



carlow garden festival

Saturday July 27th - Monday August 5th 2019

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



August 3rd 2019
Monty Don
Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven

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

www.carlowgardentrail.com t: 059 913 0411



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL
CUMHATAIL CHONTAILE CARLOW



IRELAND'S
ANCIENT EAST™
Wander Through Time

carlow
tourism



saturday 27th july

saturday 27th july

sunday 28th july

sunday 28th july

colin stafford johnson
leighlinbridge-the garden village

colin stafford johnson
huntington castle and gardens

adam frost
duckett's grove

fionnuala fallon at patthana
gardens, kiltegan, co. wicklow



nature walk

living a wildlife

introduction to garden design

garden tour

Opening the Carlow Garden Festival, Colin Stafford Johnson, Irish wildlife cameraman and television presenter will lead a nature walk with a difference along the River Barrow in Leighlinbridge. Discover the flora, fauna and plants of this special river and eco-system. Participants will be able to enjoy the surrounding nature and explore the wonders it brings. Colin will bring his experiences of filming in the wild to this talk and will show one of his short films in Leighlinbridge Community Centre following conclusion of the walk. Suitable for all ages.

Colin Stafford Johnson is one of the world's most acclaimed and internationally awarded filmmakers. Throughout his legendary career, Colin has won countless awards from wildlife festivals and events around the world. He has lived first hand with tigers for many years in India and filmed some of the most renowned natural history sequences in Ireland. Illustrated with his own stunning film footage and photography, this talk promises unique natural history stories and special wildlife encounters in what promises to be a spell binding afternoon.



Enjoy a house tour personally escorted by a member of the Durdin-Robertson family whose ancestry stretches all the way back to the original owners of the castle in the 17th century.

Venue: Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow, Y21 K237 **Time:** 3 p.m.
Adm: €10 Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardenentrail.com. Tea rooms open for tea, coffee and light snacks. Castle tours 2-5 p.m. Admission fee applies. Children's playground available. **Contact:** 053 937 7160 [w: www.huntingtoncastle.com](http://www.huntingtoncastle.com)

Adam Frost is an award-winning British garden designer, television presenter and Chelsea Flower Show winner. If you have ever wondered how to approach designing your own garden, what you need to know to be a garden designer or the skills involved, then join Adam as he reveals the process and principles. Full of insights and ideas, Adam will guide you step by step through the main elements and discuss how people, plants and place are key to a great design. Using examples of private and public gardens he has completed, Adam will simplify the process, as well as showing how he is applying these to his own garden. An engaging and amusing talk is promised by a natural and prolific speaker.

Venue: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town, R93 RF80
Time: 2 p.m.
Adm: €19.50 Pre-booking essential www.carlowgardenentrail.com
Contact: 059 913 0411



Patthana Gardens 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 Fionnuala Fallon, *Irish Times* gardening correspondent, as she talks about the changing world of Irish gardens. 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, W91 X789
Time: 5.30 p.m.
Adm: €5 Pre-booking advised but not essential. www.carlowgardenentrail.com
Contact: m: 086 194 4547



monday 29th july

frances macdonald
delta sensory gardens



garden tour

Frances Macdonald has an extensive career spanning 40 years, in which she trained at the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, spent time in Japan and worked in the Botanic Gardens at Kew. Frances promises an interesting and informative tour of Delta Sensory Gardens exploring the delights of these beautiful surroundings while sharing her passion for planting. Have your notepad ready for some valuable advice and tips on different planting combinations to ensure your garden continues to look great all year round.

Venue: Delta Sensory Gardens and Garden Centre, Strawhall Estate, Carlow, R93 Y959
Time: 11 a.m.

