



LOUGH ERNE NEWS

FROM MERVYN ROLLS



The Lock Keeper's Inn

CHRISTMAS WALK 2014

This year it was decided that this event should be held at the area known as Lock 3, Keepers Lane, Milton, Belfast BT8 7XT. Very well organised mainly by IWAI Lagan under the chairmanship of Jim Henning, the venue was chosen because a very important exhibit became a reality in 2014. This is of the restoration and positioning of the lighter *Industry* on part of the Lagan Canal, which is equipped with facilities and interpretive displays to become open to the public, and be able to show people what life was like in the age when boats such as *Industry* were in regular use. 'Lighter' is a word then used to describe an open boat used for ferrying goods from a larger boat to shore. A full description of how *Industry* was used, and how it was discovered, restored and

brought to the Lagan Canal can be read in the Winter 2014 edition of IWN.

A very good attendance of around 60 people met at 11 am on 27 January 2014 on *Industry*, and enjoyed cups of tea and coffee with pastries cheerfully served by staff.

After an explanation to all by Mr Henning, we were free to walk the footpaths of the Lagan, open to the public, and well worth a visit at any time. The area is very popular and attracts thousands of people, and has become a main tourist attraction in Northern Ireland, which has justified the expense of restoration and situation facilities.

After the walks we gathered at 1 o'clock at the Lock Keepers Inn, where lunch was provided for those who wished. As was

expected the Inn is also very popular, and the staff worked very hard to keep up with demand.

Altogether a very successful day. The weather was mainly good, and I would suggest that everybody should put this venue as a must to visit. Thanks go to Jim Henning and the IWAI Lagan for the organisation.

PLANS FOR 2015

At this time of year the branch committee is focused on preparing events for the coming year. The programme has to be coordinated with other Northern branches so as to avoid when possible clashes of dates so that the maximum support is possible. Our major event for 2014 was the trip to France and the rivers and canals of the Nivernais/Bourgogne area.

So far opinion is divided as to whether or not we should organise an overseas trip for 2015, with suggestions for canals in England and Wales, or a visit to Venice.

The events we did hold in our home region were judged to be very successful and enjoyable, so the intention is to repeat these.

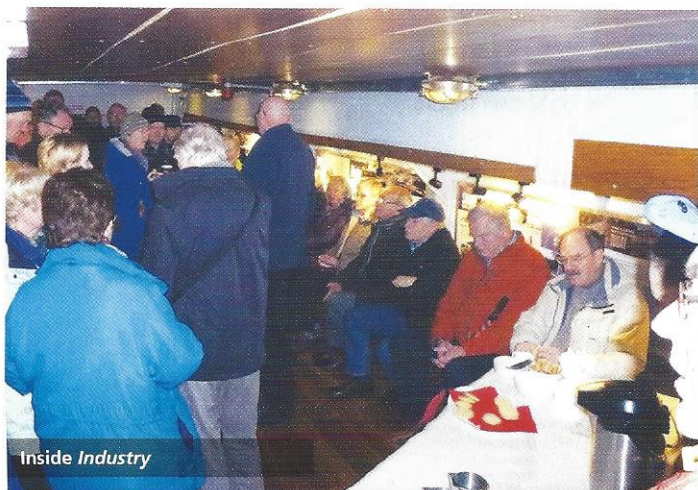
If any reader of this has any suggestions for events we would be pleased to hear from them by way of contact through our branch addresses listed in IWN and our web site.

Happy Boating in 2015

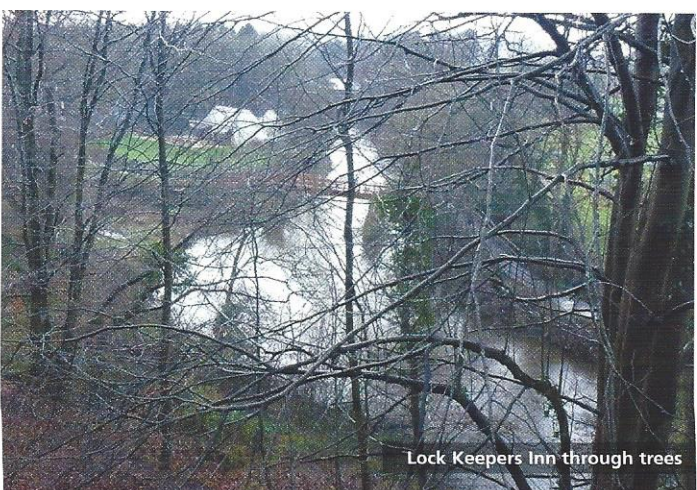
Photos: Mervyn Rolls



Industry on her new moorings



Inside Industry



Lock Keepers Inn through trees