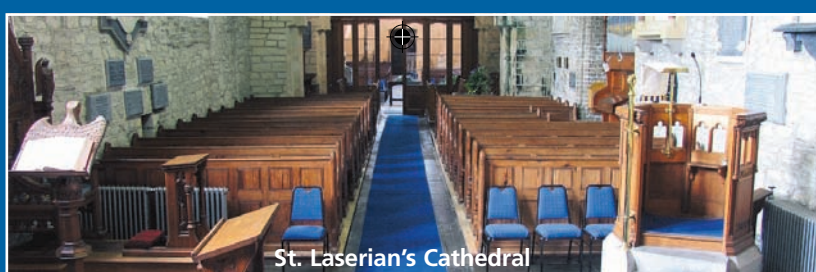




Tullow Town



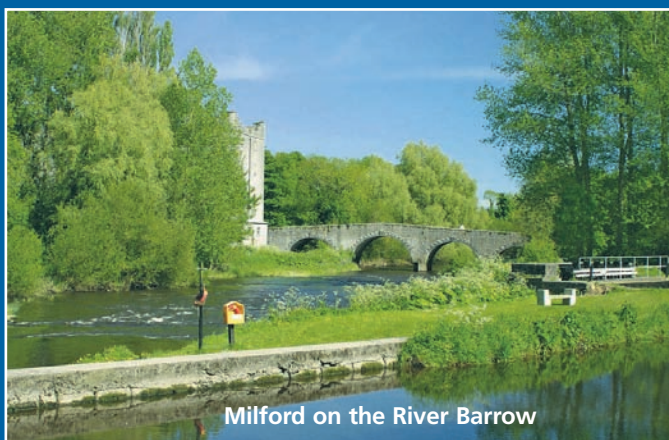
St. Laserian's Cathedral



Clogrennane Wood Walk



Altamont Gardens



Milford on the River Barrow

complimentary copy  
**FREE** county map

Carlow Tourism, The Foresters' Hall,  
College Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9130411 F: 059-9130477  
E: [info@carlowtourism.com](mailto:info@carlowtourism.com)  
Visit us online at: [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

a guide to county carlow 2010

carlow

through the waters of time



VISUAL Centre



TALBOT HOTEL tel: 059 - 9153000 [www.talbotcarlow.ie](http://www.talbotcarlow.ie)



TEACH DOLMAIN tel: 059 - 9130911



RATHWOOD HOME & GARDEN WORLD tel: 059 - 9156285 [www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com)



MOUNT WOLSELEY HOTEL, SPA & COUNTRY CLUB tel: 059 - 9180100 [www.mountwolseley.ie](http://www.mountwolseley.ie)



REDDY'S OF CARLOW tel: 059 - 9142224





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## address by chairman

Dear Visitor,

As Chairman of Carlow Tourism I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome and Céad Míle Fáilte to Co. Carlow. Carlow makes an ideal base for a holiday break with a superb range of outdoor activities to offer the visitor including golf, walking, canoeing and river facilities. This year I am delighted that visitors can enjoy the wonderful facilities, superb exhibitions and theatre performances at the VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and George Bernard Shaw Theatre. A range of quality attractions from entertainment centres to stunning gardens cater for all the family, while a host of festivals and events guarantee fun and entertainment for all. To complement your visit we offer you a full range of accommodation options to suit all budgets and tastes from fine hotels and guesthouses to welcoming B&Bs, farmhouses, self-catering and historic houses.

Carlow has it all in a variety of splendid locations, within its vibrant towns, in unspoilt rural countryside and in peaceful riverside and mountain areas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nationalist newspaper for their continued dedication and support for this publication and to wish all our members a prosperous and successful 2010 season. To the visitor we hope this publication will serve as a useful guide during your stay amongst us.



Niall J. Coffey  
Chairman - Carlow Tourism

## introduction

With mountains, glorious countryside and river valleys all close at hand, Carlow offers an array of outdoor activities ranging from horse riding and canoeing to hang-gliding and golf. Home to three of Ireland's key walking routes - The South Leinster, The Barrow and the Wicklow Ways, the county is blessed with hundreds of miles of excellent and varied walking. The golfing visitor will find an impressive variety of golf courses, par 3s and golf ranges to suit all levels. The Rivers Barrow and Slaney and their many tributaries provide exciting activities for the passive and active water enthusiast. The waters of the Barrow are suitable for

canoeing and coarse angling while the track line and woodlands beside the river offer a superb walking environment. The River Slaney in the eastern part of the county is an important recreational waterway for canoeists. The Carlow Garden Trail features many types of gardens including those at Altamont and smaller gardens which are maturing beautifully with time. Award-winning garden centres and forest parks complement the joy of a visit to Carlow's gardens.

With its rich Celtic past, Co. Carlow is steeped in historical and archaeological artefacts from pagan sites such as the Brownshill Dolmen to ecclesiastical settlements at St. Mullins and Clonmore. Throughout the county are some of the most beautiful, well maintained and friendly country towns and villages in Ireland.

Situated in South East Ireland approximately 90kms from the ferry and airports of Dublin, Rosslare and Waterford, Carlow is one of Ireland's most charming inland counties. Its central location offers the perfect base to explore Wexford, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Kildare and Laois. Dublin is a mere 40 minutes drive with continuous motorway from the city to Carlow Town via the M7 and M9.



Duckett's Grove Carlow



The Brownshill Dolmen

Carlow Tourism is supported in its endeavours by tourism product providers, Carlow Local Authorities, Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd., Fáilte Ireland, FÁS and a variety of fundraising initiatives with the support of the business community of Carlow.

This project is supported by Carlow County Development Partnership Limited under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2007 - 2013 which is financed by the Irish Government and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; Europe investing in rural areas.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

**Editor:** Eileen O'Rourke  
**Design:** The Nationalist Newspaper  
**Print:** Lightning Print, Carlow  
**Publishers:** Carlow Tourism

**Photography:** Carlow Tourism photographic library. The publishers would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of Carlow LEADER Rural Development Company and Carlow Local Authorities in the compilation of a photographic library for the county. Other photographic contributions: Andy Goss, Carlow County Museum, James Burke, Margaret Murphy and Tommy Doolin.

**Disclaimer** - While every care has been taken in the compilation of this guide, neither the author nor publisher can accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Where such errors or omissions occur and are brought to our attention, future editions will be amended accordingly.



## Access to County Carlow



Carlow Town is convenient to the major entry points into Ireland, with Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Rosslare ferryports and Dublin and Waterford Airports all within easy reach of Carlow. Dublin is 84km (53 miles), Rosslare Ferryport is 91km (56 miles) and Waterford Airport is 89km (56 miles) from Carlow Town centre.

**AIR:** Dublin Airport is a convenient 60 minute drive on continuous motorway via the M50, M7 and M9 with all international airlines serving the capital city. Waterford Airport is a 90 minute drive via the R708, R680, N25 and N9. Aer Arann offers daily arrivals from London Luton and two arrivals from Manchester to Waterford Airport each week. The Lorient, France connection to Waterford Airport re-commences on May 20th.

Useful web addresses: [www.aerarann.com](http://www.aerarann.com) [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com) [www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com) [www.flywaterford.com](http://www.flywaterford.com) [www.dublinairport.com](http://www.dublinairport.com)

**FERRY:** A number of ferry companies serve the south of Ireland from England and mainland Europe as follows: Stena Line [www.stenaline.ie](http://www.stenaline.ie)

- \* Fishguard-Rosslare Europort \* Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire, Dublin
- \* Holyhead-Dublin Port
- Irish Ferries [www.irishferries.com](http://www.irishferries.com)
- \* Pembroke-Rosslare Europort \* Roscoff, Brittany-Rosslare Europort \* Cherbourg-Rosslare Europort \* Holyhead-Dublin

Carlow is well served in terms of public transport.

**RAIL:** Eight services operate to Carlow Town from Dublin Heuston (and return) on a daily basis Monday - Friday, seven services on Saturday and four services on Sunday. Some of these connections also serve Kildare, Athy, Bagenalstown (Muinebheag), Kilkenny and Thomastown. T: 059-9131633 W: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

**BUS:** Bus Eireann operate nine services to Waterford and Dublin Monday - Saturday with five services to Dublin and seven services to Waterford each Sunday. Pick-up/drop-off points in the county include Carlow Bus Park (Barrack Street), IT Carlow, Leighlinbridge Cross and Royal Oak Cross. For further details T: 051-879000 W: [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

JJ Kavanagh's serves Carlow Town, IT Carlow and Royal Oak, Bagenalstown 12 times per day from Dublin Airport (coach park) and Dublin City (outside Ulster Bank, Georges Quay). The company provides an inter-county service between Carlow, Tullow, Rathvilly, Baltinglass and Hacketstown as well as a Carlow-Portlaoise route via Athy, and Carlow-Kilkenny twice daily. All returning passengers should assemble at the coach park, Barrack Street, Carlow with the exception of the 2.40 a.m., 4.40 a.m., 6 a.m., 6.45 a.m. and 7.45 a.m. services which leave from Deane's Shop, Barrack Street. T: 059-9143081 or W: [www.jjkavanagh.ie](http://www.jjkavanagh.ie)



## DOME

**Family Entertainment Centre**  
Graigucullen, Carlow tel: 059 - 9141555

- Glow in the Dark Bowling
- Indoor Kids Adventure Play Area
- Go-Karts
- Cinema Room
- Video Games
- Simulators
- Parent & Toddler Mornings Every Tuesday
- Restaurant – All Day Breakfast Café

*We cater for Children's birthday parties, teenage discos, school tours and company nights out.*

**Check out our website: [www.dome.ie](http://www.dome.ie) for Monthly Special Offers**




**Phone: 059 91 41555**  
Located beside Talbot Hotel, Carlow

# IVY ROOMS

## SNOOKER CLUB

ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE



## Ivy Rooms Snooker Club

Unit 8, Barrowvalley Retail Park, Graigucullen, Carlow.  
Tel: 059 9132387





Carlow's state-of-the-art tourist office.

#### At Your Service

Our state-of-the-art tourist office is located at the junction of Tullow Street and College Street (within the County Library buildings) in the centre of Carlow Town. Pay a visit to our friendly and knowledgeable local staff to ensure you get the most from your visit to the county. Many publications on the local area are available free of charge including the Annual South East Ireland Holiday Guide, Carlow - Through the Waters of Time, Carlow Garden Trail, The Gordon Bennett Route, Carlow Golf Trail, Carlow - Trails of the Saints and A Guide to Co. Carlow 2010. Visit us online at [www.discoverireland.ie/carlow](http://www.discoverireland.ie/carlow) and [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

In addition to friendly and helpful information the Tourist Information Office offers a range of services:

- Convenient accommodation booking service for the local area and all of Ireland.
- Guide books on all counties of Ireland and a range of information on activities including angling, equestrian, golf, gardens and parks, walking and cycling.
- Information on festivals and events.
- Carlow Town Walking Trail.
- Maps and postcards.

#### OPENING TIMES:

9.30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, January – December  
Closed for lunch 1 – 2 p.m.

T: 059-9131554 F: 059-9170776

E: [carlow@failteireland.ie](mailto:carlow@failteireland.ie)

W: [www.discoverireland.ie/carlow](http://www.discoverireland.ie/carlow)

## TOURIST INFORMATION THROUGHOUT COUNTY CARLOW

Carlow Rural Information Services Project provide a range of free tourist literature and internet and e-mail access for a small fee in their offices which are located throughout Co. Carlow.

CRISP Tullow, Civic Offices, Tullow T: 059 - 9181759

CRISP Borris, Lower Main Street, Borris. T: 059 - 9771899

CRISP Hacketstown, The Green, Hacketstown. T: 059 - 6471733



## Talbot Carlow

a Talbot Hotel ★★★★★

T 059 915 3000

E [sales@talbothotelcarlow.ie](mailto:sales@talbothotelcarlow.ie)

[www.talbotcarlow.ie](http://www.talbotcarlow.ie)

- 84 Luxury Deluxe Bedrooms inc 2 Suites
- Close to Carlow Town
- Corries Bar & Bistro
- 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Liberty Tree Restaurant
- Award winning Inspirit Health & Leisure Club
- Talbot Tigers Supervised Kids Club
- Located beside the Dome Family Activity Centre
- Hotel Spa
- Live Music every Friday & Saturday
- Complimentary Car Parking

