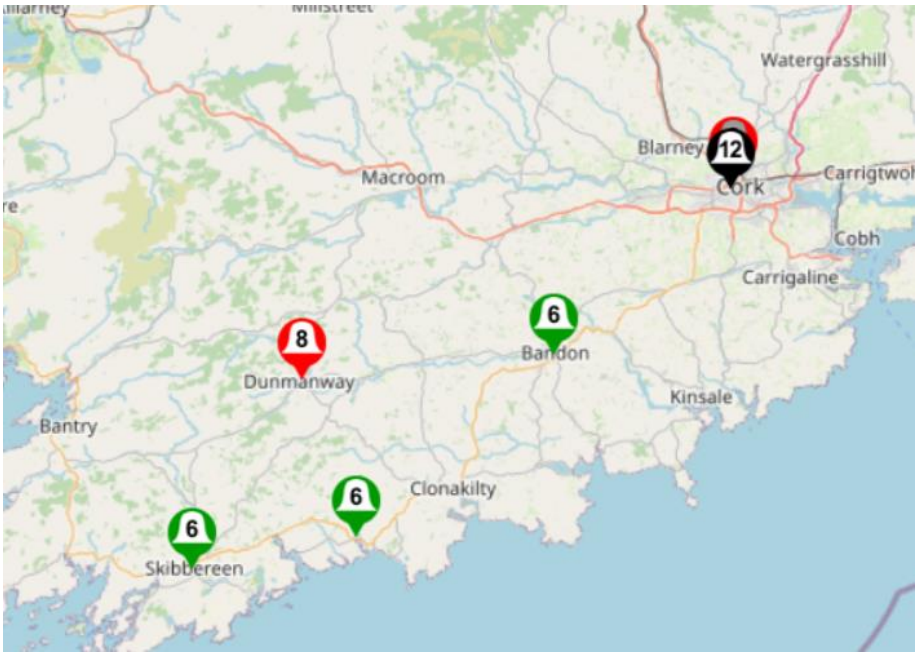
West Cork Ringing Festival 2025

The West Cork Ringing Festival has taken place most years since 2004. Since then the bells in Rosscarbery have been re-hung to full circle ringing, and augmented from 5 to 6 bells. The bells in Bandon are ringing again with a good and keen band. The ring in St Finbarre's Cathedral in Cork city was augmented to 12. The Sam Maguire Community bells – a lightweight ring of 8 - are now in St Mary's Church in Dunmanway. Oh, and of course the installation of the one bell in Glandore church. So, a lot of change in the past 20 years.



The West Cork ringers still have difficulty in progressing much beyond plain hunt so being able to avail of the generous help and experience of other ringers who are kind enough to give up a few days and make their way over here to help us out is fantastic. It gives us a huge boost and the visitors seem to like it too. Win win all round!

The dates for the 2025 Festival are **Friday 31 January to Monday 3 February** (the new St Bridget Public Holiday weekend) starting at 7pm in Rosscarbery on the 31st with refreshments and general ringing for all who are there. If visitors can't make Friday and instead travel on Saturday morning that's fine. We plan to have 90-minute sessions on Saturday and Monday in the 4 West Cork towers: Skibbereen, Rosscarbery, Bandon and Dunmanway with the helping visitors and students moving around the towers. Sunday will be a sort of day off with Service Ringing; ringing in St Finbarres Cathedral in Cork and the newly re-hung bells in Doneraile; the Glandore One; maybe some sessions in the local towers or a ¼ peal or two if required or simply have a few hours off. Normal sessions will resume on Monday and visitors can slip away in the afternoon as it suits.

This year, with the much appreciated and needed help, we hope to improve our skills - hunting to methods and moving on to bob doubles, grandsire doubles and maybe some minor or triples.

If you are a 'helper 'or a 'student' I hope the above has whetted your appetite to come to West Cork at the end of January. Please get in touch for more information on the weekend, accommodation options, travel assistance or hopefully to say "yes please, sign me up – I'm definitely coming"!

Hope to hear from you, best wishes.

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