



# IWAJ AT WORK

## AGM REPORT 26 APRIL 2014

BUSH HOTEL, CARRICK ON SHANNON, CO. LEITRIM.

88 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE



AGM Attendees  
Photo: Kevin Wickham

### WELCOME ADDRESS

The meeting was opened by Conor Meegan, Chairperson of Carrick on Shannon Branch, who welcomed everyone and said the Branch were pleased and honoured to host the 2014 AGM in this the 60th Anniversary Year of the Association.

President Carmel Meegan then introduced Mr Joseph Gilhooly, representative of Leitrim County Council. Mr Gilhooly welcomed the President and all representatives of all branches. He said on behalf of Leitrim County Council that they were delighted the AGM was being held in Carrick on Shannon. He spoke of how important it was to promote Carrick on Shannon in this the 20th Anniversary Year of the re-opening of the Shannon-Erne Waterway. He emphasised that the waterways are a hugely important economic driver for the county and the region as a whole, with Carrick on Shannon dependent on waterways users for income. The Canadian Ambassador had recently visited Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim and Ballinamore as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations as Canada had contributed funds to the re-opening of the canal.

He said Leitrim County Council were delighted to work with the IWAJ and Waterways Ireland for the continued development of the waterways. Waterways Ireland had recently completed a looped walk along the Lough Allen Canal and there was more to come. They hoped to develop canal walks from Leitrim to Ballinamore. There had been a lot of investment in Carrick on Shannon in the last 10 years, in the river, arts, leisure, hotels, restaurants, etc. and Leitrim County Council hoped to

continue to build on this. He told all attendees that he hoped to see them come and spend time in and enjoy the area.

President Carmel Meegan then thanked Mr Gilhooly for his attendance and his welcome. She pointed out that for many in attendance Carrick on Shannon was their second home and that it was fitting to hold the AGM in Carrick to celebrate the 20th Anniversary.

Carmel then welcomed all who had travelled to attend the AGM and thanked the Bush Hotel and the Carrick on Shannon Branch for hosting the AGM.

She then called for a minutes silence for all deceased friends and relatives.

### 2013 AGM MINUTES

The minutes of the 2013 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting along with copies of the accounts and the Honorary Secretary's report. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Paul Garland and seconded by Michael Kihnan. There were no matters arising.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President then read her report to the meeting. (See P 9)

### ACCOUNTS

Honorary Treasurer Jean Kennedy, briefly discussed the accounts of the Association which all members had had a chance to review. For the first time in a long time there was a deficit at the end of 2013. This was mainly due to the large write off of the €22,000 spent on Dunrovin. But also for the first time Dunrovin appeared on the balance sheet as an asset valued at €150,000. Jean also said the title deeds of Dunrovin are now with the IWAJ.

While the cash position of the Association has decreased, branch holdings have in the main increased. Jean felt that as an Association we are not making getting the best return on the money we have. She proposes to meet with branch

treasurers during the coming year to discuss this.

Jean thanked all branch treasurers for their work in 2013. The accounts were in in record time this year. The new online accounts system is working well and it is hoped to have a balance sheet online by the end of 2014, which will fully automate the accounts.

Jean concluded by putting a resolution that Synott Hughes be appointed as auditors. This was proposed by Donal O'Siochain and seconded by Sam Herraghty.

Jean also proposed that the accounts be accepted by the floor and there was unanimous agreement on this.

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

All nominations to the Executive had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. In the absence of no more than one nomination for each position, Carmel Meegan proposed that the nominations be accepted in block. There was unanimous agreement from the floor. The nominations as circulated were proposed by Paul Garland and seconded by John Diamond.

### ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

A similar approach was taken to election of the Council members with unanimous agreement from the floor. The nominations to Council were proposed by Peter Maxwell and seconded by Maria Stuart.

### ENDEAVOUR CUP

There were a total of 10 nominations for the Endeavour Cup this year which clearly demonstrates the level of commitment and the huge effort being made by members on behalf of this Association for the betterment of members and the communities in which they live. These nominations show that the commitment and effort is truly appreciated by their fellow members.

All agreed that each nominee was very deserving of the award, but this year's recipients of the Endeavour Cup for the determination, dignity, and professionalism they demonstrated in the management and coordination of the Canal Byelaws campaign were Greg Whelan, Alan Kelly

and John Dolan of the Canal Action Group

After the presentation of the Cup and Certificates of Award, Greg Whelan spoke briefly on the teamwork effort involved in the campaign and the huge amount of support received from the branches. He thanked all the members for their support.

### AOB

The 3 rallies were raised under AOB

### Erne Rally

The Erne Rally is taking place this year on the ROI June Bank Holiday weekend, commencing 30th May. Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the rally and it will take place on the weekend of 22nd May. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Corrib Rally

The Corrib Rally is slightly different this year in that the Corrib club is 150 years old and the rally will be a joint celebration.

### Dublin Rally

The Dublin Rally will run from 10th-24th May and will be the Rally of the Decades. One of the highlights will be the lit parade up the Liffey for small boats on Saturday 17th May at 8.30pm from Grand Canal Dock to the Civic Offices. There will be music at the Civic Offices. The Dublin Docklands Festival is also on this weekend and 80,000 people are expected to attend.

Carmel Meegan then stated that the next council meeting will be held on Friday 16th May in the Grand Canal Hotel in support of the Dublin Rally. She also reminded everyone that members can participate in any event being run by any branch.

Carmel then thanked everyone for their attendance and the Carrick on Shannon Branch for their sponsorship of the refreshments. She wished everyone a safe and enjoyable season on the water.

There being no other business the meeting was drawn to a close.

**Kay Baxter**  
Honorary Secretary