



**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

*exhibitions  
& events*

September 2019 - February 2020



# News from the Gardens

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## **Another World Record for Tomatoes**

During Heritage week this year we hosted the *Totally Terrific Tomato Festival* for the third year in a row. The brainchild of north Dublin grower Nicky Kyle, the aim of the festival is to celebrate all things Tomato. Nicky has gardened organically for over 40 years and freely dispenses advice on growing, and eating organically - <http://nickykylegardening.com> – along with Jane Powers and Aga Kowalska they are all eager supporters of the festival. Our guides, Melissa and Ciara, once again made the display a spectacle and a joy to behold. Twenty-five private growers contributed 83 unique cultivars to our display bringing the total to **261** distinct varieties - the Guinness world record stands at a mere 241. Last year we had 256 on display. Aisling O'Donoghue and Michael Higgins, our nursery team, managed to raise 179 of these cultivars in what was a slow tomato year – probably due to the lack of hours of sunlight. It is a sobering thought that every 1 kg of tomatoes imported from Spain carries a CO2 footprint (including all the food-miles involved) of  $\frac{3}{4}$  kg while the same weight of out of season Irish-grown Tomatoes carries a far higher environmental cost with upwards of 3-4 kg of CO2! The only solution to this dilemma for reducing your carbon footprint is to grow your own and dry or freeze them for out of season use. In spring we will again be distributing young tomato plants – keep an eye on our website. You can then do your bit to help save the planet by coming along to next year's festival and learning how to preserve and cook your own home-grown tomatoes.

## **Have you ever taken a guided tour?**

It is easy to think we know a place from regular visits, but our themed tours reveal hidden layers of history, biology, science and folklore. Themed tours run every Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm and a different tour is presented each month. Over the coming months they'll feature Plants and Power – Botanical Imperialism (as featured in the Irish Times and on the Mooney Show), Magic, Murder and Monkshood, Plants of the Rainforest, Festive Winter Plants and Biophilia.

*Daily guided walks of the Gardens are available twice daily at 11.30pm and 3.00pm*

*On Sundays guided tours are available free of charge 12.00 pm and 2.30pm*



### **Béim ar an Luslann**

A new exhibition in the herbarium foyer has just been opened, the *Herbarium in Focus*, which allows visitors to appreciate the research work that goes on inside the building. Strikingly designed panels show some of the beauty captured from amongst the thousands of museum items and the two thirds of a million dried specimens held there. A short film explains how these specimens form the foundations of the study of Irish Botany, as well of the world's plants. An Interactive touch-screen even allows people to digitally 'handle' some of our precious specimens. Some of the regular garden tours will be able to bring visitors further into the building to view even more of the treasures preserved there.



# Events September 2019 – February 2020

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

5 Sep - 18 Oct	<i>Sculpture in Context Exhibition</i>
20 Sep	<i>Culture Night</i>
21 & 22 Sep	<i>RHSI Dahlia Show</i>
8 Oct	<i>Harvest Display Construction</i>
13 Oct	<i>Harvest Display</i>
20 Oct	<i>Halloween at Glasnevin</i>
17 Nov	<i>Dublin Book Festival Adult Poetry</i>
1 Dec	<i>Concert - 4inaBar</i>
4 Dec	<i>Flower Arranging</i>
8 Dec	<i>Concert - Contempo Quartet</i>
14 & 15 Dec	<i>Christmas at Glasnevin</i>
1 & 2 Feb	<i>St Brigids Cross Demonstration</i>

## THEMED TOURS

21 & 28 Sep	<i>Botanical Imperialism</i>
21 & 28 Sep, 5 & 12 Oct	<i>SIC Meet the Artists Tour</i>
3 Oct	<i>Tree Day Walk</i>
5, 12, 19 & 26 Oct	<i>Magic, Murder and Monkshood</i>
11 & 13 Oct	<i>Open House Tour</i>
12 Oct	<i>ISL Tour</i>
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Nov	<i>Plants of the Amazon</i>
7, 14, 21 Dec	<i>Festive Winter Plants</i>
28-31 Dec, 1 Jan	<i>Old roots new shoots</i>
4, 11, 18 & 25 Jan	<i>Biophilia</i>
12 Jan	<i>Co-motion</i>
1, 8, 15, 22 & 28 Feb	<i>Botanical Imperialism</i>
14 Feb	<i>Valentines Day</i>

## ADULT WORKSHOPS

1, 8 & 15 Nov	<i>Beginners Photography</i>
28 Nov	<i>Natural Christmas Wreath Workshop</i>
1 Dec	<i>Eco Crafts for Adults</i>
8 Dec	<i>Macrame Workshop</i>
22 Feb	<i>Gardening Workshop: Spring into Action</i>
8 & 9 Feb	<i>Willow Scarecrow workshop</i>

