



# SLANEY SNIPPETS

FROM CATHERINE MALONE



Boating in the Sunny South East.

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY

2014 is the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Slaney Branch of the IWAI. The late Cecil G Miller, a keen boater and inland waterways enthusiast, compiled the 'Slaney Guide' to the tidal section of the river from Wexford Harbour to Enniscorthy, published in 1987, with the main aim of encouraging other boaters to use and enjoy the river, as he was doing. While on a Shannon Rally, Cecil and his good friend David Killeen, came up with the idea of having a 'Branch' in Wexford. One thing followed another, and on 27 January 1989, the inaugural meeting of the 'Slaney Branch' was held in Wexford Harbour Boat and Tennis Club (WHBTC). The first formal meeting of the branch was held on 24 February 1989. Cecil was elected President and David Chairman. Sadly Cecil passed away in October 1989, but has left us the legacy of a branch that has survived to the present day. At our recent Annual General

Meeting, we were fortunate to have two of the founding members, David Killeen (currently our President) and Jim Maguire, together with their spouses, Eleanor and Mary, present and all in good health. The branch is indebted to the WHBTC for their great support over the years and the use of the Clubhouse for our meetings and events.

## AGM

The 2013 Annual General Meeting was held on 10 January 2014. There was a small attendance and the Chairman again expressed his concern regarding the future of the branch. He said it is essential to recruit new members. The Secretary reported on the activities during 2013 and the Treasurer reported on the financial standing of the branch. There was discussion on the proposed WI Bye-Laws and the members agreed to concur with the response from the IWAI Executive to Waterways Ireland. The Executive decision to

abandon the development of *Dunrovin* in its present format was unanimously approved by the members. The Chairman, Fred Crampton, stepped down and Brian Coulter was elected to the post. Catherine Malone was re-elected as Secretary and John Tully as Treasurer. Following the Meeting, we had our usual enjoyable post-Christmas Party.

## IRISH SHIPPING

Our first 'event' of the year was an illustrated presentation by Rosslare Maritime Enthusiasts, Brian Boyce, John Boyce, Brian Cleare and Leo Coy on their recent publication *Irish Shipping Ltd – A Fleet History*. They gave us a fascinating talk on the establishment of the Company in 1941 and the purchase of the 'First Fifteen Ships' which were bought or chartered to ensure the supply of vital food and commodities for the basic

survival of Ireland during the second world war. Most of the ships were in very poor condition and in need of major repair, but when they were returned to basic seagoing condition, they travelled the oceans of the world under the Irish flag, with EIRE plainly displayed on their hulls.

## FETHARD LIFEBOAT

The 100th Anniversary of the tragic loss of nine crew members of the Fethard Lifeboat while attempting to rescue the stranded schooner *Mexico* off the Saltee Islands, Co Wexford, will be commemorated with a wreath laying ceremony at the Burrow Memorial, Rosslare on 23 February 2014 and there will be a Maritime Exhibition in Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare to coincide.

We are all hoping for another sunshine summer, and members of the Slaney Branch wish everyone safe and enjoyable boating in 2014.



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