



**01-08
AUGUST**

MAIDEN CITY FESTIVAL

2026 PROGRAMME





WELCOME TO THE MAIDEN CITY FESTIVAL *2026*

The Maiden City Festival is back for its 28th year, a vibrant celebration of history, heritage, culture and community in the heart of our historic Walled City.

From the 31st July to the 8th August, the streets, walls and venues of Londonderry will come alive with music, dance, theatre, storytelling, pageantry and family-friendly entertainment. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-standing supporter, we invite you to immerse

yourself in a week of events that honour our past while celebrating the people and traditions that continue to shape our city today.

Thank you to our organisers, volunteers, performers, sponsors and supporters whose dedication makes this festival possible year after year.

We hope you enjoy every moment of the Maiden City Festival 2026.

Find out more below about the daytime events at the Maiden City Festival.
These are all free to attend, and everyone is welcome.

THE SIEGE TALES

Find a multitude of characters from the city's past wandering the walls, including the Grocer's Daughter (who's cooking up some suspect pies!) The Gunner's Wife, an Apprentice Boy and a French Prisoner who's begging to be released... Stop with each of them to hear their tale.



- 📍 The Walls
- 📅 1st & 3rd - 7th August
- 🕒 10.00am - 4.30pm



THE SIEGE STORY

Hear the story of The Siege through powerful monologues, set against the historic backdrop of St. Columb's Cathedral.

- 📍 St. Columb's Cathedral
- 📅 1st & 3rd - 7th August
- 🕒 12.00pm, 2.00pm & 4.00pm

USA 250 CHARACTERS

Listen to stories from the time of the American Declaration of Independence, through the eyes of characters who lived it.

- 📍 Guildhall Square
- 📅 1st & 3rd - 7th August
- 🕒 10.00am - 4.30pm

SKIRL OF THE PIPES

Experience the unforgettable sound of the bagpipes resonating through the walls as the Sollus Highland Dancers perform.

- 📍 St. Columb's Cathedral
- 📅 3rd - 7th August
- 🕒 11.00am - 3.00pm



CULTURE BITES

Enjoy traditional music in cafe venues across the city centre.

- 📍 Various cafes in city centre
- 📅 3rd - 7th August
- 🕒 12.00pm - 2.00pm



TEA DANCES

Enjoy a trip to yester-year when The Mem was one of the hippest dance halls in the city! Relive the memories, enjoy and dance!

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 3rd - 6th August

🕒 2.00pm - 4.00pm

GUNS OF THE SIEGE

Come and hear the cannon fired in real life. In addition to the dates below, Guns of The Siege will also be happening on Saturday 18th & Saturday 25th July at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

📍 Society Street

📅 1st & 7th August

🕒 11.00am, 1.00pm & 3.00pm

THE EXODUS PROGRAMME

Join us as we remember the Protestant displacement from the City with a day long series of events reflecting on the socio-economic and human impact of mass movement.

Co-ordinated by NWCP, with partners Siege Museum Ltd, Cathedral Youth Club, Blue Eagle Productions and Ulster University, the events through academic research and the arts, will bring to life one of the most important and devastating elements of the City's recent history.

The events are free but booking is essential with tickets obtained at: www.newgatearts.com.

EXODUS CONFERENCE

Join us for the release of the findings of our Exodus research.

With over 90 interviewees and a number of focus groups, this represents the most comprehensive and honest piece of research ever conducted in the topic.

The conference will reflect on the findings through panel discussions, audience engagement and through visual and drama performance.

📍 The Guildhall

📅 4th August

🕒 10.00am - 2.00pm

North West **cultural
partnership**



The Peace Plus the programme is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

THE MAIDEN CITY FESTIVAL PRESENTS

PENOBSCOT, MAINE • 1779

THE SILENCE BETWEEN GUNS

*War outside.
Silence within.*

Wednesday 29th July - 8pm - New Gate Arts & Culture Centre

Thursday 30th July - 8pm - Kilkeel Primary School

Friday 31st July - 7:30pm - The Somme Hall Newtownstewart



Find out more below about the evening events at the Maiden City Festival.
For events that require tickets, information on how to book is below.

