

tv and radio presenters
international garden designers
nature and tree trails
biodiversity workshops
garden visits

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Saturday, July 29th 2023
Adam Frost & James Alexander Sinclair
Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven



carlow garden festival

Saturday, 29th July – Saturday 5th August 2023



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

www.carlowgardentrail.com t: 059 913 0411



saturday 29th july

dr. norman mcmillan
leighlinbridge-the garden village



biodiversity and john tyndall – learnings for today's world

John Tyndall was one of the greatest scientists of the Victorian era. From his birthplace in the garden village of Leighlinbridge, Dr. Norman McMillan, a noted Tyndall expert, explains his worldwide contribution to biodiversity, science and mountaineering. Taking place in the Garden of Remembrance, one of four gardens designed by the local community, this talk touches on the relevance of Tyndall's teachings to today's world. The pressing issues of climate change and biodiversity will be discussed and helpful hints for gardening with biodiversity in mind will be provided.

Venue: The Garden of Remembrance,
Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow

Time: 2 p.m. **Adm:** FREE

Remember to wear suitable walking shoes.



OPENING EVENT

saturday 29th july

adam frost & james alexander sinclair
arboretum home & garden heaven



round two: the design off –
choose between garden designs by adam frost and james alexander sinclair

After a closely contested "battle" which ended in a "draw" in 2022, there have been loud calls for a re-match this year. So, if you missed what was widely acknowledged as the highlight of the Carlow Garden Festival in 2022, you have another chance to learn from two of the UK's most respected gardeners, Adam Frost and James Alexander-Sinclair, who come together to present design concepts for an outdoor space.

Adam and James will present two previous garden designs they have worked upon, providing lots of information, advice and helpful hints to create your own outdoor space. Whatever the size, aspect or style of your garden, you'll be guaranteed lots of ideas and tips that you can replicate in your own outdoor room. Expect to hear about key design principles that guide the creation of an average sized modern garden interspersed with hilarious one liners and friendly banter.

Venue: Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven,
Old Kilkenny Road, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
R93 P9F4

Time: 7.30 p.m. **Adm:** €25 p.p. / Groups 10+
10% discount. Warm clothing recommended
for this evening event.

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 €22.95
5 – 7 p.m. Choice of three main courses
and choice from the dessert counter.



sunday 30th july

randal plunkett
an gairdín beo



fantastic wild, seeing the bigger
picture

With Ireland falling behind on every single one of its climate goals, what is there left to do? Randal Plunkett, the man behind the Dunsany Nature Reserve, Ireland's only large-scale rewilding project focuses on nature's ability to recover, regenerate and even adapt against the odds. The talk discusses the Dunsany project, the evolution of the plants and the changes rewilding has had on the animal population and how the public can make their own micro changes.

An Gairdín Beo is a project which, since its inception, has focused on the small incremental changes that individuals can make to tackle the future sustainability of the planet. A two-acre community garden where people work together and then reap the rewards together, the overall ethos of this garden is based on an ecological orientation, on valuing diversity, sustainability and indigenous species.

Venue: An Gairdín Beo, Old Dublin Road,
Carlow Town R93 E1HF
Time: 11 a.m. **Adm:** €10

sunday 30th july

nick bailey
duckett's grove house & gardens



365 days of colour in your garden
- plants, tips and techniques for year-round colour

In his talk, '365 Days of Colour in Your Garden', BBC Gardeners' World presenter Nick Bailey discusses how to plant and manage your garden, whatever its size, to ensure year-round colour and interest. Initially explaining simple colour theory principles and how to apply them to your garden, the talk goes on to highlight beautiful plants and planting combinations for every season no matter what type of garden you have.

Nick is an award-winning garden designer, plantsman and presenter on BBC Gardeners' World, as well as Great British Garden Revival, Big Dreams Small Spaces and The One Show.

