

# ATHLONE AERIAL



NEWSLETTER ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Summer 2012

[www.athlone.iwai.ie](http://www.athlone.iwai.ie)

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## Keeping you up to date



Since our last Aerial we have had a wonderful cruise in company (CIC) to Ballinasloe and Shannonbridge on the May bank holiday weekend. This experience shows that with a little imagination and a desire to use the old boat we can continue to enjoy the fantastic resources of the Shannon and keep the cost down. Well done to Gerry Macken as the Commodore of the Ballinasloe/Shannonbridge CIC and now we are moving on to the next event on the weekend of 15th - 17th. June.

After the launch of the branch burgee on 16th June we are heading to an old favourite of the Athlone branch, Lecarrow, and Commodore Austin Reid has a programme for the weekend to make this a pleasant outing. Please come along and help to build these events as a part of the dynamic of Athlone branch. See over for details.

To assist with the Athlone Branch identity we are very pleased to have a new burgee to launch on the 16th. June at 12.00 noon at the garden beside the jetties in Athlone. Even if you can't join the CIC afterwards please come along to this launch and be part of a landmark Athlone branch event. The Mayor of Athlone will do the honours and we have food and refreshments for all. We have already received many expressions of interest in buying the burgee which will be available after launch on June 16th.

In addition please note that we are trying to encourage new members to join and previous members to rejoin and we have special burgee offers for current members to encourage this process. Please see if you can recruit a new member and a free burgee is yours.

The Shannon Boat Rally is coming along also and this will as usual involve a lot of Athlone members. This year Commodore Dave McCabe is leading the rally to Lough Derg. The Rally will commence in Lough Ree Yacht Club, who are kindly offering their fantastic facilities once again, on Saturday 28th July and proceed through Athlone to Terryglass on Lough Derg and then back to Athlone making several stops at interesting venues along the way. If interested please see the IWAI website and the Shannon Rally page for the application form and details.

We hope you find this Aerial informative and useful. We hope too that membership of Athlone Branch, which uniquely has such a publication, remains desirable and that the new members you recruit also find the Aerial worthwhile and informative. We are continually seeking contributions from members as otherwise this is a committee venture and it would be much more interesting if we had articles from other members to publish.

Kevin Clabby  
Chairman.

## IWAI Limerick, Shannon Rally

There are some places available, as of this Aerial going to print, on the Limerick, Shannon Estuary Rally which is a new event being led by Noel Griffin and Dave McCabe. This takes place on the 30th. June for the following week and is effectively an organised cruise from Killaloe, through Ardnacrusha and Limerick out to Kilrush. For many of us Killaloe has been the limit of navigation to date and I for one am looking forward to the event. Those wishing to consider joining this Rally should contact Noel on [noel.griffin@iwai.ie](mailto:noel.griffin@iwai.ie)



**Next Branch Meeting**

Takes place on

Friday 22nd June 2012

at the Clubhouse Lakeside Marina  
at 8pm

Have you renewed  
your Membership?

If there is a red X here  
your membership is still due.

If you have since paid please ignore this reminder.



## *New Athlone Branch Burgee*



The new branch burgee was designed by Maeve Redmond. The committee prepared a design brief for Maeve to include the famous "White Bridge" as it is known colloquially; the Athlone Railway Bridge designed by G.W. Hemans and built in 1850 to bring the railway to the West. Up to the mid 1930's the central span was opened twice a year to accommodate yachts taking part in the regatta on Lough Ree. The Burgee will be officially launched at the Athlone Town Marina at 12.00noon on Saturday 16th June followed by a Cruise in Company to Lecarrow for a BBQ and celebrations. A supply of the new branch burgee has been ordered and will cost €17.

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## *New Member Recruitment drive*

The branch is on a recruitment drive and we are encouraging former members who may have lapsed in recent years to re-join. As part of that campaign we are asking you the current members to assist us and as a small sweetener the branch are offering a FREE burgee to any current member who gets us a new member or gets a lapsed member to rejoin. The new member will get a burgee at a discount also.

# *Ballinasloe/Shannonbridge Cruise in Company*



As soon as Gerry Macken accepted the task of being Commodore of the May bank holiday cruise-in-company he set about recruiting attendees with feverish enthusiasm. He canvassed like a politician in danger of losing his seat in the last week before a general election, and he succeeded admirably, as well in excess of 20 boats travelled to Ballinasloe and Shannonbridge. In Shannonbridge on Sunday more boats joined bringing the fleet to 26 in all.

On Saturday evening Gerry hosted a cheese and wine reception, and later an enjoyable (late) night of music, song, dancing and tall tales was experienced in Finn's pub. The fleet moved on to Shannonbridge on Sunday, where many entered into the spirit of the Western theme for fancy dress. Many cowboys mingled with the bemused locals in Killeen's, while the persons who attracted most attention were a hairy legged Hiawatha and John with his genuine American Indian headdress.

Monday evening witnessed the arrival of the fleet back in Athlone just as the weather broke, and many tired crews were washed by heavy rain in the lock.

Well done Gerry, you have set a standard that will be hard to beat by the commodores of the upcoming events.....