## LECTURES

18 Sep	<i>The World of Weeds</i>
18 Sep	<i>The Dublin Bay Project – Seabirds, Shorebirds and Ducks, Winter and Summer</i>
25 Sep	<i>Diarmuid Gavin</i>
2 Oct	<i>Introduction to Nature Photography</i>
7 Oct	<i>Things that come to mind, pertinent thoughts from the Orchid World</i>
10 Oct	<i>Annual Irish Tree Society Lecture – Wildflowers of Van Diemen's Land</i>
16 Oct	<i>Raptors and Owls of the South Balkans</i>
17 Oct	<i>15 Years Hard Labour on Kew's Rock Garden</i>
4 Nov	<i>Orchid Trade</i>
6 Nov	<i>Biodiversity in Ireland today</i>
13 Nov	<i>Climate Change with Prof. J. McElwain</i>
16 Nov	<i>Petal Power – a story of Edible Ornamentals</i>
20 Nov	<i>Canada's Migration Hotspot</i>
27 Nov	<i>Wildlife trade</i>
15 Jan	<i>Lightening talks</i>
15 Jan	<i>The Birds of Inishbofin</i>
18 Jan	<i>How go the gardens of Leinster</i>
22 Jan	<i>The Arctic Circle Flora of Norway</i>
5 Feb	<i>Is the big switch possible?</i>
15 Feb	<i>Mount Congreve – an Irish treasure</i>
19 Feb	<i>The Birds and Wildlife of Lough Ree</i>

## CHILDREN'S EVENTS

22 & 29 Sep	<i>Kids Drop By Activities</i>
3 Oct	<i>Tree Day Tours for Schools</i>
26-31 Oct	<i>Magical Plants</i>
19 Oct	<i>Decorated Pumpkin Competition</i>
21 - 25 Oct	<i>Magical Plants for schools</i>
17 Nov	<i>Dublin Book Festival Kids Event</i>
30 Nov & 7 Dec	<i>Children's Event: Eco Crafts</i>
25 Jan, 20 & 22 Feb	<i>Build a Bird Feeder</i>



# September 2019

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## **DAILY GUIDED WALKS: Autumn Colour**

Autumn in the gardens is an incredible experience. Join us for a guided tour through the autumn colour, viewing some of the sculptures dotted throughout the gardens along the way.

*Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm. €5 per person*

*Sundays 12 noon and 2.30pm. Free of charge*

## **Thursday 5th September - Friday 18th October**

### **EXHIBITION: Sculpture in Context**

The Gardens will play host to an impressive collection of contemporary works by over 135 Irish and international artists.

*Daily throughout the Gardens and Gallery,*

*Education & Visitor Centre*

## **Thursday 5th September - Friday 18th October**

### **SCULPTURE TRAIL FOR SCHOOLS**

A chance for both primary and secondary schools to explore the exciting outdoor sculpture exhibition. Come and collect your self-guided trail at the Education and Visitor Centre.

## **Wednesday 18th September**

### **AFTERNOON LECTURE: The World of Weeds**

Diana Oxlade, author of her recently published book '50 Weeds', will give an illustrated talk concluding with some thoughts on botanical illustration.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

## **Wednesday 18th September**

### **LECTURE: The Dublin Bay Project – Seabirds, Shorebirds & Ducks, Winter & Summer**

Helen Boland of BirdWatch Ireland talks about conservation plans for the bay.

*7.45pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with Birdwatch Ireland*

## Friday 20th September

### **CULTURE NIGHT: Behind the Scenes Tours**

Join us for some 'behind-the-scenes' tours of parts of the Gardens that you wouldn't normally get to visit, including the Palm House and Curvilinear Range, Sculpture in Context and National Herbarium and Library. While you're here, why not have a look at the indoor section of our Sculpture-in-Context exhibition.

*Tea Rooms will be open for refreshments.*

*Guided tours leave from the Visitor Centre and will be on a first-come, first-served basis, booking is at the Education & Visitor Centre from 4pm*

*4.00pm – 8.00pm*

## Saturdays 21st & 28th September

### **THEMED GUIDED TOUR: Plants and Power – Botanical Imperialism**

Throughout history, plants have supplied us with food, medicine, and other essentials; as empires expanded and fell, staple crops failed or flourished. Explore a fascinating cornucopia of species from the Gardens and herbarium artefacts collection.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person.*

*Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*

## Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd September

### **THE DAHLIA SHOW**

Saturday 2.00pm – 5.00pm & Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm in the Teak House

*Organised with the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland*

## Saturdays 21st & 28th September

### **GUIDED WALK: Sculpture in Context – Meet the Artists**

Join one of the participating artists for a guided tour through the exhibition to gain an insight into Ireland's largest outdoor and indoor sculpture exhibition.

*3.15pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*



**Sundays 22nd & 29th September**

**SUNDAYS KIDS DROP BY ACTIVITIES**

Kids, join us for fun activities in the dedicated Children's Erasmus Education Garden! Each week we will have a different workshop, check out our Facebook page to find out the week's activity in advance.

*For ages 4 and up. All children must bring their own grown-up!  
11.00am, 11.30am, 3.00pm & 3.30pm. No bookings required,  
first come first served*

**Wednesday 25th September**

**EVENING LECTURE: Diarmuid Gavin**

Lecture by Diarmuid Gavin, renowned Garden Designer and new patron of the RHSI.

*8.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre. Organised with the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland. **Booking essential** [www.rhsi.ie](http://www.rhsi.ie)*





## October 2019

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### **DAILY GUIDED WALKS: Autumn Colour**

Autumn in the gardens is an incredible experience. Join us for a guided tour through the autumn colour, viewing some of the sculptures dotted throughout the gardens along the way.

*Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm. €5 per person*

*Sundays 12 noon and 2.30pm. Free of charge*

### **EXHIBITION: Sculpture in Context**

The Gardens will play host to an impressive collection of contemporary works by over 135 Irish and international artists.

