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BANDON WALLED TOWN FESTIVAL

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2026

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15th - 23rd August
Family Fun Day
23rd August



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Join us for a week of events
celebrating Bandon's rich heritage.

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To learn more about the festival or discover Bandon's rich history,
visit bandonhistory.com, where you'll also find links to events
that require advance booking.

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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF CORK, CLLR BRENDAN MOYNIHAN



As Mayor of the County of Cork, it is a great honour to welcome you to the 15th annual Bandon Walled Town Festival. Bandon is one of Ireland's historic walled towns, and this festival provides a unique opportunity to explore its legacy through a rich and engaging programme that offers something for everyone in the family.

The festival is a testament to what is possible when people come together under a shared goal, each one united by an innate desire to do right by their communities. This has led to a unique event that brings people together in a historically rich setting, that offers a packed programme of events that includes medieval re-enactments and guided tours, in addition to family-friendly events and open-air concerts.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the organisers, sponsors, and all who contribute to making this event such a success year after year. Your efforts ensure that Bandon continues to thrive as a cultural and historical beacon at the gateway to West Cork. I encourage everyone to take full advantage of all that this festival has to offer.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Cllr Bernard Moynihan
Mayor of the County of Cork

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTOPHER O'SULLIVAN T.D., MINISTER FOR HERITAGE



As Minister for Heritage, I am honoured to support this event which continues to celebrate Bandon's remarkable history, heritage and strong community spirit. I extend a warm invitation to everyone attending this year's Bandon Walled Town Festival.

Few towns in Ireland can boast a heritage as rich and distinctive as Bandon's. What always stands out to me is how the town's remarkable history is woven into everyday life – from its impressive walls and historic streetscape to the generations of people who continue to cherish and celebrate its unique character.

This year's festival is especially significant as it embraces National Heritage Week's theme, 'Heritage at Risk', reminding us of the importance of protecting the places, traditions and natural environments that connect us to our past. The programme reflects this beautifully, with guided walks tracing Bandon's historic walls, fascinating talks exploring the Great Famine, the 1926 Census and the Rotten Boroughs of Cork, alongside an inspiring presentation on protecting Bandon's temperate rainforest. From traditional crafts and living history demonstrations to music, workshops and family events, there is something to inspire visitors of every generation.

I commend the Bandon Walled Town Festival organising committee, The Heritage Council, the Irish Walled Towns Network, Cork County Council, local sponsors, performers, entertainers, traders and volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm make this wonderful celebration possible year after year.

May this year's festival deepen our appreciation of the heritage entrusted to us, inspire us to safeguard it for future generations, and continue to strengthen the pride and community spirit that make Bandon such a special place.



WELCOME TO BANDON WALLED TOWN FESTIVAL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR..

Dear Friends, Neighbours and Visitors,

It is with great pride and pleasure that we welcome you to the 15th Bandon Walled Town Festival — a celebration of our town's rich heritage, vibrant biodiversity and enduring community spirit.

Founded in the early 1600s at the southern frontier of the Munster Plantations, Bandon grew quickly into a fortified colonial settlement, its thick stone walls shaping both its physical landscape and its identity. Today, the surviving fragments of those walls stand alongside rivers, green spaces and streets alive with nature and community life. Together, our built and natural heritage tell the story of a town shaped by change, resilience and renewal.

As we mark Heritage Week and its important theme, Heritage at Risk, we are reminded of the responsibility we all share to protect the places, structures and biodiversity that connect us to our past and sustain our future.

This year's programme offers something for everyone: historical talks, guided walks, workshops, performances and family fun, all designed to bring our shared heritage to life.

We are grateful for the support of The Heritage Council, Irish Walled Towns Network, Cork County Council and our generous local sponsors who make it possible to provide a full day of free events and activities.

A heartfelt thank you to our performers, entertainers and traders, whose creativity fills our streets with colour and energy.

Whether you're a local or a first-time visitor, we hope this festival inspires you to connect with Bandon's past — and celebrate its vibrant present.

Warmest Regards

Maria Walsh

Chairperson, Bandon Walled Town Festival Committee

ONGOING EVENTS

TAKE IN LOCAL HERITAGE ALL WEEK AT YOUR OWN LEISURE

- Take a self-guided trail and explore the historic sites along the line of Bandon's ancient town walls.

[Link](#)

- Visit the West Cork Heritage Centre and step into Bandon's past through its rich social history displays.

- Try the BEAG Scavenger Hunt highlighting river birds — available at Bandon Library.

