

NORTH BARROW

FROM CLIFF REID

Graiguenamagh to benefit in other ways also. We will be campaigning over the coming months to have the proposals include ducting buried throughout the complete route so that super high-speed fibre optic broadband can be easily installed as part of the national broadband rollout strategy. This has potential to bring crucial modern infrastructure to all towns along the route, many of which have missed out on direct government investment over the past number of years due to the economic climate. Including high speed broadband throughout the route, not only cuts through a sea of red tape and bureaucracy but also further invests in the regeneration of the many communities along the corridor'.

EASTER GET TOGETHER

IWAI Barrow and North Barrow have teamed up to host a rally in Vicarstown on Easter Weekend, April 3-6. Members from both branches will converge on the

Laois village for what is sure to be a very enjoyable weekend. An invitation to all members of the IWAI is also being extended.

BIRD FEEDERS

Winter is always a very difficult time of the year for wildlife. In particular, given their size and the enormous amount of energy they consume, birds find it very difficult to find enough food to keep going throughout the season. Given this, several members in taking their weekly walk along the Barrow line, continue to maintain and replenish the bird feeders that the branch installed previously. This has proven to be a great motivational factor in keeping the weekly walks going, especially on extremely cold days when the last thing anyone wants to do is to step outside their warm cosy home. In addition, the feeders have proved a very exciting addition to the line and act as a great attraction to all wildlife enthusiasts.

Photos: Cliff Reid



White's Castle in winter

NEW BRANCH OFFICERS

The branch held its AGM at the beginning of December and the following officers were elected for 2015. President: Tom Yates, Chairman: John Lynch, Vice-Chairman: Billy O'Neill, Secretary: Kathleen Cross, Treasurer: Aiden Perse, Heritage Officer: Martin Thompson, PRO: Clifford Reid. The incoming Chairman, John Lynch paid tribute to the outgoing committee and thanked them for their work over the past 12 months. In particular, he recognised the efforts of the outgoing chairman, Barry Keatley, who was stepping down from the post after several years at the helm.

TRI-ATHY

The organisers of Ireland's fastest Triathlon and IWAI North Barrow are inviting all IWAI members to attend a rally weekend being organised in conjunction with the Tri-Athy event. Taking place from 29 May to June 1, the weekend will include the Triathlon on the Saturday which attracts several thousand

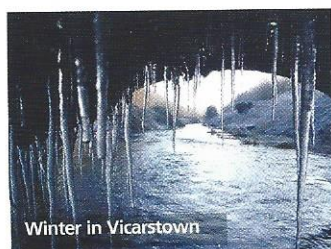
competitors and even more spectators, annually. Special moorings are being put in place to accommodate IWAI members attending, providing them with prime locations to follow the various races from the comforts of their vessels. Please note that members wishing to attend must take up the moorings on Friday 29 May at the very latest as no vessels will be permitted to move during Saturday's event. The branch will also be hosting several other events, water based activities and entertainment over the weekend. More information and a timetable of weekend will follow later.

BLUE WAY

The branch chairman, John Lynch, has welcomed the proposals of Waterways Ireland for the future development of the Barrow Line and the establishment of the 'Blueway'. Speaking at a recent meeting of the branch, John stated that 'the concerns expressed by many users regarding the development of the Blueway are understandable and we need to work with Waterways Ireland to ensure that the best interests of all users both now and in the future are kept to the fore. This includes boating, walking, cycling, kayaking, rowing and fishing etc. In addition to the anticipated tourism and opening up of the waterways to other users, there is great potential for towns like Athy, Bagnalstown Goresbridge and



Athy moorings in the snow



Winter in Vicarstown



New Ross Three Sisters Marina

An ideal base to explore the rivers
Barrow, Nore & Suir

Berths available

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