*Daily throughout the Gardens and Gallery, Education & Visitor Centre. Continuing until Friday 18th October*

### **Wednesday 2nd October**

#### **AFTERNOON LECTURE: Introduction to Nature Photography**

Join wildlife photographer and an associate of the Irish Photographic Federation (AIPF) Robert O’Leary for a relaxed, non-technical talk for about what is involved in nature photography.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*



**Thursday 3rd October**

**NATIONAL TREE DAY GUIDED WALK:**

**Tremendous Tree Tales**

Explore stories of the majestic and intriguing old trees in the National Botanic Gardens as the spectacular autumn foliage appears. There will be a similar tour held in the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh. Please see section on Kilmacurragh.

*3.00pm. €5 per person. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

**Thursday 3rd October**

**NATIONAL TREE DAY: Tours for Schools**

Take part in our Tree walks especially for schools. Hear some fascinating facts and tales about native and exotic trees alike and also learn how to identify some of our most popular trees.

*Suitable for 1st class and up*

**Booking essential** at the Education & Visitor Centre on 01 857 0909 or 01 804 0319

**Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th October**

**THEMED GUIDED TOUR: Magic, Murder and Monkhood**

Explore the darker side of the Botanic on this adults-only tour. From poisons and hallucinogens to dark ritual and magic, discover some of the spine-chilling stories encapsulated by our collections.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre. €5 per person.*

*Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*



**Saturdays 5th & 12th October**

**GUIDED WALK: Sculpture in Context – Meet the Artists**

Join one of the participating artists for a guided tour through the exhibition to gain an insight into Ireland's largest outdoor and indoor sculpture exhibition.

*3.15pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

**Monday 7th October**

**EVENING LECTURE: Things that come to mind, pertinent thoughts from the Orchid World**

Brendan Sayers, Glasshouse Foreman, National Botanic Gardens.

*7.30pm. Education and Visitor Centre*

*Organised with the Irish Orchid Society*

**Thursday 10th October**

**IRISH TREE SOCIETY ANNUAL LECTURE: Wildflowers of Van Diemen's Land – The British-Irish Botanical Expedition to Tasmania**

Seamus O'Brien, Head Gardener NBG, Kilmacurragh regales us with plant collecting stories from his latest expedition where seeds and herbarium specimens were collected for various major gardens across Britain and Ireland.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with the Irish Tree Society*



**Friday 11th & Sunday 13th October**

**OPEN HOUSE TOURS**

Join us for short tours of the restored Curvilinear Range.

*Friday 2.30pm & 3.30pm; Sunday 11.00am, 12.00pm, 3.00pm & 4.00pm. <https://openhousedublin.com/>*

**Saturday 12th October**

**ISL TOUR**

Join us for a free Irish Sign Language tour of the Gardens this Autumn.

*11.30am. Free event but **booking essential**  
email [botanicgardens@opw.ie](mailto:botanicgardens@opw.ie)*

**Wednesday 16th October**

**LECTURE: Raptors and Owls of the South Balkans**

Philip Clancy of BirdWatch Ireland, Tolka Branch, looks at the birds seen on recent visits to northern Greece, Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

*7.45pm. Education & Visitor Centre  
Organised with Birdwatch Ireland*

**Thursday 17th October**

**LECTURE: 15 Years Hard Labour on Kew's Rock Garden**

With Joanne Ryan, Garden Team Leader, RBG Kew.

*8.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre  
Organised with the Alpine Garden Society and  
the Irish Garden Plant Society*

**Monday 8th – Saturday 12th October**

**HARVEST DISPLAY CONSTRUCTION**

Check out our very special seasonal display with masses of pumpkins, gourds and freshly harvested plants being built, stage by stage.

*Daily outside the Education & Visitor Centre*

**Sunday 13th October onwards**

**HALLOWEEN HARVEST DISPLAY**

Come along and try your luck at guessing the weight of the giant pumpkin – the prize winner will be announced on Monday 4th of November.

*Daily outside the Education & Visitor Centre*

**Saturday 19th October**

**CHILDREN'S EVENT: Decorated Pumpkin Competition**

Your pumpkin can be part of a fantastic exhibition displayed in the Teak House. Please check our website or at the Visitor Centre desk for entry forms and details on how to take part in this spooktacular event.

*Please remember we cannot accept any carved, cut or pierced pumpkins. Entries will only be accepted on Saturday 19th of October from 10.00am – 4.00pm*

*Prize giving for the Decorated Pumpkin Competition will be on Sunday 20th at 12.00pm*

**Sunday 20th October**

**HALLOWEEN AT GLASNEVIN**

It's Dress-up Day when all you witches and ghouls can dress to distress. View the Halloween Harvest Display and Decorated Pumpkin Exhibition, take part in the Pumpkin Prize giving Parade and discover all about Magical Plants when you visit the witches in their garden. Try your hand at some maths puzzles, games and get colourful with art under the oaks.

*12.00pm onwards*

**Sunday 20th October**

**DROP BY CHILDREN'S EVENT: Magical Plants**

Join the coven for a seasonal look at some weird, wonderful and magical plants from around the world. From the famous wolfs bane of Harry Potter to the opium poppies of the ancient Egyptians, it's all about Magical Plants this Halloween in our witches garden.

*12.00pm onwards. Erasmus Education Garden*

**Monday 21st – Friday 25th October**

**MAGICAL PLANTS FOR SCHOOLS**

Bring your class to learn about using garlic to ward off vampires, plants for potions and spells, poisonous plants to murder your evil enemies and even some rarely seen invisible plants.

