

ATHLONE AERIAL

NEWSLETTER ATHLONE BRANCH INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Summer 2011 www.athlone.iwai.ie ~ Secretary Michael McDonnell 086 2621136

Chairmans Message

At this stage, hopefully we all are getting a chance to use our boats and enjoy our various magnificent waterways. Easter produced some beautiful weather, but so far the summer has been disappointing. Well, hope springs eternal, and here's hoping for a better July and late summer.

The branch recently celebrated the unveiling of the 50th Shannon Rally commemorative buoy, now permanently situated at the Athlone Town Marina, in the green area. This was a great afternoon, in glorious sunshine and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to the Mayor Cllr Sheila Buckley-Byrne for her speech and her presence. Siobhan Bigley was the master organiser and everything went to plan.

Our other projects, proceed with slower speed, the plan to install moorings buoys in conjunction with WI has stalled, due to the fact that their work crews are currently focused on drainage works and not in Lough Ree at this stage, as was originally thought. The conversion of black markers to green is also delayed due to this.

Dunrovin proceeds apace, as was presented at the AGM, the proposed outline design is complete and now the next stage is the planning process. Environmental consultants are also on the site at present preparing the necessary Environmental Assessment.

Our events proceed with a cruise in company in July, to see the newly restored Richmond Harbour and the Royal itself. The branch will be pulling out all the stops for a great day and I urge you all to attend and see the wonderful job that has been done there.

Happy boating and I hope to see some of you out and about.

Dave McCabe
Chairman

Progress at Dunrovin

by Dave McCabe

I prepared a piece on Dunrovin, for the summer edition of IWN. It outlined the proposed building and associated site works. I really think that this is a great project for the IWN.



At long last, Dunrovin will be centre stage, the home and HQ for the IWAI.

As can be seen from the drawing and picture, Dunrovin will be a modest building of approximately 2400 sq feet, but still capable of carrying out the functions of a HQ. It will include training facilities, storage for our archives, and two meetings rooms, one capable of taking reasonably large gatherings.

The site itself will be landscaped and the wilderness turned back, it's intended to mainly grass the area, and retain the "woodland" feel to the site. Removal of non-native trees, especially pine will open the site and allow the lower plants and trees to survive and prosper.

The site will also be made secure from entry, as vandalism is always a concern. It is intended to seek permission from Westmeath Co. Co. for use of the car park and to provide a pedestrian access to the site.

Many people may consider that the money is wasted, or that the building will be under utilised, but I for one, do not see merit in these arguments. The building will be an ongoing statement about the Association. Training, meetings, public presentations, home to archives, will all ensure its use and I'm sure in no time, the very existence of the centre will encourage other branches and other uses. I really believe we are starting something positive and forward thinking.

Notice of Athlone Branch Meeting

Friday 8th July, LRYC, 8pm

AGENDA

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| 1. Correspondence | 5. Status of Projects |
| 2. Minutes | 6. Dunrovin Update |
| 3. Matters Arising | 7. AOB |
| 4. Spending plans for 2011-2012,
as per IWAI Executive request | |

Text Alert Information System

As mentioned and agreed at the previous branch meetings, we have set up a SMS (texting) information system, in order to allow us, the branch, to Text you with timely information and updates, like meeting reminders, cruise in company start dates etc. This service will be provided by a company called SendMode, a company based in Letterkenny.

Please be aware that this is an OPT-IN service. To join you will have to text the word IWAI to a special number. We will not use any mobile numbers that we may have already, only you the subscriber can join. You can also leave at any stage.

We promise not to pester you with inconsequential information; this is an alert service only. Note that according to the IWAI rules, we undertake never to release you mobile number for other purposes, unless explicitly agreed by you. Your information will NEVER be passed to third parties for any purpose.

**To Join Text
IWAI to 51444**

Presentation to Sean Fitzsimons



The Chairman Dave McCabe on behalf of the Athlone Branch presented Sean Fitzsimons with a very special framed photograph of Sean meeting with President McAleese last year at the 50th Shannon Rally. Sean has the unique record in attending the largest number of Shannon Rallies of any member of IWAI and long may it continue.

Athlone Branch IWAI Cruise in Company to Cloondara 16th/17th July 2011

Athlone Branch IWAI are organising a Cruise in Company to Cloondara on the weekend of the 16th & 17th July 2011.

We need to know in advance how many boats & people that are likely to take part so that we can organise lock passages, harbour space, food etc. The Plan is to have an informal get-together at Coosan Point jetty on Friday night 15th July, arrive as convenient. Depart Coosan Point at 10.00 on Saturday 16th, allowing for a 3 to 4 hour passage to the junction of the Camlin River at Tarmonbarry we should arrive between 13.00 & 14.00. There are then 2 locks taking you up into Richmond Harbour.



The Richmond Inn has a restaurant that can accommodate 30 people, but for larger numbers they also use the lounge, or weather permitting, they can do an outdoor Barbeque. Please indicate your preference.

On Sunday 17th we can do a dinghy run up the Royal Canal to Lock 45 or further to Killashee if time permits, and if people feel energetic enough, or we can arrange an historical walking tour of Cloondara, before departing Richmond Harbour.

**Can you convey your intentions / preferences please, as soon as possible to:-
Damien Delaney at 087 2437092 or e-mail at bddelaney@eircom.net**

Unveiling of 50th Shannon Rally Commemorative Buoy



On the sunny bank holiday weekend on Saturday 4 June 2011 over 40 people turned up to the unveiling of the special commemorative sculpture a replicated Lough Ree Buoy to make over 50 years of Shannon Boat Rallying. The sister buoy was erected and unveiled at the 50th Shannon Boat Rally in Carrick on Shannon last year by President McAleese. The sculpture, proudly in a prominent position on the grass at the Athlone Town Marina was unveiled by Cllr Sheila Buckley Byrne Mayor of Athlone. Joining us on the afternoon was the Cruising Club Branch who were on Lough Ree rallying and were delighted to join our celebrations. In attendance was Cllr Aengus O'Rourke and Cllr Alan Shaw Deputy Mayor. It is nice to see local councillors taking an interest in the Shannon and the activities of the IWAI. As an association we have and continue to play a very important role in the local community and economy.



We were delighted to welcome those first time Shannon Ralliers that are still around fifty one years later, the Glennons and Furlongs who entertained us with their stories of endeavour and fun there was in participating in the first rally.

Many thanks go to Dave McCabe our Chairman and his wife Siobhan McCluskey, Mick Slattery, Keith Rowe, John McGrath MMKDA Engineers, Pat Morrissey, Athlone Town Council, the staff of the Athlone Town Marina, and the Mayor Cllr Sheila Buckley Byrne.