



carlow garden festival

Friday July 21st - Sunday July 30th 2017

tv and radio gardeners
international garden designers
nature & tree trails | garden visits
free events | workshops
accommodation offers



For novice gardeners to garden connoisseurs
and garden lovers of any age

t: 059 913 0411 



w: www.carlowgardentrail.com



friday 21st july

friday 21st july

saturday 22nd july

saturday 22nd july

melissa doran at leighlinbridge
- the garden village



nature sketching walk

Melissa Doran, award winning illustrator of *Naturama*, the number one bestseller in Irish children's non-fiction leads a nature drawing walk along the magical setting of the River Barrow in Leighlinbridge. Bring your sketchpad and pencils and draw what you see along the way. Melissa will show you how she makes her illustrations and gives tips and insights that you can apply to your own work. You don't have to be an experienced sketcher to join in - just come along and have fun. Nature and wildlife is a theme relevant to every generation so this is an afternoon for all the family to enjoy. Prepare for your senses to be captivated and explore the flora, fauna, plants, animals and birds along the River Barrow. Expect to go rooting in hedgerows and spotting birds! Afterwards return to Leighlinbridge Parish Centre where you can spend more time in the company of Melissa and complete your drawings.

Venue: The Parish Centre Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow **GPS:** 52.7362321, -6.9821963
Time: 2.30 p.m. & 4.30 p.m. **Admission:** Free
Pre-booking is advised. carlowgardentrail.com
Remember to wear suitable walking shoes.

monty don at arboretum
home and garden heaven



gardening lessons from
longmeadow

A truly wonderful evening is promised with Monty Don, one of the UK's most influential and best loved gardening broadcasters. Monty will reflect on how his famous garden at Longmeadow has evolved over the last twenty five years and will explore the really important lessons he has learned from this very long intimate process of making his garden.

Venue: Arboretum Home & Garden Heaven, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.742832, -6.975890 **Time:** 7.30 p.m.
Adm: €25 Groups 10+ 10% discount.
Tickets available from: www.arboretum.ie
t: 059 972 1558 or Carlow Tourism
t: 059 913 0411 www.carlowgardentrail.com
Enjoy late shopping in Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven until 10 p.m. Two course buffet meal with tea/coffee in Rachel's Garden Café, €16.95, 5 - 7 p.m. Choice of three entrées and choice from the dessert counter. Pre-booking necessary t: 059 972 1558 or
e: info@arboretum.ie Warm clothing recommended for this evening event.

jane fearnley-whittingstall at
newtownbarry house & gardens



garden tour

Writer, garden designer and winner of two gold medals at Chelsea Flower Show, Jane will guide visitors through the wonderful gardens of Newtownbarry House, with its lake, rose garden, amazing sunken garden and grotto, set in a lovely landscape on the River Slaney, with many fine trees.



Enjoy a guided tour in Newtownbarry House, built in the 19th century by the Hall-Dare family which still remains in their ownership. Some of the stunning house features include a top-lit picture gallery, a richly carved staircase, fine fireplaces and the library with an assorted collection of books from family members.

Venue: Newtownbarry House and Gardens, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
GPS: 52.65673, -6.65035
Time: 12 noon **Adm:** €6 No pre-booking required. Art gallery, gift shop and farm café serving refreshments and lunch also open. House tours available (extra charge applies).
Contact: 053 937 6383 m: 087 056 9805
w: www.newtownbarryhouse.com

jane fearnley-whittingstall at
huntington castle and gardens



garden tour

Enjoy a stroll through garden history with award winning garden designer and author Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall as your guide. The magnificent gardens are still owned and cared for by the family who laid out the formal areas in the 1680s, and have planted many fine specimen trees over the centuries. Explore the parterres, the ancient Yew Walk, "Wilderness" woodland, the kitchen gardens, the Italian Gardens and the recently restored Rose Gardens.



Enjoy a house tour escorted by a member of the Durdin-Robertson family whose ancestry stretches all the way back to the original owners. The tour features the world famous Temple of the Goddess in the castle dungeons and is a key attraction in Ireland's Ancient East.

Venue: Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.690404, -6.649131
Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €5. No pre-booking required. Tea rooms open for tea, coffee and light snacks. Castle tours (2-5 p.m. Adm. fee applies) Children's playground available.
Contact: 053 937 7160
w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

sunday 23rd july

dermot o' neill at rathwood



my favourite plants

Dermot O' Neill picks out his top 10 favourite plants to bring your garden to life! Finding a favourite is difficult, however Dermot has narrowed it down to the plants he is unable to live without and those which add the best value to your garden space! Dermot's selection is guaranteed to add magic to your garden. Bring along your questions and learn how to keep your garden looking beautiful throughout the summer and into the autumn.



Venue: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

Time: 12 noon **Adm:** FREE No pre-booking required. On-site restaurant with fresh wholesome food and baking.

