

## Berks & Oxon Advertiser for 1 January 1936

“Two Benson men had a narrow escape from drowning while fishing in the river at Benson on Sunday last. They are Mr W Aldridge and Mr G Lane, and they were fishing from a small open boat. The river was running at a fast speed and, fully occupied with their angling activities, Mr. Aldridge and Mr. Lane were unaware their boat was being rapidly carried away to the weir. Becoming alarmed when they realised their predicament, they endeavoured, without success, to steer their boat to the river bank.

“Suddenly the boat was swamped and they were thrown out. Fortunately they managed to scramble to a danger sign post and they clung to this until help was secured. The boat was washed away to the weir, and had not Mr Aldridge and Mr Lane been thrown out of the boat, it is more than probable they would have been drowned.

“They called for help and their plight was seen by Mr Eade, the lock-keeper, who was instrumental in assisting the men to safety. Other persons on the river bank also witnessed the incident.

*“It is something I do not wish to see again,” one witness of the incident told a Berks and Oxon Advertiser representative. ‘Not for a moment did I think they would be able to escape and I was powerless to help. I went in search of a boat and assistance, but meanwhile Mr Eade secured a boat and safeguarded himself by anchoring a line to the river bank. It was a big risk on his part because the spot at which the men were overturned was at a danger point in the river. It all happened within a few minutes.’*”