BOYNE VALLEY

Garden Trail

2022/23

Gardens waiting to be explored!

www.boynevalleygardentrail.com

The Octagon Garden, Battle of the Boyne, Drogheda

Elmgrove Farm, Gormanston

Killineer House & Gardens, Drogheda

Collon House, Collon

Barmeath Castle & Garden, Dunleer

General Information

The Boyne Valley Garden Trail in the historic counties of Meath and Louth promotes Historic Gardens, Garden Centres and Open by Appointment Gardens/Accommodation Providers for groups and individual visitors.

The rich heritage of the Boyne Valley is reflected in gardens that date as far back as the C17th. Each garden member hosts events in their gardens, including walks, charity fetes, plant sales, outdoor theatre, music and much more.

Check our website for more details.

Enquire at a garden on the trail or online:
W: boynevalleygardentrail.com
E: boynevalleygardentrail@gmail.com
Facebook: Boyne Valley Garden Trail

Location
The Boyne Valley can be reached by M1 motorway from Dublin and Belfast and from Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ports in one hour, and from Dublin Airport in half an hour.

Garden Centres

K Boyne Garden Centre & Nursery, Ardcalf, Slane, Co. Meath, C15 P92W Tel: +353 (0) 41 982 4350
E: aileen@boynegardencentre.ie W: boynegardencentre.ie
FB: Boyne Garden Centre Slane.
Multi-Award-Winning Nursery, winning several 'Best in Show' & eight successive Gold Medals at Bloom. Renowned for their unique selection of top quality plants, grown in their own nursery, with special emphasis on plants that encourage pollinators and biodiversity. See website for catalogue. Members of ISNA [Irish Specialist Nursery Association].
Summer: Open: 1st Mar – 30th Sept, Thursday-Saturday 9.30-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Open Easter, May, June, and August Bank Holiday Mondays.
Winter: 1st Oct – end Feb: Weekends only, Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm

L Elmgrove Farm, Drogheda Road, Gormanston, Co. Meath, K32 C925 Tel: 353 (0)41 988 4389 W: elmgrovefarm.ie
E: info@elmgrovefarm.ie
Elmgrove Farm is Ireland's largest flower farm with close to 100 acres of cut flowers including 20 varieties of Spring daffodils. The farm also grows over 100,000 peony roses (June), sunflowers, gladioli and lily (July-Sept), along with a range of other cut flowers and foliage. Owned by the McCullough family, Darragh is well-known for his broadcasting and writing about farming and rural issues on RTE and the Irish Independent. Flowers are sold through the farm shop, farmers markets, and online from www.elmgrovefarm.ie.
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 -16:00. Guided tours of by appointment only. €15pp, with min 4, and max 30 people. No dogs allowed.

M Ratoath Garden Centre, Raystown, Ashbourne, Co. Meath, A84 C938 Tel: +353 (0) 1 825 6678
E: ratoathgardencentre@hotmail.com W: ratoathgardencentre.ie
Owned by John and Bernie Lord who have created one of the largest show gardens in Ireland. Garden walks and talks on request. Look out for John Lord's gardening advice on You Tube and book a group visit to learn more. Visit the Wildflower Café for tasty treats and enjoy the eclectic gift shop.
Open: Summer, Mon-Sun, 10am-6pm. Winter, Mon-Sun, 10am-5pm. Coffee shop/gift shop. Bus parking. Child friendly, Wheelchair access.

N Riverlane Nurseries, Roristown Lodge, Trim, Co. Meath, C15 E02X Tel: +353 (0)87 636 3506 E: info@riverlane.ie
W: www.riverlane.ie Owned by John and Eileen Eivers - winners of Gold, Gilt and Silver medals at Bloom, Riverlane nursery specialises in herbaceous perennials and cottage garden plants. Please see website for opening days and times. Child friendly. Bus parking. Dogs on leads.

