

SCHEDULE				
THE ALLINGHAM FESTIVAL WEEKEND				
WEDNESDAY 4 TH NOV	TIME	VENUE	ADM	
CÚPLA FOCAL. CÓMHRA, CEOL, CRAIC AGUS CAIFE	2.30 - 4.00PM	KILBARRON PAROCHIAL CENTRE, BALLYSHANNON.	FREE	
Fiú mura bhfuil agat ach cúpla focail Gaeilge, nó nach bhfuil focal ar bith agat, nó go bhfuil tú líofa, tá fíor-fáilte romhat anseo. Beidh cómhra, ceoil, filíocht agus craic againn ar feadh uair an chloig nó dhó. Whether you have fluent Irish, only a few or even no words this is the place for you. You will enjoy conversation, music, song, poetry and craic all in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. With a cup of tea or coffee thrown in. Just show up. No booking required.				
COLAISTE CHOLMCILLE DRAMA, FILM AND THEATRE STUDIES STUDENTS	5.00PM	THEATRE 2 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€5 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
We will see that the future of the performing arts in Donegal is bright as Drama, Film and Theatre students from Colaiste Cholmcille present a vibrant showcase of original ensemble performances as part of this year's Festival. A show to remember is assured so come along and celebrate our next generation of actors, musicians, writers and film makers.				
BALLYSHANNON SAMBA BAND	6.30PM	ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
Once again, our local Samba musicians bring us the rhythms of Brazil to get our Festival off to a wonderful start.				
FESTIVAL OPENING	7.00PM	ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
Wine reception followed by the Colaiste Cholmcille Staff Choir, the Opening of The Allingham Festival and the one act play The Wonder Wheel. All Welcome.				
Colaiste Cholmcille Staff Choir We welcome music teacher Mark Cronin and his colleagues in the Staff Choir to the Abbey to open our Festival and entertain us with a short concert of popular songs.				
The Wonder Wheel by Barry McGinley Ballyshannon Drama Society bring us their excellent production of Barry McKinley's one act play The Wonder Wheel. To the Abbey Arts Centre stage. Directed by Moya Ferguson and starring Ronan Drummond, Kay O Dea, Michael McMullin, Sarah Ferguson, Kevin Lilly, Louise Larkin, Killian McManus and Mark Kirby. This beautifully written, fast paced piece will give you plenty of laughs and also provide something to think about.				
THURSDAY 5 TH NOV	TIME	VENUE	ADM	
ALLINGHAM SCHOOL PROGRAMME IN COLAISTE CHOLMCILLE.	2.30PM	ABBEY ARTS CENTRE		
The acclaimed Irish portrait artist Neil – Jack Alphonsus Hamilton is based in Ballyshannon and has exhibited his work at numerous Irish, British and International shows. And you may well have seen him on Sky's Portrait Artist of the Year. His extensive experience in running workshops for the National Gallery of Ireland makes Neil the ideal artist to work with the students of Colaiste Cholmcille. They are surely in for a real treat.				
FILM: THE ESSENCE OF EVA	4.30PM	THEATRE 1 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
This heart tugging story about the legendary singer Eva Cassidy, which is told from the perspective of her parents, family and friends, features previously unheard songs and exclusive archive footage. It has won awards at the Vancouver Film Festival and the Galway Film Fleadh. If you like a heartwarming story and great music you will love this movie.We are grateful to Patrick O' Neill and Wildcard Productions for allowing us to bring this show to Ballyshannon.				
THREE SHORT FILMS	7.00PM	THEATRE 2 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
Booking ESSENTIAL. Tickets Limited. Sam Roma. An intimate portrait of the Roma community on Arainn Mhor and mainland Donegal. Director: Katie-Ruby McLoughlin Robinson. Producers: Gabriel Pascal Blake, David Carpaci, Eimear Heaney Helen of Inver. A delightful short film which gives us a moving glimpse into the life of local historian Helen Meehan who has put the Parish of Inver firmly on the map. Narrated by Sally Neary and brought to the screen by Michael McMonagle, Emer O Shea and Manus Brennan The Far Shore. A follow on to The Last Bus this film explores some of the places in Glasgow where emigrants gathered and explores the experiences of those who lived with a foot on each side. Directed/edited by: Win McNulty and Emer O Shea.				
A QUIET LOVE. DIRECTED BY GARRY KEANE	8.30PM	THEATRE 1 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€10 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Ballyshannon born film director Garry Keane has previously brought us such hard hitting films as Gaza and In the Shadow of Beirut. This year we are thrilled to be able to screen Garry's latest offering A Quiet Love. This delightful, touching and warm documentary tells the story of three deaf couples and how they face up to the difficulties the world throws at them. A deeply moving and enthralling work, it will leave you with a renewed sense of hope for our troubled world. This will be a signed event and a short Q and A will follow the screening. This event will be signed by Irish Sign Language.				
OPEN MIC	10.00PM	MCINTYRE'S SALOON BAR	FREE	
Always a firm favourite at Allingham. So whether you are a musician, singer, storyteller, juggler, or whatever, who wishes to strut your stuff, or simply want to come along to watch, listen and enjoy, this is the spot for you. Hosted by the wonderful Tony Liston. Music provided by Farrah Bogle and Brian O' Sullivan. A great night's entertainment is assured.				
FRIDAY 6 TH NOV	TIME	VENUE	ADM	
BALLYSHANNON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	2.30PM	ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
Back by popular demand John and Kathleen Forkin, Brid Kelly and Devina Devine bring lots of music and song to the Community Hospital. A big hit with the residents last year this event will delight and entertain once more.				
POETRY READING WITH MIKE JENNINGS	3.00PM	THEATRE 2 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
Mike Jennings has recently retired as General Secretary of the Irish Federation of University Teachers. Having written poetry for many years and been published in a range of outlets, Mike recently launched his first poetry collection entitled Poems of Love and Loss. He will join with Michael McMullin in a conversation about and readings from this collection and how he managed to combine his working and poetic lives. Join us for an hour of quirky, entertaining chat and readings.				

