

carlow garden trail



carlow
through the waters of time

introduction by dermot o'neill

Carlow is a treasure trove of wonderful gardens to visit. Some of the best in the country are here and the county also contains what is regarded as the best garden centre in the country – Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, which has been continuously awarded a coveted 5 stars in the Bord Bia Garden Centre of the Year Awards.

This brochure will give you an insight into the special places you can visit in Co. Carlow. What makes this garden trail special is the unique range of large and small gardens which are lovingly cared for, with ideas at every turn to take home, and the amazing plants, shrubs and trees that grow here.



Premises featured on the front cover left to right: Altamont Gardens, Huntington Castle and Gardens, Delta Sensory Gardens, buying plants at one of the many garden centres on the Carlow Garden Trail.

Premises featured on this page left to right: Snowdrop Week, Altamont Gardens and Hardymount Gardens.



Altamont is one of the jewels of the Carlow Garden Trail. The stunning borders in the walled garden are an inspiration to all who see them. Another inspiring garden to visit is the Delta Sensory Gardens, with 16 different gardens laid out by leading designers.

You do not have to be a gardener to get pleasure and enjoyment from the Carlow Garden Trail. There is something for everyone, young and old. Plan your trip now.

Dermot O'Neill

Broadcaster, writer, lecturer and gardening expert

The Carlow Garden Trail currently features 22 different gardening attractions with three gardens in the surrounding counties of Kildare and Wexford. The trail includes great old gardens that have been lovingly restored and maintained throughout the years, and smaller gardens which are maturing beautifully with time. Award winning garden centres and forest parks complement the joy of a visit here. The Carlow Garden Trail ranges from small to very large gardens, garden centres and forest parks and from old to new, so there is something to stimulate both the novice and experienced gardener. Known for its mild and temperate climate, County Carlow in Ireland's sunny South East is the ideal destination for your gardening trip.



Identifiable road signs make the Carlow Garden Trail an easy-to-follow tour through one of the most beautiful inland counties of Ireland offering a unique insight into the plants and plants people that make each premises so individual. The trail can be driven in a day if so desired but naturally we encourage you to relax and enjoy the remarkable beauty of these gardens, garden centres and forest parks at a more leisurely pace.

tips for driving the carlow garden trail

- The trail can be joined at any gardening attraction and driven in either direction.
- Large map boards are located in the grounds of each participating centre providing further information.
- For ease of reference premises are listed in alphabetical order and colour coded as follows:

Gardens 

Garden Centres & Plant Sales 

Woodland 

how to enjoy the carlow garden trail



carlow
garden trail

Situated in the South East of Ireland, approximately 90kms from the ferry and airports of Dublin, Rosslare and Waterford, Carlow is the ideal location for a gardening break. Its central location also offers the perfect base to explore the bordering counties of Wexford, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Kildare and Laois.



Address: Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 915 9444

e: altamontgardens@opw.ie

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Toilets, outdoor picnic tables, large car and coach park, restricted wheelchair access.

How to find us: From Dublin/Waterford exit the M9 at junction 5 for Rosslare. Continue along the N80 through the village of Ballon and the N80/N81 junction. Continue for 2km, turn left at the next cross road signed Altamont Gardens. Alternatively, visitors travelling directly from Carlow town may follow the N80 Rosslare Road and continue as above.

GPS: 52.735129, -6.720966

Open: Jan: 9am-4pm; Feb 9am-4.30pm,
Mar: 9am-5pm; April-September, 9am-6.30 pm
Oct: 9am-5pm; Nov: 9am-4.30pm
Dec: 9am-4pm (7 days per week all year)
Closed Christmas Day

May also close due to adverse weather conditions. **FREE Admission. Guided tours available for pre-booked groups (fee applies).**



altamont gardens

Widely respected as the jewel in Ireland's gardening crown, Altamont Gardens are an enchanting blend of formal and informal gardens with riverside walks covering over 40 acres (16 hectares). The estate gains much of its character from the many mature trees, both natives in the avenues and woodland areas, and exotic specimens throughout the gardens including *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar), *Taxodium distichum* (Swamp Cypress), *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak) and *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Redwood). Lawns bisected by sculpted yews slope down to a lake surrounded by rare trees and rhododendrons and lead in turn to a very different garden featuring exotic shrubs and trees. A fascinating walk through the Arboretum, Bog Garden and Ice Age Glen with its canopy of ancient oaks and huge stone outcrops leads the visitor to the River Slaney.

The original Victorian layout was enhanced by Fielding Leckey Watson (and later by his daughter Corona North), following his purchase of Altamont in 1924. Corona travelled extensively in her search for plants, which continue to flourish throughout the gardens, including *Cornus kousa* 'chinensis' and *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Tulip Tree). When Corona North, who lovingly cared for the gardens for over 50 years died in 1999, the gardens were left to the State at her request. Ongoing restoration and maintenance continues under the careful stewardship of the Office of Public Works.

Altamont is a great experience at any time of year starting in spring with the wonderful snowdrop collection, one of the largest in Ireland and moving on to daffodils and other spring bulbs such as *Fritillaria meleagris* (Snake's Head Fritillary) and *Muscari armeniacum* (Grape hyacinths). Rhododendrons, azaleas and later on the rose collection is in full bloom in mid-summer, followed by contrasting autumnal colours and the beautiful silhouettes of the mighty trees in mid-winter.

"It was under Corona North's stewardship that Altamont really took off. It became not just one more gently interesting garden, but somewhere unique, with a very personal style and atmosphere."

Tom Longville, Country Life, 12th January 2011





arboretum inspirational gardens

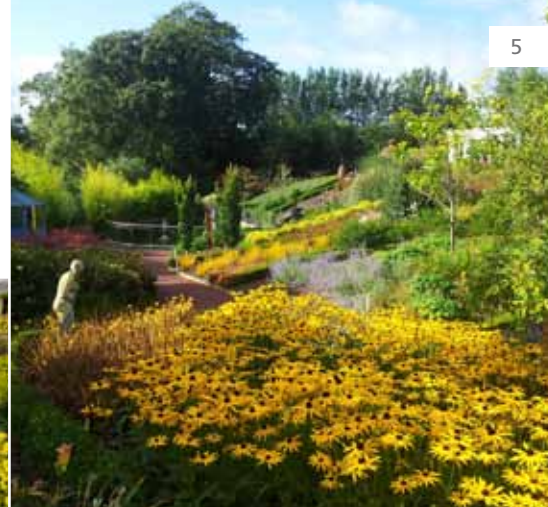
Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, the first five star garden centre in Ireland, has created an exciting display garden to inspire the modern day customer. Helping visitors create their own dreams while showing them that gardening is both stylish and fun; this showpiece allows people to see that gardening can be enjoyed even with a busy lifestyle.