By Appointment Only Gardens

A Beaulieu House and Garden, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 PD3R
Tel: +353 (0) 41 983 8557 E: beaulieu.house.garden@gmail.com
W: beaulieuhouse.ie Beaulieu's C18th walled garden contains an abundance of herbaceous plants, shrubs and fruit trees. A knot garden, summer house and beautiful view of the River Boyne complete the picture. Pollinators and biodiversity are encouraged with a 'no dig' and organic philosophy. Guided tours of house and garden by appintment (Min. 10). Open in Heritage Week. Please see website for more info.

B Bee Wise Nature Trail, Crerogue, Kilmessan, Co Meath, C15 X62D
Tel: +353 (0)86 344 6791 E: paddy@beewise.ie W: beewise.ie
A five acre nature trail comprising of a variety of young woodland, flowering / fruiting hedgerows and wildflower areas planted to encourage a diversity of wildlife. A 1.5km path meandering through the woods has information points and benches to sit on to listen to the birds sing and watch the butterflies & bees all around you. On site is a large, working Observation Hive to view the fascinating life of the Honey Bee. There is a sensory area for children to enjoy as well as a maze and outdoor play area.

C College Hill House, Braystown, Slane, Co. Meath, C15 PW84
Tel: +353 (0)87 140 0220 / (0)87 150 9230 E: eileen@collegehillhouse.ie
W: collegehillhouse.ie
College Hill House offers luxurious guest accommodation and is set in 4 acres of superb landscaped gardens. Eileen offers garden design services and gardening skills classes. There are wonderful mature trees, an extensive organic vegetable garden, shrub and herbaceous flower borders, a crocus lawn, a walled garden and a wonderful feature Georgian stone parterre. This late Georgian house was built as the parochial house for Rathkenny and has been lovingly restored. Open all year round.

D Collon House, Collon, Co. Louth, A92 YT29
Tel: +353 (0)87 235 5645 E: collonhousereception@gmail.com
W: collonhouse.com Built in 1740 with 1790 extensions, period planting surrounds the house and features a restored, sunken box parterre. Delightful box-edged flower borders are home to perennials including phlox, delphiniums, asters and heleniums. The inner courtyard's central fountain is surrounded by a display of hostas. A member of Hidden Ireland, Collon House won the An Taisce grand first prize for conservation and restoration in 2014. Historic tours of the house and garden, min. group - 6 people, €20pp including tea, coffee, cake. Lunch/dinner by arrangement. Dogs on leads.

E Herberts' Garden, Churchtown, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 XF84.
Tel: +353 (0)85 782 9966 E: jfjmcconnell@gmail.com W: herberts.ie
Designer James McConnell's garden features a formal beech garden, a box wood parterre and rose garden, a folly and a summer house with fountains. Enjoy the lime walk, hornbeam arbour and vistas of parkland, beautifully laid out around an early C19th farm house. A new walled garden is now open. Occasional art displays. Conveniently accessible from M3 and close to Navan, Trim, Kells and Athboy. Open: June 1- Aug 31. By appointment only. Pre-booked groups of up to 20 people. Lunch by prior arrangement. No dogs. Unsuitable for children.
Entry: €6 per person.

F Julianstown Village Garden, Co. Meath.
Tel: +353 (0)86 347 7283 E: julianstowndca@gmail.com
W: julianstowncommunity.com The residents of Julianstown have expertly transformed a derelict 3 acre site into a beautiful Award-winning garden. The extensive landscaping has created many interesting features including an orchard, native woodland, pollinating flower beds, soft fruit bushes, herbs and a wildlife pond with seating scattered throughout. The village's volunteers have achieved An Taisce's Green Flag status for the third year running, 2021, as well as a 'Pollinator Award' for biodiversity, from Biodiversity Ireland. Open year round. Details on website.

G Rosemount, Julianstown, Co. Meath, A92 WP70
Tel: +353(0)87 612 5291 E: dorothy@alioth.eu W: kendumusic.com
Rosemount is a ten-acre-parkland sloping down towards the banks of the temperamental River Nanny. It is planted with a mixture of native trees and shrubs, interspersed with parkland specimen trees. On a wet day, a large awning provides shelter and a separate guest house can be used for refreshments and lectures. Snacks and drinks by arrangement. Min group 6 (€15pp includes refreshments).

