

## Introduction

Originally established in 1995 with the first chamber music events run by volunteers, West Cork Music has developed into a charity that operates 3 world-class festivals, packed with performances and workshops. These are West Cork Chamber Music Festival, West Cork Literary Festival, and Masters of Tradition. It also hosts a concert series and other events like Culture Night outside the festival period.

We endeavour to make the festivals as accessible as possible. Due to the nature of some of the venues, and the fact that none are purpose built to host festivals of this calibre, there are some limitations which we make clear on our website and in this document.

We have an ongoing project to fund and build our own purpose-built venue which will be fully accessible and in a central location in Bantry town.

## West Cork Music Box Office, P75 HW72

**Telephone:** (+353) 27 52788    **Email:** [info@westcorkmusic.ie](mailto:info@westcorkmusic.ie)

Our Box Office is located at 13 Glengarriff Road. It is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm year round, excluding holidays, and during the festivals it is often open Saturday and Sunday.

The staff are available to help with any accessibility questions you have, such as organising reserved parking or seating.

There is limited on street parking and loading areas nearby where someone can stop temporarily to drop off passengers.

The office is wheelchair accessible, a spacious open plan room with painted concrete flooring and rubber based non-slip mats.

There is no wheelchair accessible toilet. The toilet is down 4 steps with a handrail.



## Festival Box Offices

During each festival we have a temporary ticket desk/box office at every event, where you will find a member of staff or volunteer who can help with ticket and accessibility queries. There should be someone at the venue from minimum 30 minutes before the start time of any event.

## Discounted Tickets

Children under the age of 16 may have a 50% discount at all paid events when booked directly with the Box Office. Most if not all children's events at the Literary Festival are free but usually require booking a ticket.

Full time students with a valid student ID can receive a 15% discount when booked directly with the Box Office.

We do not have a 65+ discount.

There are many free events throughout the Chamber Music Festival and the Literary Festival, and tiered pricing for most concerts which them more financially accessible.

## Dementia Inclusive Community



Many of our staff and volunteers now complete training in dementia awareness and communication, in order to support festival attendees with dementia or memory issues and their companions. Anyone who is wearing the blue badge shown in the image is available to help. Please speak to us if you need assistance.

## Public Toilets in Bantry

There are a few public toilets in Bantry town. The toilets in public buildings are free to use during opening hours, at the Library (step-free access, toilet is not wheelchair accessible) and Courthouse (step-free access and accessible toilet). There is a wheelchair accessible toilet beside the tourist office open 24 hours. There are public toilets across from the Garda Station at the quay which are open 24 hours (step-free access, not wheelchair accessible toilet). Most bars and restaurants will allow use of the toilet without the need to purchase anything.

## Defibrillator Locations in Bantry

- Forest and Flock, New St. • St. Finbarr's Church • Bigg's Office at Wolfe Tone Square
- Bantry Boy's Club • Bantry Sailing Club • Dr. Cotter's Surgery
- Bantry Blues GAA Ground • Public Toilets opposite Garda Station.

## Getting to Bantry

Rural Irish public transport is still relatively limited, as such it is advisable to book all journeys at least a day in advance to ensure there is space. The train should be booked further in advance as the price can fluctuate.

### **From Cork Airport / Cork City Centre**

A regular bus service goes from outside Cork Airport to Parnell Place bus station in the city centre. From there you can either travel on Bus Eireann route 236 directly from Parnell Place, or with West Cork Connect from St Patricks Quay (a short walk across the river).

### **From Dublin Airport / Dublin City Centre**

The most direct route from Dublin Airport is to get an Aircoach or Citylink bus from outside the airport departures direct to Cork and then follow the steps above to get from Cork City to Bantry. You can also get a bus into the city centre and then take the train from Heuston Train Station to Cork City. To travel directly from Dublin, you can get an Aircoach or Citylink bus from the city centre to Cork or the train from Heuston Station.

### **From Kenmare / Skibbereen**

There is now a Bus Eireann route that travels from Kenmare, Kerry, to Skibbereen, Cork, via Bantry.