[Link](#)

TIMELESS TALKS & TRAILS

EXPLORING BANDON'S HISTORY, HERITAGE & STORIES

Saturday 15th August | 10:00 a.m.
and Saturday 22nd August | 10:00 a.m.
Site of Allman's Distillery

Storage, Power and Structure

During Heritage Week: 2023, Niall Tubridy first shared his knowledge and stories about the Allman distillery. Since then, there has been further developments in his ongoing research, into this once important Bandon business. This Heritage Week, Niall wants to share his discoveries with you, asking you to join him on a 'walk-talk' across the distillery site and back fields as we explore and examine, question and deliberate over what we once had, what we've lost but thankfully what we still have. Respect the history that surrounds us and pay homage to the Allman distillery, this iconic site contributes greatly to the agricultural-industrial heritage of Bandon town.

Tour will last between 2-3 hours. Please wear appropriate footwear, a high-vis jacket, bring some light refreshments, your camera and a pair of binoculars, as we will be looking up, as well as down.

*note: limited spaces booking essential - see bandonhistory.com or 0851600890 for details
Meeting point will be emailed to participants 48 hours before tour begins.*

Monday 17th August | 7:30pm
Bandon Town Hall

Life and Death in Bandon Workhouse During the Great Famine Gerard Moran, Historian & Senior Researcher, Social Science UCG

Historian Gerard Moran explores life inside Bandon Workhouse during the Great Famine. Drawing on historical records, he examines the challenges faced by inmates, the impact of overcrowding, and the role of emigration in relieving pressure on the poor law system. A compelling local perspective on one of Ireland's most devastating periods.

Tuesday 18th August | 1:00pm
Bandon Library

Unlocking a Social History of Bandon from Early 20th Century Census Records

All welcome. No booking required

Census returns record more than population statistics. They have obvious uses for genealogy but also as a means of exploring how people lived in the past, the kind of occupations that they had, and the location of many centres that made up civic life such as schools, post offices, police stations and general businesses. A staff member from the Local Studies Library will discuss the 1901, 1911 and 1926 census records and how they provide a fascinating insight into aspects of the social history of Bandon in the early decades of the 20th century.

Tuesday 18th August | 7:30 pm
Bandon Town Hall

The Rotten Boroughs of Bandon and County Cork
Vincent Duggan

A history of the British Parliamentary System from the arrival of the Norman's to the Election of 1918. As it effected Ireland ,
Cork and Bandon.

Thursday 20th August | 7:30 p.m.
meet by old Town Wall at Riverview Shopping Centre

A Guided Historical Walk:
Tracing the Path of Bandon's Town Walls with Dan Holland.

Join this guided walk around Boyle's Bandon as we trace the route of the town's historic walls. While only a few fragments of the original fortifications remain today, the walk will follow the line where the wall once stood, helping participants imagine the boundaries that once enclosed the early town.

Along the route, Dan will explore the history of Bandon's Walled Town, explain why the walls were built, how the town developed within them and the role they played in everyday life. The walk will also touch on the people, places and events connected with the streets and spaces along the former line of the walls.

A chance to rediscover Bandon's past by walking the paths where its' historic defences once stood.

Friday 21st August | 7:30pm pm
Bandon Town Hall

Protecting Our Natural Heritage: Bandon's Temperate Rainforest with Eoghan Daltun

Eoghan Daltun explores the importance of protecting Ireland's natural heritage, focusing on the unique temperate rainforest habitats found around Bandon. Discover the rich biodiversity of these rare ecosystems, the threats they face, and how local action can help safeguard them for future generations.

All talks and events are free to attend. However, anyone who wishes to make a voluntary donation is very welcome to do so. Contributions will help support and continue our ongoing programme of events.



INTERACTIVE EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

HANDS-ON. LOCAL. INSPIRING.



CREATIVE ARMY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

BANDON TOWN HALL

📅 Friday, 21st August
🕒 12:00-1:00 p.m. & 2:00-3:00 p.m..

📞 Ages 6+ Free but booking essential
Call 0851600890 or
✉ bandonhistory@gmail.com to reserve your space!

This lively workshop sparks imagination, teamwork and a love for local history through playful creativity.

All materials provided.

✂ *Come make, march and make history!*

SEASONAL FERMENTATION WORKSHOP

**BANDON COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS
LOVING COMMUNITY SERIES**

📅 Thursday 20th August

🕒 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

☎ 0874445279 to book

Join us for a hands-on seasonal workshop exploring what is in abundance in September - and how to preserve and extend it.