*Suitable for 1st class and up*

**Booking essential** at the Education & Visitor Centre on 01 857 0909 or 01 804 0319

**Saturday 26th – Thursday 31st October**

**DROP BY CHILDREN'S EVENT: Magical Plants**

Join the coven for a seasonal look at some weird, wonderful and magical plants from around the world. From the famous wolfsbane of Harry Potter to the opium poppies of the ancient Egyptians, it's all about Magical Plants this Halloween in our witch's garden.

*11.00am & 11.30am, 3.00pm & 3.30pm. Erasmus Education Garden*



# November 2019

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## **DAILY GUIDED WALKS: Autumn Colour**

Autumn in the gardens is an incredible experience. Join us for a guided tour through the autumn colour.

*Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm. €5 per person*

*Sundays 12 noon and 2.30pm. Free of charge*

## **Saturdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th November**

### **THEMED GUIDED TOUR: Plants of the Rainforest**

Rainforests are one of the most important habitats for both plants and animals and are known as the lungs of the world. Discover the tropical plants in the Great Palm House, learn how we recreate its ecosystem and discuss the importance of these great forests for the earth and those who live in it.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre. €5 per person*

*Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*

## **Fridays 1st, 8th and 15th November**

### **WORKSHOP: Beginner's Photography with Eamon O'Daly of the Outdoor Studio**

This three-day workshop covers the basics of digital photography. Suitable for all digital camera types, this workshop aims to improve your skills in landscape, flora and wildlife photography.

*10.30am – 3.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€110 per person. **Booking essential** [www.skerriesphotography.com](http://www.skerriesphotography.com) or call 01 849 2572*



### **Monday 4th November**

#### **EVENING LECTURE: Orchid trade – An overview of the legal complexities and a guide on how to be a responsible consumer**

Noeleen Smyth of the National Botanic Gardens completed a Ph.D. on invasive species control and restoration of the threatened native flora on Pitcairn Island, home of the Bounty mutineers.

*7.30pm. Education and Visitor Centre  
Organised with the Irish Orchid Society*

### **Wednesday 6th November**

#### **LECTURE: Biodiversity in Ireland Today**

Join Noeleen Smyth, Conservation Botanist, talking about Ireland's 6th Submission report to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

### **Wednesday 13th November**

#### **SCIENCE WEEK LECTURE: Climate Change**

Professor Jennifer McElwain is Chair of Botany at Trinity College Dublin. Her research focuses on both fossil plants and modern experimentation to investigate how fluctuations in atmospheric composition and climate have influenced plant evolution and ecology throughout Earth's history.

*12.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre  
Organised with Teagasc*

## Saturday 16th November

### **LECTURE: Petal Power – A story of Edible Ornamentals**

An organic gardening teacher with a background in forest gardening and permaculture, Orlaith Murphy has become known as Ireland's queen of 'edimentals': ornamental plants which are also edible. She will take us on a botanical gastro journey, showing the bounty that's been hiding all along, growing in gardens right under our noses.

*2.30pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with the Irish Garden Plant Society*

## Sunday 17th November

### **DUBLIN BOOK FESTIVAL: Kids Event**

Our Little Album of Dublin: a Chat and a Poetry Treasure Hunt! With Tarsila Kruse and Juliette Saumande (The O'Brien Press).

*11.00am – 11.50am. Free entry*

**Booking essential** <http://www.dublinbookfestival.com/>

## Sunday 17th November

### **DUBLIN BOOK FESTIVAL: Kids Event**

Come and join scientist-astronaut candidate Norah Patten, author of Shooting for the Stars (The O'Brien Press) and explore the cosmos through space travel, learn all about astronauts and prepare for your very own space mission!

*12.00pm – 1.00pm. Age 5+. Free entry.*

**Booking essential** <http://www.dublinbookfestival.com/>

## Sunday 17th November

### **DUBLIN BOOK FESTIVAL: Adult Event**

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon with Patrick Deeley and Catherine Phil MacCarthy. Listen to two of the leading poets and performers in Ireland, read from their newest releases.

*3.00pm. Free entry.*

**Booking essential** <http://www.dublinbookfestival.com/>

## Wednesday 20th November

### **LECTURE: Canada's Migration Hotspot**

Dick Coombes of BirdWatch Ireland talks about the spectacular passage of migratory birds at Point Pelee, Canada's most southerly point of land in Lake Erie.

*7.45pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with Birdwatch Ireland*

### Wednesday 27th November

#### **LECTURE: Wildlife Trade – Recent changes to trade in rare plant species**

Noeleen Smyth, Botanist at the NBG talks about the results of the 18th meeting of parties to the CITES Convention in Geneva 2019.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

### Thursday 28th November

#### **ADULT WORKSHOP: Natural Christmas Wreath**

Aiva is a professional florist and former student of the National Botanic Gardens. She loves to use all things natural, whether grown in her own allotment, foraged, or sourced from local suppliers when possible. During the workshop, participants will be given a demonstration of how to make and decorate a natural Christmas door wreath and a swag. Each participant will then be guided on how to make their own wreath to take home.

*6.00-8.00pm. Cost €55*

*Booking essential <https://naturalwreathworkshop.eventbrite.ie>*



### Saturday 30th November

#### **CHILDREN'S EVENT: Eco Crafts**

Help spread beauty and prevent waste this Christmas by making your own plantable eco-friendly cards with recycled and natural materials. Using biodegradable seed-infused paper, these cards will keep giving long after Christmas.

