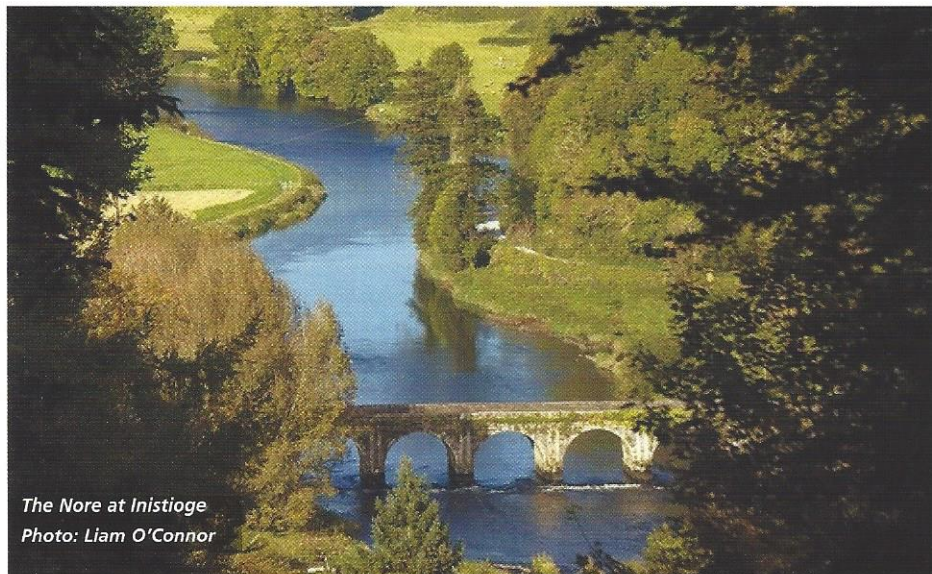


# OFF THE TOW-PATH: INISTIOGE

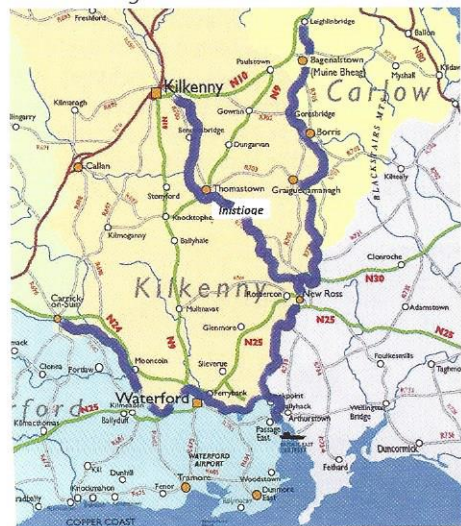
by Liam O'Connor



The Nore at Inistioge  
Photo: Liam O'Connor

The South-Eastern quarter of Ireland is mainly drained by the 'Three Sisters', the Nore, Barrow, and Suir, and while the local IWAI branch is known as the Barrow Branch, members explore far and wide. Trips to Carrick-on-Suir are a regular event for the June bank holiday weekend, passing thru New Ross and historic Waterford along the way.

Another delightful destination, and one which the branch is promoting this year is the village of Inistioge, on the Nore. This is a tidal waterway – boats exit the canalized Barrow at the sea lock in St. Mullins (a most beautiful location in its own right, well worth a few hours ramble), and travel south to where the Nore & Barrow join. This journey south from St. Mullins is taken as the tide ebbs, and as the trip up to Inistioge will use the rising tide, boats often take advantage of the few spare hours to visit New Ross. Among the sites to visit is the *Dunbrody* replica famine ship, right next to the marina, which is run by IWAI member John Dimond, who goes out of his way to make visiting members welcome.



Regardless of where you dally while the tide ebbs, you'll soon be on your way up the unspoilt wilderness that leads to the village. This is a most beautiful place to while away the hours, along the waterside or in the square, and there is food and drink available either in the cafes & bars, or from the grocery if you prefer the home cooking on board.

A short energetic walk uphill from the village brings you to Woodstock gardens, with an extensive collection of specimen trees – some I am told are world-class specimens. The only tariff for entry is the parking charge, but even the walkers usually leave a donation to help maintain this wonderful tourist attraction, with views over the rich Kilkenny countryside to die for. This location has been (and is currently) used in movies – including *Circle of Friends*.

## PLANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

As part of the Barrow Branch's touring program this year, we are promoting a cruise-in-company for the weekend of the August bank holiday. This coincides with

the annual vintage farm machinery rally in the village, so will be well worth the trip. And by good fortune, for those returning back up the Barrow, we will be holding our annual barbecue at Bahana Woods (north of St. Mullins, and before you get back up to Graignamanagh).

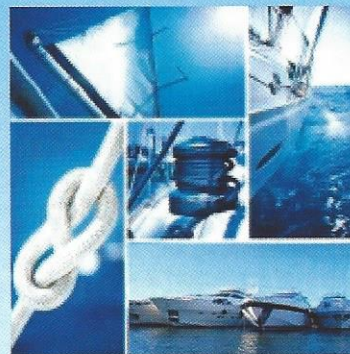
So if you fancy a cruising adventure to the edge of the Irish waterways system, why not while away the cold winter nights working out your itinerary. Come along the Grand Canal to Lowtown, head south along the Barrow Line, maybe stop over a weekend in Carlow or Bagenalstown, arriving in Graignamanagh by mid-July? The cruise will have several local boats, providing expertise, as well as some road-based support for any little emergencies that might crop up – no little umbrellas left for the Pimms!

The branch will organize a planning meeting probably via t'internet during April to iron out all the details for those interested. If this sounds like the year to visit the Three Sisters, send a quick email to [liam\\_o\\_connor@hotmail.com](mailto:liam_o_connor@hotmail.com), or use the contact form on the IWAI website.

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