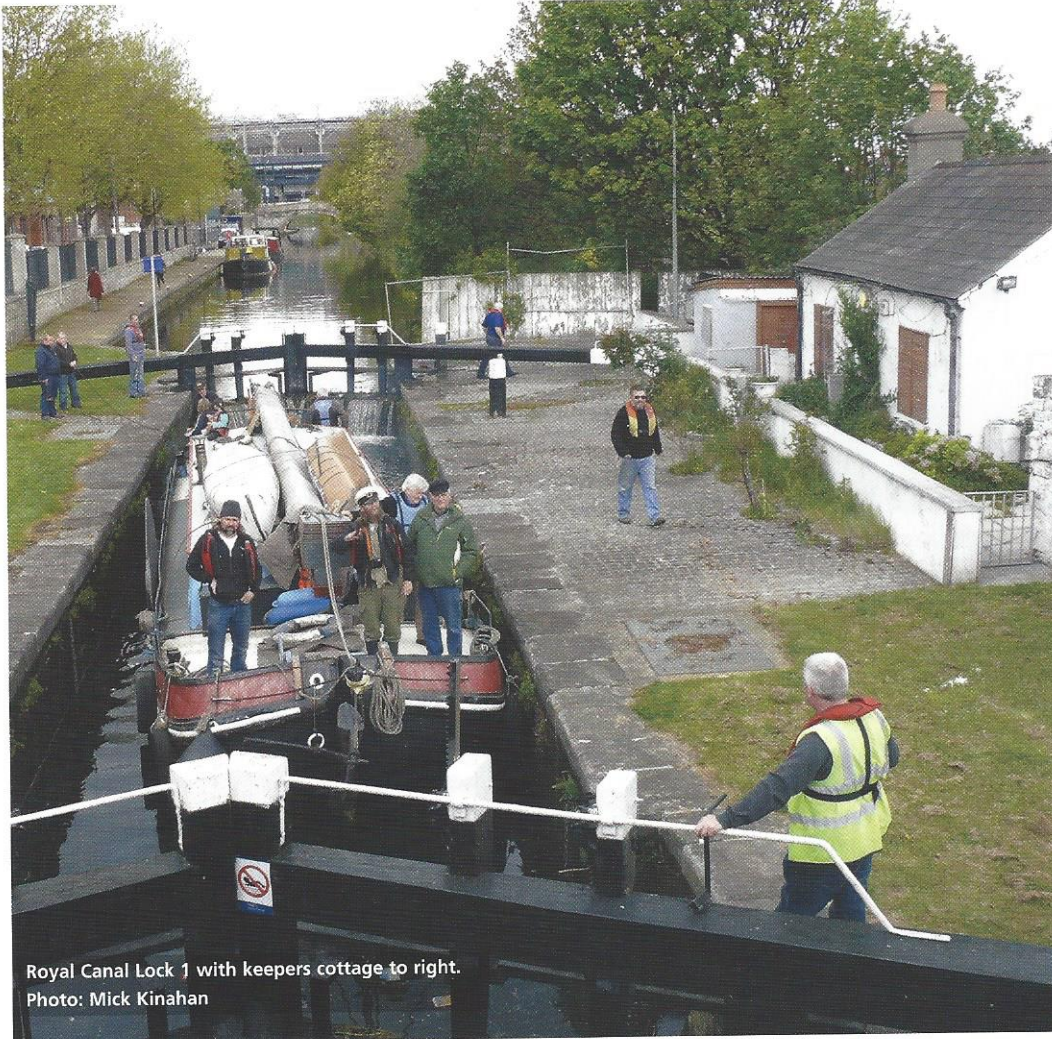


DUBLIN DRIBBLES

FROM MICK KINAHAN



Royal Canal Lock 1 with keepers cottage to right.
Photo: Mick Kinahan

MEETING WITH WATERWAYS IRELAND

On Thursday 22 January members of IWAI Dublin met with Waterways Ireland to discuss our 2015 Rally plans and proposed 'Effin Bridge' lifts. Waterways Ireland have assured us that the number and schedule of bridge lifts will be the same as last year - 8 lifts in total from April to September. For anybody intending to pass under the 'Effin Bridge' a minimum of 2 weeks' notice must be given to Waterways Ireland Eastern Regional office. It is important that we have as many boats as possible using the allotted bridge lifts, especially outside the Rally dates and if you do decide to make the trip to Dublin don't hesitate to contact IWAI Dublin for advice and support. Dates and times will be available on

the IWAI Dublin website as soon as they are confirmed with Waterways Ireland and Irish Rail.

ROYAL CANAL LOCK KEEPERS COTTAGE

In January members of IWAI Dublin along with representatives from the RCAG and local interest groups met with Sean Barry from Waterways Ireland to inspect the former lock-keeper's cottage at the First Lock on the Royal Canal. The cottage, a three bay, single storey, late 18th century structure is now unoccupied and Waterways Ireland are anxious to find a new use for it. The house which is perched between the Canal and the Railway (the rear wall drops to the level of the bed of the railway) has very limited accommodation. Basically, 2 small rooms. However, all present felt that everything possible should be done to

protect and preserve this important part of our built heritage and hopefully find a new use for it in the process.

NEW FESTIVAL ON THE GRAND CANAL

Anybody planning to take part in the 31st Dublin Rally will be happy to hear the news that a new Arts and Music Festival centered in the Rathmines and Portobello area of the Grand Canal is being specifically timed to coincide with this year's Rally. Inbound boats on the Grand Canal will overnight at Portobello Harbour where they will have a front row seat and be the first to witness and enjoy this new Festival.

PUB QUIZ

The IWAI Dublin Rally sub-committee met for the first time in January and have already

made plans to hold a Pub Quiz during this year's Dublin Rally. This will take place on Tuesday 12 May on the *MV Cill Airne*. This will be a fund raising event and all proceeds will go to the 'Mick Farrell Appeal'. All are welcome to what promises to be a fun night. Please keep an eye on the IWAI Dublin home page 'Diary and Events' for further information.

CLEAN UP DAY 25 APRIL 2015

Grand Canal Group and Royal Canal Group in conjunction with IWAI Dublin clean up groups are joining up with the very successful Dodder clean-up campaign. This is taking place on 25 April. Last year the Dodder group removed several tonnes of litter and rubbish along the Dodder River which got National recognition. IWAI Dublin is organising the clean-up along the canals and we are looking for volunteers for that day. Please contact IWAI Dublin if you are interested in being involved.

DUBLIN RALLY 9-23 MAY 2015

See IWAI Dublin website for application forms and details of the rally.

SMALL BOAT RALLY

If anybody is interested in small boat rallies please register for same on the IWAI Dublin website. Emails will then be sent to all, giving details of these events. These rallies usually take place on Sunday mornings for a three to four hour duration either on the Royal or Grand Canals. The branch have small boats and engines available if you cannot provide your own. We are organising a small boat rally on the 25-26 April in conjunction with the Barrow and Slaney branches. Details will be available shortly. We will be holding a small boat rally between Monesterevin and Athy later in the year.