

RESTORATION OF THE *INDUSTRY*

The *Industry* was acquired from Mrs Boylan by Castleragh Borough Council in 2012. Their plan was to convert it to a visitor and educational facility to augment the lock house at Newforge which they had restored in 2009.

John Lefroy, a boat surveyor, inspected the *Industry* in December 2012 when it was moored at Rooskey to assess the feasibility of restoring it. His report includes various **photographs** of its state at that time.

Phase 1

In November 2013, the first phase of this plan got underway. By now, the *Industry* had become semi-submerged, so it was necessary to make temporary repairs and pump out the water so that it could be towed down the Shannon to Michael Barrett's Lakeside Marina, near Athlone. Here it was shot blasted to remove all the accumulated rust and dirt which so that it could be properly inspected and a schedule of works prepared.

Phase 2

Actual restoration work started in February 2014. This entailed replacing or patch welding all holed and severely pitted hull plates, reinstating missing original features such as toe rails and bollards, and removing later additions.

Conversion to its new use also entailed several modifications to the original structure. The open hold was covered over to create a weatherproof exhibition space below. New access stairs with protective housing over were also installed in place of the original wooden ladder into the hold.

Finally, the entire lighter was painted inside and out to prevent any further deterioration.

Completion

In August 2014, the *Industry* was brought back to the Lagan where it had begun its working life. It was craned into a specially built mooring jetty just downstream of Lock 3 at Newforge.

Here it was fitted out as you see it now. A second-hand Bolinder engine was also installed and the cabin at the bow end recreated for display purposes.

The restored lighter was officially opened by [C'reagh Borough Council to advise] on [CBC to advise].

The one other lighter open to the public in Northern Ireland is the *Enterprise*, built as a sand boat by the Portadown Foundry in 1929. It was restored by Craigavon District Council in 2010 and is now on display Oxford Island, Lough Neagh.

The Dutch barge *Confiance*, is moored at Lanyon Quay, Belfast. It was restored by Lagan Legacy and is also open to the public as the *Belfast Barge*.