Féile NA SIONAINNE ATHLONE

31st July – 2nd August 2026

A Celebration of
Irish Music, Song & Dance.
Showcasing Athlone's History,
Heritage & Culture.

Comhaltas Ath Luain

Welcome to Féile na Sionainne



The Athlone Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann is delighted once again to bring Féile na Sionainne to Athlone.

Féile na Sionainne has become the highlight of Athlone's event calendar and once again we are showcasing Athlone's history, heritage and culture, through the form of music, song and dance. Now in its fourth year, Féile na Sionainne is going from strength to strength, building on what we have achieved each year since we started out in 2023.

For the third year in a row, Féile na Sionainne is delighted to work in collaboration with RIVERFEST, which also takes place over this August bank holiday weekend. This collaboration will bring lots of additional colour and fun to Athlone over the course of the Festival weekend.

For 2026, we have a full and exciting programme of events lined up to suit all tastes and ages. Our launch night on Saturday 25th July will feature a night of dancing, music and nostalgia as we welcome 'The Devil's in the Dance Hall' with the wonderful Edwina Guckian. The launch will take place in Moore Hall, and tickets are available on Eventbrite.

From 30th of July to 2nd of August, we will have a full programme of performances and public events which will include live stage performances across two open air stages as well as multiple pub sessions. Once again, we are proud to host a number of inclusive events including music therapy sessions and an inclusive trad disco for children and young people with additional needs.

The Féile na Sionainne Committee would sincerely like to thank all of our participating performers who will entertain and thrill all of our visitors over the course of the weekend. Without their support and participation we would not have such a wonderful festival.

The continued success of Féile na Sionainne could not be sustained without the generous support of our sponsors to whom we are grateful beyond measure. We also rely heavily on volunteers to give freely of their time and expertise to support the workload.

Finally, I would like to express my personal gratitude to each of our Committee members who work tirelessly throughout the year to prepare and deliver the Féile. Your great spirit and enthusiasm is what makes Féile na Sionnaine the success that it has become.

Jim Mulkerrins

Chair of Féile na Sionainne

Follow us on Social Media:

@feilenasionainne | feile na sionainne | @feile_na_sionainne

Faces behind Féile - Meet the Committee



Name: Jim Mulkerrins
Role: Chairperson
Instrument: Banjo
Fun fact: Came up with the name of our festival and plays nearly every instrument!



Name: Ellen Glennon
Role: Athlone Comhaltas chair and the one with all the contacts
Instrument: Piano Accordion
Fun fact: Knows every tune at a session, but sometimes goes into the wrong tune!



Name: Fiona O'Neill
Role: Secretary aka the back bone of the committee
Instrument: Flute
Fun fact: Taught Lucy and Ella and loves the sing song at the end of a session.



Name: Miriam Nally
Role: Treasurer & money minder
Instrument: Dabbles at the Spoons
Fun fact: Loves a good Sudoku.



Name: Anita McEnroe
Role: Junior Group Coordinator
Instrument: Button Accordion
Fun fact: Our go to Gaeilgeoir.



Name: John Henson
Role: Safety Officer & advice giver
Instrument: Sings the occasional song
Fun fact: The man behind the Providence & Athlone twinning.



Name: James Donohue
Role: Fundraising
Instrument: Button Accordion
Fun fact: Loves to play very fast and enjoys a recitation.



Name: Mary Norton
Role: Secretary of Athlone Comhaltas
Instrument: Flute
Fun fact: A whiz at a quiz and always the first to arrive at every event.

Faces behind Féile - Meet the Committee



Name: Philippa Barry aka "The Pip"
Role: PRO of Athlone Comhaltas
Instrument: Voice & Bodhrán
Fun fact: Loves to rock to a Hyrox.



Name: Aengus O'Rourke
Role: Vice Chairperson
Instrument: Soon to be drums
Fun fact: Had the original idea of bringing 'the fleadh to Athlone for a day' ... turned out to be a 3 day festival in its 4th year!



Name: Dave Caulfield
Role: PRO
Instrument: Button Accordion
Fun fact: A very accomplished Organist.



Name: Michelle O'Connor
Role: The voice behind our interviews
Instrument: Fiddle
Fun fact: Enjoys horse riding.



Name: Lucy Nally
Role: Programme coordinator and Ticket seller
Instrument: Piano
Fun fact: Runs off her own time, 'GMT + Lucy'.



Name: Ella Nally aka "The baby of the committee"
Role: Social Media and Lucy's PA.
Instrument: Flute
Fun fact: Lucy's little sister and Fiona O'Neill's biggest fan.