Contact: 059 915 6285 www.rathwood.com

sunday 23rd july

dermot o' neill at rathvilly garden centre



the best roses to grow

The timeless beauty and sweet fragrance are just some of the reasons why no one can resist the charm of a rose. In this talk Dermot focuses on the collection of David Austin roses and explains all about rose maintenance and getting the very best from this beautiful flower. From the novice to the expert all can learn from one of Ireland's most popular and acclaimed rose gardeners as he gives practical advice on dealing with blackspot and greenfly. Dermot is delighted to welcome any questions you may wish to bring along.



Venue: Rathvilly Garden Centre, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow **GPS:** 52.898638, -6.697199

Time: 2.30 p.m. **Adm:** FREE No pre-booking required. **Contact:** t: 059 916 1296

www.carlowgardentrail.com

sunday 23rd july

jimi blake at patthana gardens kiltegan, co. wicklow



garden tour

A new edition to the Carlow Garden Festival for 2017 is Patthana Gardens which have been described by experts as one of the best small gardens in the country. Patthana is a small village garden set on many levels consisting of a lower courtyard area with a wildlife pond and upper garden consisting of mixed borders with many unusual plants. Join Jimi Blake, the noted Irish horticulturist, teacher and enthusiastic plantsman who owns the outstanding Huntingbrook Gardens in Co. Wicklow which contains one of Ireland's largest private collections of plants.

If you are passionate about growing plants you cannot miss this wonderful tour where visitors will be amazed by the flamboyant perennials and striking foliage which create an opulent display of summer colour.

Venue: Patthana Gardens, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow **GPS:** 52.9048235, -6.606162

Time: 5.30 p.m. **Adm:** €5 No pre-booking required. **Contact:** 086 194 4547

www.carlowgardentrail.com

monday 24th july

oliver schurmann at delta sensory gardens



garden tour

Oliver Schurmann, multi gold medal winner at Bloom promises an interesting and informative tour of the Delta Sensory Gardens. Explore the delights of these beautiful surroundings where Oliver shares his passion and knowledge of plants and his great eye for design. Have your notepad ready as Oliver will give some valuable advice and tips on different plant combinations which will ensure your garden continues to look great all year round.



Venue: Delta Sensory Gardens and Garden Centre, Strawhall Estate, Carlow

GPS: 52.844988, -6.924546

Time: 12 noon

Adm: Adults €5 No pre-booking required.

Tea, coffee, lunch and snacks available in the on-site restaurant **Contact:** 059 914 3527

www.deltasensorygardens.com

monday 24th july

oliver schurmann at
the meadows



garden tour

It is fitting that the exceptionally talented Oliver Schurmann, owner of Mount Venus Nursery leads this tour around the garden of the great artist and painter Philippa Bayliss. The concept for this garden was based largely on 17th century Chinese landscape paintings so you can expect lots of jagged rocks, planting between rocks and into gravel, small trees and a recently installed stunning sculpture of a seed head. Visitors are promised lots of ideas that can be recreated in different contexts in a small space of a 1/4 acre.

The Meadows is positioned in a small estate in Myshall village with views extending to the Wicklow Mountains, the Carlow Ridge and Mount Leinster. The plot slopes steeply into the hillside with the back shaded by sycamores. The back garden is planted with an informal hedge of shrub roses and some interesting trees interspersed with mostly herbaceous plants, set into gravel.

Venue: No. 7, The Meadows, Myshall, Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.6870338, -6.777797
Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €5 No pre-booking required. **Contact:** 059 915 7530
www.philippabayliss.com

tuesday 25th july

paul mcdonnell at altamont
gardens



garden tour of altamont

This walking tour of Altamont Gardens is led by Paul McDonnell, Parks Superintendent for the Phoenix Park and other National Historic Properties including St. Stephens Green and the Irish National War Memorial Gardens. This tour promises to be an exciting journey through a historic setting with its fine plant collections, Robinsonian style landscapes, man-made lake and ancient oak woodland. So why not take a journey back in time in this tranquil old world setting and experience one of the most magical gardens in Ireland.



Venue: Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.735129, -6.720966
Time: 11 a.m.
Adm: FREE Car park fee of €2 applies. No pre-booking required.
Contact: t: 059 915 9444
www.heritageireland.ie/www.opw.ie



tuesday 25th july

gethyn gibson at kilgraney
herb gardens



art in the garden

Savour the experience of painting in the stunning surrounds of Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens. Take your pencils, pens and paints outside for an afternoon of exploration and sketching in the company of the talented artist Gethyn Gibson. Helpful advice to guide your brush and pen strokes is on hand to make sure you bring home your own garden masterpiece.