Adm: Adults €7, concessions €5, children free if accompanied by an adult. Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
Tea, coffee, lunch and snacks available in the on-site restaurant. **Contact:** 059 914 3527
w: www.deltasensorygardens.com



monday 29th july

shirley lanigan
the meadows



garden tour

Shirley Lanigan has been writing about Irish gardens for two decades in books and magazines, and is a regular columnist with the *Irish Garden*. With a background in art, she has a keen interest in the use of art in gardens and believes that artists' gardens are particularly fascinating. This tour of the garden of talented painter Philippa Bayliss is an exciting addition to the festival programme. Visitors are promised lots of ideas that can be recreated in different contexts in a small space of a ¼ acre. In front of the house there are plantings of pampas grass, miscanthus, orange fennel, heathers and catmint while the back features an informal hedge of shrub roses and trees interspersed with mostly herbaceous plants, set into gravel.

Venue: No. 7, The Meadows, Myshall, Co. Carlow, R21 CF43

Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €5 Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
Contact: 059 915 7530



tuesday 30th july

neil porteous
altamont gardens



garden tour

Join Neil Porteous, head gardener at Mount Stewart, Co. Down, on a walk through Corona North's unique creation, Altamont. This 'Robinsonian' garden looks fabulous in late July and has a great variety of interesting plants from mighty sequoiadendrons and scented roses, down to an unusual array of herbaceous plants and bulbs. On this tour, Neil will share how a professional gardener manages such a wide variety of plants which help to evoke the moods a garden like Altamont presents. Neil also explores succession throughout the year and how to ensure there is colour and interest for as long a season as possible.

Venue: Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 N882 **Time:** 11 a.m. **Adm:** FREE car park fee of €2 applies. Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
Contact: 059 915 9444
w: www.heritageireland.ie



tuesday 30th july

steven desmond
hardymount gardens



elegance and repose: the garden seat through the ages

The Carlow Garden Trail is delighted to welcome Steven Desmond, chartered horticulturist and writer with *Country Life*. The garden seat has many roles in the garden: as an eyecatcher, viewpoint and decorative object in its own right. Some of them are reasonably comfortable to sit on too. Join Steven in looking at these visual treasures and see the garden seat in a new and exciting light.



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

Venue: Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 X524 **Time:** 3 p.m. **Adm:** €10 incl. afternoon tea. Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
In aid of cancer research

Contact: 059 915 1769 / m: 086 124 2801



wednesday 31st july

wednesday 31st july

thursday 1st august

thursday 1st august

carl wright
burtown house and gardens



a woodland garden

Carl Wright, columnist with the *Irish Garden*, takes a look at how most gardens contain at least one section of woodland! The talk explains the actual meaning of the term and how the woodland 'system' works from the top canopy to the woodland floor. An Irish based talk, it will include all aspects of a woodland eco-system, with sections on wildlife, native plants, lichens and fungi and a selection of garden worthy plants suitable for Irish woodland gardens.



Burtown House is the only original Quaker house in Ireland that can be visited, that is still lived in by the family that built it from this period. Enjoy a guided tour by family members.

Venue: Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14 AE67 (exit 3 off M9 motorway)
Time: 11 a.m. **Adm:** €10 Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
House tours €10. The Green Barn Restaurant and Shop is open Wednesday to Sunday for lunch, evening dinner available Saturday - booking is essential. **Contact:** 059 862 3865
www.burtownhouse.ie

jekka mcvicar at kilgraney
house and herb gardens



so it. grow it. eat it.

Jekka McVicar has been leading the way on the cultivation and use of herbs for the past three decades. Started in 1984, her farm has evolved from supplying garden centres to an online mail order business and in 2013 it became a unique herbetum and school. In this talk Jekka covers all the key principles of growing and propagating herbs, her passion for the environment and the importance of following sustainable, organic and environmentally sensitive practices. Jekka believes that there is nothing more pleasurable than eating something homegrown and the talk will conclude with a tour of the herbs grown in Kilgraney.

