



BikeWeek



Introduction

Bike Week 2024 for Offaly was coordinated by Offaly Sports Partnership on behalf of Offaly County Council; and was supported by local clubs and schools throughout the county. The focus of Bike Week in Offaly was to provide people of all ages and abilities with a variety of cycling events and to create awareness of cycling as an enjoyable form of transport and physical activity.

Among the events delivered as part of Bike Week 2024 were: -

- Tour De Peatlands
- Daingean Bike Week
- Ferbane Bike Week
- Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay (second annual)
- Rás Tailteann
- Safe Cycling with An Garda Síochana

250 participants of all ages and abilities took part across the various events delivered in Offaly during Bike Week 2024, although some of the activities were also delivered pre and post the week due to difficulties sourcing ride leaders and volunteers during Bike Week itself.

Bike Week Highlights

Daingean Bike Week

Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers delivered: -

- “Tour De Peatlands” on Saturday, 4th May – check out <https://www.facebook.com/DaingeanGrandCanalWheelers> for event news and images
- a school cycle day on Friday, 17th May; and
- supported the Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay on Saturday, 18th May



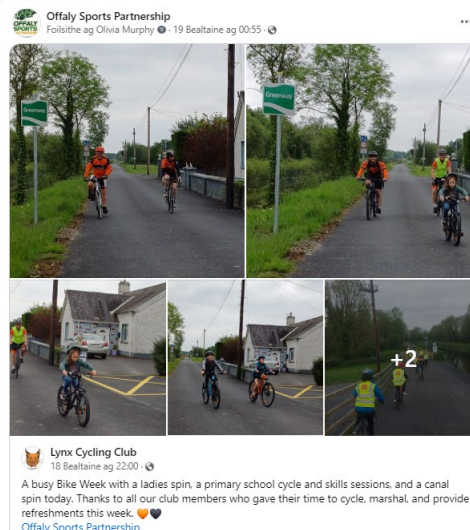
Ferbane Bike Week

Lynx Cycling Club delivered: -

- a Women on Wheels programme on Monday, 13th May
- a school cycle day on Friday, 17th May
- supported the Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay on Saturday, 18th May; and

Check out

<https://www.facebook.com/LynxCyclingClub> for other event news and images from Bike Week 2024



Grand Canal Greenway Relay

Following the success of the inaugural Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay from Edenderry to Pollagh (approx. 50km) in 2023, the second annual Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay from Edenderry to Pollagh (approx. 60km) took place on Saturday, 18th May.



Boasting six relay stages, 150 participants took to the Greenway and wound their way along sections from: -

- Edenderry to Rhode (approx. 8.5km)
- Rhode to Daingean (approx. 8.5km)
- Daingean to Digby, Tullamore (approx. 11.5km)
- Digby to The Thatch at Rahan (approx. 10.75km)
- The Thatch at Rahan to Pollagh (approx. 7.5km)
- Pollagh to Ferbane (approx. 9.5km)

Many thanks to the four cycling clubs (Team 905, Edenderry; Grand Canal Wheelers, Daingean; Tullamore Cycling and Touring Club; and Lynx Cycling Club, Ferbane) along the Grand Canal Greenway Relay route who provided ride leaders and refreshments to support the delivery of the event; while Offaly Civil Defence provided first aid cover on bicycles, etc. along the route. Congratulations and a Go Raibh Míle also to Ferdia Murphy, 9 years old who along with his dad, Rob Murphy completed the full 60km as event sweepers

Safe Cycling with An Garda Síochána



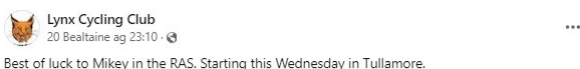
An Garda Síochána Laois/Offaly
14 Bealtaine ag 15:30 · 🌐

As part of National Bike Week, Birr Gardaí attended Cloghan National School to speak to the students about bike safety and keeping themselves safe while out cycling on the roads.

Thanks for having us and for the great questions! 🙌🙌

#SaferRoads

Rás Tailteann



Best of luck to Mikey in the RAS. Starting this Wednesday in Tullamore.



The top cycling race in Ireland gets underway in Tullamore on Wednesday...



OFFALYEXPRESS.IE
Offaly cyclist all set for Ras Tailteann

On Wednesday May 22nd the prestigious Rás Tailteann starts in Tullamore. The start of fiv...



On Wednesday May 22nd the prestigious Rás Tailteann starts in Tullamore. The start of 5 hard days of racing across the length and breadth of the country, this year sees Lynx cc cyclist Mikey Flaherty take to the start line alongside the best international and Irish riders.