FRIDAY 6 TH NOV	CONTINUED	TIME	VENUE	ADM
THE FIFTH COURT. IRELAND'S LEGAL PODCAST	5.30PM	THEATRE 3 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
Booking required. In a very welcome return, Peter Leonard BL and Mark Tottenham BL host a live recording of their very popular Legal Podcast with a very special guest. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more details but anyone who has been there for their previous chats with Nelofer Pazira and Darragh Mackin will know to expect something special.				
AN EVENING WITH JOHNNY GALLAGHER	7.00PM	THEATRE 3 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€15 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
We are truly delighted to have the great Johnny Gallagher perform at Allingham '26. One of Europe's greatest guitarists, Johnny lights up festivals and venues wherever he plays and captivates audiences from the very first note. His playing is a blend of powerful original songs with deeply personal takes on timeless classics. A gig not to be missed. Limited seating so booking ESSENTIAL online				
ÁR SEISIÚN MÓR	8.30PM	THEATRE 1 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€25 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Booking required. We are thrilled to bring you Ár Seisiún Mór curated by Bianca Rohleder, herself a proud Ballyshannon woman. Featuring Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Seamie O' Dowd, Martin McGinley, Seanan Brennan, Robbie Fottrell and Bianca Rohleder, with guest singer Shauna Mullin. This wonderful lineup will bring the excitement and joy of a real Session to the Abbey as some of Ireland's best musicians showcase all that is good in Trad with a focus on the music of Donegal. Bianca has composed, and will perform, a special piece of music in memory of Margaret McGinley, who contributed so much to the musical and general cultural life of this area. Do not miss. Support will be provided by young local musicians Oisín and Micheál McGrath, Rossa McCauley and Dáithí Sheerin. These hugely talented players will also be playing in our Festival Club after the concert.				
FESTIVAL CLUB	10.00PM	BRIDGEND BAR, BALLYSHANNON	FREE	
The fun continues in the Bridgend, a venue renowned as a home of traditional music in Ballyshannon. It is an open session so anybody is free to join in with the resident musicians, the O'Brien Family. Who knows who might put in an appearance! A couple of hours of great music and song awaits.				
SATURDAY 7 TH NOV	TIME	VENUE	ADM	
CHRISTINE FOX CHILDRENS' ART WORKSHOP	10.00AM	COLAISTE CHOLMCILLE	€8	
The ever popular Christine brings her workshop to our festival for the 15 th year in a row, a sure sign of its excellence. The workshop is suitable for children aged 6 to 12. Places are limited so early booking is advised. To book a place, phone, text or WhatsApp 086 3803181.				
TIME TO WRITE. A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP	10.00AM	KILBARRON CENTRE	€25 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Jean Tuomey offers a guided, encouraging space in which to write freely. Participants will have the opportunity to write Flash Fiction and Poetry. Jean trained with The National Association of Poetry Therapy in the U.S.A and has worked with groups in Ireland, U.S.A and the U.K. No writing experience is necessary, just a willingness to participate. This is a great chance for writers of all sorts to hone their skills in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere. Spaces strictly limited. Application forms available on allinghamfestival.com				
