

# TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 60



What attracts a child to the river?



I never fail to be amazed at what persons will try to get out of the river, with some attempts resulting in a fatal outcome. A group of boys were having a carry-on beside the river. One boy pulls another boy's shoe off and throws it into the water. Yes, you have guessed what happened, the boy was frightened to go home without his shoe and entered the river with fatal consequences.

Then, one day we had to rescue a "drunk" who was hell bent on getting one of the rotten salmon that were floating on the river surface to take home for his girlfriend's tea. No wonder we spend hours at times of "fish kills" removing these stinking carcasses.

All sorts of toys, anything that floats, all sorts of weird and wonderful items attract people, not just children.



I had to rescue an old man who had gone down to the water edge to try to retrieve a “ginger” bottle to get the money back on it. Very sad to see someone in that situation and fortunately he was rescued and looked after.

Footballs are a big menace. Dozens and dozens end up in the water every week. We fill bags of them, the decent ones are passed on to youth football clubs, others are given to dog trainers and others just dumped.



Balloons, blow up animals, lilos, dolls.....

Someone tries out a cheap inflatable canoe, it bursts and they just leave it in the water for children to get hold of.



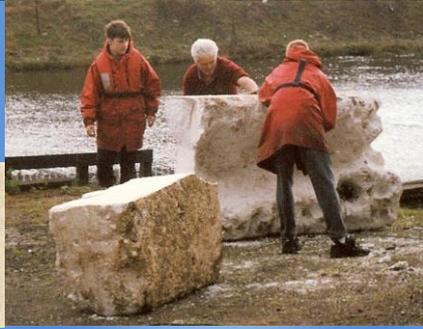
Adults build a raft and leave it at the side of a pond when they are finished playing with it. Along comes 3 young boys, shove off in the raft, capsize and all drown. I have always wondered how these adults, whoever they were, must feel when they saw the photo of their raft in the papers.



**EXPERT SLAMS DANGER RAFTS**  
Kids at risk in river craze  
A SAFETY expert today slammed



**Pals rescued in raft drama**



Think before you discard something in the river:-you may not just be polluting the waterway-you may be the cause of a fatality.