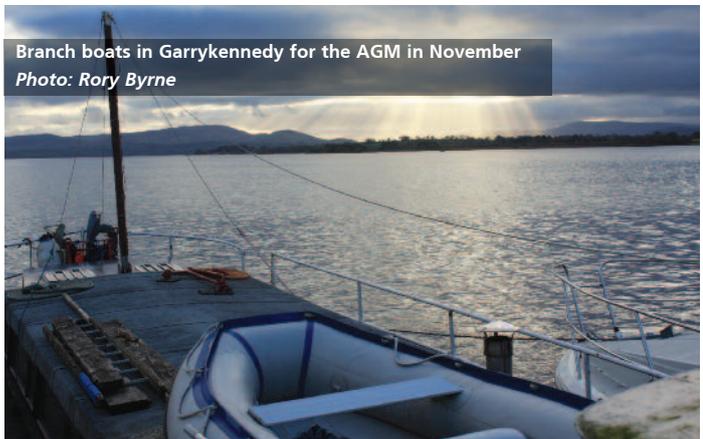




DOWN ON DERG



NATALIE MCGOWAN & CARMEL BYRNE



Branch boats in Garrykennedy for the AGM in November
Photo: Rory Byrne

The winter season is still with us and although some members have continued with their boating activities throughout this time many others are planning their return to the waterways. Now is the time to think about all those jobs that need to be done on the boat and more importantly make a plan to get them done, don't be caught out doing the work too late in the year and lose out on good boating time.

BRANCH EVENTS

Plans are underway to arrange branch events for 2014. Members will be contacted in the next few weeks for feedback and suggestions for future events.

Branch meetings will take place on 8 March, 12 April and 10 May. The meetings will start with the branch business followed by a presentation, please make a note in your diary of these dates. The April meeting will include a presentation from Pat and Olivia

Murphy who will continue their recollection of their 9 year circumnavigation.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Lough Derg face book and webpage for up to date information.

BRIAN BORÚ 2014

The Battle of Clontarf 1014 has an important place in Irish history as it not only routed the Vikings but tragically resulted in the death of the greatest High King of Ireland, Brian Ború. Brian is reputed to have broken the power of the Vikings in Ireland; A French historical account written at that time says 'The victory was won over the strangers by the force of war, superior exertion and indomitable bravery'.

Killaloe was the birth place of Brian and this year it will be involved in a country wide festival to commemorate the slain king. Brian Ború was the son of the King of the Dal Cais tribe and is reputed to have

grown up just 2km north of Killaloe in a ringfort which commands a fine view of the entrance to the lake and in an ideal location to control movement along the river. Following the assassination of his brother Mahon in 976 Brian, became leader of the Dal Cais and went on to become High King of Ireland in 1002. Brian had his palace Kincora (Ceann Coradh) at the top of the hill where the current Catholic Church stands. Therefore during his reign as High King Killaloe was effectively the capital of all Ireland. Brian was married 4 times (that we are aware of) and is known as the founder of the O'Brien clan who became important Kings of Munster and Thomond in later centuries.

He earned his name as 'Brian of the Tributes' (Brian Borúmha) by collecting cattle tributes and using the wealth to restore monasteries and libraries that had been destroyed during the Viking invasions. One such monastery to benefit was that on Holy Island or Inis Cealtra as Brian's brother Marcan was abbot of the island in the 10th century.

Brian Ború is said to be buried in the grounds of St. Patrick's Cathedral in the city of Armagh. His tomb is reported to be at the north wall of the cathedral in keeping with the tradition that warriors or those who die in battle must be buried in the northern sections of graveyards.

The Heritage Centre on the bridge in Killaloe is named after Brian Ború and has plenty of information on the High King so is well worth a visit. For further information about events commemorating the Brian Ború Festival check out www.brianBorú2014.com

Sincere sympathies to the Mulvaney, Timon and Henry families on their recent bereavements.

LOUGH DERG RALLY 39

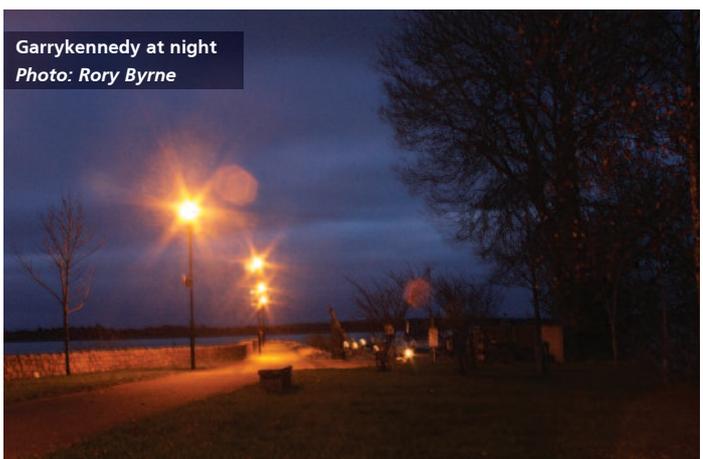
The 39th Lough Derg IWAI Boat Rally will take place this year from Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 July.

The rally will be as usual based on and around beautiful Lough Derg and all IWAI boats will be very welcome to join for the week. Boats and crews of all sizes who have done or not done the Lough Derg Rally will be welcome to join in our relaxed boating holiday atmosphere with competitions, music and crack for all, young and not so young.

Although there is lots of entertainment there is a serious side too, there is silverware to be won, Man Overboard, Rescue a Cruiser and Boat Handling along with other boating activities are all done in an educational and fun way.

Every year is different and this year will be no exception, I look forward to seeing you there.

David Brassington
Commodore



Garrykennedy at night
Photo: Rory Byrne



Fun and Games in the Black Lough on Rally 38
Photo: Dave Brassington