Talbot Wexford

Stillorgan Park Hotel

Talbot Carlow



	date and venue	event	description
	Second Saturday of every month  Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow	Little Chef's Club	Fun classes for children in baking cupcakes, pizza, cookies etc. Learn to make, bake and decorate and then bring home your creations. Include a train ride or woodlands falconry visit for an unusual birthday party. <b>Book in advance with Maria T: 059-9156285</b>
	2nd May 2010  Duckett's Grove, close to Carlow Town	Duckett's Grove Country Fair	Enjoy an extensive entertainment programme including children's activities, displays of traditional craft – thatching, buttermaking, basketmaking and farrier – together with guided tours of the gardens and an extensive craft and artisan food area in this historic property. <b>T: 059- 9130411 W: www.carlowtourism.com</b>
	2nd May 2010  Banks of the River Barrow, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow	Shad Fishing Competition	Shad fishing competition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. attracting entries from all over Ireland. Registration – the Mullicháin Café, The Quay, St. Mullins where tazz spinners are on sale. <b>T: 051-424440 W: www.oldgrainstorecottages.ie</b>
	9th May 2010  Headquarters of the event: The Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge	Carlow 2010 Ford Escort MK 2 Challenge - around Old Leighlin and north Kilkenny	A significant event in rallying showcasing the Mark 2, a now unique car in motoring history. The only event in Ireland with a separate rally for Mark 2 cars. <b>T: John Meaney 086-8146842 W: www.mk2challenge.com</b>
	6th June 2010  Banks of River Barrow, Carlow Town	Carlow Regatta	One of the oldest rowing festivals in the country celebrating its 151st year in 2010. Attracts entries from all over Ireland. Eights, quads and scull racing from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. <b>T: 059-9131179 W: www.iaru.ie</b>
	11th - 20th June 2010  Carlow Town and County	Éigse Carlow Arts Festival	Éigse Carlow Arts Festival is one of Ireland's finest annual multi arts festivals featuring a dynamic and diverse range of visual art, theatre, dance, music, literature, film, comedy and family events. Éigse continuously presents works that are innovative and challenging and its visual arts programme in particular has made a significant contribution to the local, national and international cultural landscape. This year the festival showcases a large scale 30-year retrospective exhibition. The festival offers something for every member of the family. <b>T: 059-9140491 W: www.eigsecarlow.ie</b>
	11th - 13th June 2010  Headquarters: Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa & Country Club, Tullow, Co. Carlow	The International Gordon Bennett Vintage Car Rally	Annual Gordon Bennett Rally commemorating the original 1903 Gordon Bennett Cup Race. Organised by the Irish Veteran and Vintage Car Club. Will feature over 200 antique, veteran and vintage cars pre-1930. <b>T: John and Jean Wilkinson 059-9148810 W: www.gordonbennett.ie</b>
	2nd & 3rd July 2010  George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow Town	George Bernard Shaw Summer School and Festival	A Summer School celebrating aspects of Shaw's life. Workshops and group discussions will focus on Shaw the dramatist, Shaw as a failed politician, Shaw the novelist and Shaw the active older person. <b>See page 8 for details.</b>
	5th - 9th July 2010  Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow	Rose Week at Altamont Gardens	A great opportunity to view the superb collection of roses in Altamont Gardens. Guided tours each day at 2 p.m. – admission €2. Gardens open as normal during this time 9 a.m. – 7.30 p.m. Free admission for viewing. Pre-registration of group tours requested. <b>T: 059-9159444 E: altamontgardens@opw.ie</b>
	11th July 2010  Ardattin, Tullow, Co. Carlow	South Eastern Vintage Machinery Club Annual Rally	Display of vintage machinery – tractors, cars, trucks etc. plus general memorabilia and threshing demonstrations. Novelty tractor activities and fun for all. <b>T: Bernie Byrne 087-6874027</b>



	date and venue	event	description
	31st July - 8th August 2010  Towns and villages throughout Co. Carlow	Carlow Floral Festival Trail	Floral fun and facts with gardening and floral workshops by some of Ireland's most respected gardening personalities. Now in its ninth year the festival is widely recognised as the South East's premier gardening event with a collection of 16 different gardening attractions. <b>T: 059-9130411 W: <a href="http://www.carlowfloralfestival.com">www.carlowfloralfestival.com</a></b>
	1st August 2010  Duckett's Grove, near Carlow Town	Duckett's Grove Country Fair	Enjoy Summer fun and entertainment in the magical setting of Duckett's Grove Historic House, Walled Gardens and Pleasure Grounds. Features large craft and local artisan food fair, display and plant sales area, treasure hunt, guided garden tours, children's entertainment and lots more. <b>T: 059- 9130411 W: <a href="http://www.carlowtourism.com">www.carlowtourism.com</a></b>
	1st - 2nd August 2010  River Barrow at Graiguenamanagh	Graiguenamanagh/ Tinnahinch Regatta & Rowing Festival	Two days of rowing, swimming, diving, cot racing, competitions plus novelty events i.e. rope across river, diving for plates, open to all. <b>T: Ted Duff 087-6371949</b>
	1st August 2010  River Barrow, Carlow Town	King of the Barrow	A one-day coarse angling festival hosted by Carlow Coarse Angling Club. <b>T: Gerry McStraw 085-2844566</b>
	15th August 2010  Coppengagh, Tullow, Co. Carlow	Tullow Agricultural Show	One of the most established agricultural shows in the country. Tullow Show has something to interest both rural and urban visitors and young and old. Features food and craft halls, trade stands, competitions in horses, ponies, cattle, sheep, art and much more. A great family day out. <b>W: <a href="http://www.tullowshow.com">www.tullowshow.com</a></b>
	21st - 29th August 2010  Throughout Co. Carlow	Heritage Week	Week of indoor and outdoor events celebrating the rich heritage the county has to offer and promoting awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage. Activities range from fairs, night time bar walks, wildlife tours and lectures to music recitals, historical re-enactments and outdoor activities. <b>T: Carlow County Museum 059-9170300 W: <a href="http://www.heritageweek.ie">www.heritageweek.ie</a></b>
	12th September 2010  Fenagh, Co. Carlow	Fenagh Steam Rally	Steam engines, vintage tractors, vintage cars, steam threshing, tractor pulling, ploughing by steam. Plenty of side shows, fun for all the family. <b>T: 059-9727233</b>
	17th - 19th September 2010  Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny and Tinnahinch, Co. Carlow	Graiguenamanagh Town of Books	Whether you are looking for a special book, out of date or out of print, first edition or author signed, or bargain books at great prices, then Graiguenamanagh 'Town of Books' is a must for you. Country food and craft fair, musical entertainment plus book readings. <b>T: 059-9724246 W: <a href="http://www.booktownireland.com">www.booktownireland.com</a></b>
	19th September 2010  Rosdillig, Borris, Co. Carlow	Rosdillig Vintage Rally & Steam Threshings	23rd vintage rally displaying working machinery. Parade of vintage farm engines. <b>T: Elaine Stanley 087-7751895</b>
	21st - 23rd September 2010  Athy, Co. Kildare	National & European Ploughing Championship	Features competitors from 15 countries and 17 national ploughing finals. Large indoor trade area. <b>T: 059-8625125 W: <a href="http://www.npa.ie">www.npa.ie</a></b>
	8th - 10th October 2010  Blackstairs Mountains and Barrow Way	Carlow Autumn Walking Festival	Great opportunity for beginner, experienced or advanced walkers to enjoy the challenge of Carlow's mountain treks or its peaceful riverside and forest walks. All walks are led by local knowledgeable guides. Nightly entertainment. <b>T: 059-9130411 W: <a href="http://www.carlowtourism.com">www.carlowtourism.com</a></b>



	date and venue	event	description
	14th - 21st October 2010  Carlow Town and surrounds	Féile an Fhómhair Autumn Festival	Bi-lingual environmental festival featuring ceilís, art exhibitions, traditional storytelling and singing. <b>W: www.glorcheatharlach.ie</b>
 	30th October 2010  Duckett's Grove, close to Carlow Town	Halloween at Duckett's Grove Historic House & Walled Gardens	Duckett's Grove is an exceptional venue in which to celebrate Halloween – expect to be scared, excited and delighted with magic spells, ghost stories, halloween treats and much more. <b>T: 059-9130411 W: www.carlowtourism.com</b>
	20th November - 23rd December 2010  Rathwood, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow	Rathwood Santa Train	Santa and Mrs. Claus and their team of elves will be visiting Rathwood to have a chat with all the children. Great fun for all the family with a train ride to the woods to Santa's woodland home. Advance booking necessary at <b>www.rathwood.com</b> from September 1st 2010. Book early if you want a weekend date.
	11th - 12th December 2010  Duckett's Grove, close to Carlow Town	Duckett's Grove Christmas Craft & Food Fair	Enjoy Christmas fun in the magical setting of Duckett's Grove. Features Santa Grotto, live nativity scene, local artisan food and craft fair, Christmas carols and lots, lots more. <b>T: 059-9130411 W: www.carlowtourism.com</b>

### VISUAL centre for contemporary art and george bernard shaw theatre

The VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre is a dynamic new multi-disciplinary arts facility presenting the best of local, national and international work in the visual and performing arts. The galleries boast four principle exhibition spaces, and the Main Gallery is recognised as Ireland's largest and most spectacular space for presenting contemporary art. Since the opening in September 2009 the visual arts programme has included leading Irish and International artists, and is currently (until May 2nd 2010) showing **Works from the 1980s, by Sean Scully**, a painter of world renown. The George Bernard Shaw Theatre is a 290 seat high spec performance space and the performing arts programme includes some of Ireland's most innovative theatre production companies such as Barabbas, Guna Nua and Corn Exchange, in addition to a wide variety of music, film, comedy and dance from local, national and international performers. The centre houses the successful and highly popular restaurant, Lennons @ VISUAL, where patrons can avail of a full menu of morning coffee and lunch daily and dinner on selected weekdays and every weekend.

**Opening Hours – Gallery & Box Office:**  
Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.  
Sunday 2 – 5 p.m.



**George Bernard Shaw** new 2010  
**Summer School and Festival – July 2nd and 3rd 2010**

encompassing and celebrating many aspects of Shaw's life. George Bernard Shaw's ties with Carlow are particularly noteworthy and his legacy to the town is considerable. The festival will feature many keynote speakers including Professor Nicholas Grene from Trinity College, Mr. Raymond Keaveney, Director, National Gallery of Ireland, Leonard Conolly President of the International Shaw Society (Canada), Ivan Wise from the Shaw Society (UK), Dr. Noel Kavanagh a philosophy lecturer at Carlow College and Deputy Mary White T.D.

Other elements of the festival will include a book fair, a walk of Shaw's Carlow, musical evenings, vegetarian dinners, film screenings, readings and much, much more.

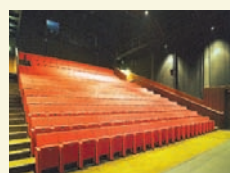


Image: John Collier, 1850 – 1934, Portrait of George Bernard Shaw, 1856 – 1950, Dramatist, oil on canvas, Photo ©National Gallery of Ireland



**VISUAL and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Old Dublin Road, Carlow,**  
**T: 059-9172400 F: 059- 9135619**  
**E: gbshawsummerschool@visual.ie**  
**W: www.visualcarlow.ie**

**THE CARLOW ART COLLECTION ...a permanent public collection of art** new 2010

The Carlow Art Collection is a highly prized collection held in trust for the people of Carlow and its visitors and boasts the work of many internationally acclaimed artists. Artists include Peter Howson-England, Iain McColl-Scotland, Dick Joynt-Ireland, Hans Tyrrestrup-Denmark, Hughie O'Donoghue-England/Ireland, David Blackburn-England, Paul Schneider-Germany, Barbara Rae-Scotland, Vanessa Gardiner-England, Will MacLean-Scotland, Peter Prendergast-Wales, Michael Warren-Ireland and Viktor Zevakin-Russia. At its core is a collection of invaluable drawings by Carlow's most famous artist Frank O'Meara (1853-1888).



The collection is housed in **Carlow College, College St., Carlow and is open to the public Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (except Bank Holidays)**. From there walk across the grounds to the VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art, where more of the collection is on display. Open 11 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 2 - 5 p.m. Sunday. **Further details from Carlow College 059-9131114. E: info@carlowcollege.ie W: www.carlowcollege.ie or VISUAL (details across)**

To help defray costs, a donation would be acceptable or a commemorative catalogue may be purchased at reception for €5. Free admission



BED AND BREAKFASTS	address	phone & fax	email & website
<b>BAGENALSTOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Knockrigg House</b>	Wells, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9722555 F: 059-9722555	E: knockrigghse@eircom.net W: www.knockrigghouse.com
<b>Orchard Grove</b>	Wells, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9722140/086-8387438	E: orchardgrove@eircom.net W: www.orchardgrovebb.com
<b>CARLOW TOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Avlon House B&amp;B</b>	Green Lane, Dublin Road, Carlow	T: 059-9174222 F: 059-9173829	E: info@avlonhouse.com W: www.carlowbedandbreakfast.com
<b>Barrow Lodge</b>	The Quay, Carlow	T: 059-9141173/086-1736485	E: reservations@barrowlodge.com W: www.barrowlodge.com
<b>Rosbawn</b>	Kilkenny Road, Carlow	T: 059-9131072	
<b>ST MULLINS AREA</b>			
<b>Mulvarra House and Body Treatment Centre</b>	St. Mullins, Co. Carlow	T: 051-424936/087-6962479	E: info@mulvarra.com W: www.mulvarra.com
<b>TULLOW AREA</b>			
<b>Laburnum Lodge</b>	Bunclody Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9151718/086-1695309	E: annie@laburnum-lodge.com W: www.laburnum-lodge.com
<b>Geraldine House</b>	Aghade, Kilbride, Tullow, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9155642/087-0520857 F: 059-9155837	E: info@geraldinehouse.com W: www.geraldinehouse.com
<b>FARMHOUSES</b>			
<b>CARLOW TOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Coolanowle Country House and Organic Farm</b>	Ballickmoyler, Co. Carlow	T: 059-8625176/087-6104108 F: 059-8625544	E: info@coolanowle.com W: www.coolanowle.com
<b>RATHVILLY AREA</b>			
<b>Baile Ricéad</b>	Ricketstown, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9161120	E: minacorrigan@eircom.net www.bailericead.com