Name: Eimear Brett
Role: Session organiser
Instrument: Concertina
Fun fact: Always wants a Tune Marathon, but has to stop at closing time.



Name: Colm McDaid
Role: Our newest committee member!
Instrument: Guitar
Fun fact: Has the coolest day job on the committee, 'a fire officer'!

Féile na Sionainne and Comhaltas Athlone Merchandise

Merchandise is available to purchase at the Canopy on both Saturday and Sunday (1st and 2nd of August). There are a range of both children and adult sizes.

Shop online by scanning the QR code below or visit the website at:

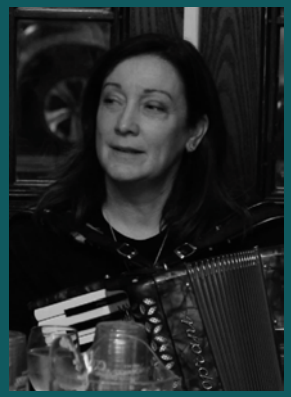
feile-na-sionainne.sumupstore.com







Athlone Comhaltas



Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann has been part and parcel of life in Ireland, and Athlone, since 1951, working to promote Irish music and culture in Ireland and worldwide.

The Branch is the building block of Comhaltas with members organising sessions, classes, concerts, Céilís and Fleadhanna, bringing the benefit and vibrancy of the traditional arts to our own local community.

Athlone CCÉ is one of the earliest branches forming in 1953, the branch relaunched in 2024 and have been busy with Sessions, Workshops, Lessons, hosting the County Fleadh and planning for bigger events in the future. The legacy of past members lives on through the vibrant music, song and dance of our junior members.

We were honoured to host Fleadh Cheoil Ros Comain in 2025, and look forward to hosting it in 2027. We are looking forward to working with the Féile na Sionainne committee again this summer, and can't wait for the festival events to kick off on July 25th with a series of workshops with renowned musicians – Ryan Molloy, Stephen & Tom Doherty, Cathy Jordan, David Doocey, Conor Caldwell and Brian Scahill, followed by 'The Devil's in the Dance Hall' with Edwina Guckian and the Gralton Big Band .

Our Branch strives to embed the ethos of Comhaltas promoting Irish music and culture within our membership and the wider community. The primary focus of the Branch is providing affordable classes in a range of traditional instruments, singing and dancing while also providing the opportunity for local musicians of all levels to get together and make music and embrace the Irish culture.

We have a strong, dedicated committee who are engaging with the local community to raise the profile of our Branch. Our members perform at local festivals and events and support other groups at various times throughout the year, such as St Patrick's Day Mass and Parade, and Seachtain na Ghaeilge.

Committee Officers are – Ellen Glennon (Cathaoirleach), Fiona O'Neill (Leas Cathaoirleach), Mary Norton (Rúnaí), Philippa Barry (PRO), Miriam Nally (Cisteoir), Anita McEnroe (Treoraí na Gaeilge), Ella Nally (Youth Officer). Committee Members are Lucy Nally, Jim Mulkerrins, Eimear Brett, Tom Shine, Eileen Daly, David Caulfield.

Contact Us

Email: secretary.cceathlone@gmail.com
Web: comhaltas.ie/branches/atha-luain/biography/
Facebook link: facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555905008703

Ellen Glennon
Chair of Athlone Comhaltas.

Intermediate & Advanced Workshops

Date: Saturday 25th July
Time: 1pm – 3pm
Venue: Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone, N37 AH97.
Entry: €25 + booking fee. Scan the QR Code to book!



Ryan Molloy
Piano



Stephen Doherty
Flute & Whistle



David Doocey
Concertina



Conor Caldwell
Fiddle



Brian Scahill
Banjo



Tom Doherty
Button Accordion



Cathy Jordan
Singing

Féile Launch night: Devil's in the Dance Hall

Date: Saturday 25th July
Time: 8pm
Venue: Moore Hall, N37 HT68
Entry: €30 + Booking Fee. Scan the QR Code to book!

Step back in time to a 1930's dance hall and experience the roaring sound of the Gralton Big Band. Edwina Guckian will teach the moves and have everyone jazzing to swing, trad, foxtrot, slow set and more. Expect sean-nós, shim-shamming, lindy hop, set dancing, surprises and scandal!







An event not to be missed!