## Parking in Bantry

Most on street parking and parking on the square in Bantry is free but has a 2 hour time limit between 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday. Outside of these hours it is free and unlimited. Supervalu carpark is free and unlimited parking except for on Fridays during the market when there is a 2 hour limit. There are small carparks at Bantry Boys Club and Biggs Wholesale that have free parking. On Fridays the whole square is used for a market and the town is very busy.

## Accessible Parking Spaces

- 3 in Supervalu carpark
- 2 in the carpark on the quay side of Wolfe Tone Square
- 1 in front of St Brendan's National School, Wolfe Tone Square
- 1 in front of Bantry Bookshop, William Street
- 1 in front of Marino Church, Marino Street
- 1 beside Bridewell Lane, New Street
- 1 near Mace Supermarket, Main Street
- 1 opposite Coakley Decor, High Street
- 1 beside Cope, Barrack Street



If you have a disability or mobility impairment (including temporarily) and require accessible parking to attend an event run by us, please contact the Box Office and we can reserve parking for you at the following venues: Bantry House, St Brendan's Church and Marino Church. For events at other venues we can help let you know which is the nearest accessible parking spot, or most suitable available car parking

West Cork Music use a wide variety of venues throughout our 3 festivals. In the next pages you will find details on accessibility for each of these venues. If you have any further questions or needs, please do not hesitate to contact the Box Office and we will help with anything we can.

West Cork Music has a portable wheelchair ramp, which can be brought wherever needed given prior notice.

**Guide Dogs are welcome** in all venues.

The only venue with a **hearing induction loop** installed is the main event room at the Maritime during the literary festival. If you are Deaf or hard of hearing and would benefit from a reserved seat in a specific place, ie next to a speaker or near the front, please let us know and we will accommodate this.

## Chamber Music Festival:

- Bantry House, P75 T293
- St Brendan's Church, P75 H593
- St Brendan's School Hall, P75 KF96
- Christian Fellowship Church, P75 RW18
- Marino Church, P75 H956
- Bantry Courthouse (Arás Beantraí), P75 TD82
- Curious Keys, P75 NF84
- The Brick Oven, P75 WF34
- Maritime Hotel, P75 XW35

## Literary Festival:

- Maritime Hotel, P75 XW35
- Westlodge Hotel, P75 N978
- Bantry House, P75 T293
- Marino Church, P75 H956
- National Learning Network, P75 X228
- St Brendan's School Hall, P75 KF96
- Bantry Library, P75 K402
- Bantry Bookshop, P75 YH01
- Workshop Bantry, P75 W277
- Forest & Flock, P75 AY65
- Future Forests, Kealkil, P75 H958
- Whiddy Island School House

## Masters of Tradition:

- Maritime Hotel, P75 XW35
- Bantry House, P75 T293
- Marino Church, P75 H956
- St Brendan's Church, P75 H593
- Future Forests, Kealkil, P75 H958
- Whiddy Island Marquee



## Bantry House, P75 T293

Bantry House is a historic house a short distance from Bantry town centre and is used throughout all 3 of our festivals as one of our main venues.

Entrance for pedestrians or accessible parking for festival events is from the gatehouse near Wolfe Tone Square. (image 1) All other parking is at the main entrance a short drive on the N71 along the quay. (image 2)

For events in Bantry House Library, the foyer is wheelchair accessible by portable ramp. The lobby and library are only accessible by a carpeted staircase which has a hand rail to the right hand side. For main evening events the Red Cross are available to provide assistance in lifting wheelchairs and mobility aids up these stairs. There is reserved seating for wheelchairs or those with mobility issues.

The Loggia is located on the side of the house and is up a step from the external paved walkway. (image 4) It is wheelchair accessible by portable ramp – please let us know in advance if you need it. The Loggia is a semi-outdoor space so weather appropriate attire is advised.

There are wheelchair accessible toilets at Bantry House but they are in the stables area, which is separate from the house and require going via a driveway for step-free access. The other toilets have a couple of steps down/up.



## St Brendan's Church, P75 H593



St Brendan's Church is situated on Wolfe Tone Square and accessible parking is available directly outside the venue, which can be reserved via the Box Office. The carpark is gravel.