H Tankardstown House, Rathkenny, Slane, Co. Meath, C15 D535
Tel: +353 (0)41 9824621 E: info@tankardstown.ie W: tankardstown.ie
Comprising 80 acres of woodland, parkland, courtyards and walled gardens. The kitchen garden supplies the award-winning Brabazon Restaurant with vegetables and salads. The lime tree avenue offers a wonderful lead up to the focal point of the Estate - a late 18th Century Manor House. Please see website for more information.

I The Cottages Ireland, Bettystown, Co. Meath, A92 C8VF
Tel : +353 (0)41 982 8104 E: info@cottages-ireland.com
W: cottages-ireland.com The Cottages are a dreamy hamlet of 300 year old thatched cottages, set in large organic flower gardens by the seaside. Open: By appointment - min.10 people. Autumn and Spring only.

J The Station House Hotel, Kilmessan, Co. Meath, C15 N40D
Tel: +353 (0)46 902 5239 E: info@stationhousehotel.ie
W: stationhousehotel.ie The Station House Hotel is the Boyne Valley's top country house hotel with exquisitely tended gardens creating an oasis of peace and relaxation. Country-style afternoon teas can be booked year round.

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The Cottages Ireland
Bettystown

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- **B Bee Wise Nature Trail,** Crerogue, Kilmessan , Co. Meath
- **C College Hill House,** Braystown, Slane, Co. Meath
- **D Collon House**, Collon, Co. Louth
- **E Herberts' Garden,** Churchtown, Navan, Co. Meath
- **F Julianstown Village Garden**, Co. Meath
- **G Rosemount,** Julianstown, Co. Meath
- **H Tankardstown House,** Rathkenny, Slane, Co. Meath
- **I The Cottages Ireland,** Bettystown, Co. Meath
- **J The Station House Hotel,** Kilmessan, Co. Meath

Garden Centres

- **K Boyne Garden Centre & Nursery,** Ardcalf, Slane, Co. Meath
- **L Elmgrove Farm,** Drogheda Road, Gormanston, Co. Meath
- **M Ratoath Garden Centre,** Raystown, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
- **N Riverlane Nurseries,** Roristown Lodge, Trim Co. Meath

Historic Gardens 2022-2023

1 Augustinian Garden of Remembrance
Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 P522

Tel: +353 (0)41 983 8409 E: drogheda.augustinian@hotmail.com
Adjoining the Augustinian Church, and drawing on its monastic heritage, the garden holds the names of loved ones to be remembered in a peaceful setting formed by pleached lime trees and standing stones surrounding a water memorial. Holly, juniper, soft fruit trees, flowering herbaceous varieties and aromatic herbs fill the garden. Open: Apr–Oct 9am-5pm, Nov–Mar 9am-3pm. Fee Free. Groups by appointment.

2 Balrath House and Garden
Navan, Co. Meath, C15 W26N (Situated on the L1160)

Tel: +353 (0)41 9825749 / +353 (0)87 954 7883
E: frances.balrathhouse@gmail.com W: balrathcourtyard.com
Superb Georgian House dating to 1750 surrounded by 1.5 acres of lovely landscaped gardens in the centre of the Boyne Valley.
Open: May 5th - May 28th, June 22nd- July 5th and Heritage Week 9am - 1pm. Please contact the owners for appointments and groups.
Fee: Adults €10, OAPS/Students €8

3 Barmeath Castle
Dunleer, Co. Louth, A92 P973

Tel: +353 (0)41 685 1205 W: boynevalleygardentrail.com
Unique, C18th landscape designed by Thomas Wright includes fine specimen azaleas and rhododendrons. A recently restored walled garden is a joy to visit with opulent herbaceous borders and kitchen garden plots. Open May 1-31, June 1-9, 9am-1pm and Heritage Week. Groups by appointment. Fee: €5 Adults. Free for children. No Dogs.

