

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

LOUGH ERNE BRANCH

Report for IWN from Mervyn Rolls - 29 April 2016

Now that the branch has reformed we were able to hold our first committee meeting of 2016 on 15 March at Quinn's Corner, Dungannon, a return after some time due to previous circumstances. Six of us attended, including our newcomer, Ross Millar. Our now chairman, John Weir, opened the meeting with thanks to past committee members, Ken and Jane Bell, Jim Henning and Robert Navan, all who did sterling work during their tenure. Also to Frank Woods for his time as Secretary/Events Organiser, and to Mike Kingston whose post as Treasurer has now passed to Alan Cousins, all three of whom remain on the committee.

A discussion on Dunrovin and its implications concluded that it would have little impact for Lough Erne Branch. We then moved on to discussing a programme of events for 2016, and the following are included ;

EVENTS

Please note further details and revisions could follow.

16 May - An evening tour of Belfast Titanic Quarter by boat, and on through the Lagan Weir to Cutters Wharf at Stranmillis for refreshment.

May - Erne Boat Rally - details will be circulated separately.

10/11 June - Cruise in Company from Carrybridge Hotel after lunch if required to overnight stay at Crom, moving up to Belturbet on Saturday morning. A light lunch will be available in the Seven Horse Shoes. Some members may prefer to arrive by car, then join everyone aboard a hire coach at 2 pm to travel to Canal Stores Clones for a presentation by Waterways Ireland, describing the work being done to open up the entrance to the Ulster Canal. Afterwards proceed on to view Derrykerrib Bridge and Castle Saunderson, both of which feature in the programme of works.

5/6 August - Cruise in Company, to include meeting with Waterways Ireland, overnight in Enniskillen and then to Castle Archdale for guided tour and evening meal/entertainment. This is a good opportunity to learn more about this location, which was a very important RAF Station in World War 2, from which Sunderland and Catalina Flying Boats operated to protect the Atlantic Convoys carrying vital supplies from North America for the war effort. Interest in the area has increased of late, and it has featured in several TV and radio broadcasts, one as recently as 28 April 2016.

17 September - Annual Dinner Dance in Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown. Transport by coach will be available from Enniskillen and Rossigh.

November - date and venue to be decided for AGM.

WATER LEVELS

Water Levels can at times be extremely low in parts of the Erne and Shannon systems, therefore it may be useful know that WI constantly monitor water levels from 5 gauges around the Erne. Current and historical data is shown on the Waterways Ireland website.

CONTACTS

We would ask all members to advise the Chairman or Treasurer if they make changes to their contact details, such as postal address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses. This is most important so that we maintain an up to date list. We have to stress as well that subscriptions need to be paid when due.

Provided we have the weather to suit, this is a good year to increase the boating activity on the Erne System, and show that it is one of the best areas in Europe for all sorts of water sports.