Venue: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town, R93 RF80 **BORD BIA**
Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €19.50

Free guided tour of Duckett's Grove 12.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. The Lazy River Café serves a variety of lunches, speciality teas, coffees and delicious cakes. Pre-booking recommended. www.thelazyriver.com

monday 31st july

alasdair moore
huntington castle and gardens



la mortola: in the footsteps of thomas hanbury

A compelling talk presented by Alasdair Moore, author of *La Mortola: In the Footsteps of Thomas Hanbury*. Moore traces Thomas Hanbury's remarkable life and passion for horticulture, examining how a young man from Clapham, London, formed the finest private plant collection of his generation, with over 5,000 rare and exotic plants from Africa and Asia alongside native Mediterranean flora. Overlooking the sea on the Franco/Italian Riviera, La Mortola remains one of the most famous botanical gardens in the world, a classic gardenesque style estate on a promontory overlooking the Mediterranean.

Venue: Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237

Time: 11 a.m. **Adm:** €19.50 Ticket includes admission to Huntington Castle Gardens. House tours available 2-5 p.m. with last tour at 5 p.m. Cost €12.95 per adult, child < 12 €6.00, concessions €11, infant free, family (2 adults & 2 children) €30. To book a house tour in advance visit www.huntingtoncastle.com or book at the tea room upon arrival. Tea room serves delicious cakes, speciality teas and coffees.

monday 31st july

june blake
delta sensory gardens



making magic in my garden

For those who have either heard of, or seen the amazing colour displays in June Blake's Garden in County Wicklow, this is a great opportunity to find out more about the different plant and colour combinations that make gardens so unique. June explains how to create colour and magic in your own gardening space through a range of flowers including tulips, mostly in shades of red, orange, black and purple. With a keen interest in growing dahlias from seed, June highlights the incredible variety of colours that can be created from red to orange, pink, purple, yellow and everything in between! This talk is followed by a garden tour of Delta by June.

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

Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** Adults €10. The on-site Café Thyme serves delicious light lunches, tea, coffee and snacks. An audio-tour can be downloaded to your mobile phone and can be enjoyed after the talk, explaining the origins of the Delta Sensory Gardens.

tuesday 1st august

mark desmond
altamont gardens



rich biodiversity of altamont gardens

Altamont Estate and Gardens covers 16 hectares, and includes a garden centre, formal and informal gardens, grasslands, and treeline and woodland habitats leading to the banks of the River Slaney. Ecologist Mark Desmond presents its interesting biodiversity which includes the Slaney River which flows along the eastern boundary of the estate and is protected under the Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC). During this talk Mark introduces each of the habitats, including oak woodlands, wet and dry grasslands, hedgerows, treelines and ponds, each with a distinct flora. Several bat species have been recorded on the estate, with potential for bat roosts in buildings and trees. A wide variety of invertebrates including bees, butterflies and damselflies will be discussed as part of the talk.

Venue: Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882 **Time:** 12 noon **Adm:** €10. Car park fee of €2 applies - payable on arrival.



tuesday 1st august

seamus o'brien
hardymount gardens



summer visit to the deserts of ladakh

Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener of the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh, recounts the adventures of a trip he led in July 2022 to the mountains of Ladakh, where he and his group studied a high altitude desert flora. Ladakh has some of the greatest glaciers in all Asia and these glaciers water the deserts on the mountain slopes and valleys below, giving rise to a rich flora. Hear how climate change is threatening this rare eco-system.

Admission also includes a visit to Hardymount Gardens, a superb walled garden of 2.5 acres featuring many unusual plants and flowers in the herbaceous border

Venue: Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 XN24

Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €15 includes entrance to Hardymount Gardens and a delicious afternoon tea served on the lawns of Hardymount after the talk.



wednesday 2nd august

colm o'driscoll
burtown house



soil to seed - a regenerative organic approach to vegetable growing

In this talk, Colm delves into the area of regenerative organic vegetable production and shares the most environmentally sustainable approach to growing vegetables. Learn how to reduce your inputs, cut your labour and reap the rewards while enhancing the environment. Unsurprisingly soil health is at the forefront of the talk with a particular focus on improving healthy soil which translates to healthy vegetables. Colm also gives an insight into his vegetable seed production experience and discusses the benefits of locally grown Irish seed. Drawing on over 10 years of vegetable growing experience in Airfield Estate & Lismore Castle, Colm shares a variety of recommendations for some of the tastiest vegetables he has grown.

