

DICK BEAMISH

Dick, originally from Ardfield/Rathbarry, is a traditional singer, storyteller and occasional poet now living in Ballincollig. A longtime Comhaltas performer and Fear a' Tí, he is known for his own ballads and love of Irish traditions. A regular visitor to Courtmacsherry for over 50 years, he is delighted to join this year's festival. Agus is breá leis an Ghaeilge.

ANNE-MARIE O'BRIEN

Anne-Marie is a West Cork performer, musician, and First Class Honours graduate of the BA in Musical Theatre at MTU Cork School of Music. A versatile artist, she combines her work as a performer with roles as a musical director, choir director, music and drama educator and accomplished pianist. Anne-Marie has appeared on stage at The Everyman in productions of The Addams Family and Our House, and most recently in The Cork Arts Theatre in an original play Bold, by Marion Wyatt.

DEIRDRE ARCHBOLD

Deirdre is a singer from Clonakilty, County Cork, whose expressive voice and versatility have made her a well-known figure in the West Cork music scene. She has performed and recorded with acclaimed Irish artists including John Spillane, collaborated with composer Sacha Puttnam, and was personally invited by Fr. Liam Lawton to perform duets of his compositions in concert. She is a founding member of the West Cork-based groups LOWmountain and Ré Nua, contributing as both a vocalist and songwriter. Renowned for her rich vocal harmonies, she is often invited to collaborate as a guest singer on albums and in live performances with artists across Ireland.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Michael is a talented local musician, songwriter and historian, and one of the original committee members who helped establish the Courtmacsherry Storytelling Carnival. He has recorded six CDs of original songs and monologues, many of which have been broadcast on local radio. His music and stories celebrate the rich history, characters and heritage of West Cork.

To help defray costs, various Raffles will be held throughout the weekend.

Your support will be very much appreciated.

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COURTMACSHERRY

Songs & Stories by the Sea

11th, 12th, 13th September 2026



Featuring:

Dominic Bennett, Cillian Brennan, Stephen & Abby Ní Loinsigh,
Dick Beamish, Deirdre Archbold, Anne-Marie O'Brien,
Michael O'Brien and many more

Sponsors:

Cork County Council
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www.courtmacsherry.ie



A WORD OF WELCOME

We are pleased to present another wonderful weekend of music, song and storytelling in our beautiful seaside village. This event has been made possible through the generous support of our principal sponsor, the Cork County Council Arts Grant, together with the many other valued sponsors and supporters acknowledged throughout this programme.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to the success of this much-loved event. In particular, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated committee, whose hard work, enthusiasm and commitment continue to make this celebration possible year after year.

Bainigí taitneamh as an deireadh seachtaine – ag éisteacht le scéalta, ag canadh amhráin agus ag roinnt gáire i measc cairde sa sráidbhaile álainn cois farraige seo.

Marian O’ Brien
Chairperson

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

9.30pm Open Mic Night in the Pier House Bar.
(Inviting Poets, Storytellers and Singers to join us for an impromptu evening’s entertainment.
M.C. : Anne-Marie O’ Brien).



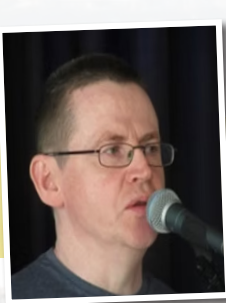
Anne-Marie O’Brien



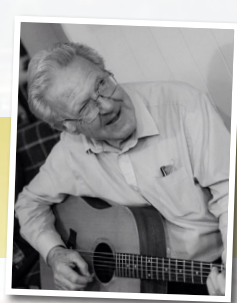
Cillian Brennan



Deirdre Archbold



Dominic Bennett



Michael O’Brien



Dick Beamish



Stephen O’Dea & Abby Ní Loinsigh

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

11.00am The Storytellers’ Session with **Dominic Bennett, Cillian Brennan and Dick Beamish** in *Courtmacsherry Hotel* (Duration - 90 minutes).

2.30pm From Ballad to Broadway with **Deirdre Archbold and Anne-Marie O’ Brien** in *The Pier House Bar* (Duration - 90 minutes).

SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT

8.00pm SHARP in Courtmacsherry Hotel
Featuring:
Dominic Bennett
Cillian Brennan
Stephen O’Dea & Abby Ní Loinsigh
Dick Beamish
Michael O’ Brien
M.C. Anne-Marie O’ Brien
Advanced booking essential
Tickets €20 each from Marian O’Brien
023/8840100 or 086/3458764.

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

12noon SHARP A Noon-Time Session of Music and Song with **Stephen O’Dea & Abby Ní Loinsigh** in *The Lifeboat Inn* (Duration - 60 minutes).

2.30pm Hilarious Ballads with **Michael O’Brien** in *The Anchor Bar*. Active audience participation is welcome.

PERFORMERS’ PROFILES

DOMINIC BENNETT

Dominic is an award-winning storyteller and poet from Mullaghbawn, South Armagh, whose performances are rooted in the rich storytelling traditions of rural Ireland. Renowned for his humorous tales and comic verse, he draws inspiration from familiar rural characters and their encounters with the modern world. His poem How Brexit Ruined My Life became a major online success, and in 2024 he became a full-time professional storyteller. Dominic has performed at storytelling and folk festivals across Ireland and the UK, bringing warmth, wit and a unique sense of place to audiences wherever he goes.

CILLIAN BRENNAN

Cillian has been telling for over a decade at festivals and private events up and down the country. The resident storyteller at Springfield Castle County Limerick since 2016, he has also performed as special guest at Listowel Writer’s Week, the Cape Clear International Storytelling Festival, the Yarn Storytelling Festival in Bray and at Yarnspinnors Cork. He is as comfortable telling tales in Irish as in English and allows both traditions to enrich each other in his overall storytelling style. A musician too, he incorporates ballads and story songs into every performance.

STEPHEN O’DEA & ABBY NÍ LOINSIGH

This husband-and-wife duo is united by their passion for traditional Irish music and song. Coming from deeply musical families in Counties Clare and Cork respectively, they bring a wealth of heritage and experience to every performance. Since first meeting at a gig in Lisdoonvarna in 2013, they have delighted audiences at home and abroad with their captivating blend of music, song and storytelling.