Children and Youth Events

Children's Session



Date: Thursday 30th July
Time: 5pm – 7pm
Venue: The Shamrock Lodge Hotel
Entry: Free

Join us in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel for a few tunes in a relaxed and friendly environment. After some tunes, there will be a 'trisco', a Trad Disco. It doesn't matter if you are a complete beginner or are playing a few years, there is a tune in everyone!

Youth Open Mic Session



Date: Thursday 30th July
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Lough Ree Inn
Entry: Free

This is a new event for Féile and is open to all genres of music. This event is for teenagers with the aim of giving these young musicians a platform to perform in a relaxed and encouraging environment.

Youth Session led by Niamh Brett



Date: Friday 31st July
Time: 6pm
Venue: Sheraton Hotel
Entry: Free

Our youth session is aimed at teenagers who have a couple of years' experience playing tunes. Another new event to Féile 2026, we are delighted to have renowned and all-Ireland winner Niamh Brett lead this session.

Workshop with local author James Hannon



Date: Friday 31st July
Time: 2pm
Venue: Athlone Library
Entry: Free

Join award-shortlisted author James Hannon, creator of the Ballinacrack Chronicles series, for a fast-pacrd storytelling workshop where children work together to create a hilarious new adventure. Expect unexpected heros, ridiculous plot twists and plenty of laughs as every child helps shape the story.
Suitable for ages 9-12.

Try an Instrument with Music Generation Roscommon & Westmeath



Date: Thursday 30th July
Time: 11am – 1pm
Venue: Athlone Library
Entry: Free

Music Generation

Ever think about taking up a musical instrument? Here is your chance! Come join us in Athlone Library, chat with musician educators and try out some instruments. We will have various instruments including the uilleann pipes, banjo, button accordion, fiddle, concertina, harp, bodhrán. This event is free of charge and open to everyone.

Busking Competition



Date: Sunday 2nd August
Time: 12 noon – 1:30pm
Venue: The Canopy and Athlone Town Centre
Entry: Free

Registration at 12 noon at the Canopy. Participants will then be brought to their designated spot in Athlone Town Centre. The adjudication will take place between 12:30pm and 1:30pm. The winners will be announced at 2pm at the canopy. There will be prizes for the winners as well as a performance slot at the canopy! If you're not in, you can't win!

Inclusive Events

Anam Music Therapy Session

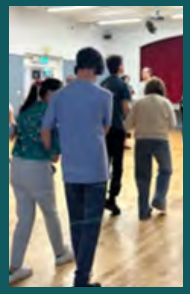
Date: Friday 31st July
Time: 10:30 – 11:15 Session 1 (6-12 year olds)
11:45 – 12:30 Session 2 (13-17 year olds)
Venue: The Sensory room, Athlone Library
Entry: Free, but pre-booking is essential.
Tel: 090 6442157 or email athlib@westmeathcoco.ie



Music therapy sessions for children and teenagers with additional needs led by qualified Music Therapists. Children and teenagers must be accompanied by an adult or carer.

Inclusive Trad Disco

Date: Friday 31st July
Time: 2:30pm – 4pm
Venue: St. Kieran's Community Centre, Tormey Villas, Athlone, N37W7P3
Entry: Free, but pre-booking is essential. Tel: (087) 7832689 or email: info@louise.ie



Join us for a fun inclusive dance experience for adults with disabilities, their friends and families. This event is led by Louise O'Connor.

Age Friendly Session

Date: Friday 31st July
Time: 11am
Venue: Magico Bakery (N37 C7N8)
Entry: Free. Led by Carol Ripley and friends, an open session for young and old.



Session Trail

Wednesday 29th July

8pm	Dog and Duck Open Session with the Low Road Session group
9pm	Flannery's

Thursday 30th July

5pm	Shamrock Lodge Hotel - Children's Session followed by Kids 'Trisco'
7pm	Lough Ree Inn - Youth Open Mic Session (all genres of music)

Friday 31st July

11am	Magico Bakery – Carol Ripley & friends
6pm	Sheraton Hotel - Youth Session led by Niamh Brett
6pm	Dead Centre Brewing - Singing Session led by Aileen O'Connor
6pm	Gertie Browne's - Freda Hatton, Julie Langan and Declan Askin
6:30pm	Connaughton's – John Wynne & Paddy Murray
9pm	Sheraton Hotel – Neil Fitzgibbon, Stephen Heffernan & Hajime Takahashi
9pm	The Lough Ree Inn - John Wynne & Paddy Murray