Venue: Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14 KF63 (exit 3 off M9 motorway)

Time: 11 a.m. **Adm:** €10

House Tours €10 The Green Barn Restaurant and Shop is open Wednesday to Sunday for lunch, evening dinner available Friday and Saturday - booking is essential.

wednesday 2nd august

kitty scully, mary & robert
white shankill castle



prime plants, foraging workshop and garden supper club

Shankill Castle hosts a trio of events

3 p.m. Prime Plants for the Irish Kitchen Garden €10

This talk delivered by the well-known organic gardener and local food advocate Kitty Scully, focuses on ten essential kitchen garden plants that thrive in the Irish climate.

5 p.m. Foraging Workshop €20

Mary and Robert White of Blackstairs Ecotrails lead an in-depth foraging walk through the grounds and organic farm of Shankill Castle.

7.30 p.m. Garden Supper Club €55

Seamus Jordan of Plúir Bakery cooks up a three-course feast supper, celebrating foraged, seasonal and local ingredients, ending the day with a relaxed evening of great food and garden chat.

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

Time: Talk 1: 3 p.m. Talk 2: 5 p.m. Supper: 7.30 p.m. **Adm:** All three events €75 Foraging workshop and supper €70



Kilkenny

thursday 3rd august

robin lane fox
borris house



beauty and biodiversity

Should gardening change and somehow; 'return to nature'? At London's big Chelsea Show there has been a new emphasis on sustainable gardening and the use of eco-friendly native 'plants' and yet the award for the Best in Show went to a large exhibit which is unsustainable in British gardens and is the very opposite of no-mow gardening. Robin Lane Fox explores the contradictions here and the way in which people, an invasive species, react to them, whether visitors to his garden or professors and students in the big Oxford college gardens he runs. His mission statement is beauty, biodiversity and a global haven, aims which are best served by the craft of gardening, not by double-think and hypocrisy about [re]wilding garden spaces and declaring war on every chemical and every hybrid plant.

Venue: Borris House, Gardens and Woodland, Borris, Co. Carlow R95 Y2T1

Time: 12 noon. **Adm:** €12 incl. admission to the Lace Garden. For details of house tours visit www.borrishouse.com Craft gallery and lace garden on-site.

thursday 3rd august

shirley lanigan
kilgraney house & herb gardens



▶ parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme
– the allure of herbs

More than any other category of gardening, growing herbs has an intricate, long, colourful, and fascinating history. Using this beautiful herb garden to illustrate her talk, Shirley speaks about herbs, their history, lore and uses. Consisting of a series of interconnecting herbal gardens, Kilgraney features a large kitchen garden, a tea walk, a medicinal herb courtyard, a medieval monastic herb garden and a garden of aromatic and fragrant herbs. Herbs are big here and Kilgraney is the perfect place to learn more about their use.

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

Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €10



friday 4th august

matthew wilson & alys fowler
altamont plant sales



▶ 11.30 a.m. dynamic planting: combining plants, materials and place

This talk examines how plants can be used to maximum effect whatever the shape or size of the garden. Using examples of gardens designed by Matthew over the last 20 years, this talk considers the use of plants in relation to materials, place and vernacular, the architecture of plants and the importance of the garden in the wider environment.

▶ 3 p.m. how to start again

After 17 years in Birmingham, Alys Fowler moves to Wales. But then the pandemic happened and changed the market, so rather than buying some cute cottage with a couple of acres, she gets another tiny terrace garden on the side of a very, very steep hill! This is the story of making the most of what you've got, of what to take with you and what to start again. Alys will show you how to redesign a garden sustainably.

Venue: Altamont Plant Sales, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882

Time: Talk 1: 11.30 a.m. Talk 2: 3 p.m.

Adm: €35 full day ticket. The Walled Garden Café is open for tea, coffee and light snacks.

saturday 5th august

marie staunton
delta sensory gardens



▶ garden tour

Marie Staunton was one of Ireland's top fashion models in the 1980s. Gardening was always a huge interest of Marie's and she spent a lot of her free time in the garden. So much so that she decided to go back and study horticulture at the National Botanic Gardens. Marie leads a garden tour around Delta Sensory Gardens showing how gardeners can mix texture and colour to create wonderful and exciting combinations. Regularly voted as the top visitor attraction in Carlow on Trip Advisor, this journey takes the visitor through the series of multi-sensory gardens including the formal Rose Garden, the Five Senses Garden, the Circle of Life and the Stolen Child Garden, which have been created by Ireland's leading garden designers to indulge every one of the senses.