THE SILENCE BETWEEN GUNS

Set during the American War of Independence, this new play explores the human stories hidden behind history's battle lines. Through the experiences of Alison, Alexander and James, audiences are drawn into a world where loyalty, identity and survival collide. Combining historical events with deeply personal storytelling, *The Silence Between Guns* offers a timely exploration of conflict, division and the search for freedom.

29th July, 8.00pm: New Gate Arts & Culture Centre | **Book online:** www.newgatearts.com or 02871265869

30th July, 8.00pm: Kilkeel Primary School | *Please contact the Schomberg Society for ticket information*

31st July, 7.30pm: Somme Hall, Newtownstewart | *Please contact the Somme Hall for ticket information*

OXFORD BULLS V ABOD SELECT

Join us for the annual football match!

📍 MUGA Pitch, The Fountain

📅 1st August

🕒 KO: 3.00pm



A COUNTRY GALA NIGHT

Gary Wilson presents an evening of country music with Hugo Duncan, John Rafferty, Curtis Magee and Country Harmony.

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 1st August

🕒 8.30pm - 11.30pm

🎟️ £10, Book: 07541281744

REUBEN AGNEW TRIO

The Reuben Agnew trio is a dynamic bluegrass group that blends traditional influences with their own distinctive style.

📍 New Gate Arts & Culture Centre

📅 2nd August

🕒 7.00pm

🎟️ £15, Book: www.newgatearts.com

QUIZ NIGHT

Join us for the Annual Quiz Night...no cheating allowed!

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 3rd August

🕒 8.30pm - late



USA 250 LECTURE

An engaging and thought-provoking lecture exploring the links between North-West Ulster emigration and the foundations of American independence. Led by Dr. William Roulston.

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 4th August

🕒 7.00pm - 8.00pm



BARRON ACCORDION BAND

The Barron Accordion Band is a traditional marching band based in Donemana, led by Gregory and Roslyn Kerrigan.

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 4th August

🕒 8.00pm - 10.00pm

REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXODUS

A night of reflection through music, drama and visual representation, incorporating human stories and engagement from communities that were impacted,

📍 Tullyally, Newbuildings, Lincoln Courts & Nelson Drive.

📅 4th August

🕒 8.00pm - 10.00pm

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Come along and show off your talent! Everyone is welcome - singers, musicians, poets, storytellers, dancers... Admission is free.

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 5th August

🕒 Doors 7.00pm, Starts 8.00pm



250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

A celebration, featuring the William King Memorial Flute Band and Churchill Band. Hosted by Norman Rosborough. Followed by Elvis impersonator, Alan Greer.

📍 The Memorial Hall

📅 6th August

🕒 8.30pm - 10.30pm

🎟 £7, Book: 07541281744



ECHOES OF THE SIEGE

Join us for a walking trail, where you can experience the stories and songs of the siege. Trails will start every 15 minutes. Last tour departs 10.15pm.

📍 Meeting Point: London Street

📅 7th August

🕒 8.30pm - 10.15pm

FRIDAY 31ST JULY

HIGHLAND DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS	2.00PM – 6.30PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
THE SILENCE BETWEEN GUNS 	7.30PM	SOMME HALL, NEWTOWNSTEWART

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

THE SIEGE TALES	10.00AM – 4.30PM	CITY WALLS
USA 250 CHARACTERS	10.00AM – 4.30PM	GUILDHALL SQUARE
GUNS OF THE SIEGE	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	SOCIETY STREET
THE SIEGE STORY	12PM, 2PM & 4PM	ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
OXFORD BULLS V ABOD SELECT	KICK OFF: 3.00PM	MUGA PITCH, THE FOUNTAIN
A COUNTRY GALA NIGHT 	8:30PM – 11.30PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
HIGHLAND DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS	10.00AM – 5.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

REUBEN AGNEW TRIO 	7.00PM	NEW GATE ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE
---	--------	--------------------------------

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST

THE SIEGE TALES	10.00AM – 4.30PM	CITY WALLS
USA 250 CHARACTERS	10.00AM – 4.30PM	GUILDHALL SQUARE
SKIRL OF THE PIPES	11.00AM – 3.00PM	CITY WALLS
THE SIEGE STORY	12PM, 2PM & 4PM	ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
CULTURE BITES	12.00PM – 2.00PM	CITY CENTRE CAFES
TEA DANCE	2.00PM – 4.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT	8.30PM – LATE	THE MEMORIAL HALL

