

Dublin Rally

The response from boatowners in support of this rally was very good and twenty boats made the long and tedious trip down to the city with one or two joining by road or from the sea. The fleet moved in as arranged on the first weekend and there was very good cooperation from the Gardai throughout the whole ten days. It was a great sight to see the canal jammed with boats at Mespil Road on the Sunday, with much socialising in the good weather.

The Official Opening at Ringsend on Monday evening by Ruairi Quinn went according to schedule with the Minister arriving aboard Chairman Peter Hanna's "Lady Penlyric". The weather, however, was cold and windy and persisted through the week making it impossible to carry through the full programme of sailing races that had been planned. The Shannon Harbour Barn Dance held at Allweather Marine, Ringsend (by kind permission) on Thursday evening went with a swing and the second weekend saw the fleet split up with some of the boats taking the opportunity to spend some time in Dublin Bay and pay a visit to the new Marina at Howth. There is no doubt that it is well worth the effort to bring boats into the city every few years to draw attention to the amenity potential of the canal. It is also a very good thing to use this end of the canal to keep the canal functioning. While no trouble was experienced with the canal works, everyone was horrified by the accumulation of rubbish both in the canal and along the banks.

Royal Canal Week

This was run in conjunction with the Rally on the Grand Canal from 7–15 May and was organised by the Dublin Association of An Taisce. Fishing Competitions and other water activities took place at different venues on both weekends. Come-and-try-it canoe sessions were held on both canals and there was a Canoe Race into the city, from Hazelhatch on the Grand Canal on Saturday 7 May, which attracted a large entry.

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