Come observe, learn and taste these delicious creations in a welcoming community space



SEASONAL FOCUS
CABBAGE APPLES BERRIES HERBS

INTERACTIVE EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

HANDS-ON, LOCAL, INSPIRING.

BELLS OF ST PETER'S – A LIVING TRADITION

ST. PETER'S CHURCH



Wednesday 19th August



7:30 p.m.



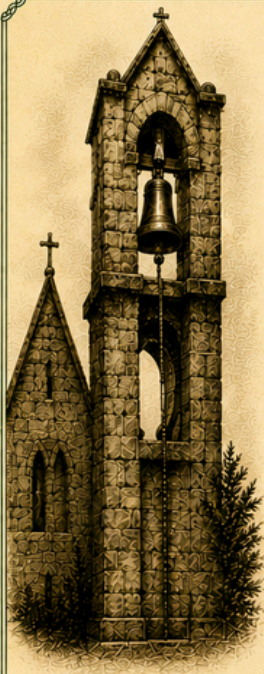
Booking: (086 854 6717)
(advance booking essential)

Join the Ballymodan Bellringing Society at St. Peter's Church for a fascinating introduction to the history and heritage of the church bells and the unique art of bell ringing.

Enjoy a short illustrated talk, discover how the bells work, and experience a live bell ringing demonstration from the tower.

This is a rare opportunity to explore one of Bandon's oldest living traditions and learn how you could become part of the local band of ringers.

Please note: Access to the bell tower is via two fixed ladders and may not be suitable for, or comfortable for, everyone.



FAMILY FUN DAY

PAST MEETS PLAY

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST | 1-5PM

Step back in time for a day of music, crafts, history, discovery and family fun.

PARADE: BANDON THROUGH THE AGES

12:30PM

SuperValu Car Park
→ Town Hall

Dress in historical costume
and help launch the
festivities in style.

All ages welcome – the
more creative the costume,
the better!



✿ RUNNING ALL DAY (1-5PM) ✿



BRAN DUBH LIVING HISTORY

- Step into a 1600s battlefield
- Ancient warfare displays
- Children's battle drills
- Historic weaponry
- Historic clothing & more



Longbow Demonstrations



TRADES & CRAFTS OF OLD



Blacksmithing



Coppersmithing



Coin Striking



Spinning &
Weaving



Pole Lathe
Turning



Lacemaking



Printing Press



Candle
Making



Súgán Rope
Making

FAMILY FUN ZONE



Circus
Skills



Balloon
Artistry



Face
Painting



Heritage
Stalls



Food
Vendors

COME ONE, COME ALL AND
CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF OLD BANDON!

TIMED EVENTS

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST



**12:30
SHARP**

FROM SUPERVALU
CAR PARK TO TOWN HALL

PARADE – BANDON THROUGH THE AGES

Step back in time and kick off the festivities in style.
Join our heritage-themed parade, celebrating Bandon before 1900.
Come dressed in historical costume, walk with us, and help create
a joyful atmosphere to launch a day of family fun and local pride.

All ages welcome – the more creative the costume the better!



1:00 pm

TOWN HALL STEPS

BALLINSPIITTE COMHALTAS

Enjoy a lively musical start to the afternoon!



**1:15 pm &
3:45 pm**

TOWN HALL GREEN

BATTLE REENACTMENT

Step into history – take up your sword and join
Bran Dubh in battle! Let the drill begin.....



**1:50 pm /
3:15 pm**

SHAMBLES GREEN

LITTLE IRISH HISTORY HEROES

Fun, hands-on activities exploring the amazing
heroes and stories from our past.



2:00 pm

TOWN HALL REAR

SODA BREAD DEMONSTRATION

See Ireland's iconic soda bread prepared by hand
and baked in a cast-iron bastible over an open fire,
just as generations before did.



2:30 pm

TOWN HALL STEPS

ALCHEMY ARTS CIRCUS MAGIC SHOW

A dazzling display of circus tricks and wonders!



3:00 pm

TOWN HALL REAR

THE ART OF BUTTER-MAKING

See how butter was made by hand using simple tools.
Explore the science of cream separation and churning.



3:45 pm

TOWN HALL

STORYTIME WITH RAE

Join Rae for a magical journey
through myths and legend.



ALL DAY

CAR PARK REAR
OF TOWN HALL

THE BIG DIG

Join the Irish School of Archaeology and explore
a replica Viking excavation site.
Perfect for young archaeologists keen to
unearth secrets of the past!
Workshops must be pre-booked.



