

carlow garden festival 2025

Saturday 26th July – Sunday, 3rd August

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

PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL W: CARLOWGARDENTRAIL.COM T: 059 913 0411

Saturday 26th July	The Bountiful River Barrow – A Foraging Adventure with Mary White The Garden of Remembrance, Quayside, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow 2 p.m.	FREE
Saturday 26th July	From The Rugby Grounds of the Aviva to Garden Beds: Peter O’Mahony and Adam Frost in Conversation Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow, R93 P9F4. 7.30 p.m.	€25 <small>2 Course evening meal €24.95</small>
Sunday 27th July	Gardening Naturally with June Blake An Gairdín Beo, Dublin Road, Carlow R93 E1HF. 11 a.m.	€12.50
Sunday 27th July	A Tale of Two Gardens: Hyde Hall, Essex & Harlow Carr, Harrogate with Matthew Wilson Duckett’s Grove, Kneestown, Co. Carlow, R93 RF80 3 p.m.	€20
Monday 28th July	The Tree Hunters - How the Cult of the Arboretum Transformed our Landscape with Thomas Pakenham Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow, Y21 K237. 11 a.m.	€12.50
Monday 28th July	Creating a Sustainable Perennial Cut-Flower Garden with Fionnuala Fallon Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall, Carlow, R93 Y959. 3 p.m.	€12.50
Tuesday 29th July	The History of the Phoenix Park 1880–1980: A Talk by Dr John McCullen Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 N882. 11 a.m.	€10
Tuesday 29th July	Roots and Rhythms: The Heritage and Revival of Danesmoate Gardens with Daragh Stone Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 XN24. 3 p.m. Followed by afternoon tea	€20
Wednesday 30th July	A Mid-Summer Expedition to Yunnan, China with Seamus O'Brien Burtown House & Gardens, Burtown Little, Athy, Co. Kildare, R14 AE67. 11 a.m.	€12.50
Wednesday 30th July	Sustainable Kitchen Gardening with Tanguy de Toulgoet Shankill Castle, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny, R95 W280, 3 p.m.	€12.50
Thursday 31st July	My Journey to 19 RHS Chelsea Medals with Sarah Eberle Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow, R95 Y2T1. 11 a.m.	€20
Thursday 31st July	Food Empathy – Growing Your Own Food for a Healthy, Sustainable Future with Michael Kelly Kilgraney House, Borris Road, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, R21 W527. 3 p.m. & 5 p.m.	€10
Friday 1st August	From Back Gardens to Gold Medals: A Look at My Start in Horticulture with Rosy Hardy Altamont Plant Sales, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 N882. 11.30 a.m.	€20 <small>€35 for both talks</small>
Friday 1st August	Design Your Garden in Ten Easy Steps with Nick Bailey Altamont Plant Sales, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 N882. 3 p.m.	€20 <small>€35 for both talks</small>
Saturday 2nd August	Designing and Planting a Fragrant Garden with Mary Keenan Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall Estate, Carlow, R93 Y959. 11 a.m.	€12.50
Saturday 2nd August	Artful Gardening: Styles, Tricks and Short Cuts with Robin Lane Fox Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237 3 p.m.	€20
Sunday 3rd August	Rosie Maye at The Barrow Experience Gardens - Walk and Talk BEAM Barrow Experience Gardens, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow R21 AH73 11 a.m.	€10
Sunday 3rd August	Why Forests Matter: A Guided Walk with Éanna Ní Lamhna at Rath Wood Forest Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 X3F9 3 p.m.	€10

carlow garden festival 2025

Saturday 26th July – Sunday, 3rd August



From The Rugby Grounds of the Aviva to Garden Beds: Peter O'Mahony and Adam Frost in Conversation

One of the must-see events of the 2025 Carlow Garden Festival, this lively conversation brings together BBC Gardeners' World favourite Adam Frost and Ireland rugby star Peter O'Mahony, revealing another passion of this great Munster and Ireland legend— gardening. For Peter, his garden love of gardening is a retreat from the intensity of professional rugby, a place to switch off, relax and reconnect with nature. Adam also gives his perspective on why gardening is as good for the soul as it is for the garden. The evening then takes a fun twist when Adam offers his expert insights into Peter's garden, proposing bold changes to his box hedges and beautiful lawns—some of which might be a step too far for the rugby legend! With Peter's admiration for Adam's work well known, expect lively debate, good-humoured resistance and plenty of gardening wisdom along the way.

Date: Saturday 26th July

Time: 7.30 p.m.

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

Price: €25
(2 course evening meal 5 - 7 p.m. €24.95)



A Tale of Two Gardens: Hyde Hall, Essex & Harlow Carr, Harrogate with Matthew Wilson

Matthew Wilson reflects on his time managing two of the UK's most iconic RHS gardens — Hyde Hall in Essex and Harlow Carr in Harrogate — offering a behind-the-scenes look at the contrasting challenges, opportunities and transformations of these beloved public spaces. Gardeners attending this talk will come away with a wealth of practical insights, from plant selection and design ideas to adapting planting schemes to different conditions and making the most of your garden's microclimate. Matthew will share the design principles, planting strategies and maintenance techniques that worked — and those that didn't — in these two very different environments, providing valuable takeaways for gardens of all sizes.

Date: Sunday 27th July

Time: 3 p.m.

Venue: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, Co. Carlow, R93 RF80

Price: €20



Talk 1: From The Back Garden to Gold Medals with Rosy Hardy

Join one of the UK's most celebrated plantswomen, RHS Vice-President Rosy Hardy, for an entertaining talk tracing her remarkable horticultural journey. Rosy shares how a modest beginning—selling plants from her back garden—blossomed into the creation of Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, now one of Britain's leading specialist nurseries.

Talk 2: Design Your Garden in Ten Easy Steps with Nick Bailey

Join celebrated UK gardener and TV personality Nick Bailey for an inspiring and practical talk on how to design or reimagine your garden with ease. In Design Your Garden in 10 Easy Steps, Nick breaks down the garden design process into simple, achievable stages, perfect for both beginners and seasoned gardeners.

Date: Friday 1st August 2025

Talk 1 Time: 11.30 a.m.

Talk 2 Time: 3 p.m.

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

Price: €20 or €35 for both talks



Take the bus to your Carlow Garden Festival event, and do your bit for the environment!

New for 2025, Carlow Garden Festival will be offering a dedicated bus service from five locations in Carlow Town (Seven Oaks Hotel, Talbot Hotel, Woodford Dolmen Hotel and Carlow Bus and Railway Station) to each venue return for attendees.

Taking the bus you'll be able to sit back, enjoy the scenery and chat to your fellow gardening enthusiasts on the way.

The Climate Action team of Carlow County Council, in conjunction with Carlow Tourism and the Local Link bus service are supporting this bus service for carbon reduction in County Carlow.

We advise passengers to allow sufficient time for connections and onward travel plans. Visitors are welcome to ring Carlow Tourist Office T: 059-9130411 E: info@carlowtourism.com to secure details of alternative rail and bus connections. €10 return