4 Battle of the Boyne, Oldbridge House & Gardens
Drogheda, Co. Meath, A92 CY68

Tel: +353 (0)41 980 9950 E: battleoftheboyne@opw.ie
W:battleoftheboyne.ie
Fine, restored walled garden with sunken Octagon Garden, peach house, apple orchard and paths lined with vibrant herbaceous borders leading to a historic garden exhibition located in the Bothy. Tea Pavilion overlooking the gardens. Free battle site walks and nearby Boyne Greenway canal and river walks. Events programme year round.
Open: All year except Christmas and New Year. Fee: Gardens are free of charge. Admission charges apply to Visitor Centre.

5 Francis Ledwidge Museum
Janeville, Slane, Co. Meath, C15 DK82

Tel: +353 (0)41 982 4544 E: info@francisledwidge.com
W: francisledwidge.com
World War I poet and soldier, Francis Ledwidge, was born and raised in this lovingly restored C19th labourer's cottage, containing memorabilia of the poet's life and work. The pretty cottage garden reminds us of the poet's love for nature deep in the countryside around Slane.
Open: Mar-Oct, Mon-Sun, 10am-5pm. Oct-Mar, Mon-Sun, 10am-3.30pm. Fee: Adults €4, Seniors & Students €3, Family €8.50. Please see website for more details.

6 Killineer House and Gardens
Drogheda, Co. Louth, A92 P8K7

Tel: +353 (0)86 232 3783 E: charles.p.carroll@gmail.com
W: killineerhouse.ie
Early C19th spectacular woodland garden with beautiful spring flowering shrubs and trees. Formal paths and terraces lead to a picturesque lake and summerhouse.
Guided tours of the house available on dates below. Groups by appointment. Open: Feb 1-20, May 1-15, June 1-10, Aug 10-24. Fee: €10 garden. No dogs.

7 Kilgar House Gardens,
Gallow, Kilcock, Co. Meath, W23 E7FK

Tel: +353 (0) 87 134 4950 E: kilgargardens@gmail.com
W: kilgargardens.com Kilgar Gardens covers an area of 3 acres comprising of beautifully planted formal & informal garden rooms, graduating to a more naturalistic style of planting towards the outer reaches. Tea rooms are now open serving sweet treats. Groups by appointment. Open to the public May-Sept, Sat & Sun, 11-5pm. Fee: €6, Coach parking. Partial wheelchair access. See website for details and group bookings by appointment.

8 Loughcrew House and Gardens
Oldcastle, Co. Meath, A82 X4Y1

Tel: +353 (0)49 854 1356
E: admin@loughcrew.com W: loughcrew.com
Magnificent restored gardens with yew walk, woodland walk, canal, parterre and fairy trail - nestled close to the iconic Loughcrew Cairns. Coffee shop situated at the entrance. Please see website for full details, opening times and admission charges.

9 Rokeby Hall
Grangebellew, Dunleer, Co. Louth, A92 HX52

Tel: +353 (0)86 864 4228 E: info@rokeby.ie W: rokeby.ie
Built by architect Francis Johnston in the C18th, Rokeby won the An Taisce Ellison Award, 2014, for the restoration of its Turner designed Conservatory. This and the garden can be visited at times listed below. Groups more than 8 must be booked in advance. Please see website for more details.
Open: May 1-31, Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm. Sept 1-30, Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm
Heritage Week: 10am-2pm. By appointment at all other times.
Fee: €7 Adults €5 Students/Children. No dogs.

10 Sonairte Visitor Eco Centre and Gardens
The Ninch, Laytown, Co. Meath, A92 D9XH

Tel: +353 (0)41 982 7572 E: hello@sonairte.ie W: sonairte.ie
Sonairte is a Visitor Garden and Eco Centre within an historic Georgian farmstead, featuring a walled organic garden, nature trail and ancient Rath with views of Ballygarth Castle, the river Nanny estuary and Irish sea. The centre also features a charming Bee Museum, and an Energy Education suite showcasing renewable energy. Our café offers a range of delicious vegetarian and vegan options, and our Eco Shop stocks a wide range of organic, zero waste, fair trade and low carbon footprint products. Please see website for full details, opening times and admission charges. Groups by appointment.

Historic Gardens are open at set times as above. Some gardens offer tea/coffee by arrangement and some houses also open. Groups should book in advance.