ALL DAY

TOWN HALL REAR
(DROP-IN)

CANDLE MAKING WORKSHOP – DROP-IN

Discover how candles were made in days of yore
and create your own.



Tea & Tunes by the Riverside

A FUNDRAISER FOR
THE BANDON CONCERT BAND

Step into the charm of a summer afternoon at our Garden Riverside Tea Party behind Bandon Town Hall.

Enjoy tea, cakes, and a live performance by the Bandon Concert Band in a relaxed garden setting with family and friends.

Upper level seating is available for those with mobility needs.



*A lovely way to spend your Saturday
while supporting a much-loved
local band.*



SATURDAY
22ND AUGUST



1:00PM – 2:30PM



BEHIND BANDON
TOWN HALL

TICKETS €10

IN LOCAL SHOPS OR FROM
GER AT 086 267 9646



THE HARP IN IRELAND

SOUND, SYMBOL
AND STORY



Ag Iompar an Cheoil
A Day for Carrying the Music



BANDON METHODIST CHURCH
SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 2026
FREE EVENT

A Celebration of
Ireland's National Instrument

12:00 PM
ECHOES OF IRELAND
AND THE RENAISSANCE

Brenda Malloy

7:30 PM
HISTORICAL HARP CONCERT

Javier Sáinz

Renaissance • Irish • Scottish
Harp Music



FULL DETAILS:
bandonhistory.com

Evening Concert Tickets:
€15 - website or
[Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

PROGRAMME

12:00 PM

ECHOES OF IRELAND AND THE RENAISSANCE

Brenda Malloy

Music for Irish and Renaissance harps featuring works by:

- Turlough O'Carolan
- John Bowie
- William Connelan
- Thomas Campion
- Cornelius Lyons
- John Dowland
- Edward Jones
- Playford Collections

1:30 – 3:00 PM

WORKSHOP FOR MUSICIANS

A practical workshop exploring listening, harmony, ornamentation, rhythm, musical approach and practice techniques.

Open to all instruments.

Please bring your own instrument.

3:00 PM

THE HISTORICAL HARP IN IRELAND

Natalie Surina

Discover Ireland's early *cláirseach* tradition, its history, sound and continuing craft tradition.

4:15 PM

LEARN TO SING A TUNE IN IRISH AND ACCOMPANY IT

Eibhlís Ní Ríordáin

Introduction to sean-nós song and accompanying Irish-language songs on the harp.

7:30 PM

HISTORICAL HARP CONCERT

Javier Sáinz

A rare opportunity to hear music performed on a 16th-century Renaissance harp by one of Europe's leading specialists in historical harp traditions.

Evening Concert Tickets: €15 - website or [Eventbrite](#)

THE HUMOURS OF BANDON

— MAINLINE EVENT —

Sean Nua

A Living Tradition

LIVE MUSIC EVENT



SATURDAY
15TH AUGUST



5PM



THE SHAMBLES
BANDON

Free Concert for All!



Seán Nua is a vibrant celebration of Ireland's living musical heritage, bringing together musicians of different generations in a shared spirit of creativity and tradition.

Rooted in the rich legacy of Sean-Nós singing and traditional music, the event also embraces contemporary influences that continue to shape Ireland's evolving sound.

Established traditional performers appear alongside emerging artists, creating a dynamic programme that blends time-honoured airs and songs with fresh interpretations. This intergenerational exchange honours the past while opening space for new musical voices.

Celebrating cultural identity, creativity and community, Seán Nua reflects the continuing vitality of Irish music — deeply rooted in tradition, proudly shared, and alive with new energy.



FREE
EVENT
FOR ALL

“FOR FOLK SAKE”

“For Folk Sake” brings together founding members of the original ensemble and an exciting new generation of performers for a lively celebration of Ireland's rich musical heritage.

The original members of ‘For Folk Sake’ are Paddy Downing, John Hodnett and Jerry Walsh.

Blending the beauty of traditional song, vibrant vocals and cherished airs with fresh contemporary influences, the group creates an engaging and uplifting performance that honours tradition while embracing new voices.

FREE CONCERT – LINEUP FEATURES AMONG OTHERS:

Paddy Downing (Guitar) • Aidan O Rourke (Bodhran)
Killian Quirke (Banjo) • Kees Hendrickx (Mandolin)
James Downing (Cajon)

Join us at The Shambles for an afternoon of rhythm, storytelling and musical connection as generations come together to share the joy of live music in the heart of Bandon.