Saturday 1st August

6pm	Walsh's Bar – Roisin O'Hara, Ida Anderson & Andrew Murray
6pm	Sean's Bar - Ruairi Griffin, Louis Murphy and Taidhg Dalton
6pm	The Dog & Duck - Slow Session with the Low Road Session Group
9pm	Coosan Tavern - Ruairi Griffin, Louis Murphy and Taidhg Dalton
9pm	The Dog & Duck – Liam Winnett & Stephen Heffernan

Sunday 2nd August

6pm	The Village Inn, Ballinahown - Stephen Heffernan & Friends
7pm	McNeills – John Wynne, Tom Morrow & Steph Geremia
9pm	McNeills – Closing Session
9pm	Walsh's Bar - Closing Session

Saturday 1st August at the Canopy:

12:00 Athlone Comhaltas Junior and Senior Group

12:30 Cumann Phádraig Mhic Phiarais grúpa traidisiúnta

13:00 Tom Donelon & friends

13:30 Sarah Clogher School of Irish Dance

14:00 Tang Fiddle Club, Tanglewood and Tangled Web

15:00 Jimmy Cleary & the Coosan Cobblers

15:30 Liam Winnett and Stephen Heffernan

16:00 Austin Coffey agus na Sionnaigh

16:30 Toucan Soup



Sunday 2nd August at the Canopy:

12:45 Athlone Pipe Band marching from Ss Peter & Paul Church to the canopy

13:30 All that Jazz

14:00 Winners of the busking competition

14:30 Blossom Harp Ensemble

15:00 Reynolds Academy of Irish Dance

15:30 Ceol Chonaill

16:00 Luan Academy

16:30 The Low Road Session Group from the Dog & Duck

17:00 Féile Committee and Friends













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Live Music at the Back of the Castle: Saturday 1st August

8pm **Athlone GAA Scór Group**

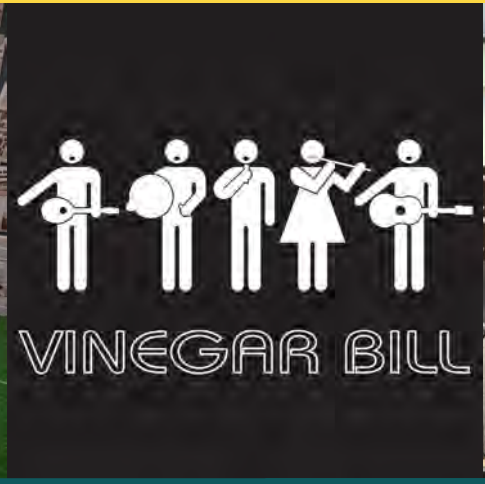
These young musicians came together for the opening of the Athlone GAA clubhouse bar, performing for Jarlath Burns, current president of the GAA.

Members of the group are: Sachin Sundaraesan, Harry Cunningham, LJ Kelly, Eleanor Cunningham, Thomas and Rose Walsh.

8:30pm **Vinegar Bill**

Vinegar Bill is a popular 5-piece folk and traditional music group based in Knockcroghery, County Roscommon. Comprised of members from the Beegan and O'Connor families, the band is well-known in the local pub circuit for their close sibling harmony, lively performances, and blend of contemporary ballads with traditional Irish tunes.





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Live Music at the Back of the Castle: Sunday 2nd August

6pm **Jim Byrne & Friends**

Jim Byrne and friends bring the best of trad and folk with a distinct Planxty vibe. The performance will feature bouzouki, guitar and songs we all grew up on.

7:30pm **D'Bize**

We are delighted to welcome back d'Bize who played at our first féile, in 2023. Members of the group are Neil Fitzgibbon, Yvonne Bolton and Paddy Morgan. A vibrant, contemporary trad sound with a modern folk twist, an evening of music not to be missed!





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Venue Map

1. The Canopy
2. The Library
3. Athlone Town Centre
4. The Sheraton Hotel
5. Dead Centre Brewing
6. Gertie Brownes
7. Back of the Castle
8. Seans Bar
9. McNeills Bar
10. Walshs Bar
11. Shamrock Lodge Hotel
12. Connaughtons
13. St. Kieran's Community Centre
14. Coosan Tavern
15. Lough Ree Inn (N37 XH32)
16. Magico Bakery (N37 E2K7)
17. Dog and Duck (N37 DE08)
18. Moore Hall (N37 HT68)
19. Coláiste Chiaráin (N37 AH97)
20. Flannerys

Féile NA SIONAINNE ATHLONE



Sponsors

Esther Costello

Colette Kenny

Thank you to all our sponsors and to those who supported our fundraising events. In particular we would like to acknowledge Westmeath County Council for their funding support and cooperation.