## CARHIRE

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**059 9131665**

www.dooleymotors.com

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GUESTHOUSES	address	phone & fax	email & website
<b>CARLOW TOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Barrowville Townhouse</b>	Kilkenny Road, Carlow	T: 059-9143324 F: 059-9141953	E: barrowilletownhouse@eircom.net W: www.barrowville.com
<b>Carlow Guesthouse</b>	Green Lane, Dublin Road, Carlow	T: 059-9136033 F: 059-9136034	E: info@carlowguesthouse.com W: www.carlowguesthouse.com
<b>The Redsetter Guesthouse</b>	14 Dublin Street, Carlow	T: 059-9141848/087-6872293 F: 059-9142837	E: info@redsetterguesthouse.ie W: www.redsetterguesthouse.ie
<b>HISTORIC HOUSES</b>			
<b>BAGENALSTOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens</b>	Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9775283 F: 059-9775595	E: info@kilgraneyhouse.com W: www.kilgraneyhouse.com
<b>Lorum Old Rectory</b>	Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9775282 F: 059-9775455	E: info@lorum.com W: www.lorum.com
<b>HOTELS</b>			
<b>ATHY AREA</b>			
<b>Clanard Court Hotel</b>	Dublin Road, Athy, Co. Kildare	T: 059-8640666 F: 059-8640888	E: info@clanardcourt.ie W: www.clanardcourt.ie
<b>CARLOW TOWN AREA</b>			
<b>McHugh's Courthouse Hotel</b>	38/39 Dublin Street, Carlow	T: 059-9133243 F: 059-9133430	E: info@mchughscourthousehotel.com W: www.mchughscourthousehotel.com
<b>Seven Oaks Hotel</b>	Athy Road, Carlow	T: 059-9131308 F: 059-9132155	E: info@sevenoakshotel.com W: www.sevenoakshotel.com
<b>Talbot Carlow</b>	Portlaoise Road, Carlow	T: 059-915 3000 F: 059-915 3001	E: sales@talbothotelcarlow.ie W: www.talbotcarlow.ie
<b>LEIGHLINBRIDGE AREA</b>			
<b>The Lord Bagenal Hotel</b>	Main St, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9774000 F: 059-9722629	E: info@lordbagenal.com W: www.lordbagenal.com
<b>TULLOW AREA</b>			
<b>Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Country Club</b>	Tullow, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9180100 F: 059-9152123	E: info@mountwolseley.ie W: www.mountwolseley.ie
<b>The Killerig Resort Hotel and Golf Club</b>	Killerig, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9163050 F: 059-9163051	E: info@killerigresort.com W: www.killerigresort.com
<b>SELF-CATERING</b>			
<b>BAGENALSTOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Kilgraney House and Herb Gardens</b>	Kilgraney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9775283 F: 059-9775595	E: info@kilgraneyhouse.com W: www.kilgraneyhouse.com
<b>BORRIS AREA</b>			
<b>Oak House, Kilkenny Holiday Homes</b>	Ullard, Borris, Co. Carlow (via Kilkenny)	T: 059-9771065 F: 059-9771065	E: elaine@kilkennyholidayhomes.ie W: www.kilkennyholidayhomes.ie
<b>CARLOW TOWN AREA</b>			
<b>Ceatharlach Moorings</b>	Leighlin Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow	T: 059-9142284/086-2526363	E: infojnew@eircom.net W: www.ceatharlach-moorings.ie
<b>ST. MULLINS AREA</b>			
<b>Old Grain Store Cottages</b>	The Quay, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow	T: 051-424440	E: info@oldgrainstorecottages.ie W: www.oldgrainstorecottages.ie
<b>TULLOW AREA</b>			
<b>Killerig Golf Lodges</b>	The Killerig Resort Hotel and Golf Club, Killerig, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9163050 F: 059-9163051	E: info@killerigresort.com W: www.killerigresort.com
<b>Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Country Club</b>	Tullow, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9180100 F: 059-9152123	E: info@mountwolseley.ie W: www.mountwolseley.ie
<b>Rathlyon House</b>	Rathlyon, Tullow, Co. Carlow	T: 059-9151824	E: info@rathlyonhouse.com W: www.rathlyon.com



**Carlow Shopping Centre**  
Kennedy Avenue, Carlow  
T: 059-9130211  
E: [info@carlowshoppingcentre.com](mailto:info@carlowshoppingcentre.com)  
W: [www.carlowshoppingcentre.com](http://www.carlowshoppingcentre.com)



Break your journey with a stop at Carlow Shopping Centre. Located in the heart of the town, the centre promises great retail shopping with 20 outlets from fashion to restaurant, boutiques, jewellers and health and beauty. Multi-storey car park.

**CAR HIRE – DOOLEY MOTORS**  
T: 059-9131665 E: [sales@dooleymotors.com](mailto:sales@dooleymotors.com)  
W: [www.dooleymotors.com](http://www.dooleymotors.com)

Dooley Motors offer a quality car and van hire service with a rental fleet which includes a full range of passenger cars ranging from small to executive as well as Transit vans for commercial customers. All at competitive prices. Sleaty Roundabout, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

## ESSENTIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Emergency:

Fire, Police, Ambulance ..... 999 or 112  
Garda (Police) Station, Carlow ..... 059-9131505

### Doctors:

Caredoc ..... 059-9134999

### Buses:

Bus Éireann ..... 051-879000  
Rapid Express Coaches ..... 059-9143081

### Rail:

Iarnród Éireann ..... 059-9131633

### Tourist Information:

Carlow Tourist Office,  
College Street, Carlow ..... 059 - 9131554  
Carlow Tourism, Foresters' Hall,  
College Street, Carlow ..... 059-9130411

### Travel Numbers:

Dublin Airport ..... 01-8141111  
Waterford Airport ..... 051-875589

### Car Ferry:

Irish Ferries, Rosslare Harbour ..... 053-9133158  
Stena Line, Rosslare Harbour ..... 053-9133115



Seven Oaks

Athy Road,  
Carlow T: 059-9131308  
F: 059-9132155

HOTEL

E: [info@sevenoakshotel.com](mailto:info@sevenoakshotel.com)  
[www.sevenoakshotel.com](http://www.sevenoakshotel.com)

From the moment you step into our magnificent reception area you will enjoy the warmest of Irish welcomes from our friendly staff, whose attention to your every need will ensure that you will want to return again and again to the Seven Oaks Hotel.

**BEDROOMS** Our 90 individually-designed bedrooms offer every luxury, from double and family rooms to executive suites, all superbly furnished.

**DINING** Our Oaks Bar is a real favourite with guests and locals alike for our superb bar lunch or our very popular evening Nite Bites. Our T.D. Molloy's Restaurant offers intimate surroundings in which to enjoy the very best of Irish and International Cuisine.



**WEDDINGS** For your dream wedding, we have everything to make it the fairytale occasion it should be. A choice of room settings and menus are available to suit all requirements.

**CONFERENCES** Our fully equipped state-of-the-art Conference and Banqueting Rooms will provide the perfect setting whatever the occasion. We can offer you a full range of options, depending on the number of guests and the layout required.



### GREENBANK HEALTH & LEISURE CLUB

The Greenbank Health & Leisure provides the very latest in high-tech equipment, coupled with luxurious surroundings and highly qualified staff to ensure that you obtain the greatest benefit from your visit.



- \* Swimming Pool with Children's Pool
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- \* Sunbed
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- \* Sports Rehabilitation & Aromatherapy
- \* Aerobics Studio
- \* Spinning Studio
- \* Sauna, Steam Room & Jacuzzi
- \* Family Changing Area
- \* Underfloor Heating
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### TAXIS AND BUS HIRE

**CARLOW CABS**  
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**CARLOW TOURS**  
T: 087-6786585 W: [www.carlowtours.ie](http://www.carlowtours.ie)  
Daily tours of Carlow and South East Ireland.

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T: 087-2217524/059- 9147070.  
Provide efficient, high quality and excellent value taxi, coach and minibus hire. 14, 24,

29 and 33 (Mann) seater coaches. Full PA system on luxurious 33 seater.

**McEVOY COACHES**  
Station Road, Bagenalstown,  
Co. Carlow  
T: 087-2565144/059-9721637  
E: [frankmcevoy1944@gmail.com](mailto:frankmcevoy1944@gmail.com)  
Efficient and highly reliable coach and hackney hire. 14 – 53 seater coaches for hire.



**Bishop Daniel Delany Museum,  
Brigidine Convent, Tullow, Co. Carlow.**  
**T: 059-9151308**

During the early years of the nineteenth-century the then Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Daniel Delany saw education as a pathway to a fuller and better life for all. To progress his vision he founded the Brigidine Sisters in 1807 named in honour of St. Brigid, the patroness of the diocese. A year later in 1808 he founded the Patrician Brothers, named in honour of the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. The main focus of the museum is a display of artefacts relating to Bishop Daniel Delany and to the work of the Sisters and Brothers.

**HOW TO FIND US:** In Tullow Town, in the grounds of the Brigidine Convent adjacent to the Church of the Most Holy Rosary.  
**OPENING TIMES:** The museum will be specially opened during 2010 on the following dates: Corpus Christi: Saturday June 12th from 8 – 9.30 p.m. Mass and Corpus Christi procession at 7.30 p.m. Heritage Week: Sunday 22nd August from 12 – 4 p.m. Heritage Week: Sunday 29th August from 12 – 4 p.m. For access to the museum at other times please phone the Brigidine Convent, Tullow in advance of your visit.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Free.



**Carlow Tours**

**T: Pat Doyle 087-6786585**  
**E: carlowtours@vodafone.ie**  
**W: www.carlowtours.ie**

Join me for a day trip to visit the Carlow Valley, from the 5,000 year old dolmen to the cathedral at Old Leighlin visiting Leighlinbridge, Muinebheag and Borris, continuing to the Blackstairs Mountains and taking in the beautiful gardens of Altamont and Duckett's Grove. Rate available on request.



**Dunleckney Manor, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow**  
**T: 059-9721932**

Dunleckney Manor is one of Carlow's most magnificent country houses. Incorporating the original manor dating to 1612, the present manor was erected in 1845 in Tudor Gothic style. Dunleckney Manor was home to the Bagenal family, founders of the nearby town of Bagenalstown, for almost three centuries from 1585 onwards.

**HOW TO FIND US:** 2km north-east of Bagenalstown off the R705 Bagenalstown – Leighlinbridge Road. Take the first left after the swimming pool on the approach to Bagenalstown from Leighlinbridge. Dunleckney Manor is 1 km from this point on the right hand side of the road.

**OPENING TIMES:** On selected days throughout the year. April: 12 – 18th, May: 3rd – 9th, June: 7 – 13th and 21st – 25th, July: 5 – 11th, August: 2nd – 8th, September 6 – 12th, October 4 – 10th. 1 – 5 p.m. Tour on the hour. Last tour 4 p.m.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Adults €7, accompanied children free.



**The Lace Gallery, Carrigslaney,  
Kilbride, Co. Carlow.**

**T: 059- 9155676/087-2886719**  
**E: mary@handmadeirishlace.com**  
**W: www.handmadeirishlace.com**

Mary O' Neill makes small, delicate pieces of the famous Irish Carrickmacross Lace from her studio in Carrigslaney, close to Altamont Gardens. All pieces are designed by



Mary featuring Irish symbols including the Shamrock and Claddagh. Each piece of her work is signed, dated and numbered and is presented as a framed wall piece that makes an attractive gift for any home.

**HOW TO FIND US:** 4km from the N80 at Kilbride Cross (The Forge Restaurant). Pass Altamont Gardens, the Lace Gallery is 2.5 km from this point on the right hand side of the road.

**OPENING TIMES:** April-September, Monday – Friday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 2 – 6 p.m.

Other times by arrangement.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Free.

**Malone's Fruit Farm, Clish, Ballon, Co. Carlow**

**T: 059 - 9159477**

**F: 059 - 9159478**

**M: 086-8472765**

**E: malonefruitfarm@eircom.net**

Malone's Fruit Farm is a family run business growing a variety of berries on 12 acres. The business grows strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, loganberries, tayberries, redcurrants, blackcurrants, whitecurrants and rhubarb. Fresh fruit is available in our farm shop from mid-May to early October while frozen fruit and our full range of homemade products are available all year round. We are proud of our traditional homemade recipes and quality soft fruit which have proven very successful in the market. Many of our products are also available in retail outlets and farmers markets.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Located outside the village of Ballon on the N80 near the N81 junction, 1.5km from Altamont Gardens, 1km from The Forge Restaurant, 19km from Carlow, 1km from Ballon and 8km from Tullow and Bunclody.

**OPENING TIMES:** May 1st – October 31st: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily. Remaining months 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday.



**Painting Holidays Ireland  
Dranagh, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow**

**T: 051-424570**

**E: mairead\_holohan@hotmail.com**

**W: www.maireadholohan.com**

Painting Holidays Ireland provides a rural escape for both the experienced artist and the novice alike, teaching new skills and developing existing ones. Professional tuition by resident artist. Purpose built studio with a maximum of eight people in attendance. Visitors are introduced to different techniques such as; wet on wet, pen and wash, using different materials to achieve a variety of effects. Colour theory is covered along with its application in painting. Courses in paper craft and creative textiles also available. Courses feature field work in the beautiful countryside around the Carlow and Kilkenny area. Accommodation available locally.



**St. Laserian's Cathedral,  
Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow**

**T: 059-9721570**

A thirteenth-century building of great charm, St. Laserian's Cathedral replaced a seventh-century monastery which once accommodated 1,500 monks. The site was the location of an important church synod in 630 AD

which influenced the system for establishing the date of Easter each year. This is the oldest working building in the county and its story is well worth hearing. Buses, educational and pilgrim tours welcome.

**HOW TO FIND US:** 14km from Carlow Town, off the N9 beyond the village of Leighlinbridge. Well signposted.

**OPENING TIMES:** end May – end September daily 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. or by arrangement.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** free, voluntary contributions welcome.