The concept behind this design was to create a garden that is easy to care for, is low maintenance and delivers endless enjoyment.

Designed to inspire visitors on planting schemes and solutions, the garden offers endless ideas that can be easily recreated in gardeners' own homes. Gardening today is closely related to fashion and trends and keeping this in mind we have used modern materials while at the same time not forgetting that plants are the core element of any good garden design.

In creating the new display garden we realised that children are an integral part of design regarding safety and fun. Keeping this in mind the team at Arboretum included a children's maze which is a maximum height of 1 metre. This is located beside the terraced area of Rachel's Garden Café. Families can also have fun in the play area or visit the friendly koi who live in the pond. A visit to the garden is a treat for the amateur or the enthusiast who will enjoy seeing the themed planting, use of colour, texture and form.



Address: Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven,
Old Kilkenny Road, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 972 1558

e: info@arboretum.ie

w: www.arboretum.ie



Facilities: Toilets, large car and coach park,
wheelchair accessible, restaurant with wine
licence, retail store, conference facilities.

How to find us: Travelling from Dublin or
Waterford on the M9 motorway take exit at
junction 6 and follow signs for Leighlinbridge.
Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven is located
3km from exit 6.

GPS: 52.742832, -6.975890

Open: Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm

Late opening Thursdays until 8pm

Sunday, 11am-6pm; Bank Holidays, 9am-6pm

FREE admission.



borris house gardens and woodlands

Borris House, the ancestral home of the MacMorrough Kavanaghs, Kings of Leinster, is one of the most beautiful and historic Irish country houses located in the spectacular scenery of Carlow's Barrow valley.



Address: Borris, Co. Carlow

t: + 353 (0)59 977 1884

e: info@borrishouse.com

w: www.borrishouse.com

Facilities: Car park, toilets, guided tours of house and chapel, original Victorian laundry, short film of house and family, sculptures, fairy trail, seasonal children's nature trails, tea/coffee, restricted wheelchair & pram access, good walking shoes are advisable.

How to find us: In the centre of Borris Village, opposite the Step House Hotel

GPS 52.598644, -6.926618

Open: May-September, check website for opening times. Admission charge applies.

Borris became the Kavanagh's primary residence in 1570 and over that time the present-day demesne landscape slowly evolved from a formal Baroque landscape of axial approach avenues and formal gardens to a demesne parkland landscape, with serpentine avenues designed to capture views and prospects, lawns, tree plantations and a circular road around the perimeter.

Explore the grounds of the estate taking in Mount Leinster, the Blackstairs Mountains and the Barrow Valley; views that have been preserved by the family for centuries. Stroll along the woodland paths, enjoy some of the beautiful specimen trees, view the original Stew Pond and on your way take in the original Victorian laundry, the recently restored granary and the 18th century Ice House. The new lace garden which is set within the walls of the original laundry green illustrates the fascinating story of the Borris Lace through its predominantly white colour palette, lace inspired flowers, sculptures and stylised planting. This garden is a work in progress, so please visit again and see how this story develops.

Visitors can also avail of a tour of Borris House and the private Chapel of St. Moling and learn more about this fascinating estate and the people who lived and worked there.



burtown house & gardens

Burtown House, an early Georgian villa with late Georgian additions, is surrounded by 12 acres of lush flower, vegetable and woodland gardens with a large sculpture park set in beautiful parkland, wild flower meadows and farm walks.

It is rare to find one of these houses still in the possession of the descendants of the family that built it. Burtown is one of these treasures, passed down through the generations and still very much a family home” The Knight of Glin and James Peill – The Irish Country House.



Burtown Gardens is made up of several areas including large herbaceous borders, shrubberies, a rock garden, a yew walk with dividing pergola, an old orchard, a more formal stable yard garden and a large woodland surrounded on all sides by water. This area hosts a collection of candleabra primulas, hostas, ferns and iris, amongst other plants. There are many old roses, peonies, clematis and a walled organic vegetable garden that has been in continuous production for 150 years.

Once the centre of a 2,000 acre estate and built for the Quaker Robert Power about 1710; Burtown is close to the village of Ballytore, one of Ireland's most prominent Quaker strongholds. Isabel Shackleton (married to the present owner's great grandfather and first cousin to the explorer Ernest Shackleton) is responsible for some of the original layout, but over the last 20 years it has been greatly enlarged and reclaimed by the present owner, artist Lesley Fennell.

Visitors can take a break from their garden visit to enjoy homemade biscuits, cakes or scones with homemade lemonade and apple juice from the orchard. Lunches are served every day that it is open, using fresh seasonal produce from the organic kitchen garden, which can be eaten in the gallery space, the picturesque yard or at one of the tables discreetly placed about the garden.



Address: Ballytore, Athy, Co. Kildare

t: +353 (0)59 862 3148 e: info@burtownhouse.ie
w: www.burtownhouse.ie

Facilities: Car park, toilets and restaurant. The Gallery Café is open every Thurs-Sun serving coffee, tea, scones, cakes and lunches using fresh seasonal produce from the organic kitchen garden. Farm walks, exhibitions, plant sales, art sales and shop.

How to find us: Exit M9 at junction 3, following signs for Athy. Take the second left turn signposted 'Irish Town'. Burtown House is the first entrance on the left side.

GPS: 52.996672, -6.870744

Open: 2nd Sat of Feb to last Sun of Feb
10am-4.30pm daily; 2nd Sat of Apr to last Sun of Sept, 11am-5.30pm. Thurs-Sun and Bank Holidays.
Admission fee applies.



delta sensory gardens & garden centre

Delta Centre was established in 1990 from humble beginnings as an adult centre for people with intellectual disabilities. The centre is now a major employer in Carlow town and caters for about 120 adults with disabilities.

The Sensory Gardens which were officially opened in 2007 were the first of their kind in Ireland. Originally set up as a therapeutic focus and benefit for the centre's own people with disabilities and local/national groups, the centre is now a major attraction in Carlow for local, national and international visitors.



These beautiful gardens have come about with the help and dedication of well renowned and some award winning designers, such as Gordon Ledbetter, Mary Reynolds, Rachel Doyle, Elma Fenton and Paul Martin. The theme for each of the 16 gardens celebrates the use of natural elements such as stone, water and wonderful foliage and plants. It offers visitors a unique opportunity to rest and indulge their senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing and visual delight.

The feedback and comments from visitors speaks for itself:

'An absolute delight to experience such variety, a thrill to the senses, peace, tranquillity and inspiration.'

'Delighted to see all the various elements of nature made so accessible for people with disabilities of all types.'

