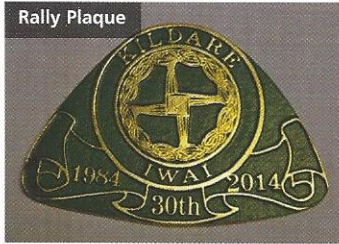


KILDARE BRANCH

FROM ALAN KELLY



NAAS CANAL FESTIVAL

Our festival in Naas this year marked the culmination of the Kildare IWA I 30th anniversary celebrations. With the usual assistance from the combined WI and volunteer lock keepers, a large fleet wound its way up to the harbour in Naas. In the comfortable surroundings of the canal stores building (thanks once again to KYS), proceedings kicked off with the official launch and cheese & wine reception. The committee invited former officers of Kildare IWA I as well as local and national politicians. Fintan Brett of Kildare County Council welcomed everybody to Naas, while Catherine Murphy TD and Emmet Stagg TD both referenced the excellent case that IWA I had put together concerning Byelaw amendments proposed by Waterways Ireland for the canal navigations. The festival was officially opened by Emmet Stagg TD and celebrations proper got underway.

KILDARE MATTERS

Saturday saw the arrival of Enda Grace and Susan Hughes to make a short TV program for *Kildare Matters* on Irish TV. This gave Kildare IWA I a great opportunity to showcase Naas as a boating destination, focus on the boost to the local economy provided by the visiting boats and outline the challenges facing

boat owners on the canals in light of the proposed Byelaw amendments by WI.

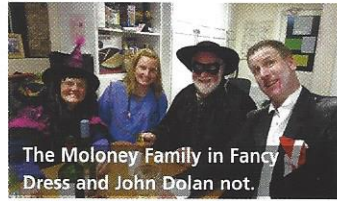
The program aired on Saturday, November 8th and Kildare IWA I would like to thank *Kildare Matters* for covering our events with such enthusiasm.

Rather than packing the schedule with water-based activities, Pa Keogh drew on his local contacts to keep participants entertained. Many members availed of the massage skills of Susanne and emerged in a most relaxed state after their session. To add further temptation a range of home baked tasty treats were available to buy from Yana. I can personally testify to the quality of the sponge cake with peach filling and cream.

The highlight of Saturday night was Jim's monster fancy dress barbecue. Members pulled out all the stops with a wide array of costumes ranging from toys to witches and wenches to fried eggs?? (You had to be there!) this was followed by a singsong led by Rory Winston (Derg IWA I) Who is currently doing the *Green and Silver*.

On Sunday members had a lazy morning followed in the afternoon by the second annual Kildare IWA I Mixed Doubles Darts Competition sponsored by Specsavers!

This ultra competitive event resulted in a win for Alessandra Cesari Gleeson and Richard Hollingshead. As participants were already in the townhouse hotel they decided to stay for the afternoon awaiting the prizegiving but the committee had still more surprises.



The Moloney Family in Fancy Dress and John Dolan not.

Firstly we were joined by members of the Tullamore Rhymers Club who took to the stage to entertain adults and children alike with their own brand of poetry. This was warmly received by the audience. Next came the prize-giving which excelled in variety this year (full list on the website). The Mick Clinton Memorial trophy was awarded to Alastair and Muriel Rendall for their commitment to Kildare IWA I while also holding membership of Lagan IWA I.

Finally we said happy birthday to Kildare IWA I with a delicious cake provided once again by Yana.

THANKS

Kildare IWA I wishes to thank everybody who assisted in making the Naas Canal Festival 2014 and our 30th anniversary celebrations a huge success including Waterways Ireland, KYS, the Townhouse Hotel & Kildare Matters. But this event would be nothing without the members so the final thank you goes to members who participated and continue to participate in Kildare IWA I events.

Photos: Pa Keogh



Birthday Cake

IWA I

MEMBERSHIP GIFT VOUCHERS NOW AVAILABLE FROM SHOP.IWA I.IE



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Rol Single: €44.00
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Gift !



Committee members past & present.