**St. Mullins Heritage Centre,  
St. Mullins, Co. Carlow  
T: 087-9977090/051-424913  
E: smheritagecentre@gmail.com**

**new  
2010**

The former Church of Ireland Church, originally built in 1811, now houses the St. Mullins Heritage Centre, situated beside the famous monastic ruins and cemetery. All aspects of local history including publications, church records, maps, old photographs and artefacts are housed here and provide a fascinating account of village and rural life over the centuries. Completely revamped modern display re-opening May 2010. Genealogy service and guided tours by appointment.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** 14km south of Borris, this village is well signposted off the Borris – New Ross Road (R729).  
**OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Tuesday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekly, all year round. June – end of October, Sunday, 2 – 6 p.m.



**Tullow Museum,  
Tullow, Co. Carlow  
T: 086-3416919 (during  
opening times), 087-2383515  
(anytime)**

Housed in an attractive, stone built, former Methodist church at the River Slaney Bridge. Tullow Museum features a splendid collection of artefacts reflecting local history, in particular Fr. Murphy's connection with the town, including what is alleged to be his last vestments. Fr. Murphy championed Ireland's cause for freedom in the battles of 1798. He was eventually captured near Tullow and killed in the town square where a monument now stands in his memory. The museum also features a collection of local photographs and information on burial grave stones. The museum welcomes any information or artefacts for display purposes especially photographs (on loan or for gift).  
**HOW TO FIND US:** Beside the River Slaney Bridge in Tullow.  
**OPENING TIMES:** 12th April – end October: Sundays and Bank Holidays 2 – 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2 – 4 p.m. Closed Monday and Saturday. Other times by appointment.  
**ADMISSION CHARGES:** free, voluntary contributions welcome.



**The Weavers Cottages, Clonegal, Co. Carlow  
T: 053-9377575/087-9489342**

The Durdin or Weavers Cottages were built by Alexander Durdin in the late seventeenth-century. They were lived in by weavers when the trade was at its height and now feature many items, artefacts, furniture and pictures from bygone times. Set facing onto the main street of the village of Clonegal, the development now comprises a pair of semi-detached, two-bay, single storey dormer cottages with attic conversion. From time to time they are also used for spinning, weaving and bread and butter-making demonstrations. The House of Song and Story is held on the third Monday of every month in St. Bridget's Community Hall, Clonegal. All are welcome.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** In the village of Clonegal. Clonegal is situated 10km from the village of Ballon off the N80 and 17km from Tullow.  
**OPENING TIMES:** By appointment. T: 053-9377575/087-9489342.  
**ADMISSION CHARGES:** free, voluntary contributions welcome.



**Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow T: 059-9773105  
E: info@borrishouse.com W: www.borrishouse.com**

Borris House, the ancestral home of the MacMurrough Kavanaghs, Kings of Leinster, is one of the few Irish estates that can trace its history back to the Royal families of ancient Ireland. Set in over six hundred and fifty acres of walled private park and woodlands, Borris House retains its place as the centrepiece of the village and its locality. Tours of the house can be arranged by appointment only. Tours feature the Borris Lace Collection, the private chapel and the splendid reception rooms.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** In the centre of Borris Village, in south Carlow.  
**OPENING TIMES:** On selected days throughout the year. April: 5 – 9th. May: 3rd – 4th, 10 – 11th, 24 – 25th and 30th. June: 12 – 26th. July: 5 – 6th, 12 – 13th and 25th. August: 22nd – 29th. September: 6 – 7th, 13 – 14th and 20th. December: 4 – 5th. Tours from 1 – 5 p.m. Tours on the hour. Final tour 4 p.m. On all other dates tours of the house can be arranged by appointment for groups only by ringing Tina Kavanagh on 059 – 9773105. Lunch and/or tea can be provided for visiting groups with prior notice.  
**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Adult €10, OAPs €8, Child/Student €5, Family (2 adults and 2/3 children or 3 adults and 2 children) €20.



**Carlow Brewing Company, Muine Bheag Business Park,  
Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown T: 059-9720509 F: 059-9720496  
E: info@carlowbrewing.com W: www.carlowbrewing.com**

Carlow Brewing Company is an independent Irish Brewery, founded by the O'Hara brothers in 1996, building on a keen interest in the craft of brewing and a desire to revive a tradition once common in every town and village in Ireland. Situated in the historical hop and malt growing region of Ireland, the "Barrow Valley" region, Carlow Brewing Company blends this heritage with modern production standards to produce premium quality beers with distinctive taste and flavour. A range of award winning stouts and ales are produced under the O'Hara's brand name along with the Celtic wheat beer, Curim Gold.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** Carlow Brewing Company is situated off the N9 Carlow-Kilkenny Road. Follow signs for Bagenalstown.  
**OPENING TIMES:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tours to be booked in advance.  
**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Adults: €10, group rates (10+): €7.50.



## The Forge Restaurant

**The Forge - for Home Baking and local produce.**



- Serving Breakfast, Morning Coffee, Lunches and Afternoon Tea.
- Home Baking for sale.
- Available for functions and parties
- Display and sale of local Art.
- Wheelchair Friendly
- Seats 50 people with Patio.
- Tourist Information Point

**Weekdays: 9.30am-5.00pm / Sunday: 11am-6pm**

**Mary Jordan, Killbride Cross, Ballon, Co. Carlow, South-East Ireland  
Tel: +353 (0) 059 91 59939 After Hours: +353 (0) 059 91 59136  
Email: theforgekillbride@eircom.net**

Recommended by:



### visitor attractions continued

**Woodlands Falconry, Rathwood Home and Garden World, Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow T: 059-9156878**  
E: [info@woodlandsfalconry.com](mailto:info@woodlandsfalconry.com) W: [www.woodlandsfalconry.com](http://www.woodlandsfalconry.com)

Woodlands Falconry is an educational Bird of Prey Centre where the public can get close up and enjoy these majestic birds. On view we have a selection of Hawks, Falcons and Owls from around the world, including the Turkey Vulture and recently re-introduced Red Kite and Golden Eagle. See our daily flying displays, or take a pleasant and more personal "Hawk Walk" through the adjoining woodland. We also cater for school tours, scout groups etc.



#### HOW TO FIND US:

In the grounds of Rathwood Home and Garden World off the R725 Tullow – Shillelagh Road, 5km from Tullow Town.

**OPENING TIMES:** Wednesday – Sunday (and all Bank Holidays) 11a.m. – 5 p.m.



#### TELEPHONING FROM ABROAD

To dial direct from abroad, the prefix 00 353 is normally used. Please note that when dialling direct the first digit of the local area code should be deleted. To find out whether 00 353 is the correct code to Ireland from the country from which you are dialling, you should contact International Directory Enquiries. If you are dialling any of the numbers within this publication while holidaying in Ireland, but are outside the county of Carlow, please use the full number including the local area code. If you are telephoning from within County Carlow it is sufficient to dial the main telephone number.

### family fun activities

**The Dome Family Entertainment Centre, Carlow Business Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow T: 059-9141555 E: [info@dome.ie](mailto:info@dome.ie) W: [www.dome.ie](http://www.dome.ie)**

The first of its kind in the country, this family entertainment centre is highly popular with both young and old alike. The centre features a state-of-the-art computerised 12-lane bowling alley, automated bumpers and a range of simulators.



Other activities include an 8,000 square feet children's play and activity area, SKY dome with wide screen televisions, juvenile disco and cinema room. Birthday parties a speciality. Full restaurant facilities cater for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Carlow Martial Arts Sanctuary conduct classes at the Dome each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night from 7 p.m. Salsa and ballroom dancing classes every Monday night from 7 p.m. New go-kart area upstairs, new Redemption games area upstairs.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Off the Portlaoise Road (N80) in Carlow, adjacent to the Talbot Hotel.

**OPENING TIMES:** Seven days per week 9 a.m. until late.

**RATE PER HOUR:** Bowling - Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – close €25. Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays €35. Children's play area: under 2 years €5 per 1½ hours. 2 – 4 years €6. 5 – 12 years €8. Three or more children any age: €6 each.

**OPENING SHORTLY – THE GRID, Sleaty Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow. T: 086-8351330**

Indoor go-karting and roller disco rink opening shortly in Graiguecullen, Carlow. Indoor karting with 270cc Honda engines. Also 90cc karts. 400 metres of track area. 400 square yards of roller rink playing all the latest tunes with disco neon lights.



## MOUNT WOLSELEY

HOTEL, SPA & COUNTRY CLUB TULLOW, CO. CARLOW

Tel: +353 59 91 80100 Fax: +353 59 91 52123 Email: [info@mountwolseley.ie](mailto:info@mountwolseley.ie) Web: [www.mountwolseley.ie](http://www.mountwolseley.ie)



## SPECIAL OFFERS:

**From €139.00 p.p.s 2 B&B & 1 Dinner**

**From €179.00 p.p.s 2 B&B & 1 Dinner & 1 Round of Golf**

**Children under 12 free sharing.**

**Fantastic Children's Activity Club available**

Quote CT at time of booking to avail of the above rates. Subject to availability.

# A PICTURE OF PURE INDULGENCE



### MONDAY

(T) **The Seven Oaks Hotel**,  
Athy Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9131308

### TUESDAY

(AD) **The Seven Oaks Hotel**,  
Athy Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9131308

### THURSDAY

(DJ) **The Foundry**,  
Dinn Rí,  
Tullow Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9130334

(T) **The Carlovian**,  
Tullow Street,  
Carlow  
T: 059-9130911

(L) **Teach Dolmain**,  
Tullow Street  
Carlow

T: 059-9130911

(T) **Lawlor's Pub**,  
Kilcarrig Street,  
Bagenalstown,  
Co. Carlow

T: 059-9721181

### FRIDAY

(L) **Mount Wolseley**,  
Tullow, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9180100

(DJ) **The Foundry**,  
Dinn Rí, Tullow  
Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9130334

(DJ) **Teach Dolmain**,  
Tullow Street  
Carlow T: 059-9130911

(L) **Talbot Hotel**,  
Portlaoise Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9153000

(L) **The Barracks**, Tullow Street,  
Carlow T: 059-9141781

### SATURDAY

(L) **McHugh's Court House  
Hotel**, Dublin Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9133243

(DJ/L) **The Foundry  
Nightclub and  
Tower**, Dinn Rí,  
Tullow Street, Carlow

T: 059-9130334

(DJ) **Brooks Brassiere**,  
Dinn Rí, Tullow Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9130334

(L) **Mount Wolseley**,  
Tullow, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9180100

(DJ/L) **Teach Dolmain**,  
Tullow Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9130911

(M) **JJ's Bar**,  
Mill Street, Tullow Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9151285

(L) **Talbot Hotel**,  
Portlaoise Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9153000

(DJ) **The Barracks**, Tullow Street,  
Carlow T: 059-9141781

(L) **Killerig Resort**, Killerig, Co.  
Carlow. T: 059-9163050

(L) **Reddy's Bar & Restaurant**,  
Tullow Street, Carlow.  
T: 059-9142224

### SUNDAY

(DJ) **The Foundry Nightclub**,  
Dinn Rí, Tullow Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9130334

(L) **Reddy's Bar & Restaurant**,  
Tullow Street, Carlow.  
T: 059-9142224

A.D. = Adult Dancing K = Karaoke  
T = Traditional L = Live Music  
N = Nightclub  
M = Music in Bar

### SET DANCING

**Monday Nights – Palatine  
GAA Clubhouse**, Bennekerry,  
Co. Carlow at 9.30 p.m. Adm. €5.  
T: Peter O'Neill 087-6109728

**Tuesday Nights – Doyle's  
Railway House Bar**, Main  
Street, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow  
T: Hilary 087-2882451

**Wednesday Nights –  
Leighlinbridge Parish Centre**,  
Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow  
at 8.15 p.m. Admission €5.

T: John Sheehan 087-9907825  
**Thursday Nights – Oisín Park**,  
Killeslin, Carlow at 8.30 p.m.  
Admission Fee €5.

T: Eddie Whelan 086-8173843

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**St. Brigid's Community Centre**,  
Clonegal, Co. Carlow on third  
Monday of every Month at 8 p.m.  
Free admission, tea served.  
T: John McCabe 087-9489342.

**Clonmore, Co. Carlow** on the  
first Friday of every month at  
8.30 p.m. T: Eddie McDonald  
059-6471244

**Rathoe Community Hall**,  
Rathoe, Co. Carlow on second  
Friday of every month at 8 p.m.  
T: John Candy 087-2632324

# Rathwood

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### carlow farmers market

T: 087-2738061

W: [www.carlowfarmersmarket.com](http://www.carlowfarmersmarket.com)

Carlow Farmers' Market is a food-based market that has proven hugely popular as customers embrace the wide variety of fresh fruit, vegetables, meats, juices and home baking on offer here. The market is held each Saturday morning from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Potato Market and Liberty Tree in the centre of Carlow Town, a well designed space, set in bright and modern surroundings. The market provides an outlet for local farm based food, while also allowing visitors and locals the opportunity to meet local farmers and growers and purchase top quality Carlow foods in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.



Foodstuffs available at the market include organic and conventional meats and vegetables, handcrafted chocolates, cheeses, olives, fish, fruit in season, juices, jams, chutneys, free range and organic eggs, crepes, beverages, ready

prepared meals and desserts. A huge array of home baking and cottage garden plants and flowers are also on sale.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Every Saturday, Potato Market and Liberty Tree, Carlow Town 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. T: 087-2738061 for further details on all our producers and products.



### askea country market

T: 059-9161130 for further information.