Delta Centre and Gardens host many events throughout the year, some are well established and very successful over many years including Daffodil Week in March, Summer Sale and Family Fun Day in May, the Carlow Garden Festival at the end of July and a Christmas Craft Fair and Lights Display in December. See website for further details on other events.



Address: Delta Centre, Strawhall, Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 914 3527

e: info@deltacentre.org

w: www.deltacentre.ie

Facilities: Car park, toilets, wheelchair accessible, restaurant.

How to find us: Exit 4 off M9, Strawhall Estate is located off Cannery Road, which serves Dr. Cullen Park GAA Grounds on the outskirts of Carlow town close to the Athy Road roundabout. Follow brown tourist signs.

GPS: 52.844988, -6.924546

Open: Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm; Weekends and Public Holidays, 11am-5.30pm
Closed weekends January, February and November, unless by group appointment.
Admission fee applies.



Address: Duckett's Grove, Carlow

Contact: Carlow Tourist Office

t: +353 (0)59 913 0411

e: info@carlowtourism.com

w: www.duckettsgrove.ie

Facilities: Duckett's Grove Craft and Gift Emporium (Open Friday – Sunday). Duckett's Grove Tea Rooms for tea, coffee and light snacks. See [facebook.com/thetearoomsatduckettsgrove](https://www.facebook.com/thetearoomsatduckettsgrove) for opening times. Toilet facilities, car parking, wheelchair access, guide dogs only allowed.

How to find us: From Dublin/Waterford take exit 4 on M9 motorway. Follow signs for Castledermot, then take the R418 Castledermot – Tullow Road for 6km and turn right at the signed junction. From Carlow take the R726 Hacketstown Road for 10km to Killerig Cross Roads. Turn left at this junction onto the R418 for 2.5km, turn left again at the signed junction.

GPS: 52.858748, -6.812787

Open: Daily (daylight hours). FREE admission



duckett's grove walled gardens and pleasure grounds

Duckett's Grove, the 18th, 19th and early 20th century home of the Duckett family, was formerly at the centre of a 12,000 acre (4,856 hectares) estate that has dominated the Carlow landscape for over 300 years. In September 2005 during Heritage Week, Carlow County Council acquired Duckett's Grove and commenced the restoration of two inter-connecting walled gardens.

Even in ruin, the surviving towers and turrets of Duckett's Grove form a romantic profile making it one of the most photogenic historic buildings in the country. The first phase of the revival of two old walled gardens has been completed, the paths revealed and the beds and borders reinstated.

The Upper Walled Garden, hedged with boxwood, is planted with historical varieties of shrub roses, a collection of Chinese and Japanese peonies, a great variety of hardy and tender perennials and choice flowering shrubs including Echium, Watsonia, Acanthus, Jovellana, Daphniphyllum, Arbutus, Euphorbia, azaleas, rhododendrons, daphne and viburnums in variety.

The Lower Walled Garden, once the site of the old orchard, contains a variety of fruits, including figs and historical varieties of Irish apples amongst others. The borders also contain a variety of shrubs and perennials all echoing the past history of the gardens and people associated with Duckett's Grove.

Restored paths and the repaired sunken stone bridge plus plantings of oak, lime, hazel, spindle and laurel rekindle the spirit of the Georgian Pleasure Grounds. Outside of the Walled Garden, the Ha Ha, Carlow fencing, veteran trees, woodlands walk and stonebridge folly vary the attraction.

"Spectemur agendo – Let us be judged by our actions." Duckett Family Motto





hardymount gardens

One of the largest Spanish chestnuts in the country greets you on arrival to 2.5 acres of lawns and shrubs surrounded by magnificent beech and oak trees. A wonderful walled garden behind the house contains many unusual plants and flowers in the herbaceous border – lilac coloured *Erysimum*, yellow *helianthus*, beds of old roses, downy variegated mint, mimosa, blue *agapanthus*, California tree poppies, Chinese foxgloves and much, much more. The grass paths take you past the pond with lilies and fish to espaliered apple trees, *Lobelia tupa*, a pergola clothed with wisteria and underplanted with hollyhocks and foxgloves and on to a vegetable garden. A Summer House at the end of the garden in a sheltered corner provides a quiet area for rest and relaxation. A truly amazing walled garden worth knowing because of its owner and her dedication to gardening.



“Sheila Reeves-Smyth puts her work and effort into a garden that will give pleasure for the length of the summer and into autumn. Trellis, espaliered apples and the wisteria tunnel all create a pleasing division of the space and structure in the walled garden. Each little area feels private and secluded. But the overall picture does not look contrived or “designed”. Hardymount is well cared for but not overly manicured, a relaxed country garden.”

O' Brien Guide to Irish Gardens by Shirley Lanigan



Address: Tullow, Co. Carlow

Contact: Sheila Reeves-Smyth

t: +353 (0)59 915 1769

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Wheelchair accessible

How to find us: From Dublin – through the town of Tullow onto the Bunclody road N81. Turn right after the Statoil petrol station, on the outskirts of the town. Turn right at next cross roads – the gardens are 550 metres on the right hand side.

GPS: 52.798787, -6.762269

Open: Daily 2pm-6pm May-August. Other times by appointment. Admission fee applies. Groups very welcome.



herb gardens at kilgraney house

Kilgraney takes its name from the Irish 'cill gréine' which means 'sunny hill' or 'sunny wood'. These wooded and secluded grounds overlook the tranquil Barrow valley and are situated halfway between Carlow town and Kilkenny City.

Consisting of a series of interconnecting herbal gardens there is a large kitchen garden, a tea walk, a medicinal herb courtyard, a medieval monastic herb garden and a garden of aromatic and fragrant herbs.

The enclosed kitchen garden supplies the guesthouse with fruit, vegetables and herbs and has been run on organic lines for almost ten years. It consists of gravel paths and eleven raised timber beds of varying sizes grouped to form a modern rectangular 'potager'. Here you will find unusual leafy plants such as mibuna, mizuna and komatsuna amongst more traditional salad varieties. Next to the kitchen garden is the tea walk, a short gravel path lined on one



side with plants suitable for infusions and herbal teas. The medicinal garden, set in a granite courtyard, consists of nine raised beds in Irish oak timber. Each bed is planted with herbs suitable for treating a particular part of the body. In a lower courtyard you will find an aromatic garden planted with herbs for fragrance and also for their usefulness in cosmetic preparations. In an adjoining courtyard there is a modern interpretation of a medieval monastic herb garden with four oak raised beds surrounded on two sides by an oak timber cloister. A circular cosmic garden helps to explain and facilitate our understanding of the ancient belief that there is a connection between people, plants, planets and constellations. There is a recently planted native tree garden based on Bretha Comaithchesa – an eight-century Irish law where trees were classified into four hierarchical categories with a series of laws governing their use.