At the heart of Ireland's Ancient East is its lush, green and fertile countryside. Enjoy a birds eye view of the River Barrow Valley, stretched out before you, from your base at Kilgraney House. Absorb the fresh green of pastures, the honeyed hues of ripening grain and breathe a little deeper!

Venue: Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens, Borris Road, Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow
GPS: 52.653681, -6.957602
Time: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Adm: Donation to charity welcomed
Contact: 059 977 5283
www.kilgraneyhouse.com

tuesday 25th july

john anderson at hardymount
gardens



the plants that have impacted
on my career and life

The Carlow Garden Trail is delighted to welcome John Anderson, Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Castle and Savill Gardens. John shares a lifetime of experience in gardening from working as head gardener at Mount Usher Gardens in Co. Wicklow to the coastal garden of Inverewe, the National Trust for Scotland's premier garden. From there John worked at the world famous Exbury Gardens, home of the Rothschild 200 acres of woodland gardens and in his current role explains what it's like to garden for the Queen. Afterwards take a stroll around the stunning walled garden of Hardymount. A very memorable afternoon is promised!



Ireland's Ancient East is renowned for its local produce - there are few places that you will enjoy a more delicious afternoon tea than at Hardymount Gardens, where a sumptuous spread is enjoyed on the lawn area.

Venue: Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, Carlow
GPS: 52.798787, -6.762269 **Time:** 3 p.m.
Adm: €10 incl. afternoon tea. No pre-booking required but early arrival advisable due to large attendance. **Contact:** 059 915 1769

wednesday 26th july

wednesday 26th july

thursday 27th july

thursday 27th july

mary reynolds at shankill castle

mary reynolds and terence reeves smyth at borris house

fionnuala fallon at delta sensory gardens

james wong at kilgraney house and herb gardens



© Conor Hoogan



designing gardens in co-creation with nature

Turning her back on traditional garden design, Mary challenges you to re-imagine working with land in a different, more gentle way. This talk is a wonderful introduction to planting and shaping your land in a way that is nature centred, drawing key lessons from Mary's book *'The Garden Awakenings'*.



Shankill Castle is a living museum in Ireland's Ancient East. Wander through time and explore its unique heritage and culture on a guided tour.

Venue: Shankill Castle, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny **GPS:** 52.686529, -7.021772 **Time:** 11 a.m. **Talk adm:** €10 including Garden Tour with Geoffrey Cope. Tour of house €5. Tea coffee and snacks available.

Contact: 059 972 6145
w: www.shankillcastle.com online booking

garden festival special film screening: dare to be wild at shankill castle 7 p.m.

A Hollywood movie about the passions of Mary Reynolds, an Irish gardener and the youngest woman to win a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Adm:** €10 incl. garden entrance or €18 for talk and film.

talk 1: stepping into our roles as guardians of the earth

Mary reminds people of our place within this earth's ecosystem. She discusses how to embrace that role in a practical way in order to reconnect with the land and with nature. In aid of



talk 2: illustrated history of walled gardens in ireland

Expert architectural and garden historian Terence Reeves-Smyth delivers a lecture on the history of walled gardens in Ireland using the example of Borris House. This is a unique opportunity to explore their history and how we can take steps to conserve these unique treasures for future generations. In aid of walled garden restoration at Borris.



The big houses of Ireland's Ancient East tell the story of Ireland's gardens and their important role in the creation of the walled garden. Discover this and more during your visit to Borris House.

Venue: Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow **GPS:** 52.598644, -6.926618

Time: Talk 1 at 3 p.m. and talk 2 at 5 p.m. **Adm:** €7 each or €12 both talks. House tours €10 p.p., craft gallery and lace garden available No pre-booking. **Contact:** 059 977 1884, 089 233 2470 www.borrisishouse.com

growing cut flowers seasonally and sustainably

Fionnuala Fallon, *Irish Times* gardening correspondent, explains how to create your own cut-flower patch with advice on selecting the most productive, floriferous, disease-resistant varieties and tips on plant propagation, weed control and conditioning your homegrown flowers for a long vase life. Her talk will be followed by a practical demonstration showing how to create a lovely flower arrangement to decorate your home. Afterwards enjoy a walk through the delightful gardens at Delta - voted the best place to visit in Carlow on Trip Advisor in 2015.



Venue: Delta Sensory Gardens and Garden Centre, Strawhall Estate, Carlow **GPS:** 52.844988, -6.924546 **Time:** 12 noon **Adm:** Adults €5 No pre-booking required. Tea, coffee, lunch and snacks available in the on-site restaurant **Contact:** 059 914 3527 w: www.deltasensorygardens.com

grow for flavour

James Wong is a Royal Botanic Garden, Kew-trained botanist, international author and one of the UK's top garden designers and Chelsea Flower Show gold medal winner. Based on his book *'Grow for Flavour'*, James discusses how to grow crops for improved flavour and nutrition. Turning the tables on old school gardening advice, James gives helpful tips and tricks to allow you grow tomatoes with 50% more vitamin C, strawberries with 100 times the aroma and chilli with double the fire power, delivering better vegetable flavour and nutrition. This is a talk that no vegetable gardener beginner or experienced, should miss.