W: [www.countrymarkets.ie](http://www.countrymarkets.ie)

Askea Country Market has gone from strength to strength since its foundation in 2002. Every Friday 20 local producers gather in Askea Parish Centre from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. with their high quality, fresh, home made produce. Foodstuffs on offer include gluten-free and spelt bread, home baked cakes, breads and tarts, jams and chutneys, free range eggs and duck eggs, country butter, vegetables and fruits in season. All breads and confectionery made the day before ensuring freshness. Flowers and plants, homemade greeting cards and arts and crafts are also on sale **HOW TO FIND US:** Every Friday, Askea Parish Centre, Carlow Town 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



### kildavin country market

T: 087-7814232 for further information

W: [www.kildavincountrymarket.com](http://www.kildavincountrymarket.com)

**Follow market activities on Facebook**

A vibrant country market with 25 creative producers working together. Artisan foods, Italian and Irish and gluten free breads, prize winning home baking, fresh locally grown vegetables, garden plants and herbs, chilli jam, local cheese and chutneys, jams, stuffed Portobello mushrooms, savoury tarts, free range hen and duck eggs, pesto, salad dressing, sugar craft celebration cakes to order for any occasion, wood turning, crafts etc. Taste the produce with tea or coffee for €1 and meet our eclectic producers. See our demonstrations of patchwork, quilting, butter making and card making. Every Saturday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Spellman Hall, Kildavin is just off the N80 – Carlow/Buncloody Road.



### cooking schools and farm shops

**Christine Jordan – Tasteworks Cookery School & Kitchen Project, The Cottage, Rathellin, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow**

T: 059-9722786 M: 086-3784051

E: [info@tasteworks.ie](mailto:info@tasteworks.ie) W: [www.tasteworks.ie](http://www.tasteworks.ie)

Christine Jordan is a highly proficient cook who has been practising her favourite hobby since she was a young child. Since 2004 Christine has been teaching and inspiring people to cook great food from scratch in her wonderful cookery school. Evening and weekend classes cover everything from Classical Italian to Thai



Cooking. A new kitchen garden is now in development growing a broad range of vegetables. The Farm Shop is now open, selling their own as well as fantastic local produce from all around Carlow and neighbouring counties. Also available is Tasteworks All Butter Frozen Pastry, recipient of a Bridgestone Award in 2009. This is a project to show people how productive a smallholding can be, but also what passionate and committed food producers we have on our doorstep. Local, seasonal and simple foods, that is what this is all about! Recommended by the Bridgestone Best in Ireland Guide 2007 – 2010. **HOW TO FIND US:** Off the R705 mid-way between Bagenalstown and Leighlinbridge.

**OPENING TIMES:** Farm Shop: Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 7.30 p.m. For details of courses visit [www.tasteworks.ie](http://www.tasteworks.ie)

**Ballyderrin Cookery School and Farm Shop, Shillelagh Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow**

T: 059-9152742

W: [www.ballyderrin.com](http://www.ballyderrin.com)

E: [info@ballyderrin.com](mailto:info@ballyderrin.com)

Cookery is fun and here at Ballyderrin we focus on fresh natural foods for today's way of life. Adult and children's cookery courses are available for all tastes and abilities in a relaxed atmosphere.

Farm shop supplying a wide range of carefully sourced products both by Ballyderrin and local producers including a selection of organic produce. Also features freshly baked breads and cakes. When in season a selection of vegetables and fruit from our own garden is on sale. Enjoy a delicious cup of coffee in our Coffee Shop while taking in the beautiful scenery and country life.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Off the R725 Tullow – Shillelagh Road, on the outskirts of Tullow Town.

**OPENING TIMES:** Seven days: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.







Clashganny Lock, 5km south of Borris off the R729 New Ross Road, is one of Carlow's and Ireland's most famous landmarks.

A journey along Carlow's gentle waterways leads the visitor to a tranquil bygone time. The Rivers Barrow and Slaney and their many tributaries provide exciting activities for the passive and active water enthusiast.

The River Barrow has its source in the Slieve Bloom and Devil's Bit Mountains and is Ireland's second longest river system running for 192km from its source to the sea. Fringed with reeds and river flowers, and harbouring a wealth of wildlife in her banks, the River Barrow bears boats and barges along 68km of navigable waterway past pretty riverside villages and through 23 Victorian locks. In recent times, the river has experienced an exciting rejuvenation with a range of outdoor activities for the sports enthusiast. The Barrow Way long distance walking route follows the whole length of the Barrow from Lowtown in Co. Kildare to St. Mullins in Co. Carlow. Cruising the River Barrow is a unique experience due to its unspoilt, uncommercialised and uncrowded waters. There are no long queues passing through locks and no problems getting space at quaysides. A journey along the gentle River Barrow takes the traveller to a tranquil bygone time where bird watching, canoeing, angling and boating can all be enjoyed at ease.

#### boat hire

Barrowline Cruisers Ireland, Vicarstown, Co. Laois  
T: 057-8626060 M: 087-9887241 F: 057-8625652  
E: barrowline@eircom.net W: www.barrowline.ie

Barrowline Cruisers is a friendly family-owned barge hire company, providing well equipped self-drive barges varying in size from 2 berth narrowboats to 8 berth wide beams. Their base on the Grand Canal is ideally located to allow you to explore the full extent of the tranquil waters of the Grand Canal and the more lively waters of the River Barrow - two totally different cruising experiences. Weekly and short break hire available.



#### angling on the rivers barrow and slaney

Whether you happen to be a pleasure angler, match angler, trout angler or specimen hunter, you will not be disappointed by the River Barrow. The Barrow is renowned as a coarse and game angling river for bream, roach, dace, hybrids, rudd, perch, pike – for which the Irish river records are held – brown trout and, under normal circumstances, salmon and white trout. The river has easy access points and a towpath which runs the length of its course in Co. Carlow. **In 2010 the River Barrow is closed to all salmon, white trout and eel fishing in order to conserve stocks.** The brown trout season on the River Barrow commenced on March 17th and finishes on September 30th. Other fishing (with the exception of salmon and white trout) is available year-round. Good brown trout fishing can be enjoyed at a number of locations along the river and on its tributaries. Between Goresbridge and Graiguenamanagh and at Milford fish stocks are very good and brown trout of up to 2lbs can be caught. Below the weir in St. Mullins the trout are small (.5lb) but plentiful. The rivers Greese and Lerr, tributaries of the River Barrow can provide excellent brown trout fishing while the River Burrin is one of the finest trout fishing rivers in the region.

The excellent stocks of quality pike are one of the main attractions for anglers on the river, with abundant stocks of 20lbs+. Pike angling is carried out on all stretches of the river between Athy and St. Mullins with the main locations being Bahana Wood (just above St. Mullins), Graiguenamanagh and Ballytiglia Bridge near Borris. Pike, bream and hybrids are the primary species but rudd is also abundant here.

There is a complete ban on salmon fishing on the River Slaney in 2010 in order to conserve stocks. Sea trout fishing under 40cm is allowed (bag limit of two fish per 24 hours). Brown trout fishing allowed (barbless hooks, no worm fishing).

## Murph's

Unit 2, Lismard House  
Tullow Street, Carlow

Tel: 059 9132839

Fax: 059 9132839

Email: Jamesmurphy07@gmail.com



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Just to mention a few



## angling information

**Murph's Fishing Tackle,**  
Unit 2 Lismard House, Tullow Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9132839 E: jamesmurphy07@gmail.com

Murph's Fishing Tackle is the ideal outlet for supplies of all types of fishing equipment – for the serious and not so serious angler. Suppliers of ground bait pellets and live bait. Stockists of a large selection of reels and rods. Information on fishing in the local area is provided as well as licences for salmon and permits for trout.

**Upcoming angling events: Shad fishing competition, 2nd May 2010. See page 6 for further details. King of the Barrow Festival, 1st August 2010. See page 7 for further details.**



Fishing at Clashganny on the River Barrow

## facilities

**Carlow Town:** Waterways Ireland has provided an 84 metre floating jetty for Carlow Town which has been installed on the Graiguecullen side of the river just downstream of the steps in Carlow Town Park and is open to the public.

**Leighlinbridge:** Berthing for up to 25 boats is offered on the banks of the River Barrow beside the renowned restaurant The Lord Bagenal Hotel. Water and showers available to users. T: 059-9721668

**Bagenalstown:** A slipway and jetty have been installed at Bagenalstown by Waterways Ireland and Carlow County Council. On the quayside in the area opposite Rudkins Mills, is a new disabled-friendly boat access point.

2011 represents the 220th anniversary of the Barrow Navigation and an important milestone in the history and heritage of one of Ireland's most scenic natural assets. Visit [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com) for information on river festivals and water themed events to celebrate this important occasion.

## WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY FISHING STANDS

Five custom-built fishing stands complete with river access by wheelchair and/or vehicles are located on the banks of the River Barrow in Bagenalstown, from the swimming pool towards Rathellen Lock. This stretch of the Barrow was chosen as it holds a copious head of coarse fish including bream, roach and pike. Turning points for cars and a well-surfaced access road along the river have been completed along with five cut stone benches for angling companions.



Photos courtesy James Burke

## english language schools

**Carlow International English Language School (C.I.E.L.S.)**  
46 Sycamore Road, Rathnapish, Carlow  
T/F: Dave/Catherine Barron 059-9142066  
M: 087-2204488/086 8621266 E: [info@ciels.ie](mailto:info@ciels.ie) W: [www.ciels.ie](http://www.ciels.ie)

CIELS is a family run English Language school, the longest-running in Carlow. It enjoys recognition by the Department of Education and Science and is a member of ACELS (Advisory Council for English Language Schools). CIELS continues to promote language tourism for the benefit of its students and the Carlow community. In conjunction with Carlow Tourism and Carlow Institute for Further Education, CIELS works in the areas of Summer Vacation English and Irish Culture, Vocational Training with English, School integration programmes and Work Placements. See [www.ciels.ie](http://www.ciels.ie) for further details.

**Dolmen English Language School, 5 Old Burrin, Burrin Rd, Carlow**  
T: 059-9182169 E: [delscarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:delscarlow@hotmail.com) W: [www.dels.ie](http://www.dels.ie)

DELS was set up by Caroline and Kevin Behan to provide EU and non-EU citizens with work experience and linguistic training opportunities throughout the year. DELS prides itself on its experience in collaborating with trainees and students from as far afield as Japan and Korea. DELS also provides quality summer language programmes. The school specialises in General English, Business English, Examination Programmes (Cambridge and IELTS) and High School Programmes. Member of ACELS (The Advisory Council for English Language Schools).

**English Language Ireland**  
6 Highfield, Dublin Road, Carlow  
T/F: Ruth Coffey 059-9140227  
E: [info@englishlanguage.ie](mailto:info@englishlanguage.ie)  
W: [www.englishlanguage.ie](http://www.englishlanguage.ie)

English Language Ireland is a family-run English Language School that commenced business in 2000. We have developed a business model based on Total Quality Management, adopting a Holistic Person Centred approach, linking defined needs to client specified outcomes. Our policy of continuous improvement ensures constant reflection and change management. Together with our 'team approach', this results in client loyalty: - they are happy to refer, recommend and repeat their stays with us as innovative living-language experiences. ELI is accredited by ACELS (The Advisory Council For English Language Schools) and is a member of MEI RELSA (Learning English in Ireland), Carlow Tourism and County Carlow Chamber of Commerce.

# LICENCES

**A state licence is required to fish for salmon. A licence may be obtained from Murph's, Tullow Street, Carlow, T: 059-9132839.**

**Annual District Licence, Barrow/Nore/Suir .....€58**

**Annual licence, 26 counties ..... €120**

\* Salmon and white trout fishing disallowed on River Barrow 2010. Salmon fishing disallowed on River Slaney 2010. Eel fishing disallowed on all rivers in 2010.



If you're a serious Rambler or just like to stretch your legs and enjoy the view, then Co. Carlow is a brilliant destination to explore on foot. Visitors will be spoiled by the diverse array of options on offer from forest parks to mountains and river towpaths.

### the barrow way

The Barrow Way follows the towpath, originally a path alongside the River Barrow where horses pulled barges and goods for transport. Nowadays, visitors can enjoy excellent flat walking, passing good land where tillage and cattle farming is predominant. The path offers much of architectural interest to the visitor – bridges, many arched, and pretty lock houses, some still in use. The full length of the Barrow Way from Loughtown to St. Mullins is 113 kilometres (70 miles). Alternatively, the route can be easily explored by taking short sections of the walk in a series of daily trips. Accommodation is available at regular intervals and varies from hotels to self-catering and bed and breakfast.

**STAGE 1** of the Barrow Way starts in Loughtown and a distance of 23km (14 miles) takes you to the town of Monasterevin. The raised banks of the canal offer beautiful vistas of the surrounding countryside with views of the Hill of Allen and the Wicklow Mountains.

**STAGE 2** covers the stretch from Monasterevin to Athy – 23km (14 miles). This stretch offers the visitor much of historical and architectural interest with many old bridges and houses.

**STAGE 3** runs from Athy to Carlow – 19km (12 miles). This is the first of four stretches which pass through the county of Carlow. Starting from the heritage town of Athy, the route passes many interesting lifting



The Barrow Way at Rathellen Lock

bridges and old mills before reaching Carlow Town.

**STAGE 4** Carlow to Bagenalstown – 16km (10 miles). Milford, approximately 7km south of Carlow is one of the most attractive stretches along the River Barrow. Set in an idyllic location with three bridges, mill buildings and a large wooded area, it is famous as an aquatic triangle with regular sightings of herons and kingfishers. This stretch of walk is rich with historical buildings and castles including the Black Castle at Leighlinbridge and the many architectural gems in the town of Bagenalstown, where this walk ends.

**STAGE 5** takes the walker from Bagenalstown to Graigueamanagh – 26km (16 miles). This route passes the pretty villages of Goresbridge and Borris before ending in Graigueamanagh, a picturesque abbey town and a popular boating centre. Overlooking the River Barrow is Duiske Abbey founded by Norman monks from Stanley Abbey, Wiltshire in 1204. The "Early English" design boasts a lofty nave and it is the largest of Irish Cistercian monastery churches.

