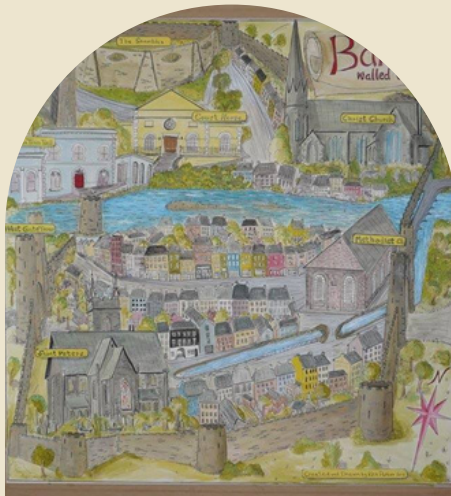


# BANDON WALLED TOWN FESTIVAL 2025



16th - 24th August  
Family Fun Day  
24th August



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



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

## **MESSAGE FROM MAYOR OF THE COUNTY OF CORK, CLLR. MARY LINEHAN FOLEY.**



**As Mayor of the County of Cork, it is a great honour to welcome you to the 14th annual Bandon Walled Town Festival.**

**Bandon is one of Ireland's most historic walled towns, and this festival provides a unique opportunity to explore its legacy through a rich and engaging programme.**

**The festival embodies the spirit of local celebration and community engagement. It is a testament to the pride we hold in our shared past and the creativity of our present. From medieval re-enactments and guided tours to family-friendly events and open-air concerts, this festival offers something for everyone.**

**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 in West Cork.**

**I encourage everyone to take full advantage of all that this festival has to offer.**

**Le gach dea-ghuí,  
Cllr Mary Linehan Foley,  
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 in my local constituency, which so vibrantly showcases Bandon's rich history and community spirit, I extend a warm invitation to all attending this year's celebration.**

**Few towns in the country can claim a heritage and history as rich as Bandon. Two things always strike me. Firstly, the stunning river from where it gets its name and secondly, the vast array of unique heritage buildings and towering old walls.**

**The variety of this year's programme is exceptional: from timeless talks and trails on Kilbrogan Church and Timoleague Abbey, to creative workshops, hands-on heritage demonstrations on skills like spinning and nettle-weaving, live music and family fun. These events not only celebrate Bandon's unique legacy but also invite people of all ages to connect with the town's living heritage.**

**I commend the Bandon Walled Town Festival organising committee, The Heritage Council, Irish Walled Towns Network, Cork County Council, local sponsors, performers, entertainers, traders and volunteers for their dedication to making this event a success. May the festival inspire a deeper appreciation for our shared heritage and foster a strong sense of community engagement.**

# WELCOME TO BANDON WALLED TOWN FESTIVAL 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Dear Friends, Neighbours and Visitors.

It is with great pride and pleasure that we welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> Bandon Walled Town Festival - a celebration of our town's rich and layered history.

Founded in the early 1600's at the southern frontier of the Munster Plantations, Bandon grew quickly into a fortified colonial town with stone walls 6 feet thick. It stood as both a symbol of ambition and a site of tension. Fragments of those walls remain today, but the spaces where they once stood are now open and welcoming, reflecting a modern Bandon shaped by many cultures who now call this place home.

Bandon's story mirrors that of Ireland itself, settlement, resistance, resilience and renewal. This festival is our way of honouring that journey.

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 McLaughlin

Chairperson Bandon Walled Town Festival Committee

## CREATIVE BANDON RIVER MURAL LAUNCH FOR HERITAGE WEEK



Our River Bandia (noun: the Goddess) is 360 million years old. Not bad for a river which sustains nearly 50, 000 humans, a host of biodiversity not to mention the best salmon in Ireland. For Heritage week, Creative Bandon launches this artwork by Carmen Quigley on Patricks Quay. We wish to acknowledge the many lovers of the Bandia - over the ages artists, photographers, ecologists, storytellers, farmers and anglers, all have loved her sweeping flow. This artwork was made possible with funding from Cork County Council, Bandon Environmental Action Group, LAWPRO, Heritage Council, Bandon Rivers Trust, the Bandon Walled Town Committee and the invaluable help of Sean O'Donovan and Castle Rock Developments.



