



KILDARE BRANCH



FROM JIM CONNOLLY, ALAN KELLY & PA KEOGH

CHRISTMAS WALK

As is the tradition, Kildare IWAI mobilised its members to work off the excess of Christmas with the annual Christmas walk, which took place on 27 December in Naas. The walk and talk was arranged by Paddy Behan of the Naas Historical Society. In spite of the weather the walk was well attended and we walked along the Corbally Branch of the canal, an unusual diversion for most of the attendees as recently most trips up this line have been by boat. In typical Irish fashion the inclement weather had everyone run for cover, sheltering under the only leaved tree in sight! With no let up in the rain and wind we were 'forced' to return to the Town House Hotel Naas for refreshments and some heat provided by Mary and her staff. With the Christmas excesses reinstated, Paddy continued his talk, including some history on

Naas town itself. A good day was had by all and Kildare IWAI would like to thank Paddy for his time and a special word of thanks to the Town House Hotel for refreshments and hospitality.

CANAL BYE LAWS

Following the recent closure of the Public Consultation on proposed Canal Bye-Law amendments by Waterways Ireland, Kildare IWAI wants to acknowledge the considerable contribution that its members have made on a variety of issues regarding these proposed changes. Kildare has vibrant canal boating users of all types from regular cruisers, to day boaters, to business entrepreneurs to liveaboards and valuable feedback was received from all of these. This is in addition to points raised by other recreational users such as anglers, walkers & cyclists, local tourist and other business

entities, ordinary people from towns and villages along the canals and public representatives. The issues highlighted have helped to shape the strategy of the IWAI national campaign on the proposed Bye-Law amendments which is very clear in its message that bureaucratic regulations will kill boat traffic and the potential for further tourism development on the canals. For the up to date position concerning these Bye-Law amendments see the campaign page at www.iwai.ie and for a local perspective logon to www.kildare.iwai.ie.

KILDARE IWAI AT 30

This year sees Kildare IWAI celebrate its 30th anniversary and the committee are planning a varied and interesting year of events, culminating with the October Rally in Naas, where a specially commissioned

commemorative plaque will form part of the rally pack.

This season kicks off on 8 March, with a work party on the Four Pots near Digby Bridge followed by a barbecue at Leinster Mills the winter mooring spot for many Kildare boats. It's off to the lovely Harbour in Edenderry for the St Paddy's weekend, a town that has always made us feel very welcome and a chance to catch up with our Offaly friends. By the Easter weekend we head East and join up with Dublin IWAI for a combined rally to Hazelhatch and then on to Dublin's 50th Rally in May. A Kildare IWAI Rally on the Shannon is being organised for the summer months, a first for the branch, but with so many of our members boating on the Shannon, this is a chance to all catch up. (Dates TBA.) For all details please see our website, www.kildare.iwai.ie

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