TÉA OBREHT IN CONVERSATION WITH DENISE BLAKE	11.00AM	THEATRE 2 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€15 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Booking required. Limited seating. Renowned novelist Téa Obreht joins Denise Blake in conversation in a discussion about her books and the influences on her writing. Téa won the Orange Prize for her novel The Tiger's Wife and other works such as Inland and Morningside have been shortlisted for many awards. Her latest book, Sunrise, was published in May tointernational critical and public acclaim. This is a unique opportunity to hear a great novelist in an intimate setting.				
PRIMARY SCHOOLS' WRITING AND ART AWARDS	12.00 NOON	THEATRE 1 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	FREE	
A highlight of every festival, this is your chance to hear and see the up and coming literary and art talent in Donegal. The winners will read their works and receive their awards from host Conor Carney. Light refreshments will be served in the foyer of the Abbey Arts Centre from 11.30 am.				
ADULT AWARDS	1.00PM	DORRIAN'S IMPERIAL HOTEL	FREE	
Booking required. The prize winners in our Poetry and Flash Fiction awards read their entries and accept the Francis Harvey and James Keane Awards from the judges Denise Blake and Patrick Holloway. Always a very popular event. The MC will be Competitions Organiser, Tom Sigafoos. Booking online at allinghamfestival.com or Abbey Arts Centre.				
FAMOUS FOLK FROM COUNTY DONEGAL WITH SEAN BEATTIE	1.30PM	THEATRE 2 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€10 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Well known historian and former editor of the Donegal Annual, Sean Beattie gives us an insight into the lives of some fascinating characters in his latest book, Famous Folk from County Donegal. These include playwrights, politicians, musicians, actors, clergymen and many others. A consummate communicator, Sean is certain to entertain and enlighten us during what will be a fascinating hour or so. Booking online at Abbey Arts Centre. Seating limited.				
PAUL HOWARD IN CONVERSATION WITH RÓISÍN INGLE	2.45PM	THEATRE 1 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€20 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Booking required. One of the stars of the Irish literary world since his first book was published in 2003, Paul has written 21 novels on the life and times of his wonderful creation Ross O'Carroll-Kelly. Add to that four plays and a musical and you can see that we have a publishing phenomenon with us at Allingham. As well as chatting with Roisin Ingle, Paul will also read from his latest, recently published book A Nation Once Again, which has been an instant critical and commercial success. A hugely popular columnist in the Irish Times, Róisín Ingle has written more than 4000 columns for that paper as well as co-writing The Daughterhood which was nominated for the Irish Book Awards. A good friend of Paul, Róisín is the ideal person to ensure that we have a very entertaining afternoon.				
ELAINE FEENEY IN CONVERSATION WITH SINEAD CROWLEY	4.00PM	THEATRE 2 ABBEY ARTS CENTRE	€15 + €1 BOOKING FEE	
Galway woman Elaine Feeney has been at the top of the best sellers lists since the publication of her first novel, As You Were, in 2020. This award-winning work was followed by How To Build A Boat in 2023 and Let Me Go Mad In My Own Way in 2025. She is also an award-winning poet and dramatist. Her work focuses on themes of history, national identity, state institutions and how these forces impact on the lives of Irish women. A wonderful interviewee, Elaine also excels as a reader of her own work. Sinead Crowley is a long-time friend of our festival and the perfect host to chat to Elaine, being a former Arts and Media Correspondent for RTE. Also the writer of four novels, three of which have been shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards she is an engaging interviewer and this event promises to be one of the highlights of Allingham '26.				
BOOKING ONLINE at allinghamfestival.com or abbeycentre.ie				