There is a ramp with a handrail into the venue and movable seating to the rear of the nave, which is wheelchair accessible. The rest of the seating are fixed pews.

There is an accessible marquee outside with wooden flooring.

There are no wheelchair accessible toilets, but in 2025 we will be hiring a portable accessible toilet. There is are accessible public toilets nearby in Bantry Courthouse (during opening hours) or beside the Tourist office (24 hours).

## St Brendan's School Hall, P75 KF96

St Brendan's School Hall is situated on Wolfe Tone Square, on the same side as St Brendan's Church, and is wheelchair accessible by ramp. The slope up to the school is slightly steep as pictured. The main entrance is to the right of the building as you come up the tarmac path. There is one accessible parking space in front of the school and two in the carpark nearby on the quay. The seats in the event room are movable and space can be reserved for a wheelchair. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet.





## Christian Fellowship Church, P75 RW18



The Christian Fellowship Church is situated up the small side road next to Bantry Cinemax, close to Wolfe Tone Square. There is very limited parking directly next to the venue, but there is parking nearby on Wolfe Tone Square, with access via pavement and tarmac road to the venue. Alternatively, there is space to stop temporarily outside the venue to drop off passengers. Access to the event room is up a flight of stairs, or by elevator to the first floor. Seats inside are movable and space can be reserved for a wheelchair. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet.

## Marino Church, P75 H956

Marino Church is situated on the corner of Wolfe Tone Square on Marino Street. From Marino Street the entrance is through a gate and up some steps. Up the small road to the left of this entrance there is a wide gate with step-free access. There is a ramp or steps up to the entrance and inside is all single level and wheelchair accessible. There is an accessible parking space by the entrance, or space can be reserved in the carpark if you contact our Box Office. There are no wheelchair accessible toilets at the venue, but directly across the road next to Paradise Flowers there is a wheelchair accessible public toilet.



## Bantry Courthouse (Arás Beanntraí), P75 TD82



Bantry Courthouse is situated on Wolfe Tone Square, close to St Brendan's Church. The building is wheelchair accessible and our events are held on the ground floor. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet.

There are no accessible parking spaces directly outside, but there are a few nearby at St Brendan's School and the quayside carpark and there is ample parking around the square (except on Fridays)

## Curious Keys, P75 NF84

Curious Keys is situated upstairs from Forest and Flock on New Street, via an entrance to the left. Unfortunately there is no step-free access. There are handrails up both sides of the stairs. There is no wheelchair accessible toilet.

The closest accessible parking spaces are across the road by Bridewell Lane, or just around the corner on both High Street and Main Street.



## The Brick Oven, P75 WF34



The Brick Oven is situated on the quay end of Wolfe Tone Square. It does not have accessible parking directly outside, however there is lots of parking available nearby and concrete pavements accessing the venue. The entrance to the venue is a gentle slope with no steps. There is a wheelchair accessible toilet.



## Maritime Hotel, P75 XW35



The Maritime Hotel is situated on Bantry bay quay and has two accessible parking spaces directly in front of the hotel. It is accessible via pavement and tarmac road from Wolfe Tone Square. Other accessible parking is available in their private carpark for guests staying at the hotel.

All event spaces are on the first floor accessible by elevator or stairs. The hotel has an evacuation chair and staff are trained to use it in case of emergency and/or the elevators are out of use.

There is a wheelchair accessible toilet on the ground floor and on the first floor. During the Literary Festival there is a hearing induction loop installed in the main event room.

## Westlodge Hotel, P75 N978

The Westlodge Hotel is located a short drive or a 2km walk along the quay (all on concrete pavement) from Wolfe Tone Square heading towards Ballydehob. The event space is accessed around the building to the left of reception. (see red arrow in image)

There are both steps and step-free access via a ramp to the event space. There is an elevator to the first floor and there is an evacuation chair in case of emergency and/or the elevators are out of use.

There are wheelchair accessible toilets.



## Bantry Library, P75 K402



Bantry Library is situated on Bridge Street, with access also from Market Street.

All events held in the library are free of charge and don't require reservations. The library is wheelchair accessible via both entrances.