TUESDAY 4TH AUGUST

THE SIEGE TALES	10.00AM – 4.30PM	CITY WALLS
USA 250 CHARACTERS	10.00AM – 4.30PM	GUILDHALL SQUARE
THE EXODUS FINDINGS: LAUNCH	10.00AM – 2.00PM	THE GUILDHALL
SKIRL OF THE PIPES	11.00AM – 3.00PM	CITY WALLS
THE SIEGE STORY	12PM, 2PM & 4PM	ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
CULTURE BITES	12.00PM – 2.00PM	CITY CENTRE CAFES
TEA DANCE	2.00PM – 4.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
USA 250 LECTURE	7.00PM – 8.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
BARRON ACCORDION BAND	8.00PM – 10.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXODUS	8.00PM – 10.00PM	TULLYALLY, NEWBUILDINGS, LINCOLN COURTS AND NELSON DRIVE.
THE EXODUS: LIGHT DISPLAY	10.00PM – 12.00PM	CITY CENTRE VENUES

WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST

THE SIEGE TALES	10.00AM – 4.30PM	CITY WALLS
USA 250 CHARACTERS	10.00AM – 4.30PM	GUILDHALL SQUARE
SKIRL OF THE PIPES	11.00AM – 3.00PM	CITY WALLS
THE SIEGE STORY	12PM, 2PM & 4PM	ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
CULTURE BITES	12.00PM – 2.00PM	CITY CENTRE CAFES
TEA DANCE	2.00PM – 4.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
OPEN MIC NIGHT	8.00PM – 10.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL

THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST

THE SIEGE TALES	10.00AM – 4.30PM	CITY WALLS
USA 250 CHARACTERS	10.00AM – 4.30PM	GUILDHALL SQUARE
SKIRL OF THE PIPES	11.00AM – 3.00PM	CITY WALLS
THE SIEGE STORY	12PM, 2PM & 4PM	ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
CULTURE BITES	12.00PM – 2.00PM	CITY CENTRE CAFES
TEA DANCE	2.00PM – 4.00PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL
CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 	8.30PM – 10.30PM	THE MEMORIAL HALL

FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST

THE SIEGE TALES	10.00AM – 4.30PM	CITY WALLS
USA 250 CHARACTERS	10.00AM – 4.30PM	GUILDHALL SQUARE
SKIRL OF THE PIPES	11.00AM – 3.00PM	CITY WALLS
GUNS OF THE SIEGE	11AM, 1PM & 3PM	SOCIETY STREET
THE SIEGE STORY	12PM, 2PM & 4PM	ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL
CULTURE BITES	12.00PM – 2.00PM	CITY CENTRE CAFES
ECHOES OF THE SIEGE	8.30PM – 10.15PM	MEETING POINT: LONDON STREET

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

THE SIEGE PAGEANT	12.00PM	CARLISLE CIRCUS
-------------------	---------	-----------------

THE MEMORIAL HALL

13 Society Street, Derry, Co. Londonderry, BT48 6PJ | Ticket Hotline: 07541281744

TICKETED EVENTS:

A Country Gala Night

Celebrating 250 Years of
American Independence

NEW GATE ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE

2-4 Kennedy St, Londonderry BT48 6RF | www.newgatearts.com | 02871265869

TICKETED EVENTS:

The Silence Between Guns

The Reuben Agnew Trio

Scan the QR code to book tickets or
get directions to the venue:



THE SILENCE BETWEEN GUNS

KILKEEL

Thursday 30th July, 8pm

Please contact the Schomberg
Society for ticket information

NEWTOWNSTEWART

Friday 31st July, 7.30pm

Please contact the Somme Memorial
Hall for ticket information

***Tickets for New Gate on the 29th July can
be booked via the links above.***



CONNECT WITH US:
@MAIDENCITYFESTIVAL
WWW.MAIDENCITYFEST.COM

WITH THANKS TO:



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
RECONCILIATION FUND