

# Coracle Stories

## William Elias and his Water Baler



### WILLIAM ELIAS AND HIS WATER BALER ( FFOIL )

THE GREAT GRANDFATHER OF RAYMOND REES  
MADE THIS WOODEN WATER BALER OR ( FFOIL )  
NEARLY SIXTY YEARS AGO.

WATER BALERS ARE ONLY USED IN TOWY  
CORACLES, THEY ARE USED IN A SCOOPING ACTION,  
WATER ENTERS TOWY CORACLES MORE BECAUSE  
THEY FISH IN VERY OPEN STRETCHES OF THE  
ESTUARY.

THIS BALER WAS MADE FROM THE HEARTWOOD  
OF A SYCAMORE TREE, AND TOOK MANY HOURS  
OF PATIENT WORK.

HAVING COMPLETED THE BOWL HE UNFORTUNATLY  
DROPPED IT AND IT SPLIT IN TWO. NOT WISHING  
TO DISCARD HIS WORK OF ART, HE SET ABOUT  
SEWING IT TOGETHER WITH COPPER WIRE.

THE ITEM ON SHOW WAS KINDLY DONATED BY  
RAYMOND REES THE CORACLE MAKER  
ON THE 22nd OF APRIL 1993.

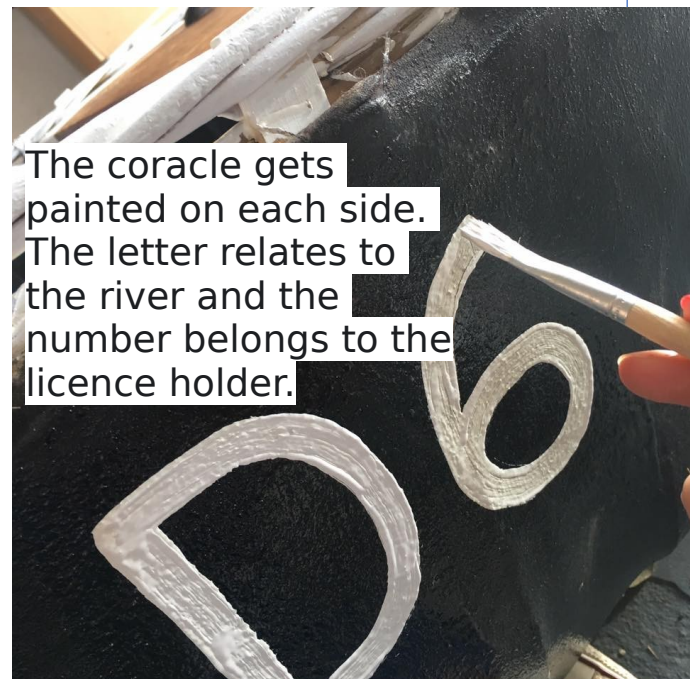
The great great-grandfather of Malcolm Rees made the wooden baler (ffoil).

Water balers are only used in Towy coracles. They are used in a scooping action. Water enters Towy coracles more because they fish in very open stretches of the estuary.

The baler was made from the heartwood of a sycamore tree and took many hours of patient work.

Having completed the bowl, he unfortunately dropped it and it split in two, not wishing to discard his work of art he set about sewing it together with copper wire.

## Letters and Numbers



The coracle gets painted on each side. The letter relates to the river and the number belongs to the licence holder.