Family rescued from their barge

A family from Co. Leitrim had a lucky escape after they left the new Limerick marina yesterday morning on their barge.

As they set out on their homeward journey on the Shannon, the barge came to a standstill underneath Matthew Bridge on the Abbey River in the city because of the flow of water and low tide.

The Baker family from Jamestown, Co. Leitrim, and friends had to be rescued by Limerick Fire Service shortly after 11 a.m. There were fears the barge might be swept back into the weir.

“We had a scary experience and we knew we had to get off the boat. However, we spent two lovely days cruising on the Shannon in Limerick and the marina is fantastic,” Ms. Lorna Baker said afterwards.

They were able to continue their journey when the turbines at the ESB’s power station upstream at Ardnacrusha were turned off for a period to reduce the flow of water.