**STAGE 6** Graigueamanagh to St. Mullins – 6km (4 miles). This stretch has beautiful woodland surroundings with a strong ecclesiastical theme in the religious settlement

at St. Mullins. The lower settlement is set on a glorious stretch of the Barrow Valley and includes a picnic area.

### the south leinster way

The South Leinster Way is a long distance walking route which runs from Kildavin, in the east of Co. Carlow to Carrick-on-Suir in Co. Tipperary covering 102 kilometres (64 miles) in length.

The predominant features in the landscape are Mount Leinster, Brandon Hill and the river valleys of the Barrow, Nore and Suir. This stretch can be comfortably walked in five days but strong walkers can finish it in three days.

**STAGE 1:** Kildavin – Borris 22km (14 miles). From Kildavin the route passes along forest tracks over the northern slopes of Mount Leinster to reach the town of Borris. The "Nine Stones" vantage point at Mount Leinster offers amazing views of the Barrow Valley and Brandon Hill. At 795 metres Mount Leinster is the highest hill in the Blackstairs Mountains. The mast on top transmits RTE television and radio to the entire region.

**STAGE 2:** Borris – Graigueamanagh 12km (7 ½ miles). This stretch follows the towpath along the River Barrow and is particularly attractive as it passes through rich deciduous woodland and old mills. Clashganny Lock, 5km south of Borris is one of Carlow's and Ireland's most famous landmarks. Graigueamanagh marks the end of this stage – a quayside, boating town lying in the county of Kilkenny but connected via a fine bridge over the River Barrow to its twin village of Tinnahinch in Co. Carlow.

**STAGE 3:** Graigueamanagh – Inistioge 16km (10 miles). This walk crosses the slopes of Mount Brandon by a series of forest walks before reaching the pretty village of Inistioge. At 519 metres in height Mount Brandon is the last significant hill of any size in the Leinster granite chain and offers superb views of the surrounding countryside. There is a view indicator, pointing out the principle attractions in South East Ireland and a large cross. In recent years, Inistioge has witnessed the development of the film making industry in Ireland. Famous films shot here include Widow's Peak and Circle of Friends.

**STAGE 4:** Inistioge – Mullinavat 30km (19 miles). Suitable for the seasoned walker. This section of the way starts along the banks of the River Nore and continues via forest roads over several hills to reach Mullinavat.

**STAGE 5:** Mullinavat – Carrick-on-Suir 22km (14 miles). This stretch crosses the River Blackwater and passes the village of Piltown en route to the end of the walk in Carrick-on-Suir.

carlow autumn walking festival

Friday 8th - Sunday 10th October 2010

The 8th annual Carlow Walking Festival allows experienced walkers to enjoy the invigorating challenge of Carlow's mountain treks while novices will find peace and tranquillity on quiet country routes. Combine this with clean, fresh air, knowledgeable local guides and excellent accommodation for a revitalising Autumn break.

Fully guided graded walks. Nightly entertainment.

Co. Carlow is home to three of Ireland's key national walking routes – The South Leinster, The Wicklow & The Barrow Way which links with the Slieve Margey Way in Co. Laois.

Full details from **Carlow Tourism, The Foresters' Hall, College Street, Carlow**  
t: 059-9130411 f: 059-9130477  
e: info@carlowtourism.com  
w: www.carlowtourism.com

Special accommodation packages available.





Walking on Cloroge Mór in the Blackstairs Mountains

### the wicklow way

The Wicklow Way covers a distance of 132km (81 miles) in length commencing in Marley Park, Dublin and finishing in the beautiful village of Clonegal located in the River Slaney valley in the east of the county. A combination of suburban parkland, forest trails, wild and scenic mountain landscape and finally, rolling countryside offers a wonderfully varied, eight to ten day experience for a hill-walker of average fitness. Variety in buildings and wildlife is a great characteristic of this route with regular sightings of red deer, sika deer, hares, foxes, squirrels and badgers.

### the slieve margy way

The Slieve Margy Way is located in the north western corner of Co. Carlow and south-eastern corner of Co. Laois and allows the visitor explore some of the most spectacular scenery in Ireland. The route is a circular network of walking tracks through a number of villages, many in close proximity to Co. Carlow including Graiguecullen, Maganey, Arles, Wolfhill and The Swan. Passing along the banks of the River Barrow, the Slieve Margy Way then takes to the hills rising over 1,000 feet to the top of the Castlecomer Plateau to join the Swan Loop. The Way has been designed to allow walkers join it at any point and walk in either direction. Full map available from Carlow Tourist Office on 059-9131554.

### walking clubs

**Tullow Mountaineering Club** organise graded mountain walks every Sunday from Barrack Street, Carlow Town (opposite Deane's newsagents). Cars depart at 9.30 a.m. sharp with walks graded easy, medium and hard. Walks are not always in the local Blackstairs Mountains. Easy walks are arranged for the first Sunday of every month and are suitable for beginners. It is advisable to bring along wind-proof and waterproof clothing, walking boots and a ruck-sack with lunch and extra clothing for when the walk is finished. Please confirm in advance with **David Butler, Club Secretary**  
**T: 087-2204134 E: tullowmc@hotmail.com**

**The Blackstairs Ramblers** are a group of hill walkers who as their name suggests, enjoy rambling on the Blackstairs Mountains. They walk on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, accommodating different levels of fitness with two walks on each occasion. Club walks also take place on Thursday night. See [www.blackstairsramblers.com](http://www.blackstairsramblers.com) for a full walk schedule.

Carlow now enjoys a growing selection of walks under the National Looped Walks initiative. Three recent additions include Oak Park Forest Park, Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area and Clogrennane Wood.

### oak park forest park

Situated on the outskirts of Carlow Town, Oak Park Forest Park is an oasis of tranquillity and a popular destination for walkers and joggers. The park is a mature mixed species woodland of over 120 acres with a predominance of beech, oak, scots pine, silver fir, larch and sycamore. Extending over 4 kilometres the walks include Butlers Wood Loop (700 metres), the Lake Path (800 metres), Fox Covert Track (1100 metres) and Sally Island Trail (1700 metres). All the walks are wheelchair accessible while a range of visitor facilities include ample car parking, picnic tables and public toilets.



### kilbrannish forest recreation area

Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area on the Blackstairs Mountains feature two signposted trails - the Windfarm Loop is 3km in length with a good surface and uphill sections and is suitable for families with young children. The Kilbrannish Forest Loop is 5 kilometres in length, taking approx. 2 hours to complete. The route offers wonderful views of the surrounding countryside - walkers following the Kilbrannish Forest Loop will be rewarded with particularly fine vistas from the summit of Croaghnaun (455 metres) northwards over the plains of Carlow with the village and town of Myshall and Tullow spread out below. A large car park and picnic facilities are available to visitors.



View from Kilbrannish to Mount Leinster, Blackstairs Mountains

### clogrennane wood

**new 2010** Clogrennane Wood near Carlow Town offers the user a gentle sloping walk on forest roads with magnificent views of Carlow Town and the River Barrow on a clear day. The area is an old wood and has had forestry cover present since the 1800s. The predominant tree species in Clogrennane are beech, spruce, larch and oak with vegetation consistent with that of an old woodland - bluebells, ferns, wild garlic and herb rocket.

### the pathway porter

**new 2010** The Pathway Porter is a new company offering services for walkers and cyclists along Ireland's long distance routes. It allows customers to arrange and pre-book baggage movements between their accommodation allowing them to complete their daily itinerary with the lightest possible load. Clients can also take advantage of child carrier hire, avoiding the hassle of purchasing one outright or bringing one from abroad. Their accommodation booking service is commission free, the client pays the provider directly. Customers can book on-line or by phone, the site also carries information about Ireland's national trails with suggested itineraries.

**W: [www.thepathwayporter.com](http://www.thepathwayporter.com)**  
**T: 086-056 6212**





With its rich Celtic past, Co. Carlow is steeped in historical and archaeological artefacts. The following provides a brief account of some of these fascinating sites. For more information and an overview of Carlow's rich history visit [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)



The ruins of Ballymoon Castle, Bagenalstown

### castles

#### Ballymoon Castle, Bagenalstown.

Just 3.5 km east of Bagenalstown this ruined castle dates to the fourteenth-century. The castle – as striking as it is unusual – comprises a courtyard about 80 feet square, surrounded by granite walls, 8 feet thick and 20 feet high. Square towers project from three sides while a formidable gatehouse is the feature of the fourth. The interior of the castle is now bare but originally featured two-storey structures built up against the inner walls. The castle was most probably built by Roger Bigod or by a member of the Carew family. Access direct from the R724 Bagenalstown – Fenagh Road via a small timber footbridge.

#### Ballyloughan Castle, Bagenalstown.

This castle was probably built in the thirteenth-century and consisted of a large open courtyard with a curtain wall and a moat outside. Only a small square tower remains, as well as the entrance gate which is flanked by two large rounded towers. The castle originally belonged to the Kavanaghs before passing into the hands of the Bagenal family of nearby Bagenalstown and following this the Bruen family in the early nineteenth-century. Access direct, on private land.

#### Black Castle, Leighlinbridge.

The village of Leighlinbridge developed at this strategic crossing on the River Barrow, defended by the Black Castle. In 1181, the Norman, Hugh de Lacy built the first castle here to defend the crossing while the present castle is reported to have been built by Sir Edward Bellingham in 1547. The site was long held by the Kavanaghs and the Butlers and was also occupied by Sir Peter Carew and the Bagenals. Access direct from the river towpath.

Carlow Castle, Carlow Town. See page 47.

#### Clonmore Castle, Clonmore.

Clonmore Castle is square in plan and features rectangular towers at two corners with small turrets at the remaining corners. History indicates that it was probably built towards the latter end of the thirteenth-century. With remains of the main interior buildings to be seen, this castle is well worth a visit.

Duckett's Grove,  
near Carlow Town.  
See page 34.



Duckett's Grove, Carlow  
Photo: Andrew Goss  
[www.andrewgoss.net](http://www.andrewgoss.net)

Huntington Castle, Clonegal, Co. Carlow. See page 36.

### field monuments

#### Brownsill Dolmen, near Carlow Town.

One very unmistakable monument dating back to pre-historical times is the great dolmen at Brownsill to the east of Carlow Town. The dolmen has a granite capstone weighing over 100 tonnes, making it the largest of its kind in Europe. The massive capstone rests on two portal stones which flank a door stone and slopes downwards to the west where it rests on a low boulder. This magnificent capstone has excited the interest of many antiquarians and tourists down through the years and it is thought that religious rites, possibly even human sacrifice, were performed there for four and a half thousand years (2500 BC). Signposted, direct access – 5km from Carlow Town on the R726 Hacketstown Road.



#### Cloch-a-Phoill, Ardristan, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

South of Tullow in Ardristan lies a large holed stone of great antiquity which may have once been part of a megalithic tomb. For over 2,000 years it was believed that sick infants if passed through the six inch hole would be restored to health. Access off the N81 Tullow/Buncloody Road approximately 5km from Tullow (well signposted).

#### Clonmore.

Situated on the approach to Clonmore Village in the north-eastern corner of Co. Carlow is the triple bullaun stone, a large natural stone in situ with three hollows scooped out. It was used for pounding ingredients in pre-historic times as a mortar and pestle might be used today. See page 40 for further details.



Triple Bullaun Stone, Clonmore

#### Haroldstown Dolmen, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

A well preserved example of a portal dolmen consisting of two slightly tilted capstones supported by ten vertical stones, two of which acted as the door to the tomb. Near Tullow off the R727 – access direct, on private land.

#### Rathgall Stone Fort, Tullow.

An extensive hillside fortification with eighth century outer walls and later medieval inner walls. Evidence from excavations carried out at Rathgall suggests that hill forts were constructed from the late Bronze Age (800 BC) into the Iron Age and continued to be used into post medieval times. On excavation in 1969 Rathgall turned out to be the first Later Bronze Age Workshop located in Ireland



Rathgall Stone Fort, Tullow

and more than 400 clay moulds were also found there. Evidence of a house was discovered in the inner stone circle with the second and third ramparts forming the main defensive walls. Extensive metal workshop areas were uncovered in the inner and outer circles for casting large quantities of bronze weapons and tools. Other finds included glass, bronze and stone objects, clay moulds, gold and glass beads and other artefacts. Excavations revealed that an important wealthy family or small community lived on the hilltop. Situated 5km from Tullow off the R725 Shillelagh Road – access direct.



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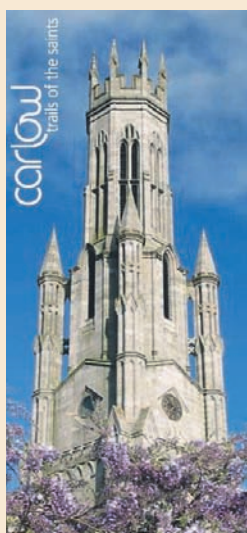
For more information or details of annual events commemorating the race, or to order your FREE COPY of our new route guide, click

[www.gordonbennetroute.com](http://www.gordonbennetroute.com)

or contact Carlow Tourist Office: 00353 59 9131554  
[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

### TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS

Carlow County Library has a rich collection of unique material on many aspects of Co. Carlow and an extensive local history section for genealogical enquiries. For further details T: 059-9170094 E: [library@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:library@carlowcoco.ie) The Civil Registration Service (births, deaths and marriages) for County Carlow is located at the Community Care Centre on St. Dymphna's Hospital campus on the Athy Road, Carlow T: 059-9136542. Birth, death and marriage records for County Carlow are held in local registers dating from 1864. Records for the rest of the country are available from a computer data base in every registration office countrywide as follows: births from 1864, deaths from 1924 and marriages from 1920.