Kilgraney is a great gardening attraction featuring a series of interconnecting herbal gardens.

Venue: Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens, Borris Road, Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, **GPS:** 52.653681, -6.957602 **Time:** 2.30 p.m. **Adm:** €20 incl. tea/coffee Pre-booking advisable, tickets from carlowgardenraill.com Some tickets for sale on the day subject to availability. **Contact:** 059 977 5283 www.kilgraneyhouse.com

thursday 27th july

james wong at VISUAL centre
for contemporary art



how to eat better

This talk strips away the fad diets and superfood fixations to give you a straight talking guide to making everyday foods measurably healthier and tastier, simply by changing the way you select, store and cook them. Want to make supermarket blueberries have loads more antioxidants and cost virtually half the price? Cut the calories in spuds and simultaneously raise their fibre all for identical flavour? This talk is a rare opportunity to hear UK expert, James Wong, author of the internationally best-selling books 'Grow Your Own Drugs' and 'Homegrown Revolution'. In 2015 The Sunday Times listed Wong as one of the Top 20 most influential people in horticulture.

Take this opportunity to see Ireland's largest and most spectacular space for contemporary art. Engage with amazing artwork by national and international artists. The Main Gallery Show is Subjects and Objects, a survey of films by artist Daria Martin.

Venue: VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Old Dublin Road, Carlow **Adm:** €16 Tickets from visualcarlow.ie/carlowgardentrail.com
GPS: 52.839161, - 6.929076 **Time:** 8 p.m.
Contact: 059 917 2400 info@visualcarlow.ie

friday 28th july

roy lancaster, paul smyth, joe
swift at altamont plant sales



50 years of gardening
- my top performing plants

Expect an unforgettable morning with Roy Lancaster a much loved author, broadcaster and expert plant explorer.

plant hunting from carlow to the
mountains of northern vietnam

Paul Smyth, an up-and-coming young gardener from Carlow based in the world famous Crúg Farm Plants in Wales, recounts his various adventures with plant hunting and plants in the wild.

designing with plants

Joe Swift is a very popular TV presenter, author and garden designer. Joe gives an overview of different garden areas and explores ways of creating impact by choosing the right plants for the right place.

Venue: Altamont Plant Sales, Tullow, Co. Carlow **GPS:** 52.735129, -6.720966
Time: 11 a.m. 12.15 p.m. & 3.30 p.m.
Adm: Talk 1&2 €20, Talk 3 €20 or day ticket €35 The Walled Garden Café in Altamont Plant Sales is open for tea, coffee and light snacks.
Tickets from: carlowgardentrail.com or Robert Miller m: 087 982 2135 or Carlow Tourism 059 913 0411

saturday 29th july

mary keenan at huntington
castle & newtownbarry house



garden tour and tree trail

Mary Keenan, owner of the renowned Gash Garden in Co. Laois explores the magnificent gardens of Huntington Castle and its many rare and unusual trees. Discover the scenic avenue with its amazing lime tree collection, the famous Yew Walk and the ever increasing rose collection and herbaceous displays.

Venue: Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow

See talk Sat 22nd for details. **Time:** 12 noon

Adm: €5 No pre-booking required

garden tour newtownbarry house

An engaging guided tour of these gardens is promised by Mary Keenan. Enjoy the lawns, ancient trees, rose garden, lake and the recently restored 18th and 19th century sunken garden. Covering two acres, this a colourful walled garden which includes a series of borders with shrubs and herbaceous. Catch a wonderful flower and garden art exhibition here featuring painters and print makers.

Venue: Newtownbarry House and Gardens, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford **Adm:** €6 See talk Sat 22nd for details. **Time:** 3 p.m.

sunday 30th july

david rae and neil porteous at
burtown house and gardens



gardening in a changing world

Dr. David Rae, Director of Horticulture and Learning at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) explains how their approach to gardening has changed with the times. While the gardens are in existence since 1670 they strive to be relevant in the modern world and are embracing a more natural way of gardening.

myanmar to mount stewart

In 2016, Neil Porteous explored two regions of Myanmar (Burma) and details his fascinating experiences from his trip. Neil presents details of the famed botanist and plant explorer Frank Kingdon Ward's collection at Mount Stewart.

Venue: Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare (exit 3 off M9 motorway)

GPS: 52.996672, -6.870744

Time: 11.30 a.m. & 2.30 p.m. **Adm:** €10 or €12 for both talks - No pre-booking required. The Green Barn Restaurant and Shop, Wed to Sun, dinner Fri and Sat - booking essential.

Contact: 059 862 3865

www.burtownhouse.ie