

SHANNON BLUEWAY LAUNCHED WITH A SPLASH



Walking and paddling the Shannon Blueway

recreational leisure activities such as walking, cycling, canoeing, fishing and cruising all linked by the waterways to local towns and villages.

The Shannon Blueway has the potential to have a very positive impact on

the regional economy and will allow local businesses to capitalise on an increase in demand for transport, equipment hire, accommodation and entertainment.

The Shannon Blueway is the first of its kind in Ireland where a myriad of recreational activities have been developed and bundled together as a single or multiple visitor experience and tourism proposition. Waterways Ireland has built a canoe trail from Drumshanbo through Battlebridge and Leitrim Village to Carrick on Shannon and developed a series of looped walks adjacent to the Lough Allen Canal with plans to expand

those walks to Drumshanbo and Carrick on Shannon. At the same time Waterways Ireland is also developing a canoe trail from Leitrim Village along the 63km of the Shannon Erne Waterway with a walking and cycling trail also at an advanced stage of planning.

The Shannon Blueway is being delivered by Waterways Ireland in partnership of the National Trails Office, Canoeing Ireland, Leitrim County Council, Leitrim Tourism and Fáilte Ireland.

The wider Shannon Blueway of which the Drumshanbo to Carrick on Shannon section is part, is at the heart of access to 100km of

paddling area, 6 looped walks: 3 of which are on the canal towpath, two long distance walks and three heritage trails. The Shannon

Blueway will ultimately provide access to 14 towns and services with each access point and town within an hours' paddling time.

Waterways Ireland and Leitrim Co Co will shortly be examining the possibility of providing a connection from the jetties at Acres Lake to the canal towpaths and also to complete the walking/cycling connection to Carrick-on-Shannon, and up the Shannon-Erne Waterway.

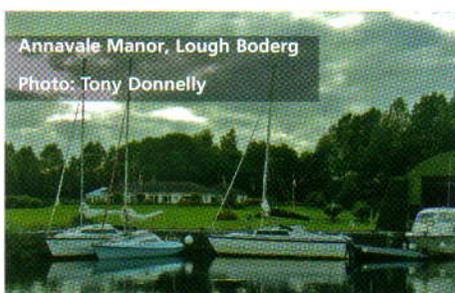
Katrina McGirr, WI

Photos: WI



Paddlers ready for the off

FIRST REGATTA FOR 80 YEARS



Annavale Manor, Lough Boderg

Photo: Tony Donnelly

The North Shannon Yacht Club founded in 1896, the first Commodore was Lord Kingston and the highlight of the club year was a week long regatta on Lough Boderg at which the Rockville trophy was the premier award.

After a lapse of eighty years the revived North Shannon Yacht Club held its first regatta on the weekend of Saturday 12 July 2014. It cast off from the harbour at Annavale Manor, on Lough Boderg.

The flotilla sailed through the Derrycarne cut into Lough Bofin with some very close encounters.

The wind was perfect for the first leg and everyone raced to Dromod harbour for refreshments. On the return trip the wind died and some were becalmed. Being sailors they refused to go under power and had to make a multitude of short tacks.

Due to the first world war (1914-1918) the club fell into decline as many members had fought and died. It was revived in 2013 by a group of local boating enthusiasts.

The weekend finished back at Annavale Manor where prizes were presented and the Vice Commodore Joe Tiernan KCHS hosted a monster barbecue washed down by copious amounts of vino followed by Cointreau and Cognac.

All participants are eagerly looking forward to next year's event on the August public holiday weekend.

Joe Tiernan

BIODIVERSITY PLAN CONSULTATION

Waterways Ireland has invited submissions from all interested parties, groups and individuals before commencing the development of a Heritage & Biodiversity Plan for the waterways under their care. They are particularly seeking input into the issues/projects that should be addressed by a WI Heritage & Biodiversity Plan.

The public are invited to make their input in one of a number of ways. Through an online survey available on www.waterwaysireland.org/Page/s/Public-Consultation.aspx, through downloading the survey from the site, completing and returning it to Waterways Ireland, Scarriff, Co Clare or by visiting a Waterways Ireland office at either Sligo Rd, Enniskillen, Ashtowngate, Navan Rd, Dublin, Drewsborough, Scarriff, Co. Clare, or Old Dublin Rd, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim and completing a survey

there. Completing the survey should take less than 10 minutes.

Completed questionnaires should be posted to Heritage & Biodiversity Plan Consultation, Waterways Ireland, Dock Road, Drewsborough, Scarriff, Co. Clare.

The survey will close on 12 January 2015. For more information contact:

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