Venue: Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens, Borris Road, Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow R21 W527

Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €20 including tea and coffee. Pre-booking is advised, tickets from www.carlowgardentrail.com

Contact: 059 977 5283
www.kilgraneyhouse.com



aaron bertelsen
shankill castle



great dixer vegetable garden through the year

Aaron Bertelsen is the vegetable gardener at Great Dixer, where he also runs the kitchen. His gardening year starts on November 1st, with the closure of the garden to the public. Aaron discusses preparing the soil during the winter months for the next growing season and the practical side of vegetable gardening including stacking, watering and weeding.

long-table lunch from the summer garden

A garden-to-table feast hosted by Great Dixer's gardener-cook, Aaron Bertelsen, celebrating summer produce from the walled garden at Shankill Castle and from local suppliers, with a seasonal two-course menu from Bertelsen's *The Great Dixer Cookbook*.



Venue: Shankill Castle, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny, R95 T8X7

Time: Talk 11 a.m. Lunch 12.45 p.m.
Adm: Talk €10, talk & lunch €30, lunch only €22
Pre-booking essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
Castle tours available on the day €5
Contact: 086 397 1748
www.shankillcastle.com

rory newell
borris house



the plant hunters guide to northern vietnam

Between 2015 and 2017 Blarney Castle and Gardens under the collection banner of Botanic Network Ireland set out on a series of plant collecting trips to Northern Vietnam. Rory Newell, who by his own admission is "plants mad" delivers an informative and entertaining talk on the trips, covering a broad range of topics including conservation/exsitu conservation, growing, propagating and developing a living catalogue of the plants in the gardens of Blarney Castle. A photographic presentation accompanies the talk.



Venue: Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow R95 Y2T1 **Time:** 3 p.m.

Adm: €8 Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com
Tours of the house are available €10 p.p.
Craft gallery and lace garden on-site.
Contact: 059 977 1884 m: 089 233 2470
www.borrisishouse.com



thursday 1st august

alys fowler
VISUAL



in conversation with alys fowler

The Festival always offers a special night in the iconic VISUAL Centre. This year join Alys Fowler, gardening correspondent with *The Guardian*. Whether you're new to gardening or are looking to spruce up your vegetable patch, balcony or windowsill, this talk is full of practical advice and tips. With Alys, you will learn the secrets to juicy fruits, crunchy vegetables and fresh salads - ideal for prepping in the summer season. She will also share her tips on becoming a more thrifty and resourceful gardener. The talk concludes with a Q&A session. A great opportunity to have your queries answered by one of the most respected names in UK gardening.

Venue: VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art, Old Dublin Road, Carlow R93 A3K1

Adm: €16 / 2 tickets €30 Pre-booking advised visualcarlow.ie or carlowgardentrail.com

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Contact: 059 917 2400 info@visualcarlow.ie



friday 2nd august

troy scott smith & dan pearson
altamont plant sales



talk 1: revitalising vita and harold

Troy Scott Smith, head gardener at Sissinghurst Castle, gives an interesting and entertaining talk focusing on the decisions he faced when appointed to this iconic English garden - to continue along well established lines of the previous forty years or to make changes. This talk documents his story as he sought to remain true to the gardens' original creators, Vita Sackville-West & her husband Harold.

talk 2: creating gardens in context

Dan Pearson is an internationally renowned landscape and garden designer. In this talk Dan describes his approach to all of his design commissions, whether for large scale urban developments, cultural institutions, public parks or private clients, to enhance a site's sense of place and create gardens that are in tune with their surroundings.

Venue: Altamont Plant Sales, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882 **Time:** Talk 1: 11.30 a.m.

Doors open beforehand. Seat number allocation, first come, first served. Talk 2: 3 p.m.

Adm: €35 day ticket. Pre-booking advised www.carlowgardentrail.com. The Walled Garden Café is open for tea, coffee and light snacks.

Contact: Robert Miller 087 982 2135

saturday 3rd august

alasdair moore
huntington castle and gardens



the lost gardens of heligan - preserving the past to protect the future

Alasdair Moore is Manager of Estate and Gardens at the Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall. A magical garden hidden for generations beneath a forest of brambles and self-seeded trees, liberated by a hurricane and revitalised by an extraordinary individual, Heligan is quite a story. With its restored Victorian gardens and glasshouses, Jungle garden and historic national collection of 19th century rhododendrons and camellias, the gardens are one of the UK's most celebrated. Alasdair will recount the tale of this remarkable garden and estate, its plants and people.