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

Time: 11 a.m. **Adm:** Adults €10. The on-site Café Thyme serves delicious light lunches, tea, coffee and snacks. An audio-tour can be downloaded to your mobile phone and can be enjoyed after the talk, explaining the garden's origins.

saturday 5th august

fergus garrett
huntington castle



▶ great dixter – past, present and future

Fergus, chosen by *Gardens Illustrated* as one of the 30 most influential living garden designers and horticultural educators in Britain, talks about the history of Great Dixter, the 15th century manor house and its restoration by the famous arts and crafts architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. In a wide ranging talk, he explores the influence of Nathaniel Lloyd on its infrastructure and design. His wife Daisy Lloyd, on the garden, which she softened with her semi-naturalistic style and their son, Christopher, who became one of the world's greatest gardeners and garden writers.

The design of the borders, the planting style, meadow gardening and the importance of a biodiverse garden will be discussed, including the experimental and creative aspects of each. Fergus also discusses the way forward for a sensitive historic garden and estate such as Great Dixter.

Venue: Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237

Time: 3 p.m. **Adm:** €19.50 Tea room serves delicious cakes, speciality teas and coffees.

...festival at a glance...

admission

29th July	Dr. Norman McMillan Leighlinbridge – The Garden Village, Co. Carlow 2 p.m.	FREE
29th July	Adam Frost & James Alexander Sinclair Arboretum Home & Garden Heaven, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow 7.30 p.m. 2 course buffet with tea/coffee 5-7 p.m. €22.95	€25
30th July	Randal Plunkett, The Dunsany Project An Gairdin Beo, Old Dublin Road, Carlow Town R93 E1HF 11 a.m.	€10
30th July	Nick Bailey Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town R93 RF80 3 p.m.	€19.50
31st July	Alasdair Moore Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237 11 a.m.	€19.50
31st July	June Blake Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall Estate, Carlow R93 Y959 3 p.m.	€10
1st August	Mark Desmond Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882 12 noon	€10
1st August	Seamus O'Brien Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 XN24 3 p.m.	€15
2nd August	Colm O'Driscoll Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co. Kildare R14 KF63 11 a.m.	€10
2nd August	Kitty Scully, Mary & Robert White & Plúr Bakery Shankill Castle, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny 3 p.m., 5 p.m. Supper 7.30 p.m.	Talk 1 €10 & 2 €20 Supper €55 All 3 events €75
3rd August	Robin Lane Fox Borris House & Demesne, Borris, Co. Carlow R95 Y2T1 12 noon	€12
3rd August	Shirley Lanigan Kilgraney House & Herb Gardens, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow R21 W527 3 p.m.	€10
4th August	Matthew Wilson & Alys Fowler Altamont Plant Sales, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882 11.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	€35 Day Ticket
5th August	Marie Staunton Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall Estate, Carlow R93 Y959 11 a.m.	€10
5th August	Fergus Garrett Huntington Castle & Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237 3 p.m.	€19.50

Memory Palace of Tree Stories comes to the Carlow Garden Festival 2023

The Memory Palace of Tree Stories is a special project which invites participants of the Carlow Garden Festival to tell a story or give some kind of information about a specific tree or trees that resonates with them, in the form of a one-minute video by an on-site videographer. This project is a social enquiry of how to live better with the planet and with people and other living beings.

Stories might relate to an historical, botanical or a personal tree story and ideally would include a comment on how to live better with the natural world and the greater community of life. The Carlow Garden Festival is delighted to partner with Carlow and Chinese based artist Niamh Cunningham and the Creative Ireland Carlow programme. Share your special stories which will feature on the website memorypalaceoftreestories.com Meet with the on-site videographer at the following locations: An Gairdin Beo, Duckett's Grove, Huntington Castle, Altamont Gardens and Plant Sales, Hardymount Gardens, Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, Borris House and the Herb Gardens at Kilgraney House.

This project is funded and supported by Carlow County Council Arts Office & the Creative Ireland Carlow Programme

