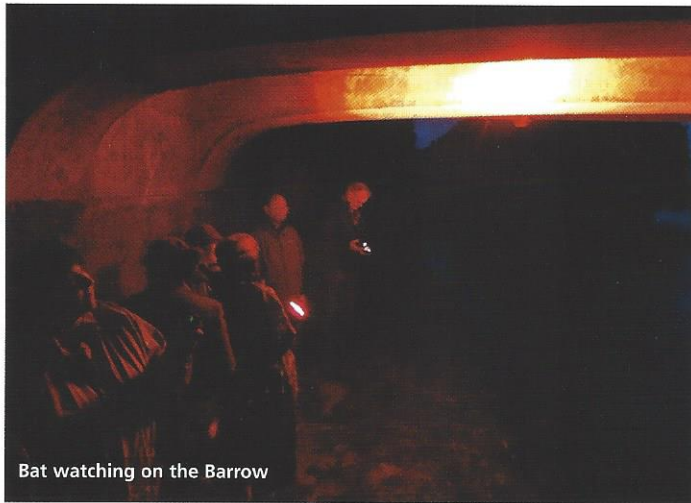


NORTH BARROW

FROM CLIFF REID



Bat watching on the Barrow

BARROW AWARDS

The North Barrow Branch won 3rd place recently in the Barrow Awards. Delighted with the result, branch Chairman Barry Keatley said 'We are very pleased with the result. It illustrates all the hard work and efforts by members over the past year in giving of their time on a weekly basis to promote and develop the waterways. I'd also like to extend our congratulations to the other winners throughout the area that have been working tirelessly to improve the waterways. Well done all involved'.

BATS ON THE BARROW

Kildare Bat Group and Athy Waterways kindly organised a night-time 'Bat Talk and Walk' of the Barrow-Line as part of Heritage week. Taking place in late August, the Bat Group introduced IWAI members and the general public to the unique bat life that often exists unnoticed throughout our waterways. In all, over 40 members of the public took part in the outdoor lecture. Beneath the railway bridge and under red-light, the group was treated to a spectacular aerial display by



Cliff Reid talks about Athy's waterways heritage

100's of nocturnal acrobats. In total, 5 different bat types were spotted and not only was the evening entertaining but very educational.

GATED MOORINGS

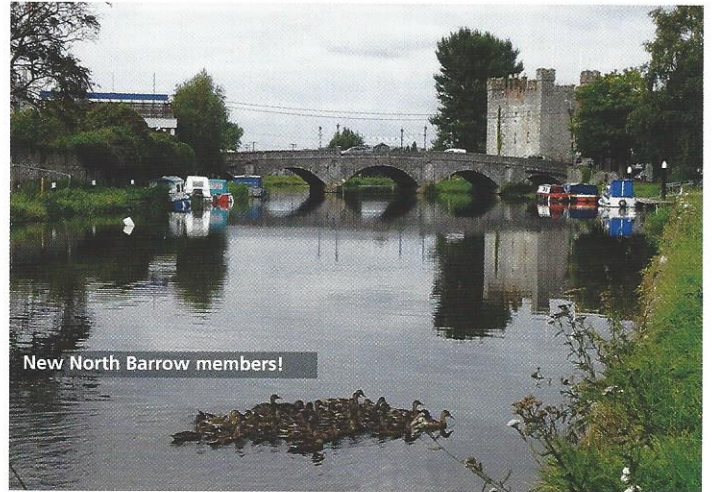
Moorings on the west bank of the Barrow in Athy have now been gated off and access to the public restricted. Boat owners wishing to moor their vessels long-term free of charge within this area are asked to contact Cliff Reid on 087-2061999 for access and the security code for the gate.

YOUNG PADDLERS

Throughout late autumn, over 80 Mallard Duck were introduced to the river Barrow at Athy and Milford. For several months previous to this, members of the North Barrow Branch had been busy feeding and rearing the ducks on a daily basis. Now fully grown, the ducks are happily integrating into the natural habitat and are gradually becoming self-reliant. They have been greatly welcomed by the public, and in particular young children, who find them fascinating and very entertaining, especially at feeding time!

ATHY WATERWAYS WALK

As part of Kildare Walking Festival, a historical walk of Athy Waterways was organised and led by Cliff Reid and Laura Kelly in August. Despite an evening of



New North Barrow members!

torrential rain, over 50 members of the public turned up to walk a 5km route and sample much of the waterways heritage in which Athy is steeped. Reaching the trail's finishing point at Ardreich Lock, walkers were both pleased and relieved to realise that transport back to Athy had been organised via a special ferry service by members of the North Barrow branch. For many within the group, it had been their first time to set foot on board a barge or boat and perfectly completed their evening learning about the Navigations heritage.

MAPS/SIGNAGE

New signage has been erected on the canal bank entering Athy at the 26th lock and Ardreich lock. The signs detail maps of the town from a waterways perspective and highlight some of the many interesting places to visit and things to do locally. The signs were erected thanks to sponsorship from the local Lions

Club. Special thanks must also go to Waterways Ireland for their help in putting these in place.

AGM

North Barrow Branch AGM takes place on 12 November at 8pm in Frank O'Brien's, Athy. An updated list of the committee members will be included in the next edition.

Photos: Athy Waterways



New signage



New Ross Three Sisters Marina

An ideal base to explore the rivers
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Berths available

Contact: 087 3889652

E-mail: newrossmarina@wexfordcoco.ie