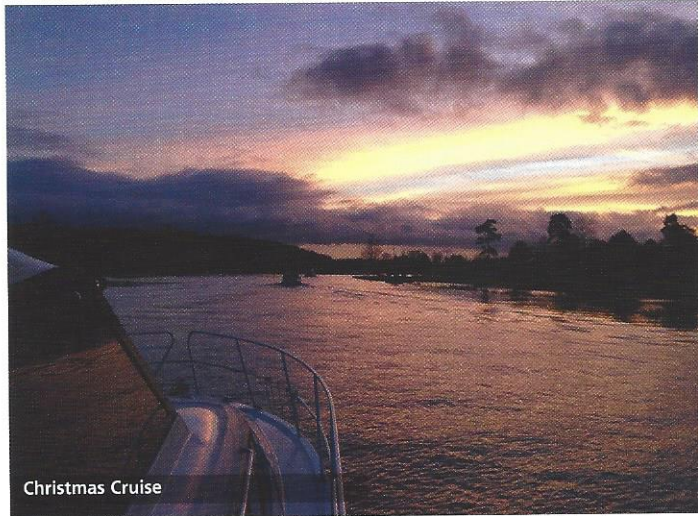


# BELTURBET BANTER

FROM BRENDA DEVINE



Christmas Cruise

IWAI Belturbet members wish all fellow boaters and members of the IWAI, a very happy boating season for 2015 and may all your events be great fun, safe and memorable.

## 50TH RALLY (2015)

This will be our big event of the season. A lot of planning and organisation has been underway over the past number of years in preparation for our celebration of this partnership rally with our friends and neighbours of IWAI Lough Erne. See separate section below.

## 2014 LOOK-BACK

We had some fabulous boating events throughout the whole of the year and explored new venues. For example, we had a fabulous buffet meal in The Standing Stone Hotel in Ballinamore, (well worth a visit) and cruised to all of our favourite places on the Erne/Shannon System, for example Belleek.

Our very own Chair of IWAI Belturbet, Cathal Kinney was the Commodore for this year, leading the fleet from the front on *Honey* with crew Brenda and Paul on board. For the main rally our target destination was Belleek and once again we had a great cruise (despite the squall on route on the Broad Lough), and for the mini rally we headed for Castlearchdale as we had not been there in quite some time. Pearl and her staff at the centre were great.

We had our annual barbecue organised by Matt Brady, who by the way is also the chef. This is a great event, it draws the crowds and proceeds collected, are donated to a chosen charity.

At our AGM, we had the re-election of the previous committee.....either they are all doing a great job or no one else wants to take up the reins. However, we all agreed, that a change of a few faces is good for variety. So, throughout the season we will be 'tapping a few shoulders'. Ahem.

This year for our Annual Dinner we decided to do something a little less formal as suggested by the members. This was to reduce the cost and attract more members to attend. On reflection it was a great idea, as in times of austerity we had a

great turn out to our event in the Seven Horse Shoes Belturbet.

We had our fabulous one day post-Christmas cruise, planned by Sean McCaffrey, and 2014 was no exception. On 27 Dec we cruised from Belturbet to Crom, this event is well organised with fab food, great craic and super company. Sean also gets the weather right - what a man!

So for us in IWAI Belturbet, last year was just brilliant, during which we were very blessed to be able to enjoy, with friends and like-minded people.

## RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Like all branches we have lost some members over the years and have discussed how we attract them back, or in fact encourage others to join. We have information banners all over the Erne/Shannon System and some of our faithful members take part in the various parades throughout the small towns advertising the IWAI.

Recently, we have also written to lapsed members to rejoin and will continue to seek to find other ways to attract members.

## BELTURBET RIVERSIDE

There have been a lot of improvements made around the town but in particular the walkway around the main jetty has gone through considerable improvements. So the next time

you are thinking about a cruise with a bit of variety, why not head to the town and take a dander on the History Trail, or maybe climb aboard one of the many exercise stations dotted around the area adjacent to the river. So head to Belturbet, get fit, then relax! Through our Chair the branch has continued to liaise with Cavan County Council and Waterways Ireland to push the much needed plans for a Service Block, the joining of the jetties and some shore power bollards. We see this as our priority for the year ahead and will keep you informed of our progress.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY ERNE BOAT RALLY

This year the Belturbet and Erne branches celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Erne Boat Rally. Commencing on Friday 22 May with a gala dinner and reception at the Killyhevlin Hotel the event will welcome a number of dignitaries from North and South of the country.

On Saturday the rally will present a sail-by of 100 boats as it heads into the island town of Enniskillen. The Commodore's cheese reception will again be at Rossigh, but on Saturday rather than Sunday. Leaving Rossigh mid-afternoon it will be all aboard for Belleek for another civic reception. Next day, the fleet leaves for an overnight at Lusty Beg on the Sunday night. The following morning, it is off to Carrickreagh Jetty for lunch and then onwards to Carrybridge for Sunday night entertainment. Tuesday sees the final day of the rally as it heads for Belturbet taking in a stop at Lisnaskea Boat Club as it leaves the upper lough.

This rally is set to be one of the largest events on the inland waterways calendar, and the organisers would welcome visitors from near and far, recommending early registration. See [www.erneboatrally.com](http://www.erneboatrally.com) for details.

Photos: Brenda Devine



IWAI Belturbet Recruitment Banner