We regret that the main house is not open to garden visitors.

"Herbs are big here; in fact, Kilgraney does wonders for one's karma."

Room for Romance, the ultimate guide to romantic hotels

Address: Borris Road, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 977 5283

e: info@kilgraneyhouse.com

w: www.kilgraneyhouse.com

Facilities: Car park, toilets, restricted access for wheelchairs. Accommodation with evening meal available. Self-catering accommodation available. Unsuitable for children, no dogs allowed.

How to find us: Situated just off the R705, Kilgraney House is halfway between Bagenalstown (Muine Bheag) and Borris.

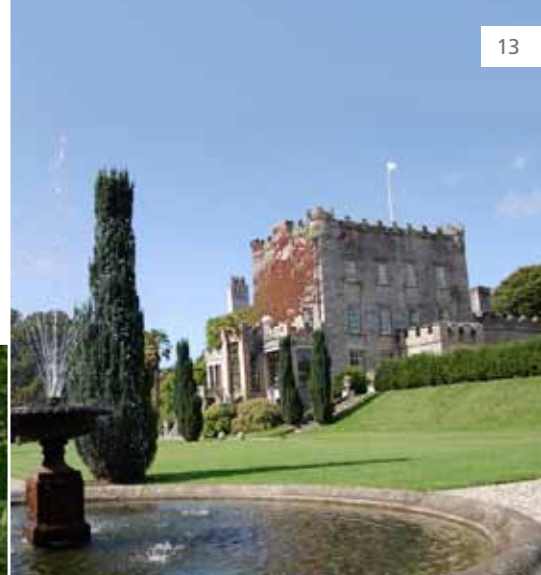
GPS: 52.653691, -6.954276

Open: May-Sept. Weekends and Bank Holidays.
2pm-6pm. Admission fee applies.



huntington castle & gardens

These gardens were mainly laid out in the 17th century by the Esmondes who built Huntington Castle in 1625. They include the French limes on the Avenue, the “parterre” or lawns to the side of the house, the fish ponds on either side of the centre walk through the wilderness and the majority of Yew trees which comprise the Yew Walk. Larger plantings have resulted in Huntington possessing a number of great Irish trees, including four varieties of hickory, a cut leaved oak, Siberian crab and buckeye chestnut.



Explore the kitchen gardens, with the Greenhouse and the recently restored Rose Gardens. Then stroll through the enchanting Italian Gardens and the ruins of the old Abbey before walking through to the ‘Wilderness’ woodland where formal walks and pathways will guide you past shrubs, flora and bamboo to the old turbine house which supplied electricity to Huntington as early as 1888. The bottom of the wilderness is marked by the delightful River Derry which flows as the boundary between County Carlow and Wexford. Then head back to the castle and experience the fascinating guided tour or simply take a well earned break in the tearooms. There is always something to discover at Huntington with new features every year – current projects include garden restoration and significant planting projects.

‘Set in the Slaney Valley at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains, the Jacobean castle is located just off the main street of the winsome village of Clonegal. Battlements surmount the fairy-tale fortress, topped with a heraldic Irish flag. This was the view that first grabbed filmmaker Stanley Kubrick’s attention when he zeroed in on Huntington as a location for his 1975 film Barry Lyndon.’ Turtle Bunberry National Geographic Traveller Magazine 2014

Address: Clonegal village, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)53 937 7160

e: info@huntingtoncastle.com

w: www.huntingtoncastle.com

Facilities: Car and coach park, toilets, garden wheel chair access, guided tours of Castle, tea room, gift shop and adventure playground.

How to find us: Entrance to the avenue is in the picturesque village of Clonegal, 5km from N80 turn off (signposted). Approx. 17.5km south of junction 5 on M9. Ten minute drive from Tullow town via Ardattin village.

GPS: 52.690404, -6.649131

Open: Gardens May-Sept, 12pm- 6pm daily.
House 2pm-6pm weekends in May and Sept and daily June-Aug. Admission fee applies.



leighlinbridge – the garden village

The Leighlinbridge district is rich in history, favoured with fertile land and enhanced by the River Barrow which meanders slowly through the village. The foundation for its beauty lies directly with the residents who demonstrate a sense of pride and work tirelessly to preserve and enhance this unique area. This pride is evident by a range of gardens, built and designed by the local community to commemorate various aspects of village life over the years.

The Millennium Garden consists of seven small individual gardens, each with its own theme represented by trees, shrubs and stones. Using materials indigenous to the local area, the garden tells the story of life through a series of themes including peace and tranquillity, happiness, friendship, reconciliation, hope, harmony and eternity.

The Vivaldi Garden is based on Vivaldi's musical concerto *The Four Seasons* and comprises four formal gardens, each depicting a season of the year. To create a formal effect each rectangle is lined with *Buxus sempervirens* (Boxwood) and formed into triangles with lavender while each season is represented by specific planting.

The Garden of Remembrance straddling the River Barrow commemorates important occasions in the history of the village including the visit of the Canadian Prime Minister, Brian Mulrooney, a World War 1 Memorial and the Entente Florale Gold Medal Award. A number of commemorative trees have been planted together with ballerina roses and shrubs.

The Sculpture Garden is dedicated to three of Leighlinbridge's most famous sons – Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran – Australia's first Cardinal, John Tyndall, the mountaineer and scientist who developed the light pipe, the forerunner to fibre optics and Captain Myles Keogh, second in command to General Custer who lost his life at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876 at the hands of the Sioux.

"It is a place of infinite tranquillity and restfulness, an inspired use of a simple setting in this village of special charm." Excerpt from the judging committee of the Barrow Awards Scheme on Leighlinbridge

Gold medal winner in the European Entente Florale competition 2001, Gold Medal Winner in Tidy Towns 2004 – 2014 inclusive, winner of Carlow's inaugural Pride of Place Initiative 2004 and prize winner in the National Pride of Place Initiative 2003, overall winner in the Barrow Awards 2001, 2003 and 2014, Carlow's Floral Pride winner on a number of occasions.

Address: Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

Contact: Mary Meaney, Secretary,
Leighlinbridge Improvement Group
t: +353 (0)86 602 7751
w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Award winning Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, restaurant, hotel, pubs, castle, historic buildings, angling, walking routes, picnic site.

How to find us: From Dublin/Waterford take exit 6 on M9 motorway and follow signs for Leighlinbridge which is clearly signposted off the R448, 3km from here. Alternatively visitors travelling from Carlow town should follow the R448.

GPS: 52.735586, -6.973691

Open: During daylight hours. FREE admission.
Guided tours available for groups - fee applies.



the meadows

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 at No. 7 is about a third of an acre and slopes steeply into the hillside with the back shaded by sycamores.