Free admission • All welcome •
A celebration of music, community
and culture.

See ye there!



LOCATION:

The Shambles
Bandon, Co. Cork



FREE EVENT FOR ALL

Everyone welcome – bring a chair
or a blanket and enjoy an evening
of great music!



WEATHER PERMITTING OUTDOORS

ON THE SHAMBLES GREEN AREA
OR INDOORS IF INCLEMENT
WEATHER IN BANDON TOWN HALL



THE HUMOURS OF BANDON

MUSIC & TRADITION



CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF IRELAND
THROUGH MUSIC, STORY AND SONG



✿ O'DONOVAN'S AT THE SHAMBLES ✿



Ramble AT THE SHAMBLES



An evening of
storytelling, song
and poetry in the
heart of Bandon.
Expect laughter,
reflection, and a few
surprises as local
voices share tales
old and new.

*All are welcome — come to listen,
or take the floor!*

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST
8:00PM



Trad Session AT O'DONOVAN'S AT THE SHAMBLES



Settle in for a lively night
of music in one of West
Cork's friendliest pubs.

Enjoy a relaxed trad
session with local players,
spontaneous tunes,
and good company.

Whether you're a regular
or just passing through,
you're part of the session.

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST
7:00PM



Trad Session AT KILMICHAEL BAR

📍 KILMICHAEL BAR

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST
FROM 7:00PM

Settle in for a lively night of music in one
of West Cork's friendliest pubs.

Enjoy a relaxed trad session with local
players, spontaneous tunes, and
good company.

Whether you're a regular or just
passing through, you're part of the session.

FESTIVAL FINALE

The Final Gathering

A Celebration of Irish Music, Song & Heritage

📍 O'DONOVAN'S AT THE SHAMBLES

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST
FROM 6:00PM

Celebrate the close of the Family Heritage Fun Day and a wonderful
week of the Bandon Walled Town Festival with an informal evening
of traditional Irish music, song and tunes.

*All are welcome to listen, sing along,
or bring an instrument and join the session.*

Let's finish the week together in music, community and craic!





CELEBRATING HERITAGE • INSPIRING COMMUNITY • CONNECTING GENERATIONS



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The Bandon Walled Town Festival would not be possible without the generous support of our funding partners, sponsors, and local collaborators. Their commitment to heritage, culture, and community enables us to present a vibrant programme of free events for all ages.

We are especially grateful to The Heritage Council, the Irish Walled Towns Network, Cork County Council, Pure Cork, Fáilte Ireland, and our local sponsors—ABP, SuperValu Bandon, The Copper Grove, and O'Donovan's at The Shambles—whose generous support makes this festival possible. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Bandon Town Hall and Bandon Methodist Church for the continued use of their wonderful facilities, which provide welcoming spaces for so many of our festival events.

Behind the festival is a small committee of five volunteers who work throughout the year to research local history, uncover stories, build partnerships and develop a programme which celebrates the heritage of Bandon. Our aim is simple—to create an enjoyable and varied festival with something to inspire everyone, whether you're discovering our town for the first time or have called it home for many years.

Every festival is a community effort. We are continually inspired by the enthusiasm of our speakers, performers, historians, artists, volunteers and community groups who generously share their knowledge, talents and time. Their passion helps keep Bandon's history alive while creating new opportunities for people of all generations to connect with our town and with one another.

Most of all, we hope you enjoy this year's festival. If you attend an event, we'd love to hear about your experience—please share your photos and favourite moments on social media and don't forget to tag us.

Your feedback helps us continue to grow and improve.

If you have ideas for future events, would like to volunteer, or are interested in becoming involved with the festival, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Together, we can continue celebrating Bandon's unique heritage and ensure these stories and traditions are shared with future generations.

 Thank you for being part of the Bandon Walled Town Festival—
we hope you enjoy every moment.





OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS



Funded by

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Cork
County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



National
Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme



Fáilte
Ireland

SuperValu
Real Food, Real People



Ireland
Bandon



Bandon
Tidy Towns Group



DISCLAIMER:

EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THAT ALL EVENT TIMES AND LOCATIONS WERE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. HOWEVER, SCHEDULES AND VENUES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. THE FESTIVAL ORGANISERS ACCEPT NO LIABILITY FOR ANY CHANGES OR INACCURACIES. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS FOR THE LATEST UPDATES BEFORE ATTENDING.