# TIMELESS TALKS AND TRAILS



**Saturday 16th August**

**11:30 am**

**Bandon Library**

**Dr David Pasley of Bandon Tidy Towns Group uses maps, surveys, drawings and archive material to create a handmade scale model of how Bandon would have looked in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. With only fragments of Bandon's historic walls remaining today, this presentation provides an opportunity to travel back in time to see sections of the town's walls, buildings and streets as the town's inhabitants would have seen them in the 1600s.**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

**2:00 pm**

**Bandon Library**

**Cil Bhrogáin Wells**

**Join Bandon AFC and the Cil Bhrogáin Wells Committee for a special Heritage Week event exploring the deep roots of local tradition and community. Author Amanda Clarke will delve into the story of St. Brogan, the history of the wells, and the rich traditions and topography of holy wells across Cork. A fascinating look at how these sacred places continue to inspire and connect us through time.**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

**2:00 pm**

**Kilbrogan Church and Graveyard**

**Echoes of the Past: Kilbrogan Church & Graveyard**

**Step back in time with John Desmond as we visit historic Kilbrogan Church and Graveyard. Explore centuries of local heritage in one of Bandon's oldest sacred sites.**

**Monday 18th August**

**7:30 pm**

**Bandon Methodist Church**

**Faith and Foundations: The Story of Methodism in Bandon**  
**Discover the rich history and lasting impact of Methodism in Bandon. This session explores the town's strong Methodist heritage and the role the church has played in local life over the centuries.**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

**1:00 pm**

**Bandon Library**

**Speaking our history: The Case for Oral Heritage Recording in changing times. With Colum Cronin, West Cork Oral Heritage Project.**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August  
8:00pm  
Bandon Town Hall**

**Timoleague Abbey - A Talk through Time**

**Journey through centuries of history as Vincent Duggan explores the founding of Timoleague Abbey in the 12th century to its dramatic burning in the 1640s. Discover the stories, architecture, and enduring legacy of this iconic site in a captivating talk that brings the past to life.**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August  
7:30 pm  
St. Patrick's Church**

**Sacred Spaces - A Guided tour of historic St. Patrick's Church with John McCarthy. Step inside one of Bandon's most treasured landmarks. Join us for a guided tour of historic St. Patrick's Church - a building rich in architectural beauty and local heritage. Uncover the history that shaped this remarkable place - and the people it served.**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August  
7:30 pm  
Tracing Bandon's past  
meet at Bandon Town Hall**

**Join Dan Holland for a guided walking tour through Bandon's historic streets.**

**Discover the stories, landmarks, and layers of history that have shaped the town over centuries.**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
11:00 am  
Bandon Library**

**Bandon: An overview of its history from the early 1600's to 1900, using resources from the Local Studies Library, Cork County Council Library**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
8:00 pm  
Bandon Town Hall**

**There is still a wall at Bandon**

**This talk by Richard Keyes McDonnell will explore the intersection of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and landlordism in the context of the writing and memory of Bandon's revolutionary period history. Drawing on archival sources, it will consider how systems of oppression - legal, social, and economic - have persisted before, during and after the revolutionary period.**

**Details are correct at time of printing. Please check [bandonhistory.com](http://bandonhistory.com) and [Facebook](#) page for any last-minute updates or changes. Kindly note that some of our venues are active places of worship, and event times may be adjusted to accommodate unexpected church requirements.**

# FREE FAMILY FUN DAY SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

## PAST MEETS PLAY

CELEBRATE BANDON'S RICH HISTORY WITH A DAY OF  
MUSIC, CRAFTS, TOURS, AND HANDS-ON FUN FOR ALL  
AGES.



### **Parade - Bandon Through the Ages**

**12:00 Sharp from Supervalu Car Park to Town Hall.**

**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!**

**With thanks to Bandon Family Centre**

## RUNNING ALL DAY (FROM 1-5P.M)



### **Ancient Warfare with Bran Dubh**

**Bran Dubh Historical Combat and Living History Society**

**Step into a 1600s battlefield!**

**See live combat, medieval weaponry, historic clothing & more.**

### **Longbow Demonstration**



### **Trades & Crafts of Old**

**See skilled hands at work in the ways of yesteryear:**

- The blacksmith's forge • The coppersmith's art
- Coin striking • Spinning & nettle weaving
- Pole lathe turning • Lacemaking
- The printer's press • Drop-in candle making



### **Delight for Folk Both Young and Old**

**In joyful company, enjoy:**








- Stalls of craft and hearty fare
- Balloon marvels and Circus feats
- The face painter's cheerful brush