Address: No.7 the Meadows, Myshall, Co. Carlow

Contact: Philippa Bayliss

t: +353 (0)59 915 7530

e: philippabaylissart@gmail.com

w: www.philippabayliss.com

Facilities: carpark, toilet, art gallery, garden studio.

How to find us: Immediately outside the village of Myshall on the Kildavin Road R724. Opposite the Garda Station.

GPS: 52.6870338, -6.777797

Open: Mar-Sept, 12pm- 5pm daily with the exception of Thursday. Admission fee applies.

Since developing a deep love of plants as a child, the garden has been integral to owner, Philippa Bayliss's work as a painter. The concept for this garden came from a garden in Gravesend on a wind swept pebble beach, the Lady and the Unicorn Tapestries, Persian miniatures, Chinese landscape scrolls and Capability Brown's integration of garden and landscape. Gravel over myplex is used as a foundation and the large granite boulders have been sourced from a local farmer. In front of the house there are plantings of pampas grass, miscanthus, dwarf and prostrate conifers, orange fennel, watsonia, kniphofia, fox gloves, heathers and catmint.

The back garden, which contains Philippa's summer studio, is planted with an informal hedge of shrub roses and some interesting trees interspersed with mostly herbaceous plants, set into gravel. This area has been designed with low maintenance in mind, needing no mechanical tools and only intermittent hard work to keep it in order.

A visit to The Meadows demonstrates what can be achieved with a small budget and limited time, and will certainly inspire others in a similar situation to create something of beauty.



newtownbarry house and gardens

This Victorian Classical house was designed by well known Belfast Architect Sir Charles Lanyon and Partners between 1863-69. The house is situated by the River Slaney and is surrounded by lawns, ancient trees and a Sunken garden, which was restored in 2004 to coincide with the opening of the house and gardens to the public.



Since then historical tours of the house have been offered showing the unique Lanyon features such as its impressive glazed barrel vaulted roof, beautiful carved staircase and mantelpieces.

Visitors are then invited to visit the Sunken garden which has its original 18th Century grottos. The garden is approx. 2 acres and is a colourful walled garden which includes a formal oval pool, a fountain and a series of borders filled with shrubs and herbaceous perennials, enclosed by lines of dwarf hedges. Mature trees, a rose garden and a lake complete the picture.

Refreshments are offered in the Farm Café situated in the old servants hall. There is a small gift shop and an Art Gallery upstairs to view.



Address: Newtownbarry House, Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

t: +353 (0)53 937 6383

m: + 353 (0)87 056 9805

e: info@newtownbarryhouse.com

gallery@newtownbarryhouse.com

w: www.newtownbarryhouse.com



Facilities: Historical House (Victorian), tearooms, art gallery, toilets, car parking.

How to find us: In Bunclody town at the roundabout turn left following the R746 Carnew Road. Cross over the bridge and the entrance gates are directly in front of you.

GPS: 52.65673, -6.65035

Open: June, July & August. Please see website for more details of viewing times and dates. Admission fee applies.



altamont plant sales the walled garden at altamont

An unmissable highlight of a visit to Altamont Gardens is the Walled Garden situated within the grounds of the estate and run privately by gardener and nurseryman Robert Miller. The area consists of the Corona North Commemorative Border and Altamont Plant Sales and Nursery. The Corona North Commemorative Border took over a year to design, build and plant, and was opened in 2000 to honour Altamont's late owner, Corona North. Many of the plants in the border were donated by friends of Corona and fellow great Irish gardeners. These donated plants and thousands of others grown at Robert Miller and then-business partner Assumpta Broomfield's nursery make up one of the largest borders of its kind in the country, and tell a story of Irish horticulture woven into a seamless living tapestry. A visit is a must for any seasoned or novice gardener looking for inspiration or simple enjoyment.

Altamont Plant Sales has not only grown in size in the last few years, but more so in reputation as a place to acquire seriously good garden plants. Altamont Plant Sales has always been renowned for its extensive and exclusive range of herbaceous perennials – many of which can only be found at Altamont. But Altamont Plant Sales can also now boast of having one of the largest collections of old shrub roses available for sale to the gardening public year round. If trees and shrubs are more your thing, don't despair. Rare oaks, maples, cherry blossoms, dogwoods, magnolias, beech and smaller flowering trees and shrubs suitable for every-sized garden are also available throughout the year.

A highlight of the Irish gardening calendar is Snowdrop Week, hosted at Altamont every February by the O.P.W. This is an opportunity to marvel at the vast varieties of snowdrops in bloom throughout the garden, and also to acquire several types to start or add to your own collection, along with a selection of hellebores second to none. Hundreds of complementary flowering plants are also available throughout the spring. Altamont Plant Sales is exactly as the name suggests: plants for sale – high-quality plants grown and cared for with expertise and knowledge. Robert Miller of Altamont Plant Sales is also available for consultancy work for new and mature gardens.

Address: Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)87 982 2135

e: sales@altamontplants.com

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Walled Garden Café with tea, coffee and light refreshments. Open May-September.

How to find us: In the grounds of Altamont Gardens (for directions see page 4).

GPS: 52.735129, -6.720966

Open: January-November 7 days per week
10am-5.30pm weekdays, 11am-6pm weekends.
December, 10am-5.30pm weekdays, closed weekends.



arboretum home & garden heaven

Commitment to excellent customer service, quality products, unbeatable choice and value for money has earned the Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven the coveted title of Bord Bia Garden Centre of the Year and Best Customer Service Award on numerous occasions.

Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven is far more than a place for the gardening enthusiast. It's a complete shopping experience; a place to savour the myriad of interesting items dotted throughout the store. Arboretum have recently added Ireland's largest covered outdoor garden area with retractable roof which opens during sunny weather and closes when conditions are less clement, as well as exciting new ventures including a kitchen store and fashion floor. An entire day can be devoted to the visit, wandering through the fantastic range of items available, seeking expert advice from friendly staff or enjoying a delicious meal or cup of coffee in the tranquil setting of Rachel's Garden Café. Year round the centre is a delight to visit reflecting the changing seasons of the gardener's world. In winter, the Arboretum becomes a Christmas wonderland with a multitude of decorations and gift ideas while in spring and summer brilliant colours burst from every area of the store. Also on this site Edinburgh Woollen Mill stock the finest woollen and cashmere products for ladies and gentlemen.

"Absolutely love visiting this place. Great garden centre selling amazing plants, garden furniture and accessories. Also available are clothes, kitchen accessories, gifts and much, much more. The restaurant is beautiful – a lovely range of food to sit down and eat or to take away. The hand basins in the ladies and the urinals in the gents have to be seen to be believed. We've been coming here for the past few years and every time we visit, it has improved on our last visit. LOVE it! Trip Advisor, August 2014



Ireland's Premier
5 Star Garden Centre



Address: Old Kilkenny Road, Leighlinbridge,
Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 972 1558

e: info@arboretum.ie

w: www.arboretum.ie



Facilities: Toilets, large car and coach park,
wheelchair accessible, restaurant with wine
licence, retail store, conference facilities.

