boat Club.

Whit weekend: June rally up to Carrick-on-Suir.

July: Dunbrody festival in New Ross.

There will be other cruises-in-company around the estuary during the season (subject to tides and conditions). No trip on the waters of the south-east would be complete without seeing the wonderful River Nore up to the picturesque village of Inistogue; a cruise is pencilled in for 2002.

Activities

Things to do include a choice of golf courses, walks for the serious walker or the casual rambler, gardens and forests to explore, local festivals throughout the summer and splendid food from fish and chips to haute cuisine. The Barrow, Nore and Suir are noted for trout and salmon fishing: a state licence for salmon fishing is required and a local permit may also be needed. The Barrow is ideal for coarse fishing and Oaklands Lake outside New Ross is a custom-built four-acre lake for coarse fishing.

Contacts

IWAI Barrow Branch

Chairman R A Kepple
Hon Sec P Coady 056-25328
Hon Treas B Stafford
PRO J Dimond 087-2121161 (New Ross)
Email barrow@iwai.ie

Meetings in the Anchor, Graiguenamanagh, 8.30pm on fourth Tuesday of each month from September to May (excluding December). All welcome.

New Ross Boat Club

The Boat House, Rosbercon, New Ross. Tel 051-421601. Marine VHF Base Ch 37 (not always manned). Should you want to use New Ross as a base to explore the estuary, the members will be only too willing to assist you. The club can provide moorings, showers and advice if required.

New Ross Port

Harbour Master Captain Luke Foley 051-421303. Ross Station VHF Ch 14

Barrow Bridge 051-388137

Waterford

Harbour Master Captain Phil Cowman 051-874499
Waterford City Marina 051-309900
Waterford Motorboat and Yacht Club Hon Sec Ena Phelan (o) 051-832211, 087-9747444

Carrick on Suir

Mike Miller (H) 051-643184, (O) 051-601368
Jim Power 051-641838



Tide tables

New Ross Harbour Office 051-421303
Waterford Harbour Office 051-874499
Deevy's chandlery Waterford 051-874477

Weather forecasts

Weathercall 1850-241222

