

Carlow Garden Festival 2026

Saturday 25th July - Sunday 2nd 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 25th July	Plants, Place and Wellbeing along the River Barrow with Fiann Ó Nualláin The Garden of Remembrance, Quayside, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow - 2pm	€10
Saturday 25th July	Keeping It Country - The James and Joe Garden Show at Arboretum Arboretum Home and Garden Heaven, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow, R93 P9F4 - 7.30pm	€30 2 Course buffet meal €24.95
Sunday 26th July	Lessons from Nature with Colm O'Driscoll An Gairdín Beo, Dublin Road, Carlow R93 E1HF - 11am	€15
Sunday 26th July	Painting with Plants with Chris Beardshaw Duckett's Grove Walled Gardens & Pleasure Grounds, Kneestown, Co Carlow R93 RF80 - 3pm	€25
Monday 27th July	Gravetye Manor: Bringing William Robinson's Wild Garden into the Modern Age w/ Tom Coward Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow, Y21 K237 - 11am	€22
Monday 27th July	Creative Plant Combinations Through the Seasons in Hunting Brook Gardens with Jimi Blake Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall, Carlow, R93 Y959. 3pm	€15
Tuesday 28th July	Gardens Along The Gulf Stream with John Anderson Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co Carlow, R93 N882 - 11am	€15
Tuesday 28th July	It's Never Too Late with Oliver Schurmann Hardymount Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow, R93 XN24 - 3pm	€22
Wednesday 29th July	Plants - Why They Should Always be the Star of the Show with Arit Anderson Borris House and Gardens, Borris, Co Carlow, R95 Y2T1 - 11am	€25
Wednesday 29th July	Nature's Pharmacy, Healing Herbs with Helen Begadon Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens, Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow, R21 W527 - 3pm & 5:30pm	€15
Thursday 30th July	Reinventing the Shrubbery - Some Thoughts with Daphne Shackleton Burtown House and Gardens, Athy, Co Kildare, R14 KF63 - 11am	€15
Thursday 30th July	Wild by Design: Planting Inspired by Nature with Noel Kingsbury Shankill Castle and Gardens, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny, R95 T8X7 - 3pm	€22
Thursday 30th July	A Tale of a Country Garden Reimagined with Arthur Shackleton Sandbrook House and Gardens, Castlegrace, Ballon, Co. Carlow, R93 YK09 - 6pm	€20
Friday 31st July	West Dean Gardens: A Virtual Tour of Managing a Large Garden with Tom Brown Altamont Plants, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882 - 11:30am	€22 €35 for both talks
Friday 31st July	The Vanishing Garden - A Plantsman's Pick of Good Garden Plants w/ Jack Aldridge Altamont Plants, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882 - 3pm	€22 €35 for both talks
Friday 31st July	Biodiversity Walk and Talk with Éanna Ní Lamnha Ballon Tree Trail, Ballon, Co. Carlow - 6pm	€10
Saturday 1st August	Plantaholic's Paradise with Helen Picton Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall Estate, Carlow, R93 Y959 - 11am	€15
Saturday 1st August	Designing with Plants with Bunny Guinness Huntington Castle and Gardens, Clonegal, Co. Carlow Y21 K237 - 3pm	€22
Sunday 2nd August	Walk and Talk with Mary Keenan BEAM Barrow Experience Gardens, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow R21 AH73 - 11am	€10
Sunday 2nd August	Family Fun Day Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 X3F9 - 3pm	

Carlow Garden Festival 2026

Saturday 25th July - Sunday 2nd August



Keeping It Country – The James and Joe Garden Show at Arboretum

Join two of the most engaging voices in UK horticulture, Joe Swift and James Alexander-Sinclair, for a lively and insightful conversation on garden design and creativity. To start the evening, Joe Swift provides a fascinating insight into his latest project, Joe's Country Garden, a deeply personal garden he is developing from scratch following his move from urban London to rural Dorset. In the second part of the evening, James will introduce his own garden – a space that is further along in its development – offering a contrasting perspective and allowing both speakers to reflect on how gardens evolve over time. Expect honest reflections, practical insights and plenty of laughs as they compare approaches, share lessons learned and highlight what has worked (and what hasn't).

Date: Saturday 25th July

Time: 7.30 p.m.

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

Price: €30
(2 course evening meal 5 - 7 p.m. €24.95)



Painting with Plants by Chris Beardshaw

In this inspiring and richly illustrated talk, award-winning garden designer Chris Beardshaw explores the evolution of the English garden style, with a particular focus on the iconic herbaceous border. Tracing its development from early formal planting schemes to the more naturalistic and expressive designs of today, Chris highlights the influential figures who shaped this essentially British approach to gardening. He reveals the principles behind plant selection, colour harmony, structure and seasonal interest, offering practical insights into how great borders are composed. Blending history, design theory and personal experience, Chris demystifies the artistry behind planting design and encourages gardeners of all levels to think creatively and create their own beautiful, painterly borders at home.

Date: Sunday 26th July

Time: 3 p.m.

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

Price: €25



Gardens Along the Gulf Stream with John Anderson

Step into the inspiring surroundings of Altamont Gardens for a captivating talk by John Anderson, gardener to the King of England, as he shares stories and insights from some of the most remarkable gardens shaped by the influence of the Gulf Stream. John will take audiences on a journey through the extraordinary gardens he has managed, from the intimate charm of Mount Usher in County Wicklow to the dramatic, sub-tropical oasis of Inverewe in northwest Scotland. He will also delve into the woodland splendour of Exbury, home to the Rothschild rhododendron collection and share experiences from the renowned Savill and Valley Gardens in Berkshire.

Date: Tuesday 28th July

Time: 11 a.m.

Venue: Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co Carlow, R93 N882

Price: €15



Talk 1: West Dean Gardens: A Virtual Tour of Managing a Large Garden with Tom Brown

Tom will guide audiences through the many distinct areas of the gardens, sharing the history, design principles and horticultural practices that make West Dean such a unique and thriving location. From managing extensive herbaceous borders and formal gardens to maintaining glasshouses, orchards and woodland areas, Tom offers valuable insights in this engaging talk

Date: Friday 31st July

Talk 1 Time: 11.30 a.m.

Talk 2 Time: 3 p.m.



The Vanishing Garden – A Plantsman's Pick of Good Garden Plants with Jack Aldridge

In this engaging and thought-provoking talk, renowned plantsman Jack Aldridge shines a spotlight on some overlooked garden treasures and explains why they deserve a place in today's gardens. Drawing on his horticultural experience, including his work at the world-famous RHS Garden Wisley, Jack will share his personal selection of reliable, beautiful and hard-working plants that have stood the test of time.

Venue: Altamont Plants, Tullow, Co. Carlow R93 N882

Price: €22 or €35 for both talks