## carlow – trails of the saints ceatharlach – bóthar na naomh



carlow  
through the waters of time

Fáilte Ireland  
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Carlow is a county with an exceptionally rich ecclesiastical heritage containing a number of sites which can be deemed to be of national significance. These include the monastic site at St. Mullins, the Romanesque doorway at Killeslin, the medieval Cathedral of Old Leighlin and the exquisite Adelaide Memorial Church at Myshall. These sites and many others have been incorporated into three separate driving routes which between them cover the entire county of Carlow and feature some 51 ecclesiastical attractions. A full brochure of the trails can be obtained from Carlow Tourist Office, T: 059-9131554.

**St. Patrick's Trail** – named after St. Patrick, who is reputed to have baptised the King of Leinster in north Carlow. This trail takes in the county's two largest urban settlements of Carlow and Tullow. Both towns have a rich ecclesiastical tradition and were in the forefront of the nineteenth-century revival of Catholic places of worship and education. The beautifully carved doorway at Killeslin and the crosses and holy well in the peaceful village of Clonmore are excellent examples of the county's early Christian and medieval heritage while a stopover at the O'Meara tomb in Bennekerry churchyard will introduce the visitor to a famous Carlow artist.

**St. Laserian's Trail** – A visit to St. Laserian's Cathedral makes a perfect start to this trail which meanders through the heart of the county towards Myshall at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains. In Myshall the visitor can admire the exquisite Adelaide Memorial Church with its exuberant decorative work. The trail also includes the Quaker burial grounds at Ballykealey and Ballybrommel which remind us that the county included communities whose belief systems operated outside the mainstream Catholic and Church of Ireland faiths.

**St. Moling's Trail** – St. Moling, the seventh-century saint, ranks among 'the four great prophets of Ireland'. The monastery he founded at St. Mullins on a promontory beside the River Barrow is the highlight on this trail which bears his name. There are, however, other exceptional experiences awaiting the visitor. The isolated Temple Moling in Ballinree and the diminutive early medieval church at Killoughternane are set in breathtaking scenery and surrounded by the calming sounds of nature. The trail also includes the beautiful medieval Cistercian church in Graiguenamangh now adapted for modern worship.

### For additional reading please consult:

*Carlow: The Manor and Town 1674-1721*, by Thomas King.  
*An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of Co. Carlow* by The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.  
*The Carlow Gentry, Carlow's International Achievers, Carlow – Visions of Town and Country* – all by Jimmy O'Toole.  
*Come Capture Castles* by Victor Hadden.  
*The Goodly Barrow* by T.F. O'Sullivan.  
*Carlow History and Society* by Dr. Thomas McGrath.  
*Carloviana* produced by Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society.  
Available in either Carlow Library or local bookshops.

**CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM:** Carlow Town Council has approved the plans for the development of Carlow County Museum. The new development involves the restoration of the former Presentation Convent on College Street, Carlow Town. Carlow is one of thirteen County Museums in Ireland and the second in Leinster. The museum is due to open in 2011. T: 059-9170300. E: [dmulligan@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:dmulligan@carlowcoco.ie) W: [www.carlowcountymuseum.com](http://www.carlowcountymuseum.com)



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E: barrowvilletownhouse@eircom.net  
W: www.barrowville.com

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Email: enquiry@lorum.com Web: www.lorum.com

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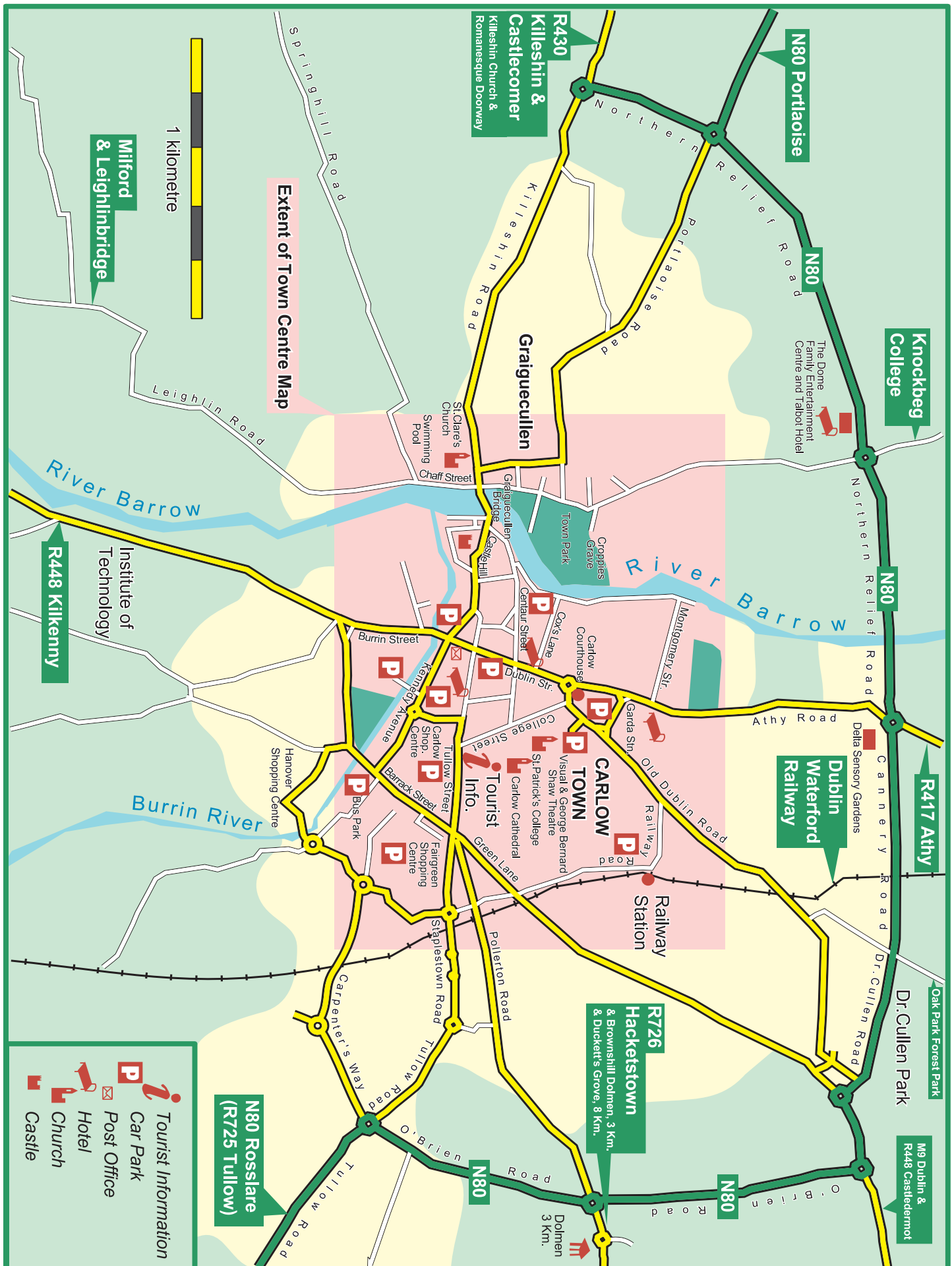
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Regardless of skills or ability, the visitor to Carlow will find an impressive variety of golfing facilities to suit all levels. The novice is also well catered for with pitch and putt, par 3s and a driving range. All of the courses listed here aim to provide the golfer – whether beginner or advanced – with an unforgettable experience and a warm, friendly welcome. For non-golfing partners and families, there is a treasure trove of places to visit and things to do, which are listed elsewhere in this guide.

#### carlow golf club

Deerpark, Dublin Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9131695 E: carlowgolfclub@eircom.net  
W: www.carlowgolfclub.com

**DEERPARK COURSE:** Carlow Golf Club is an inland links, laid out in a former wild deer park over undulating terrain with numerous elevated tees, several excellent dog-legs and small slick putting surfaces. Extensive, mature woods are a strong feature in a pleasant countryside setting where the unusually sandy soil has the bonus of allowing year round play. The course is rated among the top 20 Championship Courses in Ireland. There are many long par 4's and the 16th, a very demanding two shotter played through a tunnel-like valley, has been chosen by Christy O'Connor Snr. as the foremost 16th hole in Ireland. The par 5, 18th offers the chance of a closing birdie and a grandstand finish as it tumbles downhill all the way back to the clubhouse. A good ending to a memorable round.

**OAKPARK COURSE:** The 9 Hole Par 35, Oakpark course, designed by renowned architect, Jeff Howes is a truly terrific layout. Situated on rolling terrain, it provides a superb challenge to golfers of all standards. Similar to the Championship Deerpark course, the emphasis is on accurate iron play and a delicate short game!

**TYPE OF COURSE:** Deerpark Course: 18 hole parkland – 6653 yards (6049 metres) – par 70.  
Oak Park course: 9 hole parkland – 3197 yards (2923 metres) – par 35.  
**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours. The Clubhouse Bar is open every day from 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m. A fully serviced restaurant offers a





choice of breakfast, lunch and dinner menus and is open from 9.30 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily.

**GREEN FEES:** Monday – Thursday €60. Friday – Saturday and Bank Holidays €70. Oak Park €20 any day. Group rate – 20 plus: Monday – Thursday: €55. Friday – Saturday €60. Oak Park €20 any day.

**LESSONS:** By private arrangement with P.G.A. professional Andrew Gilbert.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Clubs, caddy car and buggy hire.

### killerig golf club



Killerig, Co. Carlow

T: 059-9163050 F: 059-9163051

E: golf@killerigresort.ie W: www.killerigresort.ie

*"Killerig is enjoyable for the Club golfer, and when required capable of challenging the best" - Des Smyth*

Located just outside Carlow Town in a fabulous setting with the Wicklow Mountains to the east and the Killeshin Hills to the west. Imaginatively designed by Des Smyth and Declan Brannigan, this par 72 championship course strives to create the most unique, exciting and challenging golf experience with meticulously groomed fairways and greens. The course, which is playable year round provides a challenging game of golf, with water in play on six of its 18 USGA specification greens. A range of tees ensure that everyone from the big hitter to the more conservative, casual player is well catered for. The warm welcome extended and the air of relaxation set the tone for a most enjoyable golf experience. The clubhouse boasts a fully stocked pro shop, conference facilities and Brannigans Bar and Restaurant where visitors can enjoy an extensive menu throughout the day and spectacular views of the course and surrounding countryside. Add to this the stunning four star Killerig Resort Hotel and Leisure Centre and 48 Golf Lodges overlooking the course, and you are guaranteed that your visit will be unforgettable.

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole championship parkland – 6742 yards (6165 metres) – Par 72.

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours. Breakfast, lunch and dinner menus available all day. Full bar facilities.

**GREEN FEES:** Individual Monday – Thursday: €30, Friday - Sunday and Bank Holidays: €45. Group Rates Monday – Thursday €25, Friday – Sunday and Bank Holidays €30 - €40. Monday – Thursday complimentary course hire for classics booked by registered charities.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Clubs, caddy cars and buggy hire.

### mount walseley hotel, spa and country club

Tullow, Co. Carlow

T: 059-9180100 F: 059-9152123

E: sales@mountwalseley.ie W: www.mountwalseley.ie

Situated 12 km east of Carlow Town, Mount Walseley is set in opulent surroundings and boasts an 18-hole championship golf course. According to Christy O'Connor Junior, course designer, "Rarely after a first look around a potential site for a golf course had I been so impressed as at Mount Walseley. What we have here is a fair but testing 18 holes of championship golf, none of which will disappoint even the most discerning player." This par 72-course provides a challenge to every ability as each hole presents demanding approach shots, with wide landing areas being the only concession. With its broad fairways, unforgiving rough and picturesque water hazards, Mount Walseley

has justifiably played host to a number of national and international golf competitions.

The Mount Walseley Hotel, Spa and Country Club is located on the grounds of the eighteenth-century ancestral home of Frederick York Walseley, whose family became synonymous with the automotive industry. This charming resort offers an eclectic blend of contemporary design and lavish detail surrounded by 200 acres of peaceful landscape. Featuring 143 bedrooms including four suites and eight executive rooms, each with individually controlled air conditioning and interactive IT facilities with broadband access. Facilities include: Frederick's Award Winning Fine dining restaurant (1AA Rosette). The Aaron Lounge and the Morrissey Bar provide the ideal spot for relaxation and informal dining. Leisure and relaxation facilities are also provided at the Sanctuary Spa, Carlow's only Resort Spa, which features 14 treatment rooms using Elemis and Thalgo products, relaxation pool, dry floatation, experience showers and balneotherapy. On site, there are 64 luxury holiday homes, tennis courts, children's playground, children's activity club, games room and baby changing room. During children's holidays a full programme of activities is provided.



**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole championship Christy O'Connor Jnr parkland – 7172 yards (6,558 metres) – par 72.

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours. The clubhouse (seasonal) is open from 10.30 a.m. – approx 6.30 – 7 p.m. daily for light snacks, lunches and full dinners. The Aaron Lounge and Frederick's Fine Dining Restaurant also offer excellent dining options. Equally a number of private dining areas suitable for groups are available.

**GREEN FEES:** From €40 – €80. Group rates also available. Contact sales for further details T: 059-9180100 or E: sales@mountwalseley.ie

**HIRE SERVICES:** Clubs, trolley and buggy hire available at an additional cost.

### leinster hills golf club

Leinster Hills Golf Club, Graiguealug, Nurney, Co. Carlow

T: 059-9148974/087-6684076 E: info@leinsterhillsgolf.com

W: www.leinsterhillsgolf.com

Set in beautiful surroundings, Leinster Hills Golf Club is a unique golfing experience, on 200 acres of rolling Carlow countryside. This par 70 championship course offers fantastic vistas of the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford mountain ranges.