*6-8 years 11.00am – 12.00pm, 8 years & over 2.00pm – 3.00pm*

*€5 per child. Booking essential*

# December 2019

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## **DAILY GUIDED WALKS: Seasonal Plants in the Gardens**

Brighten up your December day with a guided tour of our seasonal plants looking their best. Venture indoors to view the tropical rhododendrons and poinsettia in the glasshouses.

*Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm, €5 per person*

*Sundays 12.00pm and 2.30pm, free of charge*



## Sunday 1st December

### **CONCERT: 4inaBar**

Welcoming in the Christmas Cheer on the first day of Advent, much loved and award winning vocal harmony group 4inaBar will take us through a range of periods and countries such as Renaissance Spain, Baroque Germany, the U.K. and of course Ireland with plenty of Christmas favourites; crooner classics by the fireside and songs for the kids. All wrapped in a bow of good humoured banter and craic for adults and children alike!

*2.30pm. €15 per person*

*Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/kendu-music-17247169953>*

## Sunday 1st December

### **ADULT'S WORKSHOP: Eco Christmas Crafts**

Are you dreaming of a green Christmas? Make your own unique eco-conscious gifts with biodegradable, seed-infused paper. Using recycled materials each gift can be planted to give a wonderful growing present.

*11.00am – 1.00pm. €5 per person. **Booking essential***

## Wednesday 4th December

### **FLOWER ARRANGING: It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas**

Roisin Graham is an experienced flower arranging teacher and demonstrator. Inspired by nature and conscious of the environment her designs are influenced by a desire to reduce, reuse and recycle. Enjoy a glass of wine and mince pie at the pre-demonstration reception.

*Advance booking is essential. Cost: €20 (includes wine reception)*

*Booking: <https://christmasflowerarranging.eventbrite.ie>*

*7.00pm Wine Reception*

## Saturdays 7th, 14th & 21st December

### **THEMED GUIDED TOUR: Festive Winter Plants**

Explore the traditions and stories which surround some of our favourite festive plants.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person. Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*



**Saturday 7th December**

**CHILDREN'S EVENT: Eco Crafts**

Help spread beauty and prevent waste this Christmas by making your own plantable eco-friendly cards with recycled and natural materials. Using biodegradable seed-infused paper, these cards will keep giving long after Christmas.

*6-8 years 11.00am – 12.00pm, 8 years & over 2.00pm – 3.00pm*

*€5 per child. Booking essential*

**Sunday 8th December**

**ADULT WORKSHOP: Create your own Macrame Plant Hanger**

Join us for an afternoon of craft to learn basic macramé knotting techniques and bring home your own bohemian style plant hanger.

*11.00am. €55 per person*

*Booking essential: <https://planthangerworkshopbotanicgardens.eventbrite.ie>*

**Sunday 8th December**

**CONCERT: Contempo Quartet**

The multi award-winning virtuoso quartet ConTempo Quartet will perform A. Corelli's Concerto Grosso in G minor Op.6 no.8, commonly known as the Christmas Concerto. They will also perform Howard Blake's music score set to the children's picture book, The Snowman by English author Raymond Briggs. The story will be narrated by journalist and historian Dr Martin Alioth.

*2.30pm. €15 per person*

*Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/o/kendu-music-17247169953>*



**Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December  
CELEBRATING A SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS AT  
GLASNEVIN: Santa, Christmas Eco Craft Market,  
& much more**

Come and experience the magic of Christmas with a free visit to Santa and his helpers. Savour the festive atmosphere as you listen to our live Choirs and view our giant Christmas tree and handmade wreaths. Fill your bags with locally handcrafted goodies from our Christmas Eco Craft Market. This year the market will boast nearly 50 gorgeous stalls brimming with food and sustainable gift ideas.

*The Christmas Market is open Saturday and Sunday. Visits to Santa run from 1.30pm on Sunday only. Visits to Santa are ticketed - free tickets are available only on Sunday 15th December at the Education & Visitor Centre.*

*If you are interested in displaying your handmade wares at the Christmas Eco Craft Market, email us at [botanicgardens@opw.ie](mailto:botanicgardens@opw.ie). Limited availability.*

**Saturday 28th December – Wednesday 1st January  
THEMED GUIDED WALK: Old Roots New Shoots**

Step into the New Year & enliven your senses with a brisk walk through the historic Gardens. Brush away the cobwebs & reconnect to your surroundings as we travel through Dublin's botanical oasis. It is the ideal way to wrap up one year & welcome the next.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person. Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*





# January 2020

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## **DAILY GUIDED WALKS: Hidden January Blossoms**

Discover some winter colour as you stroll through the gardens with us.

*Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm, €5 per person*

*Sundays 12.00pm and 2.30pm, free of charge*

## **Wednesday 1st January**

### **THEMED GUIDED WALK: Old Roots New Shoots**

Step into the New Year & enliven your senses with a brisk walk through the historic Gardens. Brush away the cobwebs & reconnect to your surroundings as we travel through Dublin's Botanical oasis. It is the ideal way to wrap up one year & welcome the next.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person*

*Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*

## **Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th January**

### **FIRST FORTNIGHT THEMED GUIDED WALK: Biophilia**

Ring in the New Year with a brisk stroll around the Gardens and learn how being in nature can affect our mental and physical wellbeing.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person*

*Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*

## **Sunday 12th January**

### **FIRST FORTNIGHT EVENT: Co-Motion**

Co-Motion is a moving experience that allows you to share songs and form new connections through music. Using headphones and headphone splitters, you'll be randomly assigned a walking partner with whom you'll share your playlist as you stroll around the Botanic Gardens. All you need is your songs on a playlist, a device to play them on and headphones.

