

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH



Report from Mervyn Rolls - June 2017

Visit to Boatyard Gin on Saturday 20 May 2017

Our chairman Ross Millar went to great lengths to organise this visit, so it was somewhat disappointing that there was a relatively low turnout in support. Word was that the cost of £39.00 per head put people off, but in fact it turned out in view of what we received for that sum was agreed to be of good value.

Joe McGirr is CEO of Boatyard Gin, whose premises are located at the side of Lower Lough Erne at Blaney off the Lough Shore Road between Enniskillen and Belleek. It was a little hard to find for those travelling by road, but easier for those arriving by boat.

Joe has years of experience in the distilling business, including working in the Scottish Distilleries.

He and his team arranged that he explained how gin was produced as we were given samples of the various stages to taste. The main ingredient we discuss is juniper berry, but there are others to add and/or vary the taste to produce a specific brand. Some further light refreshment was available, such as biscuits and cheese to complement the tastings.

Expansion of the distillery is underway, and it is hope to produce vodka in due course. Altogether a very interesting afternoon, and we thank Joe and his team for their hospitality and patience in answering our many questions.