The main entrance is wheelchair accessible, however step-free access is directly from the road, rather than pavement. To the rear of the building on Market Street there is another entrance with a ramp down to it, that has better access. There is space beside the ramp to park temporarily to drop off passengers, but not for an extended period.

Parking is limited near the library. There is some on street parking or parking in Biggs carpark.

The toilet in the library is not fully wheelchair accessible.

## Bantry Bookshop, P75 YH01

Bantry Bookshop is situated on William Street, very close to Wolfe Tone Square. There is a small step into the entry way and limited space inside, but it can be wheelchair accessible. It is best to give advance notice and arrive early so that a comfortable space can be kept. There is an accessible parking space directly outside the shop, and another across the road beside Bridewell Lane.





## Workshop Bantry, P75 W277



Work Shop Bantry is situated on William Street, close to Wolfe Tone Square. It is accessible by pavement and has a step-free entrance. There is an accessible parking space nearby in front of Bantry Bookshop. The toilet is up a few steps so is not wheelchair accessible.

## Forest & Flock, P75 AY65

Forest and Flock is situated on New St in the centre of Bantry town. It is accessible by pavement and has step-free access and a ramp leading into the shop and café. There are 3 accessible parking spaces nearby. One across the road next to Bridewell Lane, one on Main St and one on High St.



## National Learning Network, P75 X228



The National Learning Network is situated 3km outside Bantry town centre on the N71 towards Glengarriff. There is parking available but it is limited so if you require wheelchair or mobility aid accessible parking, please contact our Box Office in advance and we will reserve a space for you. The venue is wheelchair accessible via gravel paths and paved walkways. Depending on weather the event is held in an outdoor stepped amphitheatre and space can be reserved in the ground level for those who need it. If it is raining the event is held in the large greenhouse on site. There are wheelchair accessible toilets in the NLN centre which is directly beside the amphitheatre

## St Finbarr's National School

St Finbarr's Boys School is situated in Seskin on the outskirts of Bantry. It is a short drive from the centre of the town. There is limited parking of approximately 20 spaces outside the school with further parking a short walk away in the grounds of St Goban's College next door. This parking is reached via pavement and tarmac road.

There are three doors into the school, all of which are wheelchair accessible and have a ramp. The front door's ramp also has a handrail.

The school is a two storey building with an elevator to access the upper floor. On both floors, there are also three steps down to where the classrooms are located and at these steps, there are platform lifts.

There are two wheelchair accessible toilets in the school's ASD rooms.

## Bantry Community College

Colaisté Pobail Bheanntaí is situated in Seskin, a short drive from the centre of Bantry. A modern school, opened in 2011, it has an elevator for those wishing to access the upper floor and a number of wheelchair accessible toilets. Its entrance is level with the pavement and the parking is a short walk away. There are also parking spaces on the road where people can be dropped off. The school is set back from the road with an expanse of walkway. While the surface is smooth and level, it is a walk of approximately 50m to the front door. There is a side entrance which can be opened if somebody needs to be dropped off closer to the building.

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## Future Forests, Kealkil, P75 H958



Future Forests is a garden centre and venue situated 16km from Bantry Town. It is not accessible via public transport, therefore you would need to travel there by car or taxi.

The paths are fine gravel on compacted ground. The event space is covered and rain-proof but it is open to wind and cold, so please dress appropriately. The front portion of the event space is up a step, so space for wheelchairs is available towards the back. There are wheelchair accessible toilets.

## Whiddy Island School House & Marquee

There are 3 accessible parking spaces at the pier where the ferry goes from, and they are free parking. Other parking at the pier is pay-per-hour or on street parking along the N71. If you are able we recommend parking at a free carpark and walking to the pier.

The main pier where the usual ferry goes from is not fully suitable for wheelchair access and in order to get step-free access to a ferry to Whiddy this needs to be arranged with Tim O'Leary. The ferry will embark from a different pier beyond Supervalu. Our Box Office can help facilitate this for you.

The schoolhouse is about 750m from the pier on tarmacked country roads, which can be uneven in parts. If assistance with transport is required please contact us and we will help facilitate.

The marquee is behind the Bank House bar, close to the pier on a tarmacked road and pavement, which can be uneven in parts.