# Lough Ree Harbours - Glasson Golf and Country Club

Phone 090 6485120

[www.glassongolfhotel.ie](http://www.glassongolfhotel.ie)

[info@glassongolf.ie](mailto:info@glassongolf.ie)



One of the hidden gems of the inner lakes off Lough Ree is this little harbour at Glasson Golf and Country club, 2011 winner of "Golf Resort of the Year". It should be noted that this is a private harbour and so is for customers only. Even with its basic facilities there is adequate mooring alongside for five boats but with a little cooperation, as usual, double this number could tie up here. There are no power points here and so no lighting so prepare with a torch to get home safely. It's just a stroll up to the fabulous 4 Star Golf and Hotel

facilities or, with a little notice, the hotel staff will collect you from your boat.

To access to this harbour from Coosan point cruise towards Lakeside Marina, turning left/north at Temple Island and pass by Portaneena Marina and the Wineport Restaurant to the end the navigation. Keep a look out in the reeds at the bottom of the golf course, now visible ahead, for the two markers showing the channel to the harbour.

## RNLI Lough Ree Lifeboat:

A temporary facility at Coosan is now in place and will be commissioned in the coming week or so. The official opening is planned for late August and will be supported nationally by the IWAI. Damien Delaney is to be congratulated on his appointment as Lifeboat Operations Manager and on his huge contribution in the role to date. Lough Ree Yacht Club must be thanked for the start-up support provided and the use of their facilities for the training during the past few months.

Crew members are continuing their training both on Lough Ree and at the RNLI state of the art training facilities in Poole. The RNLI lifeboat service will be live on Lough Ree in the coming months and we are proud of the achievement of Athlone members on the committee that delivered this valued service to our local waters. We wish fair winds and good health to all who crew the RNLI craft and provide rescue and comfort to those who are found in need of same.

## Yearly Events & Meeting Schedule

### AUGUST

#### Unveiling Commemorative

##### Plaque:

Sat 6 or Sun 7, IWAI Founding Members (during Shannon Rally). Contact Siobhan Bigley 086 8395861

### SEPTEMBER

#### Branch Meeting:

Fri 7 Sept @ 8.30pm Kellys, Lecarrow  
Cruise in Company: Sat 8 & Sun 9, Gourmet-Sur-Mer Cruise to Lecarrow & Portrunny & guided talk at Rindoon, Commodore Austin Reid 087 2587316

### OCTOBER

#### Branch Meeting:

Sat 13 Oct @11am, Lakeside  
**End of Season:** Sat 13 & Sun 14 'Pig on the Spit', Lakeside Marina, and Sean's Bar Athlone. Commodores Oona and Niamh Herraghty 086 8461564

### NOVEMBER AGM

## The Mooring Buoys

Three mooring buoys will be laid in June replacing existing ones. These will be available for use by members, we hope by the end of June. Details will be available later.

## Branch Notice Boards

We had previously obtained permissions to install notice boards for the branch at all the private marinas on Lough Ree and Lanesborough. We are proceeding with this project in the coming weeks. Notices will be pasted regularly on these new notice boards and members are encouraged to check regularly for matters of interest.

# Irish Water Safety's Safe Boating Alert

1. Check condition of boat and equipment, hull, engine, fuel, tools, torch.
2. Check the weather forecast for the area.
3. Check locally concerning dangerous currents, strong tides etc.
4. Do not drink alcohol while setting out or during your trip.
5. Carry an alternative means of propulsion e.g. sails and oars or motor and oars.
6. Carry a first aid kit on board and distress signals (at least two parachute distress rockets, two red hand flares).
7. Carry a fire extinguisher, a hand bailer or bucket with lanyard and an anchor with rope attached.
8. Carry marine radio or some means of communication with shore.
9. Do not overload the boat - this will make it unstable.
10. Do not set out unless accompanied by an experienced person.
11. Leave details of your planned trip with someone ashore - including departure and arrival times, description of boat, names of persons on board, etc.
12. Wear a Lifejacket or Personal Flotation Device at all times.
13. Keep an eye on the weather - seek shelter in good time.
14. In Marine Emergencies, call 999 or 112 and ask for Marine Rescue.

## LIFEJACKETS CHECKLIST

Visually Check all lifejackets and buoyancy aids for the following deficiencies:

- Ensure CO2 Cartridges have not been punctured and are secured firmly.
- Ensure all zips, buckles, fasteners and webbing straps are functioning correctly and adjusted to fit the user.
- Check that their lights, if fitted are operating correctly.
- Ensure that Automatic Inflation devices if fitted are fully serviced and in date.
- Check that the valve or lifejacket is not leaking by inflating the lifejacket overnight.

## Funding for the royal Canal route

€451,000 has been allocated to Westmeath County Council for an upgrade of the Royal Canal Route involving the upgrading of 11.3km of canal tow path from Boardstown Bridge eastbound towards Meath. The works will extend an existing route, with further potential to develop the entire extent of the canal town path within the county," Deputy McFadden said. Longford/Westmeath Fine Gael TD Nicky McFadden has welcomed the announcement by the Department of Transport.

## Commemorative Plaque to founding members of the IWAI

The branch are organising a commemorative event and unveiling of a plaque during the Shannon Rally on the August bank holiday weekend. The unveiling ceremony will take place at the Athlone Town jetties. If you wish to take part contact Siobhan Bigley 086 8395861. All members are invited.