



# BOYNE BANTER



FROM MYLES BRADY



Ross Farrelly top and Kevin Fullam working on the foundation for the landing steps at the end of the lock

## WELCOME TO NEW VOLUNTEERS

With the advent of the New Year, we in the Boyne Navigation Branch are renewing our regular appeal for new volunteers to become interested in, and possibly become involved in our restoration work on the Boyne Navigation between Drogheda and Navan. Our present band of members and volunteers have made a significant impact on the restoration of this historic waterway over the past few years, but progress of the work is governed by the numbers who become involved, so we are always looking forward to welcoming new recruits to maintain, and even increase the rate and scope of the work.

On a practical level, there is work to suit all-comers to our fortnightly workparties – dates and times available on our website at [www.boyne.iwai.ie](http://www.boyne.iwai.ie), and everybody who becomes involved will be entertained to a 'soup and sandwiches' lunch at 1.00pm, courtesy of our ever efficient catering staff. All are welcome, and even if you cannot be involved in the work on the day, we would love to see you, and show you the progress on the restoration. Keep an eye to the website, as the lunch location may vary from workday to workday as we progress away from the Oldbridge sealock along the navigation.

## RESTORATION PROGRESS

Restoration work around the now operational Oldbridge sealock continues, governed to an extent by the construction of the 'Boyne Greenway' cycleway along the river and canal between Drogheda and the Battle of the Boyne site at Oldbridge Estate. We were able to take advantage of a complete road closure required by the 'Greenway' construction to fell a large tree which had grown up through the roadside 'wing wall' on the downstream entry to the lock, the roots of which had demolished a length of the wall. The wall masonry which had



Finishing the paving: Myles Brady with crutch, Padraig Costello, Kevin Fullam on mixer and Eugene Carbery

fallen into the entry passage to the lock was recovered using a long reach digger, and reconstruction of the wall has started. This reconstruction work is governed by the tides, so will take some time. Laying of paving along the side of the lock has continued, and will also be finished when the 'Greenway' construction allows.

As well as the work around the sealock, maintenance of the Oldbridge canal section continued, with some clearance of fallen trees and debris. Further clearance of fallen trees and bank repairs will be carried out when the high winter water levels in the canal return to normal.

## OTHER BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The 7th Branch AGM was held on Tuesday 3 December in Newgrange Lodge, Donore. A full Committee of four officers, and ten committee members was elected by a good attendance. We particularly welcome two new full committee members – John Daniels, and Geoff Clarke, who had been co-opted during the year. The meeting was followed by a very pleasant supper featuring, among other delights, mince pies to mark the beginning of the festive season. Again, many thanks to our catering staff!

## OTHER SNIPPITS

Planning for restoration of the Slane section of the Navigation by members of 'Slane Community Forum' is progressing. Under the supervision of, and on the advice of the BNB, they have had several meetings with the Parks and Wildlife section of the Department of the Environment, and the necessary Ecological Assessment has been carried out and submitted. Clearance work on the canal section west of Slane bridge will be started early in the New Year.

A further Cutting Licence has been obtained from Parks and Wildlife section, DOE, for more clearance of the canal at Athlumny, downstream from Navan. Cutting and clearance of this extra section is to begin in the New Year, and will be carried out in association with the Navan Coarse Angling Club, for whom a major clearance was carried out along this section of the Navigation in early 2013.

As in previous years, the Branch again entered the annual Community Contribution Award section of the Drogheda Business Excellence Awards. Unfortunately, however we were not successful in being shortlisted on this occasion, but will continue to participate in this competition to maintain our profile in the Drogheda area.

**Photos: Seamus Costello**



Posts to hold the raised platform for the new Greenway