2026 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

12TH - 19TH JULY 2026

BALLINA, CO. MAYO

FRIDAY 3RD JULY

LADY OF THE MOY 2026

Great National Hotel • 8:00pm

The annual competition to select the Lady of the Moy 2026, who will represent Ballina Salmon Festival during the Festival week and act as ambassador for the town of Ballina in 2026.

SUNDAY 12TH JULY

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC – TOM RUANE PARK

SPONSORED BY CENTRA & SUPERVALU

Join us for the iconic Teddy Bear's Picnic at Tom Ruane Park, Sligo Road!
Dress up your teddy in their Sunday best and enjoy a fun-filled carnival atmosphere with live entertainment, prizes, and a fantastic food area for all the family.

- **Sensory Hour: 12:30pm – 1:30pm (ID required)**
- **Gates open: 2:00pm – 5:00pm**
- **Entry: €3 per person (pay on the day)**

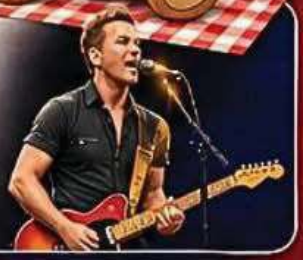
A visiting Sensory Bus will also be in attendance, making this a welcoming event for all.
Bring your teddy, bring your family, and enjoy a magical afternoon of fun and festivities!

SATURDAY 11TH JULY

SPRINGSTEEN – A TRIBUTE

Ballina Arts Centre

Celebrate the 2026 Ballina Salmon Festival with an unforgettable night of Bruce Springsteen's greatest hits. Featuring the only 100% American "Bruce" performing in the UK and Europe, fronted by Monte Thompson and backed by a talented seven-piece band of top Irish musicians. This high-energy show captures the sound and spirit of a live Springsteen concert.
From iconic anthems to fan favourites, this is a must-see event for Springsteen fans and lovers of great live music alike.
Don't miss the best of The Boss at this spectacular Ballina Salmon Festival performance!



MONDAY 13TH JULY

CAR TREASURE HUNT

- **Departure Point: The Cot and Cobble, F26 E2V5**
- **Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm**
- **Entry: €20 per team (all-inclusive)**

Gather your team, follow the clues, and enjoy a great community adventure around Ballina.

Don't forget to bring a bino! YUP!!

TUESDAY 14TH JULY

MAYO FIT GAMES – IQ CENTRE, BALLINA

6:30pm

From Ballina to Ballinrobe, Croagh Patrick to Clew Bay—who will be crowned Mayo's Fittest?
The Mayo Fit Games is a high-energy fitness challenge featuring 12 stations designed to test:

- Aerobic capacity • Anaerobic power • Muscular endurance
- Coordination • Strength • Mental grit

This event is open to participants aged 16+. Are you ready to take on the challenge?

Ballina ...along the Wild Atlantic Way

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
www.ballinasalmonfestival.ie

ballinasalmonfestival.mayo | 096 72800 | 44 Pearse Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY 2026 – BALLINA

Ballina Town Centre • 10:00am – 6:00pm

Step back in time and experience Ballina as a traditional market town over 100 years ago. Enjoy an interactive celebration of heritage, showcasing traditional handcrafts, trades, and ways of life from days gone by.

Visitors are encouraged to dress in period style, with a prize for the best dressed on the day.

A unique family-friendly event celebrating the history, culture, and heritage of Ballina.

DRESS UP & WIN A PRIZE!

THURSDAY 16TH JULY

THE MARION BROWN 5K MEMORIAL RUN/WALK

SPONSORED BY BALLINA CREDIT UNION

Join us for a 5K run or walk through the beautiful woods of Belleek as we celebrate the life and legacy of Marion Brown, a woman who dedicated her time year after year to helping make the Ballina Salmon Festival the success it is today.

Whether you're young or old, a runner or a walker, everyone is welcome to take part and enjoy the fun.

Registration: Belleek Track, 5:30pm – 6:20pm

Race Start: 6:30pm

FRIDAY 17TH JULY

CRUINNIÚ NA MBÁD – GATHERING OF THE BOATS

SPONSORED BY HEYDAY HOSTEL

7:00pm – 9:30pm

Join us for Cruinniú na mBád (Gathering of the Boats) as we celebrate Ballina's rich maritime heritage and longstanding connection to the River Moy.

Boats will gather on the water in a colourful display of community spirit and local pride.

Enjoy samples of Guinness, traditional brown bread and fresh salmon.

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

HEYCO RIVER MOY SWIM

One of the oldest and most celebrated open-water swims in the country.

Take to the waters of the River Moy and be part of a proud tradition.

After the swim, enjoy refreshments and hospitality at the Kennedy Glasgow Centre.

BALLINA BUSKING COMPETITION & GRAND FINAL

SPONSORED BY CALLAN TANSEY SOLICITORS

Throughout the week, talented buskers will perform
Judges will select 3 finalist 3 finalists to compete in the Grand Final on Emmet Street on Saturday night before the fireworks.

GRAND FINALE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Gather along the banks of the River Moy and watch the night sky come alive as a dazzling fireworks display illuminates St. Muredach's Cathedral and the River Moy – a breathtaking conclusion to the 2026 festival celebrations!

SUNDAY 19TH JULY

AM I IRISH YET? – AN EVENING WITH KATE KERRIGAN

Ballina Arts Centre • 8:00pm

Join us for the last event of the 2026 Ballina Salmon Festival for a night of brilliant theatre, humour, and heartfelt storytelling. Filled with laughter, insight and powerful reflections on belonging, identity and home.
An evening of storytelling from one of Ireland's most beloved authors.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Moiola Valley | The Jackie Clarke Collection | Bailiúchán Sheáin Uí Chléirigh | The Mary Robinson Centre Lárionad Mháire Mhic Róibín | Ballina Arts Centre | Mayo Sports Partnership Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Mhaigh Eo Sport Ireland

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