Venue: Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237 **Time:** 11 a.m.

Adm: €10 Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com See Saturday 27th July for more details.

Contact: 053 937 7160



saturday 3rd august

paul martin
burtown house and gardens



creating beautiful gardens

A lecture about the different stages involved in creating beautiful gardens, with emphasis on details such as soil and structure (hedges / hard landscaping), while also discussing features such as lighting, sculpture, water features and most importantly planting. Paul will present some of the gardens that he has created for private clients with before and after photos illustrating the transformative power of good garden design. Paul will finish his talk with an overview of his gold medal winning show gardens both in the UK and Singapore over the last number of years, with particular emphasis on Paul's RHS Chelsea Flower Show Garden in 2016 and last year's Singapore Garden Festival's gold medal winning design.

Venue: Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14 AE67 (exit 3 off M9 motorway) **Time:** 3 p.m.

Adm: €10 Pre-booking advised but not essential www.carlowgardentrail.com Green Barn Restaurant and house tours available. See Wednesday 31st July for opening times and details. **Contact:** 059 862 3865



saturday 3rd august

sunday 4th august

monday 5th august

Carlow Tourism,
College Street, Carlow
t: +353 (0)59 913 0411
e: info@carlowtourism.com
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For more information on
County Carlow visit the
Carlow Tours app, available
as a free download from the
Google app Store or log onto
www.carlowtourism.com

For special accommodation offers
during the Carlow Garden Festival
visit www.carlowgardentrail.com

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with Carlow Tourism with the support of Carlow
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The Carlow Garden Festival
acknowledges the support of:



monty don
arboretum home & garden heaven



west meets east – and is
entranced!

Monty Don makes a welcome return to the Carlow
Garden Festival. In this talk Monty explores the
history, customs and wonders of the Japanese and
Paradise gardens he has visited and the lessons
he has learned from them in developing his own
garden at Longmeadow. Monty discusses the most
beautiful and famous gardens he has visited on his
recent travels to the East. Features extra large LED
screens for easy visibility.

Venue: Arboretum Home & Garden Heaven,
Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow R93 P9F4

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Adm: €25 p.p. / Groups 10+ 10% discount.

Tickets available from: www.arboretum.ie
or 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,
€17.95, 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.

dermot o' neill
rathwood



talk 1: forest walk

Join Dermot O' Neill for a leisurely walk through
Rath Wood Forest, a sanctuary for many
mammals, birds and insect species, within its 185
acres. There are a great variety of tree species from
beech and oak, to Douglas fir and alder. Learn
about the importance of forests to our daily lives
in this informative talk.

talk 2: my favourite plants

Dermot picks out his top 10 plants for your
garden and also covers all the important aspects
of summer gardening including watering,
grooming, summer pruning, pest control, adding
colour and much more. Bring your questions and
learn how to keep your garden looking beautiful.

Venue: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow
R93 X3F9 **Time:** Talk 1: 11 a.m. Talk 2: 3 p.m.

Adm: FREE Pre-booking advised but not
essential. On-site restaurant with fresh
wholesome food and baking. Maze of Ireland
Contact: 059 915 6285 www.rathwood.com



monica alvarez
delta sensory gardens



boundaries, hedges and
restoration

Monica Alvarez, Dulux Supergarden judge,
discusses garden design, specifically addressing
boundary issues and large existing hedges.
Monica then brings her talk outdoors into
the beautiful gardens at Delta and will do a
demonstration on proper pruning techniques
and carrying out pruning in situ. Monica has
developed many prestigious hands on gardening
courses so her talk here will sure to be a
delight for budding and experienced gardening
enthusiasts.

Venue: Delta Sensory Gardens and Garden
Centre, Strawhall Estate, Carlow, R93 Y959

Time: 12 noon

Adm: Adults €7, concessions €5, children free
if accompanied by an adult.

Pre-booking advised but not essential.

See talk Monday July 29th for details.