**Come one, come all — step back in time and celebrate the spirit of Bandon as it once was.**

# TIMED EVENTS

## 1-5 PM

-  **1:00 pm**    **Bandon Concert Band**  
Enjoy a lively musical start to the afternoon!
-  **1:15 pm**    **Magical Storytime with Rae**  
Join Rae for a magical story time where every tale sparkles with wonder and adventure.
-  **1:30/ 3:45 pm**    **Battle Reenactment & Children's Reenactment**  
Step into history - take up your sword and join Bran Dubh in battle! Let the drill begin.....
-  **1:50/ 3:15pm**    **Puppet Show**  
Enter a world of imagination through tales brought to life with puppetry and voice.
-  **2:30 pm**    **Alchemy Arts Circus Magic Show**  
A dazzling display of circus tricks and wonders!
-  **3:00 pm**    **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**    **Performance by Comhaltas**  
Traditional Irish music with Newcestown Comhaltas to finish the day on a high note!

### **All Day – 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 can be pre-booked -  
see [bandonhistory.com](http://bandonhistory.com) for details

## OLD WALLS, NEW QUESTIONS

### BANDON TOWN HALL 3-4 PM

Do you have a section of Bandon's historic town walls on your property? Drop in for expert advice from Sarah McCutcheon on how to care for these important heritage features. Learn about the do's and don'ts, get tips on maintenance, and ask questions about preserving this unique piece of Bandon's past.

No booking needed - all welcome.



# INTERACTIVE EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



The Resonant River Bandon - organised by Creative Bandon  
Bandon Footbridge  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August | 11:00 a.m.



Celebrate the natural heritage of the River Bandon with **WiseWater Academy** in this unique, family-friendly event. Experience the river in a whole new way—make music with water using singing bowls, watch a “blue mind” video tracing its source, and connect with its pure, flowing wisdom. The event also features the launch of new murals celebrating our river heritage in the heart of town. A joyful and sensory celebration of water, nature, and community, supported by **LAWPRO** in honour of our shared water heritage.



**Forage & Feast by the River**  
Meet by Bandon River (near URRU) Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August | 11:00am  
part of **RIVER GUARDIANS Lúghnasa Events**

Join **Kevin O’Connell**, local wild food chef and forager for a sensory walk along the Bandon River, discovering the edible treasures of our hedgerows—plants, flowers, trees, and more. This two-hour guided workshop will open your eyes to nature’s hidden larder, followed by a delicious wild food picnic made with foraged ingredients.

Free event, limited to 12 places.

✉ **Booking essential:** [riverguardiansbandon@gmail.com](mailto:riverguardiansbandon@gmail.com)



🕒 **Riverside Colours: Natural Dyeing Workshop**  
Bandon Riverside | Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2:00–4:00pm  
part of **RIVER GUARDIANS Lúghnasa Events**



Join eco-artist **Ashleigh Ellis** for a hands-on workshop exploring the art of natural dyeing using riverside plants like Alder and Buddleja. Learn sustainable techniques and discover the beautiful colours hidden in our local landscape.

Places are limited – booking essential:

✉ [riverguardiansbandon@gmail.com](mailto:riverguardiansbandon@gmail.com)



**Free Children’s Creative Army Workshop**  
Bandon Town Hall

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August | 🕒 12:00-2:00pm & 3:00-5:00 pm Ages 6+



Get parade-ready at this fun and hands-on creative workshop for kids! Participants will paint their own stencilled crest on fabric, craft lightweight body armour and practice marching in formation - just in time to take part in the ‘Bandon Through the Ages’ Parade. Led by local artist, **Deirdre Patwell**, this workshop encourages imagination, teamwork and a love of history through play. All materials are provided.

Spaces are free but booking essential: contact 0851600890 or [bandonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:bandonhistory@gmail.com) to book a space



**Music of Many Cultures**  
Bandon Library

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August | 11:00 am (ages 5-8) | 1:30 pm (ages 9-12)



Join **Ruti Lachs** for a joyful interactive workshop exploring songs and folk tunes from around the world, including Europe, Africa and South America. There will also be discussion about music from the participants’ own heritages, and perhaps a few simple dance steps. Ruti brings a number of instruments with her, and everyone will have a chance to play along and learn a new tune and a song in another language. No experience needed, but participants who do play a musical instrument are welcome to bring it with them.