How to find us: Travelling from Dublin or
Waterford on the M9 motorway take exit at
junction 6 and follow signs for Leighlinbridge.
Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven is located
3km from exit 6.

GPS: 52.742832, -6.975890

Open: Monday-Saturday, 9am-6pm
Late opening Thursdays until 8pm
Sunday, 11am-6pm; Bank Holidays, 9am-6pm



ashlawn garden centre

Conveniently situated close to the town of Bagenalstown in an open country setting, Ashlawn Garden Centre is a family run business where excellent service and advice is on hand in a friendly and informative manner. Our plants are our pride and joy and there is something for everyone here, catering for the expert gardener to the complete novice with specially selected ranges to suit different needs and budgets.



Address: Donore, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 972 1175

e: ashlawngardencentre@eircom.net

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Toilets, car park, wheelchair accessible.

How to find us: Situated 3km outside Bagenalstown off the Borris road (R705). Take the first turn to the left after the railway bridge in Bagenalstown. Ashlawn Garden Centre is 2km on the left hand side of the road.

GPS: 52.682814, -6.938924

Open: Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-6pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays, 2pm-6pm

Ashlawn Garden Centre offers a wide range of healthy trees, shrubs, roses and perennials at outstandingly good value while the new 3,000 square feet shop is packed with a full range of sprays, sprayers, terracotta and glazed pots, tools, pet accessories, fountains, lights and bird baths, seasonal bulbs and seeds. A selection of giftware, oak barrels and decorative stone in bulk and bags is always available.

"A gardener's pictures are never quite complete; that is their joy."

The Reader's Digest to Creative Gardening



morgan's garden centre

Based on the outskirts of Carlow town, Morgan's Garden Centre is a family run business, which has developed and grown rapidly in recent years to become recognised as a leading garden centre. This award winning centre features a well-stocked shop and extensive covered plant sales area for summer bedding and seasonal plants, most of which are grown in the adjoining area. All trees, shrubs, roses and heathers are sourced from leading Irish nurseries ensuring high quality plants.



Visitors are guaranteed something for every season – bedding and patio plants for spring and summer, pottery, stoneware and water features with bulbs, hedging and trees for autumn.

Advice is provided by trained and experienced staff who will give ideas and tips for your garden and answer all your gardening queries. Service is guaranteed to be friendly, helpful and efficient.

"Quality, Service, Good Value"



Address: Green Road, Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 914 3092

e: morgansgc@yahoo.co.uk

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Car park, toilet, wheelchair accessible.

How to find us: Morgan's Garden Centre is located on the outskirts of Carlow town, just off the R448 (in direction of Kilkenny). Take the first turn to the left after Carlow IT and a right at the next roundabout. Approx. 1km from this point on the right hand side of the road.

GPS: 52.817096, -6.938281

Open: Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-6pm
Sunday, 2pm-6pm; Bank Holidays, 10am-6pm



rathvilly garden centre

Rathvilly Garden Centre is owned and operated by Dermot Byrne who prides himself on offering a comprehensive range of home grown bedding plants and shrubs for the gardening enthusiast. This country garden centre is set on 5 acres (2 hectares). Trees and shrubs, heathers and roses are sourced in Ireland to ensure top quality.



Address: Baltinglass Road, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 916 1594

e: rathvillygardencentre@gmail.com

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Wheelchair accessible, toilet (wheelchair) and picnic tables.

How to find us: 3.5km from Rathvilly and 6km from Baltinglass on the Rathvilly – Baltinglass N81 road. 18km Altamont Gardens, 12km Duckett's Grove.

GPS: 52.898476, -6.697363

Open: Mon-Sat, 9.30am-6pm March-September;
Tues-Sat, 10.30am-4pm October-February
Sunday, 11.30pm-6pm; Bank Holidays, 10am-6pm

The garden centre features a range of bulbs, seeds, garden tools and a large selection of trees, shrubs, container pots, fruit trees, patio slabs, outdoor pots, moss peat and trellis.

Trained and experienced staff will give advice on all gardening queries to the extent of visiting your garden and planning where everything should go.

As the winner of the 'Extra Large Store of the Year Award 2013' and with over a quarter million visitors each year Rathwood is the perfect place to spend a day out. This family owned spacious and well laid out centre houses an award winning garden centre, exclusive ranges of ladies clothing and shoes, beautiful interior styled rooms, stylish gifts, family friendly restaurant, birds of prey centre, a maze of Ireland and woodland walks.



Lunch at Rathwood's restaurant is pivotal to the Rathwood shopping experience, where customers can relax and enjoy impressive wholesome lunches and a delicious selection of home baking (function room/group menus available). A ride on the Rathwood Train, woodland walk, visit to the birds of prey centre or the Christmas Wonderland all make Rathwood a delight to visit all year round. Rathwood is also perfect for a lunch stop on a trip to Altamont Gardens which are located nearby.

"Would highly recommend Rathwood for the young and old. Really enjoyed it today!!"
"Had wonderful day there recently staff very helpful and fab food in restaurant."
 Facebook 2014

Rathwood
 CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
 1994 - 2014



Fáilte Ireland
 National Tourism Development Authority



Rathwood



Address: Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

t +353 (0)59 915 6285

e: reception@rathwood.com

w: www.rathwood.com

Facilities: Gift and garden shop, furniture and interiors shop, excellent restaurant with wine licence, garden centre, ladies boutiques and shoe shop, stone landscaping, train rides, children's outdoor play garden, Maze of Ireland, birds of prey centre, woodland walks, large coach and car park, toilets, wheelchair access, Fáilte Ireland visitor information point, chocolate factory next door. Open 7 days.

How to find us: 10 km from Altamont Gardens through Tullow town or from Castledermot (exit 4 off the M9 motorway) take the R418 into Tullow town. At the top of the town, take the R725 Tullow to Shillelagh Road.

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

Open: Monday-Saturday (incl. Bank Holidays)
 9.30am-6pm, Sundays 11am-6pm. Admission fee applies to birds of prey centre & Maze of Ireland.



oak park forest park

There are few locations which could rival the beauty and tranquillity of Oak Park Forest Park. Ideal for leisurely strolls and walks, a visit here is a relaxing and pleasurable experience and a must for any visitor to Co. Carlow. Colour coded circular walkways of varying lengths with excellent accessible surfaces and easy gradients make a visit here an enjoyable experience for young and old alike.



