

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Kerry Bicycle Festival '09

Tralee, Co.Kerry April 27th 2009

A Rose of Tralee style contest for bikes is just one of the highlights of the fantastically freewheeling Kerry Bicycle Festival, which takes place in Tralee from 7-16 May.

Even if you haven't been on your BMX since the glory days of Stephen Roche, organisers hope to pedal the message home that it's never too late to get back in the saddle. And given the government's recent commitment to increase the number of Irish cyclists from 35,000 to 160,000 by 2020 under the National Cycle Policy Framework, the Kerry Bicycle Festival is a positive community initiative in the right direction.

Proceedings kick off at 9pm on Thursday, 7 May with 'My Lovely Bicycle'; think Fr Ted meets the Rose of Tralee for bikes. This is not just a beauty contest though, there will of course be points for "personality". Following this will be the sounds of Irish indie/electronica act 'Alphastates' who are launching their new album 'Human Nature', so pimp your ride and get to down to The Greyhound Bar on Pembroke St.

If you can't afford the Electric Picnic this summer, feel free (literally) to join the Bicycle Picnic on Sunday, 10 May, with a cycle from Tralee to Fenit. Biker chaps and chicks can also partake in a fundraising cycle from Tralee to Castleisland, or join the family cycle around Tralee; both taking place Saturday, 9 May.

Other be-spoke events include a bicycle film night at 7 o'clock in the Samhlaíocht gallery on Friday, 8 May, a bicycle portrait gallery and bicycle mechanics in the Square on Saturday 9 May.

Saturday will also see the launch of 'Frame' an exhibition of Bicycle related art from Irish and international artists, which will open at 6pm in Gallery Siamsa Tire. 'Frame' features photography, sculpture, sound installations, and more.

The R.N.L.I. intend to get in on the action, as they will be holding their annual sponsored fun cycle in aid of Fenit lifeboats. The cycle will start from the Brandon Hotel at 10 am on Saturday 9th of May, and will proceed to Castleisland via Farranfore and back to Tralee where refreshments will be provided for the participants. Sponsorship cards are available from JP Brick of Landsdowne Real Estate, Denny Street. [087 2583143]

This is the second year of the Kerry Bicycle Festival. Organiser Michael Kelly says that the festival aims to highlight the many forgotten, simple joys of a spin on a bike, whether it's to work, school, or just for fun. "Cycling deserves a celebration," he says. "We hope that the people of Kerry will join us for what promises to be a fantastic festival."

ABOUT KERRY BICYCLE FESTIVAL

Kerry Bicycle Festival is a four day free festival which brings together a selection of diverse events which aim to celebrate the bicycle. This festival encompasses musical, artistic and

outdoor events all of which are free and will take place within the environs of Tralee town. This festival was established in 2008 in order to raise the profile of cycling culture by making it more accessible and attractive and to promote cycling as an environmentally sustainable and cost effective mode of transport. This is a voluntary organisation comprising a group of people with diverse interests and backgrounds all with a common goal.

For a full programme of events, please visit <http://kerrybicyclefestival.org>
For further information, please contact Michael Kelly on 087-793-7471.

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