



FESTIVAL of GARDENS AND NATURE



20 - 21st April 2024

Ballintubbert Gardens & House
Co. Laois



A two-day festival of talks, workshops, garden tours, foraging classes and more. It is all about discovering the latest ideas for creating an ecologically sustainable and beautiful garden in our launch year.

**Manchán Magan, Dominic West, Jimi Blake, Cath Kidston,
Johnny Flynn, Catherine FitzGerald, TJ Maher
Fionnuala Fallon, Shane Connolly ... & many more**

www.festivalofgardensandnature.com





FESTIVAL of GARDENS AND NATURE

SATURDAY 20th APRIL 2024

TABERNACLE

PAVILION

11AM - 12PM HISTORIC GARDENS - PRESENT & FUTURE

How do we keep historic gardens feeling vibrant and fresh without losing the integrity of the original vision? Join garden designer **Catherine FitzGerald** from Glin Castle, **Neil Porteous**, expert consultant gardener for National Trust and OPW, and **Colm O'Driscoll**, head gardener of Lismore Castle.

12:30 - 1:30pm TWO GROWERS AND A COOK

Cook & co-founder of Ballymaloe Cookery School, **Rory O'Connell** talks with **Tom Petherick**, author and expert on sustainable living and biodynamics and **Kate Gatacre**, a no-dig organic veg grower for London restaurants, chew the cud on the relationship between the cook & the grower.

2 - 3pm

BUILDING A NATURAL SWIMMING POOL

When actor and keen cold water swimmer **Dominic West**, found the 'Organic swimming pool' pioneer **David Pagan Butler** via his YouTube channel - it was the perfect meeting of minds. With David's hands-on help, Dominic created his own swimming pool/natural eco-system. Learn how to do it yourself from the master and his pupil.

3:30 - 4:30pm THE POWER OF SCENT

Cath Kidston, creator of the new beauty and bath brand, C. Atherly, based on the Sweet Geranium (pelargonium) - her long-time favourite scent. She will talk with **Sadie Chowen**, owner of The Burren Perfumery, about scent in the garden and its evocative power.

5 - 6pm

GARDENING FOR BIODIVERSITY: Waste, Topography, Alternative Soils and Dead Stuff

John Little, maverick gardener and wildlife advocate, talks about habitat potential, the importance of gardeners and the care of public space.

6:30 - 8pm

BRINGING GARDENS AND NATURE INSIDE

Celebrated floral designer on this side of the Atlantic **Shane Connolly** will chat with New York's finest florist **Emily Thompson** on what inspires their work and their shared ethos of sustainability.

DEREK JARMAN AND PROSPECT COTTAGE GARDEN

Jonny Bruce, freelance gardener, and writer manages the iconic garden at Prospect Cottage. He talks about the maverick film-maker Derek Jarman, and the creation of his groundbreaking garden on the shingle at Dungeness in Kent which went on to inspire Beth Chatto and a new wave of gravel gardeners.

KILMACURRAGH MEADOWS: Revival & Restoration

Seamus O'Brien, outstanding modern-day plantsman and head gardener at Kilmacurragh Botanical Gardens, has created a new talk especially for the festival, about his extraordinary work with the meadows at Kilmacurragh and the inspiration of meadows around the world which he has visited.

FROM PRIMORDIAL SOUP TO WONDROUS DIVERSITY

Daragh Lupton, curator at the National Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin, will take us on a fascinating ramble through 500 million years of plant evolution: how simple life evolved to produce staggering beauty...

GROUNDING IN THE GARDEN

The artist **TJ Maher** of Patthana Gardens in Wicklow will talk about creating a beautiful garden in harmony with nature. This will touch on the role that outdoor spaces play, in nurturing us on a personal and spiritual level, the art of colour combination, and extending the season of interest through clever planting.

THE SUN ALSO RISES

Johnny Flynn, actor, singer and environmentalist, teamed up with Nature writer/poet and Professor at Cambridge University, Robert Macfarlane, to collaborate on this new album. Johnny will talk to us about the collaborating process and perform some songs from his new album - before setting off on his upcoming tour.





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SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024



TABERNACLE

10:30 - 11:30am

ANY QUESTIONS - HELP FROM THE GARDENING GURUS

David Maxwell, from BBC Ulster Gardener's Corner, will host a panel of experts, to answer all your gardening dilemmas.

12 - 1pm

WHY ORGANIC GARDENING?

Kitty Scully from TV's 'Home Grown' and former head gardener at Airfield, Dundrum, and **Tom Petherick**, author and expert on biodynamics, share a thought-provoking discussion on: 'Growing Soil, Growing Food and Growing Community'.

1:30 - 2:30pm

FLORAL DESIGN SUSTAINABLY

Say goodbye to importing flowers from abroad and discover how to use what we have around us, with leading floral designer **Shane Connolly** and cut flower grower **Fionnuala Fallon**.

3 - 4pm

A DEEP DIVE INTO GARDENING IN THE DAPPLED SHADE

Take an inspiring journey with creative plantsman, **Jimi Blake**, to discover exhilarating planting combinations for woodland and shady areas.

PAVILION

HEALING OUR SOIL

The Land Gardeners: Bridget Elworthy and **Henrietta Courtauld** share their knowledge about healthy soil, composting and green manures with cut flower farmer **Amelia Raben**.

NATURALISM & MODERNITY - A Glimpse into the World of Tom Stuart-Smith's Landscape Designs

As head of horticulture at TSS's design office, **Edward Shackleton** will give us an insight into what it takes to be a pioneering design team. He will take us on a whirlwind tour of some of their most acclaimed projects, including the re-wilding of Knepp Castle's walled garden.

PLANT EXPLORATION TODAY

Modern-day plant explorer and renowned plantsman **Neil Porteous** talks on plant exploration around the world and the thousands of new species which are still being discovered in remote places every year.

GODDESS IN THE LANDSCAPE

The awareness of female energy in the landscape of Ireland is rising amongst us all: **Manchán Magan** will explain.



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Tours and Workshops

SATURDAY

20/04/24

BALLINTUBBERT GARDEN TOURS

Be taken on a fascinating tour of the gardens at Ballintubbert, with head gardener **Jenifer Taggart**, as she explains the past, present and future of the gardens and interesting organic methods she uses.



FORAGING TOUR OF THE GARDEN

Go for a galloping forage through the gardens, to discover what plants are edible and/or medicinal with the hugely knowledgeable **Wild Food Mary**, Mary Bulfin

SUNDAY

21/04/24

BALLINTUBBERT GARDEN TOURS

Ballintubbert Gardens are the first formal gardens in Ireland to have been given Organic Status. Join a tour and learn about the gardens and how they are maintained by **Jenifer Taggart**.



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