*2.00pm. **Booking essential** <https://www.firstfortnight.ie/>*

### Wednesday 15th January

#### **LIGHTENING TALKS: Secrets and Passions**

Find out about the grand passions, obsessions, secrets and myths of some very special speakers. With just 5 minutes per talk, these presentations will be short, concise, super insightful and always fun.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

### Wednesday 15th January

#### **EVENING LECTURE: The Birds of Inishbofin**

This talk will be given by author and ornithologist, Anthony McGeehan.

*7.45pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with Birdwatch Ireland*

### Saturday 18th January

#### **LECTURE: How go the gardens of Leinster?**

Shirley Lanigan has been visiting gardens professionally for over two decades. Shirley will share her favourites and ask what is the state of play in the world of Leinster gardens.

*2.30pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with the Irish Garden Plant Society*

### Wednesday 22nd January

#### **LECTURE: From A to Å – The Arctic Circle Flora of Norway**

Gary Mentanko, JFK Arboretum, travelled to Lofoten, a rugged yet beautiful archipelago which hosts a rich tapestry of plants in its uniquely mild climate to look at 'The North' through a lens of biology, culture, and place.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Supported by the Scottish Rock Garden Society, the Alpine Garden Society Dublin Group and the Irish Museum's Trust.*

### Saturday 25th January

#### **CHILDREN'S EVENT: Build a Bird Feeder**

A fun kids workshop where we will be making bird feeders to help our feathered friends during the cold winter months. Be sure to wear old clothes since we may be making a mess.

Suitable for age 6-12 years. Booking Essential

*11.00am - 1.00pm*



# February 2020

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## **DAILY GUIDED WALKS: Hidden February Blossoms**

Discover some winter colour as you stroll through the gardens with us.

*Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm, €5 per person  
Sundays 12.00 noon and 2.30pm, free of charge*

## **Saturdays 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th February**

### **THEMED GUIDED TOUR: Plants and Power – Botanical Imperialism**

Throughout history, plants have supplied us with food, medicine, and other essentials; as empires expanded and fell, staple crops failed or flourished. Explore a fascinating cornucopia of species from the Gardens and herbarium artefacts collection.

*2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person. Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*

## **Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd February**

### **DEMONSTRATION: St Brigid's Cross Making**

Come and discover the technique behind making the traditional St. Brigid's Cross. Step-by-step demonstrations using fresh rushes in celebration of the feast of St. Brigid.

*11.30am & 3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

## **Wednesday 5th February**

### **LECTURE: Is the Big Switch Possible?**

Noeleen Smyth, Botanist at the National Botanic Gardens will discuss how organic herbicides compare to conventional ones.

*3.00pm. Education & Visitor Centre*



**Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th February**

**ADULT WORKSHOP: Willow Scarecrow Building**

Learn traditional basket-making techniques to design, build and shape a large willow scarecrow over two days. This hands-on workshop will provide a detailed understanding of the varied weaves and techniques used in willow sculptural crafting.

*10.00am – 4.30pm. €110 per person*

**Booking essential** <https://willowscarecrowworkshop.eventbrite.ie>

**Saturday 15th February**

**LECTURE: Mount Congreve – a National Treasure**

Paddy Tobin will illustrate the international importance of the plant collections of Mount Congreve Gardens in Waterford.

*2.30pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with the Irish Garden Plant Society*

**Wednesday 19th February**

**LECTURE: The Birds and Wildlife of Lough Ree**

Coilin McLaughlin of BirdWatchIreland.

*7.45pm. Education & Visitor Centre*

*Organised with Birdwatch Ireland*

## Thursday 20th & Saturday 22nd January

### **CHILDREN'S EVENT: Build a Bird Feeder**

A fun kids workshop where we will be making bird feeders to help our feathered friends during the cold winter months. Be sure to wear old clothes since we may be making a mess.

Suitable for age 6-12 years. Booking Essential

*11.00am - 1.00pm*

*Friday 14th & Saturday 15th February*

### **VALENTINE'S DAY GUIDED WALK: Blooming Romance**

An alternative Valentine's Day activity to delight the senses! Discover the pagan roots of the day, Ancient Greek tales of metamorphoses, and the love lives of birds.

*3.00pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre*

*€5 per person. Booking: <http://nationalbotanicgardensofireland.eventbrite.com>*

## Saturday 22nd February

### **GARDENING WORKSHOP: Spring into Action**

Join Vegetable Gardener Niamh Donohoe on how to prepare your garden for a bountiful harvest.

*11.00am. €25 per person.*

*Booking essential <https://springintoactiongardenworkshop.eventbrite.ie>*

**Beginners gardening classes upcoming,  
check our website for more details.**







# Events at Kilmacurragh

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Welcome to our events section for the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh. Located in Kilbride, east Co. Wicklow (Junction 18 on the N11), it is the centrepiece of an eighteenth-century estate and is famous for its conifers, rhododendrons, meadows and double-borders.

