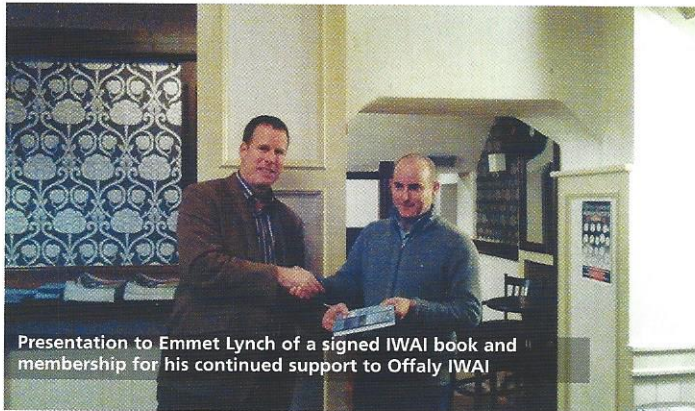


# OFFALY UPDATE

FROM BERNIE QUINN



Presentation to Emmet Lynch of a signed IWAI book and membership for his continued support to Offaly IWAI

## AGM

The 2014 AGM of Offaly IWAI was held in Hugh Lynch's, Tullamore, Co Offaly on 11 December 2014. The following were elected.

**Chairperson:** John Dolan

**Vice Chair/PRO:** Bernadette Quinn

**Secretary:** Alan Hughes

**Treasurer:** Rosemary Colton

**Webmaster:** Ronnie Colton

**Committee Members:** Charlie Kelleher, Tim Meehan, Tom Doheny

## GUNS, BOATS, POLITICS & OFFALY IWAI

You may well ask what Offaly IWAI has got in common with guns, boats and politics! Well the answer is an informative talk on the history of Ireland's famous yacht *Asgard*.

After the AGM, Offaly IWAI hosted a very special talk on the history of the yacht *Asgard*. The illustrated talk was presented by Pat Murphy. Pat covered the life of this famous yacht in Irish history from her launch in 1905 to the current conservation in Collin's Barracks Museum. He recounted the 23 day voyage to collect guns and ammunition for the Irish Volunteers and the landing of them in Howth in July 1914. The talk included a number unique photographs, along with Conor O'Brien's *Kelpie*, the Kilcoole landing and the 100th Commemoration celebrations.

Also covered was her life with An Slua Muiri and her years as

Ireland's first Sail Training vessel. The part played by seven local volunteers in her conservation is described with quality photographs. The landing of the 2nd half of the arms consignment at Kilcoole a week after the Howth landing was also covered in the presentation including the part played by the Howth fishing boat the *Nugget* owned by the McLoughlin family. This talk was received very well by the branch and guests and included a good Q&A session afterwards. Offaly IWAI would highly recommend it to other branches.

## 2015 EVENTS

The programme of events developed for 2015 includes the Grand Canal Offaly Floating Festival, 18-27 September, along with Mystery Tour, talks, the Know Your Boat Course and the IWAI - Experience the Grand Canal Cruise in Company. Full details available at [www.offalyiwai.ie](http://www.offalyiwai.ie).

## KNOW YOUR BOAT COURSE

The Know your Boat courses in Mechanics and Winterisation and Marine Electrics were a great success in their 10th Year. This year saw a record number of Lady Skippers attend the course in the beautiful restored Kilbeggan Harbour Buildings. The courses will be held again on Saturday 7 November 2015 early booking recommended, to book or request gift vouchers call 0872252772.

## IWAI EXPERIENCE THE GRAND CANAL CRUISE IN COMPANY 2015

Big call out to all boaters to join the IWAI - Experience the Grand Canal Cruise in Company this May. The end destination is Ballycommon at Lock 21 which is a couple of miles outside Tullamore to join the Ballycommon Canal Renewal Group on Sunday 1st June at their monster cook out and family fun day with a full programme of events. Further details included in separate article in this edition.

Offaly IWAI and Kildare IWAI will be holding a fund raising night in aid of the Mick Farrell Appeal Fund in Tullamore on Friday 5 June in Hugh Lynch's. The night will feature a first for a waterways event providing an evening of excitement, trips down memory lane and surprises along with an opportunity to mix with friends and share some

refreshments. All will be revealed, so put the date in your diary.

## DRY DOCK STILL CLOSED

The dry docks in Tullamore remains closed to boaters as yet another boating session approaches.

Waterways Ireland advise that access to the dry dock is not possible as the lifting bridge cannot be used due to health and safety issues, (though it continues to be used by Waterways Ireland themselves), Waterways Ireland also advise that the drainage system has been compromised on the outlet side of the dry dock.

The end result is that the Tullamore Dry Dock remains closed to boaters and the local businesses who benefited from supplying services to the users of the dry dock are seeing no sign of that business in Tullamore.



Offaly members engrossed in Pat Murphy's talk on the *Asgard*

**For Sale**  
**Floating Mooring—16' x 30'**

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€ 5,000 Contact Des 087-248-5754