Mikey started his racing career at under 12 level for Lynx cc in Kilmessan. He raced with the talented youngsters in the Mullingar club Lakeside Wheelers for a number of years, winning his 1st prize at the Waller Cup in Bohernmeen in 2018. The following year he raced his cx bike, building up power and strength that he has used to great effect, to move up the ranks. In his 1st year as a junior he was 3rd in the Leinster junior championship road race and time trial in Wicklow, a huge achievement against the top racers in the country. Mikey continued to work hard and is dedication paid off as he raced the best of international teams in the Junior Tour of Ireland, a feat he was very proud of having followed the race as a young lad. He was 10th in the national road championships in 2022 and he crowned the year by winning the A category of the Midlands League. A wonderful achievement for the young rider.

2023 saw Mikey finish 3rd overall at the Gorey 3 day stage event and race his way to A1 level, ensuring he was competing against the best this country has to offer week in and week out. All at Lynx cc are incredibly proud of Mikey. From his days at the Sprocket Rocket Course organised by Shane O'Regan, Mikey showed great promise and enthusiasm for what is a tough sport. Shane encouraged Mikey and his dad David, also a talented cyclist, to join the club and from the 1st 100km spin to his 1st race Mikey has been a joy to watch. Always pleasant and modest, he has shown wonderful dedication and mental grit to get to where he is today.

Mikey will guest ride with Challenge cc, a Galway based club, where he is a university student. His clubmates in Lynx cc and all in the area would like to wish Mikey and his team the very best of luck. He can be sure to see plenty of orange and black jerseys over the 5 days of racing. ❤️❤️



2024 Ras Tailteann Stage Start 1 Start in Tullamore.

What an honour for Tullamore Cycling and Touring Club!



YOUTUBE.COM
2024 Ras Tailteann - Stage 1 Start in Tullamore

The 2024 edition of the race started from Tullamore in the heart of the Irish Midlands today, T...



Photographs courtesy of Paul Moore.

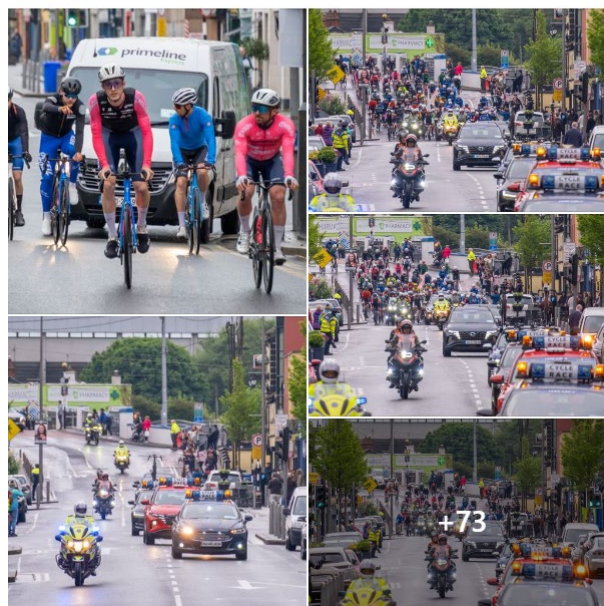
@Paulmoorephotography.ie

Rás Tailteann Cycle Race

Tullamore Credit Union Ltd

Offaly Sports Partnership

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The Midlands Race Team made up of 5 riders who compete weekly in the Midland Interclub league took off from Tullamore last Wednesday to Ride Ras Tailteann 2024.

Five days of grueling fast road racing stages took the team down the country through stage finishes in Kilmallock and Sneem on the first two days, with Cahir, Kildare town and Bective in Co Meath completing the five days.

The race was made up of 32 teams from Ireland, the UK, Europe, China and as far as Mexico. The race consisted of Elite riders in the A1 and A2 categories, along with a mixture of Pro Continental full time riders. There was a great send off from Tullamore Cycling and Touring Club on Wednesday and within 3 hrs and 7 minutes the riders crossed the line in Kilmallock with average speed 48.3k hr.

All 5 MRT riders finished safely in the main bunch.

Day 2 took the riders to Sneem in County Kerry on the epic 187k Queens stage.

6 categorised climbs broke up the race and by Waterville there were riders all over the road in small groups, as the favourites kicked on to the finish.

MRT rider Padraig Moran crashed but rejoined lost 25minutes on GC.

Day 3 and 4 to Cahir and Kildare were brutal with the front riders fighting for GC riding at 60k hr.