## **Free Guided Tours**

Twice daily until mid-October, at 12.00pm and 3.00pm. Weekend tours 12th & 13th, 19th & 20th, 26th & 27th October. Please check the website or locally for seasonally themed guided tours and trails

*Group tours should be pre-booked*

*Meet at the car park entrance to the Gardens for all events*

*April-October: Tel: 0404 48844*

*November-March: Tel: 01 857 0909/ 804 0319*

## **Thursday 3rd October**

### **THEMED TOUR: Intriguing Trees**

In celebration of National Tree Day, we will be exploring the stories of many majestic and interesting old trees in Kilmacurragh as the spectacular autumn foliage appears.

*3.00pm. Meet at the Car Park*

## **Thursday 3rd October**

### **National Tree Day Guided Walk for Schools: Learn all about Trees**

Find out some fascinating facts and learn a little on how to identify trees while discovering how amazing trees really are in the process.

*For further information and booking call 0404 48844*

**Guided tours will resume weekends in March to welcome in the beautiful rhododendron blossoms.**

# Education Tours & Workshops for Schools

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A variety of specially-themed guided tours and workshops are available free of charge to school groups. All school visits should be pre-booked at the Education & Visitor Centre - 01 8570909 / 01 8040319

## GREEN-SCHOOLS BIODIVERSITY FLAG

We offer support to both Primary and Secondary schools in achieving Green Flag status. Join our expert guides exploring the Gardens on our Biodiversity Tour and discover the importance of our native plants and animals. This is followed by a hands-on workshop in our Children's Garden, where you will get some practical advice on what to do in your own school garden to help biodiversity. Each Green Flag Session lasts approximately 2 hours.

While you are there, check out our butterfly/pollinator bed, bog bed and sow some seeds in your own newspaper pot to bring back to your own school garden, and explore the Botanic Gardens with our self-guided Trails.

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

### Guided Tours

**The Rainforest** – Explore Ireland's only tropical rainforest in the Great Palm House, and find out about plants from all over the world. *Available year-round*

**Irish Plants** – Hear all about Irish plants and trees, their uses, folklore, and how to identify them. Visit the Viking House and find out what plants they grew for food, clothing and shelter. *Available year-round*

**Biophilia** – Nature's good for us, and we need it! Take a journey round the colours, scents and textures of the Gardens to find out how and why we sense and interact with the natural world the way we do, the many benefits of nature for our health and wellbeing, and how we can share these in our homes and gardens to connect with natural landscapes and rhythms. *Available year-round*



**Tree-mendous Trees** – Discover the lives of our great trees – how they produce their food, survive the seasons, and help us in our daily lives.

*Available year-round*

### National Tree Day

**Tree Walks For Schools** – Booking essential. Hear some fascinating facts and tales about native and exotic trees alike, and also learn how to identify some of our most popular trees.

*Suitable for 1st class and up. Thursday 3rd October*

### Sculpture in Context

**Tours For Primary Schools** – Throughout the Sculpture in Context exhibition, primary school groups can book a special guided tour of the gardens that includes some of the exciting sculptures both outdoors and in the gallery and glasshouse areas.

**Sculpture Trail** - This trail will be available for the duration of the exhibition and will look at a few choice pieces in greater detail.

## Workshops

**Delve Deeper** – Take a tour of the Gardens and collect samples with our intrepid guides, then return to the Education Centre to experiment with our special user-friendly, handheld digital microscopes. See what leaves, seeds, and even miniscule bugs look like close up! *Available year-round*

**Hands-on Vegetable Garden Workshop** – Come along for a hands-on workshop and get practical advice about planting up your School Garden to taste a seasonal harvest all year round. Sow food and flower seeds to bring back for your school garden. *Available year-round*

**Magical Plants** – Join us in our Erasmus Education garden for a seasonal look at some weird, wonderful and magical plants from around the world. From the famous wolfsbane of Harry Potter to the opium poppies of the ancient Egyptians. *Available Monday 21st – Friday 25th October*