WINNER
RDS Irish Forestry
Awards 2013

Address: Oak Park, Carlow.

Contact: Carlow Tourist Office, College Street, Carlow.

t: + 353 (0)59 913 0411

e: info@carlowtourism.com

w: www.carlowgardentrail.com

Facilities: Wheelchair accessible toilets, large car park, outdoor picnic tables, wheelchair accessible walkways and bird watch area.

How to find us: From Dublin/Waterford take exit 4 on M9 motorway. Follow signs for Carlow taking the first right after Toughers Restaurant. Take a left at the next junction. Access also possible off Dr. Cullen Park Road on the outskirts of Carlow town.

GPS: 52.864166, -6.894982

Open: End March – end Sept daily 8am-9pm, rest of year daily from 8am-4pm. Check for Christmas opening times. FREE admission.

The park is a mature, mixed species woodland of over 120 acres with a predominance of beech, oak, scots pine, silver fir, larch and sycamore. The proximity of the walkways to the extensive collection of ferns, mosses and woodland flora provides the visitor with an ideal opportunity to interact with nature. Boasting a rich diversity of wildlife, the lakes and their surrounds provide a habitat for swans and ducks, while the islands shelter many wild and game birds. The Woodland Looped walks extend over 4km. The walks include Butlers Wood Loop (700 metres), the Lake Path (800 metres), Fox Covert Track (1100 metres) and Sally Island Trail (1700 metres). All the walks are wheelchair accessible.

Situated on the outskirts of Carlow town, the park is an oasis of tranquillity and a popular destination for walking and educational visits. The park also features a picnic area, informal leisure areas and seating at regular intervals. The Looped Board Walks have anti-slip surfacing, Ireland's only outdoor universally accessible play ground and an adult fitness area looking onto the lake. The forest park is a recognised bat habitat and includes bird watching facilities.



rath wood forest walks

Serene, tranquil forest walks, extending over 4 kilometres, were carefully designed at Rathwood, to include a short leisurely wheelchair accessible walk to a pond and a longer looped 'Molloy Walk' with seating at regular intervals. Joe Molloy was a local historian and farmer, who was involved in the first planting of the forest over half a century ago.



This forest is a valuable and rewarding educational tool, given the vast ecological resources of flora, wildlife and tree species contained within its 185 acre boundaries. Rath Wood offers a sanctuary for many mammals, birds and insect species.

Expect to see deer, rabbits, mink, foxes, pheasants and dragonflies among others. The forest contains a great variety of tree species including beech, oak, sitka spruce, norway spruce, birch, douglas fir and alder. Train rides around the forest are available from Rathwood.

Take a pleasant stroll across the natural beauty of Rath Wood and discover a landscape rich in geology, archaeology and wild life. Visitors can also enjoy a stroll through the Maze of Ireland. The historical feature of Rathgall Hillfort which dates back to 800 B.C. is located nearby. Call into Rathwood's Fáilte Ireland visitor information point for a forest map, brochures on Rathgall and surrounding tourist attractions.

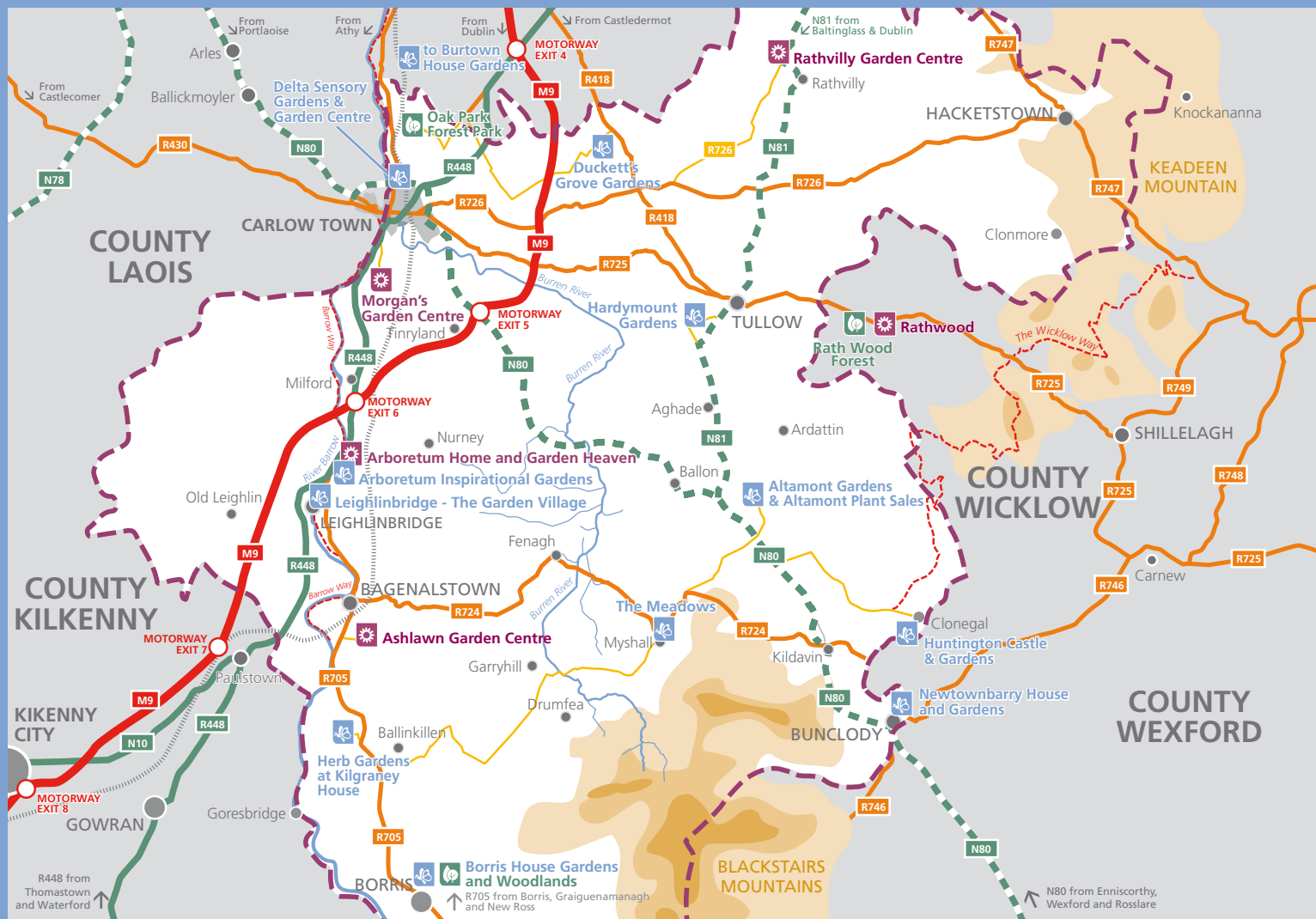
Address: Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow
(with entrance via Rathwood's car park)

Facilities: Forest map guide, information board, car park located at Rathwood. Picnic benches available at the entrance to the forest. Toilets, restaurant and shopping available at Rathwood.

