



# BOYLE RIVER NEWS

FROM KAY BAXTER



## AGM

The 2013 AGM saw only one change to the committee. We would like to welcome Catriona Gately as secretary and to thank the outgoing secretary, Assumpta Doherty, for all her work in 2013. Committee for 2013 and contact details are as follows:

**Kay Baxter** (Chair)  
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**Catriona Gately** (Sec)  
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**Eileen Taylor** (Treas)  
086 3566654  
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**Kevin Regan** (SO & CWO)  
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## CALENDAR 2014

Our branch calendar for the year has been compiled and is included in the IWAI calendar of events. Hard copies will also be available to members on St Patrick's Day and at our first branch meeting on Friday 4 April at 20.30hrs in The Patrickswell, Boyle. We are happy to welcome new members or members from any other branch to join us for any of our events.

Our first event of the year, as last year, will be the St Patrick's Day parade on the water only this year there will be two parades. The first on Sunday 16 March in Cootehall and the second will either be on Sunday 16 or Monday 17 March in Carrick on Shannon. Details, including times, are yet to be finalised but members will be informed by email, text message and on the branch website, [www.boyleriver.iwai.ie](http://www.boyleriver.iwai.ie). Dress up of crew and boat is of course compulsory.

## DRUMMANS ISLAND CANAL

Lobbying of the various stakeholders in relation to the project to reopen the



Drummans Island Canal in Lough Key Forest Park continued over the winter, with some progress being made.

Representatives of Roscommon County Council and Waterways Ireland walked the site in November 2013. Correspondence received from Waterways Ireland in early January confirmed that it has been an objective of theirs to pursue this opportunity to provide access for small vessels, canoes, etc.

Roscommon County Council is to progress matters relating to access and ownership. The area is a Special Area of Conservation so Waterways Ireland is to meet with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Subject to



approval by the NPWS, Waterways Ireland hopes to carry out some clearance of light shrubbery overhanging the canal to gain access, hopefully before the end of February. This will enable them to survey the depths and widths of the canal and inspect the bridge to determine the extent of the work needed.

As always in these times budget is very scarce for any such projects. Waterways Ireland has no budget this year for capital works, only for maintenance. Roscommon County Council, like all County Councils, is not exactly awash with money. However if a joint venture between Waterways Ireland, Roscommon County Council and Coillté was undertaken the economic burden might not be too onerous. To get as far as having the survey completed would at least be a step in the right direction. We will keep you informed of any progress and if necessary we may elicit your support in the lobbying of local representatives (especially as local elections are just around the corner).

## BYE LAWS

As you all know Waterways Ireland are proposing amendments to the Canal Bye Laws which, if signed into legislation, will result in not only an increase in the cost of

boating but also the imposition of on the spot fines of €150, with no appeals process, for infringements of the Bye Laws. The IWAI has co-ordinated a campaign seeking to have these amendments altered. Thank you to all members, past and present, their families, friends and colleagues who signed letters supporting the campaign.

What you may not know is that they have already started work on the Bye Laws governing the Erne System and are then moving on to draft amendments to the Bye Laws governing the Shannon. At the moment we have no information in relation to what these proposed amendments might contain, but if they are to be seen to be fair then it's fair to speculate that they will increase the cost of boating substantially. Watch this space!

## SEW AT 20

Leitrim Village are hosting a weekend of activities to mark the 20th Anniversary of the re-opening of the Shannon-Erne Waterway. It will take place over the weekend of 20 to 22 of June. Lots of activities are planned including water sports, road races, a craft fair, food fair and of course no celebration would be complete without a boat parade. As it is Leitrim, there will of course be lots of music sessions. A brochure will be produced soon with full details but keep that week-end free in your diary.

## MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again folks. If you haven't already done so your membership is due for renewal. There has been no increase in membership subscription for a number of years now so I hope you all agree that it is good value for money. You can renew online at [www.iwai.ie](http://www.iwai.ie) or by sending/giving your subscription to our treasurer Eileen Taylor, 7 Cuilmore Cove, Cootehall, Co. Roscommon.

*Photos: Kay Baxter*