SATURDAY 7TH NOV

CONTINUED

TIME

VENUE

ADM

JOHN MCGAHERN: A WRITING LIFE
WITH FRANK SHOVLIN

5.30PM

THEATRE 2
ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

€10
+ €1
BOOKING
FEE

Professor Frank Shovlin of the University of Liverpool is a proud Donegal man and the foremost authority on the life and work of the great Leitrim writer John McGahern. He has already edited The Letters of John McGahern in 2023 and has been working on the definitive biography of McGahern for many years. The result is this book, John McGahern: A Writing Life, which was published to great acclaim last month. It is a beautifully crafted portrait of McGahern, drawing on hours of new interviews and previously unseen archival material to bring to life a cultural icon. This is a do-not-miss event.

Frank will be introduced by PM O'Sullivan who studied English and Philosophy at UCD and at the University of Oxford. He and now lives in Kilkenny where he works as a freelance editor and is a highly hurling journalist. Booking online at allinghamfestival.com or AbbeyCentre.ie

Seating limited.

JACK L AND HIS GREATEST SONGS TOUR

8.00PM

THEATRE 1
ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

€25
+ €1
BOOKING
FEE

We're proud to bring the great Jack L (Jack Lukeman) to the Abbey Arts Centre. The Irish Times has described him as "An Irresistible force of nature." The Guardian said of him " Think Frank Sinatra, Scott Walker, Jacques Brel.... Yes we are talking that good." And The Washington Post said that he is "....second to none."

Do not miss the chance to hear this world class singer and performer in the intimate surroundings of the Rory Gallagher Theatre. Jack will be supported by U.S. based singer songwriter Triona O Neill who grew up in Ballyshannon and studied in The Cork School of Music before moving to LA. Triona writes songs that are filled with soaring melodies and soulful vibrato. Having toured extensively in Ireland, the UK, Europe and the USA we are privileged to have her opening for Jack L. Booking online at allinghamfestival.com or Abbey Arts Centre.

FESTIVAL CLUB

10.00PM

DICEY REILLY'S
BAR.

FREE

Let loose your inner Dolly or Drake, Bruce or Beyoncé loose at our Festival Club with a couple of hours of Karaoke brought to you by Cyril Brennan. Here is the chance for you to display your talent and be in with a chance of winning Dickey's famous hamper. Or just relax and enjoy the entertainment as we wind down a very busy day at Allingham.

SUNDAY 8TH NOV

TIME

VENUE

ADM

GATHER AGAIN

11.00AM

ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

FREE

Calling all poets, singers, storytellers, musicians and writers to Gather Again at this much-loved event. Or just come along to enjoy the talent on show. The P.J. Drummond Cup will be presented to the person who gives the best reading or recitation, as judged by the audience. Conor Carney will be the MC and music will be provided by Barry Sweeney and Sean Gibbons.

Booking required.

THE BALLYSHANNON UKULADIES

1.00PM

FOYER OF THE
ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

The twenty members of the local Active Retirement Association make up one big Ukulele family and are sure to entertain us with a mixture of Country, Rock and Traditional airs.

SUNDAY 8TH NOV

CONTINUED

TIME

VENUE

ADM

ANN INGLE AND RÓISÍN INGLE
IN CONVERSATION

1.00PM

THEATRE 2
ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

€15
+ €1
BOOKING
FEE

In a wide ranging conversation filled with laughter, fun and some pathos. Mother and daughter Ann and Róisín Ingle discuss ageing, birthdays, men and much much more. These indefatigable women are sure to enthrall and entertain in equal measure for an hour or so.

Booking required.

MIDWINTER: AN AFTERNOON
WITH MICHAEL HARDING

3.00PM

ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

€20
+ €1
BOOKING
FEE

We are honoured to welcome Michael to the Abbey Arts Centre with his acclaimed show, Midwinter, which is based on the book of the same name. The show is a meditation on Winter and follows his personal reflections on life and death. Michael Harding's blend of warmth, humour, reflection and beautiful storytelling will make this an event to be cherished.

Booking required.

FILM YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHO'S DEAD

4.30PM

THEATRE 2
ABBEY ARTS
CENTRE

€10
+ €1
BOOKING
FEE

This sharply written black comedy featuring a dysfunctional Sligo family debuted at the Galway Film Fleadh last July to general laughter in sold out theatres. It certainly is a laugh out loud crowd pleaser. A stellar cast includes Ardal O Hanlon, Ruth Codd, Michelle Fairley and Stephen Rea. The director, Dallan Shovlin will take part in a short Q&A after the show. Do not miss. Booking online at allinghamfestival.com or Abbey Arts Centre.

Seating Limited.

CONCERT
IN ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

7.00PM

ST. ANNE'S
CHURCH

FREE

William Allingham's own parish church is the perfect venue in which to relax and be entertained as another Allingham Arts Festival comes to a close. Enjoy the students of Kilbarron N.S., Bel Canto under the baton of Angela Currid and master guitarist Mark Langan. Other guests to follow.

CHECK OUT OUR VENUES

1. Abbey Arts Centre

2. St Anne's Church of Ireland

3. Coláiste Cholmcille

4. Dickey Reilly's Pub

5. Dorrians Imperial Hotel

6. McIntyre's Saloon Bar

7. Sheil Hospital

8. Bridgend Bar

BOOKING ONLINE at

allinghamfestival.com or abbeycentre.ie

Garry & Trish Keane

The Allingham Arts Festival is a community arts festival which takes place in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, each November, in honour of the poet William Allingham.

For bookings and information on the festival, visit our website:
WWW.ALLINGHAMFESTIVAL.COM
or email us with any queries on: allinghamfest@gmail.com

ALLINGHAM

ARTS FESTIVAL

BALLYSHANNON

4TH - 8TH NOVEMBER 2026

www.allinghamfestival.com