Bookings can be made at Bandon Library in person, by phone (023)8844830 or email [bandon.library@corkcoco.ie](mailto:bandon.library@corkcoco.ie)



🎵 **AN EVENING WITH JOHN SPILLANE** 🎵  
**BANDON TOWN HALL**  
**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 8P.M.**



Join us for an unforgettable night of music, stories, and soul as **John Spillane**, one of Ireland's most beloved singer-songwriters, takes the stage. With his signature blend of heartfelt lyrics, rich melodies, and Cork wit, John brings a rare magic to every performance. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to his songs, this is a night that will leave you moved, uplifted, and humming all the way home.

Tickets available at the perfect cup, hickeys' O'Farrells'  
or online at [powertik](https://www.powertik.com)  
(see [bandonhistory.com](https://www.bandonhistory.com))

**TEA & TUNES BY THE RIVERSIDE**  
**A SUMMER FUNDRAISER FOR THE BANDON CONCERT BAND**  
**SAT 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 1:00 - 2:30 P.M.**

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.  
Tickets €10 in local shops or from Ger at 086 267 9646.

# THE HARP IN IRELAND: SOUND, SYMBOL AND STORY

## A MINI SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATING IRELAND'S NATIONAL INSTRUMENT

**BANDON METHODIST CHURCH | SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST**  
**| FREE EVENT**

### **12:00 | Harp Recital**

**Brenda Malloy performs on early Irish, Renaissance, and Baroque harps, as well as Irish flutes and lutes.**

**Experience haunting airs, lively dances, and music from Ireland's past.**



### **13:00 | Strings of a Nation: The Harp and the Heart of Ireland**

**The harp is more than just a musical instrument in Ireland - it is a national symbol, a cultural treasure and a thread woven through the fabric of Irish identity for over a thousand years. This talk with Kristin Gleeson explores the deep historical roots of the harp in Irish society, from ancient bardic traditions to its presence on modern coinage and state emblems. We'll delve into its' evolution, its' role in resistance and revival and how it continues to inspire and unite across generations. Whether you are a musician, a history lover, or simply curious about Ireland's heritage, this journey into the soul of the harp will strike a chord.**

### **14:00 | Harp Workshop**

**Try your hand at playing a harp!  
Discover the sounds and stories of music from long ago — no experience needed.**

# THE HUMOURS OF BANDON NIGHTS OF IRISH TRADITION

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF IRELAND  
THROUGH MUSIC, STORY, AND SONG



## **Ramble at the Shambles**

**O'Donovan's at The Shambles | Thursday 14th August  
8:00 p.m.**

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!



## **Trad Session at Kilmichael Bar**

**Kilmichael Bar | Friday 22nd August  
from 9:30 p.m.**

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.



## **Trad Music Session: Open Night**

**O'Donovan's at The Shambles | Thursday 28th August  
8:00 p.m.**

Pull up a chair, bring your instrument,  
or just tap your feet!

Join our open traditional Irish music session —  
a warm, informal night of jigs, reels, and shared tunes.

All musicians and listeners welcome.

# ONGOING EVENTS

TAKE IN LOCAL HERITAGE ALL WEEK AT YOUR OWN LEISURE

- Discover a detailed model of Bandon's historic town walls on display at the library.
- Take a self-guided trail and explore the historic sites along the line of Bandon's ancient town walls.
- 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!

## IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR VALUED SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

### With Sincere Thanks to Our Supporters

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 allows us to offer a vibrant day of free events for all ages.

We are especially grateful to the Heritage Council and the Irish Walled Towns Network for their steadfast dedication to preserving Ireland's historic towns. Our sincere thanks also go to Cork County Council, whose Local Festival Fund plays a key role in supporting community-led initiatives, and to Pure Cork and Fáilte Ireland for helping us share Bandon's story with a wider audience.

This festival also thrives thanks to strong collaboration with local artists, groups, and organisations whose creative energy fosters a deep sense of community spirit. We are proud to work alongside partners such as Bandon Family Centre, Bandon library, River Guardian Lughnasa events, Creative Bandon, and the Bandon Folk Club, whose contributions promote inclusion, creativity, and cultural connection throughout the town.

To all our local sponsors, community partners, performers, and volunteers—thank you. Your dedication ensures the continued success of this celebration and strengthens the bonds that make Bandon such a special place to live, work, and visit.



Cork  
County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



Funded by

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



Fáilte  
Ireland