## SECOND LEVEL

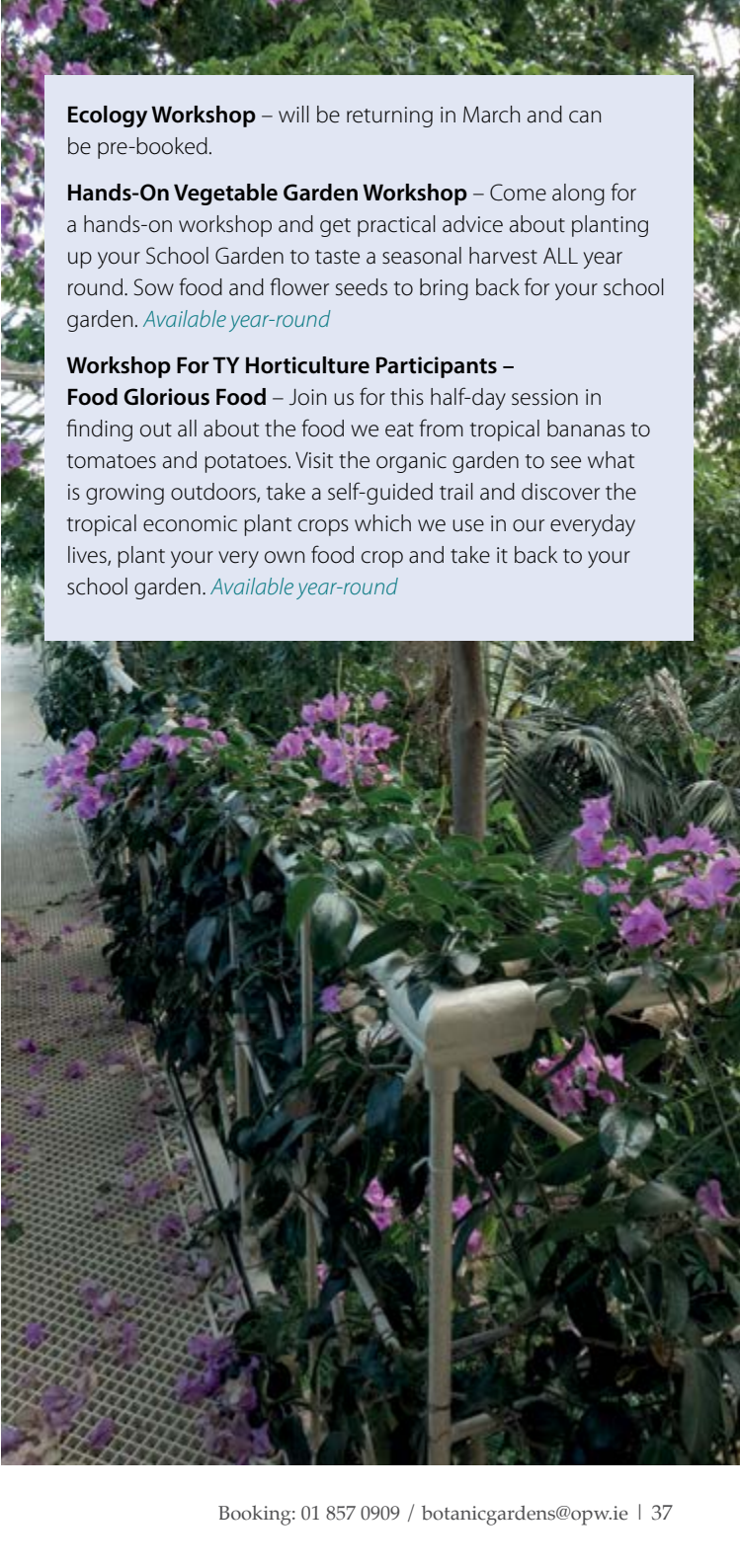
### Guided Tours

**Plant Adaptations** – This guided walk looks at some of the amazing adaptive features which plants have adopted to cope with everything from predators and parasites to habitat loss and climate change. *Available year-round*

**Biophilia** – Nature's good for us, and we need it! Take a journey round the colours, scents and textures of the Gardens to find out how and why humans sense and interact with the natural world the way we do, nature's many benefits for our physical health and mental wellbeing, and how we can share these in our homes, gardens and communities to grow our instinctive connection with the landscape and its natural rhythms. *Available year-round*

### Workshops

**Delve Deeper** – Take a tour of the Gardens and collect samples with our expert guides, then return to the Education Centre to experiment with our special user-friendly, handheld digital microscopes. See what leaves, seeds, and even miniscule bugs look like close up! *Available year-round*



**Ecology Workshop** – will be returning in March and can be pre-booked.

**Hands-On Vegetable Garden Workshop** – Come along for a hands-on workshop and get practical advice about planting up your School Garden to taste a seasonal harvest ALL year round. Sow food and flower seeds to bring back for your school garden. *Available year-round*

**Workshop For TY Horticulture Participants – Food Glorious Food** – Join us for this half-day session in finding out all about the food we eat from tropical bananas to tomatoes and potatoes. Visit the organic garden to see what is growing outdoors, take a self-guided trail and discover the tropical economic plant crops which we use in our everyday lives, plant your very own food crop and take it back to your school garden. *Available year-round*



# WORKSHOPS BOOKING FORM

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

*Please ✓ event and or age group required*

Children's Eco Crafts	€5	Sat 30 Nov	<input type="radio"/>
		Sat 7 Dec	<input type="radio"/>
Adult's Eco Christmas Crafts	€5	Sun 1 Dec	<input type="radio"/>
Flower Arranging	€20	Wed 4 Dec	<input type="radio"/>
Children's Build A Bird Feeder	Free	Sat 25 Jan	<input type="radio"/>
		Thu 20 Feb	<input type="radio"/>
		Sat 22 Feb	<input type="radio"/>
Garden Workshop: Spring into Action	€25	Sat 22 Feb	<input type="radio"/>

*Further details*

*Tel: 01 8570909 / 8040319 or Email: [botanicgardens@opw.ie](mailto:botanicgardens@opw.ie)*



## Opening hours

### GUIDED TOURS

Sundays at 12.00pm & 2.30pm all year round. Admission free.  
Monday – Saturday 11.30am & 3.00pm. €5 per person.  
Pre-booked groups by arrangement. €5 per person.

### OPENING HOURS

#### SUMMER (MARCH – OCTOBER)

Monday – Friday 9.00–5.00pm  
Saturday/Sunday 10.00–6.00pm

#### WINTER (OCTOBER – MARCH)

Monday – Friday 9.00–4.30pm  
Saturday/Sunday 10.00–4.30pm

Telephone: 01 857 0909 / 01 804 0319

Email: [botanicgardens@opw.ie](mailto:botanicgardens@opw.ie)

Website: [www.botanicgardens.ie](http://www.botanicgardens.ie)



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To receive email updates please contact [botanicgardens@opw.ie](mailto:botanicgardens@opw.ie)



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