Our bad luck continued when Shane Quinn and Barry Ronan were caught up in a massive crash just 40k into the stage. Barry had no option but to retire but Quinn rode to the finish broken and battered. Stuart Cox and Colin Clavin also lost time on Saturday with mechanical issues and both involved in collisions. On Sunday the remaining 4 riders, although mentally and physically battered rode into Bective County Meath and collected their Ras medal.

Padraig Moran was our highest ranked at the end of the week taking 5th overall in the A2 category in his first ever Ras a huge achievement for our team.

To become a "Man of the Ras" is an honour very few bike riders achieve as the race is brutal in every way start to finish. A huge thanks to all our sponsors, who made it possible for us to ride. To all the well wishers and those in every town over the 800 kilometres who cheered us on we thank you. And finally a massive thanks to Martina Martin and all at Tullamore Cycling and Touring club who hosted the Ras on Wednesday a massive congratulations and thank you one and all. We look forward to Ras 2025.

Pic 1: Shane Quinn, on the limit coming in to Kilmallock Co Limericks on stage 1 Ras 2024

Pic 2: Padraig Moran MRT in action on stage 2 on route to Sneem Co Kerry

Pic 3: Riders and back up crew at finish at Bective Co Meath

L to R Tom Farrell, Stuart Cox, Barry Ronan, Jim Maguire DS, Padraig Moran, Colin Clavin, Shane Quinn, Donagh McArdle Team Manager and Alan Smith.

Donagh McArdle (MRT)



Offaly Sports Partnership also ran a daily feature on *"opportunities for family cycling in Offaly and its surrounds"*; and spotlighted the various cycling clubs – Team 905, Edenderry; Grand Canal Wheelers, Daingean; Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club; Lynx Cycling Club, Ferbane; and the Wolftrap Cycling Club, Birr - in Offaly across Bike Week 2023. The family cycling opportunities highlighted included Lough Boora Discovery Park, the Old Rail Trail in Westmeath, Biking the Blooms (Kinnitty mountain bike trails), the Grand Canal Greenway and Bord na Móna's Mount Lucas Windfarm.

Feedback

Feedback from stakeholders and participants across the range of events has been extremely positive: -

*Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club
18 Bealtaine ag 18:20 ·*

Another great turn out by Club Members in support of Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay.

Stage 1 Team 905 brought cyclists from Edenderry to Toberdaly Bridge Rhode.

Stage 2 Team 905/ Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers brought cyclists to Daingean.

Stage 3 Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers brought cyclists to Digby Bridge.

Stage 4 Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club brought cyclists to The Thatch in Rahan.

Stage 5 TCTC/Lynx Cycling Club brought cyclists to Pollagh.

Finally, Stage 6 Lynx Cycling Club brought cyclists from Pollagh to Ferbane.

Well done to Olivia Murphy Offaly Sports Partnership for all the organisation and for the wonderful food stops, all so varied. A special mention to the families and particularly the young children who cycled some, the full distance from Edenderry to Ferbane. What an achievement for them.

Great day out!

<p><i>Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers</i> <i>18 Bealtaine ag 19:47 ·</i> A fantastic day celebrating Bike Week with our local cycling clubs and community 🍋</p> <p>Thanks to all involved and all who supported the cycle. #bikeweek</p>	<p><i>Team905</i> <i>18 Bealtaine ag 20:37 ·</i> A great turnout for the Grand canal relay in support of national bike week.</p> <p>Well done everyone.</p> <p>A special thanks to Olivia @ Offaly Sports Partnership for organising a great event and all the cycling clubs for participating. 🍋🍋</p>	<p><i>Lynx Cycling Club</i> <i>18 Bealtaine ag 22:00 ·</i> A busy Bike Week with a ladies spin, a primary school cycle and skills sessions, and a canal spin today. Thanks to all our club members who gave their time to cycle, marshal, and provide refreshments this week. 🧡💜</p> <p>Offaly Sports Partnership</p>
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Offaly Sports Partnership

Foilsithe ag [Olivia Murphy](#) ·

18 Bealtaine ag 20:57 ·

Selection of shots from Offaly Sports Partnership second annual Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay today, 58k from Edenderry to Ferbane.

Many thanks to the clubs (Team905, Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers, Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club, Lynx Cycling Club) for the ride leaders; Offaly Civil Defence for first aid; our sweeper cyclists; An Garda Síochána Laois/Offaly for their traffic management in Tullamore; the cycling clubs, Scullys XL Daingean, Supermacs, The Thatch Rahan & Pullough Community Shop for the refreshments along the way

[#BikeWeek](#)

Taispeáin tuilleadh tráchtanna



Minister Pippa Hackett
Fantastic! Well done to all.