How to find us: 5km from Tullow town or 9km from Shillelagh, on the R725 off the R448, N11 or N81 or exit 4 off the M9 from Dublin and take the R418 from Castledermot into Tullow town. At the top of the town, take the R725 Tullow to Shillelagh Road.

GPS: 52.796597, -6.660739

Car park open: Rathwood is open 7 days 9.30am to 6pm weekdays and 11am to 6pm on Sundays. FREE admission to Rath Wood Forest Walks. Admission fee applies to the Maze of Ireland.





MOUNT WOLSELEY

HOTEL, SPA & GOLF RESORT



Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort is perfectly located for that well deserved break. From the grand staircase, sparkling chandeliers and glistening Italian Marble floors, this magnificent Hotel was designed for luxury. Reinvigorate your spirit in the Wolseley Spa, test your skills on the championship Golf Course or simply spend a leisurely afternoon curled up with a good book in your spacious bedroom. The deluxe bedrooms and Suites at Mount Wolseley are spacious, airy and well appointed offering views over the countryside.

Prepare to be pampered, re-awaken your senses, free yourself from the pressures of life and experience the Wolseley Spa, illuminated only by candlelight. Calming music and the worlds finest Elemis Beauty products await you. The relaxing environment coupled with the extensive luxurious facilities enable this regal property to offer the complete experience to our guests.

Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, Tullow, Co. Carlow
059 9180100 | reservations@mountwolseley.ie | www.mountwolseley.ie



Carlow County Museum

Carlow County Museum is located in Carlow's Cultural Quarter.

View the 19th century hand carved pulpit from Carlow Cathedral, included in 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects'.

See the original gallows trapdoor from the Carlow Gaol and the smoking pipe of Captain Myles Keogh, killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHIEATHARLOCHIA



Carlow County Museum
College Street, Carlow Town
Tel: 059 913 1554
E-mail: museum@carlowcoco.ie
www.carlowcountymuseum.ie
GPS: 52.836559, -6.928314



Free admission | Open all year round

June to August:
Monday-Saturday, 10.00am-5.00pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays:
2.00pm-4.30pm

September to May:
Monday-Saturday, 10.00am- 4.30pm

Last admission 30mins before closing



/CarlowCountyMuseum



@CarlowCountyMus



The Step House Hotel is four star a family-run boutique hotel located in the picturesque village of Borris, Co. Carlow. The village of Borris is a one hour drive from Dublin and two hours from Cork. The warm and welcoming atmosphere of the hotel is designed to indulge, relax and unwind.

From the original Gothic detailing of the entrance to the restrained opulence of the interior, this is a place to soothe and inspire.

An eclectic collection of furniture and art, hand chosen over time, reflects the individual personality of the owners, Cait & James Coady.

Traditional Irish country hospitality is always evident, from delicious home-cooked breakfasts to freshly baked pastries and beautiful homemade scones.

Food and wine are of course at the heart of the Step House experience. The Cellar Restaurant

with its archways and vaulted ceilings is the perfect setting for our classical French style cuisine and exclusively selected wines. The exquisitely crafted menus are designed to benefit from local produce emphasising our commitment to organic food.

Staying and dining at the Step House Hotel is a truly unforgettable experience and the whole Step House family look forward to welcoming you.

Clashganny House Restaurant



*Country House
Restaurant, set in an 1840
mill-house, focusing on
local artisan produce
where possible.*



GEORGINA CAMPBELL'S Ireland
Newcomer of the Year 2014



Clashganny, Borris, Co. Carlow Phone: (059) 977 1003 Wed - Sat 6:00pm-9:30pm. Sun 12:30pm-3:00pm



kilbride

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M: +353 (0) 86 8165531

E: theforgekilbride@gmail.com

www.theforgekilbride.ie



Avlon House Bed and Breakfast

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Carlow town

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Fax+353 59 9173829

Email: avlonhouse@eircom.net
www.carlowbedandbreakfast.com



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AT THE POTATO MARKET & LIBERTY TREE



Carlow Farmers' Market is a food-based market that has proven hugely popular as customers embrace the wide variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, meats, juices and home baking on offer. The market is held at the Potato Market and Liberty Tree in the centre of Carlow town, a well designed space, set in bright and modern surroundings.

A traditional Irish Bed & Breakfast, where quality meets the personal touch

Private Parking | Broadband Access | Direct Dial Telephone | Rooms En-suite
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www.carlowfarmersmarket.com

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Ireland

E: info@sevenoakshotel.com

www.sevenoakshotel.com

T: 059 9131308



Seven Oaks
HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB
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YOUR "HUB"



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**ALTAMONT
GARDENS**



**DUNBRODY
FAMINE SHIP**



**BARROW
WALKING**



**WATERFORD
CRYSTAL**



**(VISUAL)
CARLOW TOWN**



KILKENNY CASTLE



The 4* Millrace Hotel Leisure Club and Spa is located on the edge of the picturesque town of Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

Situated at the foothills of Mount Leinster the Millrace is the perfect base to explore the gardens of Wexford and Carlow, and only a short distance from a beautiful walk up Mount Leinster.

You can relax in the Spa and leisure club or unwind in our swimming pool after a long day of exploration.

Later in the evening dine in our Mill Bar, with delicious food and live entertainment at the weekends. Only a 10 minute drive from Altamont Gardens and Huntington Castle.



**What better place to begin
your garden trail experience.**

The Millrace Hotel, Leisure Club and Spa, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Tel: 053 937 5100 | Fax: 053 937 5124

Email: reservations@millracehotel.com

To view our special offers go to www.millracehotel.com



carlow garden festival

end of july - beginning of august each year

tv and radio gardeners
free events | workshops
leading garden designers
nature trails | garden visits
music and entertainment



For novice gardeners to garden connoisseurs,
grandparents to grandchildren and family fun for all
www.carlowgardentrail.com



Premises featured below left to right: Herb Gardens at Kilgraney, Arboretum Inspirational Gardens, Clonegal Community Garden, woodland on the Carlow Garden Trail, Duckett's Grove Walled Gardens and Pleasure Grounds.



Visit us online at: www.carlowgardentrail.com www.carlowtourism.com

For further information on Co. Carlow or to make an accommodation booking please contact:

Carlow Tourist Office, College Street, Carlow

t: +353 (0)59 913 0411

e: info@carlowtourism.com



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