

INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND LOUGH ERNE BRANCH

Report from Mervyn Rolls - October 2016

Lough Erne Branch Annual Dinner/Dance

This year it was decided to hold the Dinner/Dance at Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown, County Fermanagh, and our expectations were for a somewhat low turnout, but with some persuading from the organisers, chairman John Weir and his wife Connie, a satisfactory attendance of 42 was achieved. We had a bright sunny day, followed by a dry and settled evening, which was all to the good.

Due to the country location of the Hotel most people met at the Broadmeadows in Enniskillen, some arriving by boat, others by car. Those gathered then boarded a hired coach for the trip to Irvinestown, which later on made the return journey. This worked surprisingly well, and set up a pleasant friendly atmosphere. The facilities in the Mahon Hotel were excellent, and the room was ideal for the excellent meal and dancing afterwards.



The customary raffle was held, and this year the Pookah was presented to our very deserving treasurer, Alan Cousins.



Fatal Attraction

I am sure most boaters in Ireland, North and South, have at some time come across the mink animal. A native North American animal much prized for its fur, of course, when housed in cages on mink farms in the British Isles. Such cages that I have seen were made from two layers of heavy steel mesh. Even so it is believed that many have escaped, or perhaps were deliberately set free when they were no longer wanted. Being a very adaptable and voracious animal they have strong survival instincts, and have spread far and wide. All too often they appear on our member's boats in Erne Marine, Bellanaleck, and are attracted by the comfortable surroundings, dry cover, and somewhere handy to eat their fish suppers. They can be very destructive, stripping out seat covers and trimmings, leaving nasty messes and smells. One recently appeared on a ski speed boat in Erne Marine, and it took three weeks for the manager, Eric Duggan, to trap it. Once trapped it was quietly despatched as the saying goes. Most people respect wild life, but this is one animal that is just too destructive.



Boating still goes on.

Due to the weather being so mild it has been pleasing to see many boats being used. But there is always room for more on the Erne System, and when there are flat calm waters, with beautiful Autumn colours it is well worth the effort to come and see it all for yourselves.



Flat calm still waters on the Erne near the Killyhevlin hotel