Designed with the golfer in mind, Leinster Hills Golf Club is a challenging course which will guarantee many hours of enjoyment, for both the beginner and experienced golfer. There are four water features on the 5th, 7th and 8th holes and the signature 13th hole par 3, while a six acre wood ensures plenty of wildlife. The 8th hole has been likened to "Augusta" for its degree of difficulty, ensuring a test for every golfer. The 19th hole at Leinster Hills is a special feature of the course – golfers can enjoy great food\* and a lively atmosphere set against the back drop





of the 1st, 15th and 16th holes. There is an emphasis on quality, reasonably priced, locally sourced food guaranteed to satisfy hearty appetites after a golfing round. The course is dry underfoot all year round and welcomes green fees, societies, corporate clients and golf classics seven days per week. While in the heart of the Carlow countryside, the course is situated close to the Dublin – Waterford M9 motorway, making it an easy 45 minute journey from Newlands Cross in Dublin (exit number 5, M9 Carlow bypass).

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole parkland – 6348 yards (5805 metres) – par 70.

**OPENING HOURS:** Golf Course April – September 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., rest of year 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. \*Light snacks and refreshments available all day. Main meals available for groups by prior request.

**GREEN FEES:** Monday – Friday: €25. Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays: €35. Group rate Monday – Friday: €20, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays: €25. Buggy hire: €20. Shareholdings available. Societies welcome.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Trolley (manual and electric) and buggies (ring and reserve policy in place), practice putting green and practice driving net.

### RECESSION GOLF GAME OF GOLF AND FULL MEAL UNDER €50 45 minutes from Dublin City via new M9 Motorway

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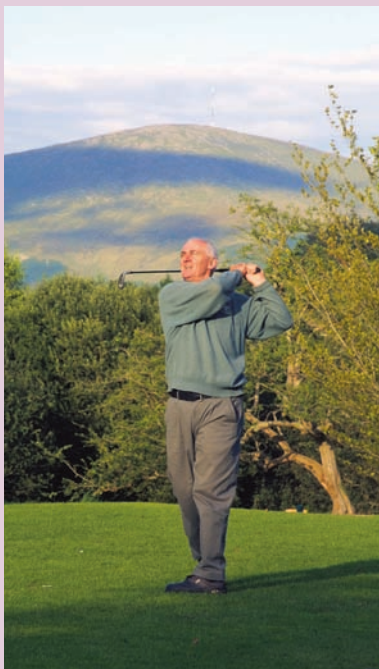
### borris golf club

Borris, Co. Carlow.

T: 059-9773310/9773143 F: 059-9773750

E: [borrisgolfclub@eircom.net](mailto:borrisgolfclub@eircom.net)

In the south of the county this excellent nine-hole course at Borris commands panoramic views of the neighbouring countryside with Mount Leinster and the Blackstairs Mountains to the east, and the Barrow Valley to the west. This parkland course is maintained to a very high standard with modern sand based greens and an automatic watering system. The course currently covers approx. 60 acres and is proud to possess some magnificent specimens of trees. While these are beautiful to behold they are also quite a challenge to avoid! It would be difficult to find a course in a more picturesque setting, with the stately MacMurrough Kavanagh family seat in the background. Practice area and putting green available. Visitors will enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere of the clubhouse. Currently open for membership.



**TYPE OF COURSE:** Parkland course – 6,212 yards (5,680 metres). Par 70. SSS 69.

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours. The Clubhouse opens every day offering full bar facilities and light snacks. Full meals available upon request.

**GREEN FEES:** €25 (€16 with a member) – all week. At weekends players must be accompanied by a member of Borris Golf Club.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Trolley and buggy hire.

### bunclody golf and fishing club



Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

T: 053-9374444 F: 053-9376753

E: [info@bunclodygfc.ie](mailto:info@bunclodygfc.ie) W: [www.bunclodygfc.ie](http://www.bunclodygfc.ie)

GPS Co-ordinates N52 655350 W6 652820

Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club is situated in 300 acres of breathtaking parklands in the former Hall-Dare Estate on the Carlow-Wexford border. The golf course runs over 7,000 yards, making it an undeniably fine championship course. The finishing five holes descending down to the River Slaney will stand comparison to Amen Corner itself. The 16th hole looks awesome as the view of the River Slaney provides the intimidatory element; the wooded hills here will surely echo to cries of joy and anguish as golfers do battle. The 17th situated on the banks of the River Slaney, is a par 3 offering scoring opportunities to golfers of all abilities. From the green one takes the elevator to the 18th tee box offering fantastic views of the surrounding countryside as you ascend. The 18th hole leads you through the woods to an architecturally designed club house with its thatched roof symbolising the Moss House of a bygone era. It has the characteristics of an old historic golf club yet it boasts state-of-the-art amenities. The luxurious locker rooms and sauna provide weary golfers with a place to relax and unwind prior to enjoying the magnificent scenery from our first class bar and restaurant.

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole championship parkland. 7,164 yards (6,617 metres) – par 72.

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours. Luxury five star thatched clubhouse open daily.

**GREEN FEES:** From €35 (early bird and winter special) – €90.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Trolleys, electric caddy cars and buggies.

### carrigleade golf club

Carrigleade Cross, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow

T: 059-9724370 M: 087-2569012 or 087-6290713

E: [carrigleade@gmail.com](mailto:carrigleade@gmail.com)

Carrigleade Golf Course is situated in south Co. Carlow on the Barrow Drive between medieval Graigenamanagh and historic St. Mullins. Carrigleade is a challenging and varied course while golfers will also appreciate the picturesque and enjoyable walk. Surrounded by fantastic vistas of the Blackstairs Mountains to the east and Mount Brandon to the west, this golf course has justifiably earned its reputation as a wonderful golfing escape. The aesthetics of the stone walls, flora and fauna further enhance the enjoyment of a golfing round here. Playable all year round, the course is meticulously maintained to the very highest standards. Located 10km from New Ross, 6km from Borris and 2km from Graigenamanagh and St.





Mullins. The course caters for golf classics, groups and societies.

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole parkland, 3338 yards (3052 metres)

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours, year round. Refreshments available.

**GREEN FEES:** Adults €10 midweek, €12 weekend. Children under 12: €7 all week.

**LESSONS:** Available upon request.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Clubs, buggy and trolley hire.

### carlow driving range

Carlow Driving Range

Crossneen, Carlow

T: 059-9141683 or 087-4153477

E: brendanmcdaid@gmail.com

W: www.brendanmcdaidgolf.com



Brendan McDaid often referred to as 'Dr. Golf' is regarded by many to be one of the country's leading coaches offering golf lessons in Ireland today. Brendan caters for all types of golfers - from the raw beginner right through to the elite golfer. Carlow Driving Range consists of a 30-bay floodlit, state of the art golf range set at the foot of the Killeshin Hills - a perfect



place for golfers of all standards to relax in tranquil surroundings, and to practice and improve all their golfing skills at their own pace. Equipment of the highest standard is provided and includes a new specification putting and pitching green and practice bunkers. First class repair and custom fittings on an extensive range of leading brands now available at Carlow Golf Range. Brendan and his team of PGA Professionals not only provide individual golf tuition but a range of group classes throughout the week:

**LADIES GOLF MORNINGS:** Mondays and Wednesdays: 10.30 - 11.30 a.m.

**GROUP COACHING:** Tuesdays and Fridays 7.30 - 8.30 p.m.

**JUNIOR COACHING:** Every Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. - 12p.m.

YMG schools throughout the year. Custom Fittings and Repairs.

**OPENING HOURS:** Weekdays: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Weekends & Bank Holidays: 9 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.

**GREEN FEES:** €5 for small basket (50 balls), €10 for large basket (100 balls),

### park par 3

Tankardstown, Tullow, Co. Carlow

T: 059-9151329/087-2699723

E: enquiries@parkpar3.com

W: www.parkpar3.com

Splendid views surround this course with the Wicklow Mountains as a backdrop and Mount Leinster to the west. This Par 3 course consists of 18 holes with distances varying from 114 to 228 yards from tee to pin. Several magnificent mature trees line the course. The course features two large lakes, the first takes in the 3rd, 8th and 10th holes and the other lake must be crossed to reach the 14th and 15th holes. If this is not enough to deal with, plenty of sand traps have to be negotiated, providing a very challenging golfing experience. A family run course open seven days per week, welcoming all players from the very young to the experienced. Available for golf classic and society bookings.

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole par 3.

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours, year round.

**GREEN FEES:** Adults €12 daily, OAPs and under 18s €8 daily

**LESSONS:** Available upon request.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Clubs and trolley hire.



### quinagh house par 3

Quinagh House, Carlow.

T: 059-9142088

Quinagh House Par 3 is set in 42 acres on the outskirts of Carlow Town, surrounded by mature trees with extensive views of the Killeshin Hills. A very well maintained golf course, it is a perfect place to relax or enjoy a friendly competition with 18 exceptional holes ranging from 130 - 220 yards in length. Well positioned trees throughout the course and water hazards serve as challenging obstacles, while also enhancing the quality of this spacious course. A perfect course for both beginners and experienced players. Refreshments and light snacks available in the club house.

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole par 3.

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours, year round.

**GREEN FEES:** Adults €12, OAPs €7, Students €8, Juveniles €7.

**HIRE SERVICES:** No charge for hiring clubs, trolleys €2.



### bagenalstown pitch and putt

McGrath Park, Dunleckney, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow

T: Liam O'Brien 059-9721833

Bagenalstown Pitch and Putt is considered to be one of the best in the country in terms of design and level of maintenance. It is an undulating course with a great variety of holes from long to short, which will test the skills of even the best players. Holes 4 and 8 are particularly attractive with their elevated tee boxes. Holes 11 and 15 will bring the best out of the long hitters. The greens are generous and in top condition due to the dedicated work of the members, so birdies can be in good supply. The club is situated in a unique and pleasant setting with views of Mount Leinster and Leighlin Hills.

**TYPE OF COURSE:** 18 hole pitch and putt, 941 yards (860 metres).

**OPENING HOURS:** Daylight hours, daily.

**GREEN FEES:** From €5.

**HIRE SERVICES:** Clubs available by prior request.







### CANOEING

**Go-With-The-Flow River Adventures**

**T: 087-2529700**

**E: [info@gowiththeflow.ie](mailto:info@gowiththeflow.ie)**

**W: [www.gowiththeflow.ie](http://www.gowiththeflow.ie)**

Stag and hens need look no further if it's adventure and fun you want for your Great Day out. Go With The Flow River Adventures are a favourite with those seeking spills and thrills in an action packed event. Our qualified guides will see you through all the whitewater, over all the weirs and waterfalls and down the rapids. No experience necessary, all you need is a bunch of friends and time to chill. Appropriate family learning days, corporate and social club days and canoe hire also available.



### QUAD BIKING, CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING AND SHOOTING CINEMA

**Country Quads, Borris, Co. Carlow.**

**T: 059-9724624/087-2270466**

**E: [info@countryquads.net](mailto:info@countryquads.net)**

**W: [www.countryquads.net](http://www.countryquads.net)**

Enjoy cross-country trekking through a hilly livestock farm in what is considered to be the most scenic spot in rural South Carlow. Travel through river, woodland, hills, hollows, our see-saw and other obstacles on a spectacular track which is quoted as being "the best in the country". Safety is a priority and a qualified instructor accompanies each group. All the necessary equipment is provided including safety helmets, clothing and boots. Caters for families including children from 8 years upwards. Great family fun. Prior booking necessary. Clay Shooting by prior arrangement for groups of 8 or more.

A new addition to Country Quads is the Shooting Cinema, a simulated rifle and shotgun experience, which uncannily recreates the actual experience of shooting. Both complete beginners and those experienced in shotgun or rifle shooting will enjoy this unique and fun activity. Coaching is available for those who would like to learn to shoot or to hone their existing skills.

**Location:** 5km south of Borris off the R729.

**Open:** 7 days per week – year round.

**Rates per hour** – available on request. Special family and group discounts.

### HORSE RIDING

**Carrigbeg Riding Stables  
Carrigbeg, Bagenalstown,  
Co. Carlow.**

**T: 059-9721962**

**Contact:**

Susan

Patterson

BHSII

Riding

lessons

available

for

children and adults from beginners to competition level. Features indoor and outdoor arena and cross country course. Cross country jumping for experienced riders. No trekking. Advance booking essential.



**Location:** Road L7004, 800 metres off the R724 Bagenalstown – Myshall Road.

**Open:** 02.01.10 – 23.12.10.

Closed Sundays, Bank Holiday Mondays and August Bank Holiday week.

**Rates per hour:** Children (over 6 and under 16 years of age) €22. Adults €25. Groups of 6 or more: reduction available.

**Doyle's Coole Equestrian Centre, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9161000**

**Contact: Stephanie Doyle**

Doyle's Coole

Equestrian

Centre is

situated

adjacent to

Lisnavagh Estate. Personalised attention from the highly qualified owners and staff is assured.

Amenities include over 500 acres of trekking facilities and a range



of natural and man-made fences to cater for all riding levels. Pony camps available during Easter, Summer and Autumn school holidays for residential (€215) and non-residential (€105). Facilities include two indoor riding arenas (60m x 40m and 25m x 40m) and a Grand Prix indoor arena. Group lessons from €20 per hour, group treks from €30 per hour.

### EQUINE TRAILS

**Borris, Co. Carlow**

**T: 059-9771695**

**M: 087-776 9670**

**E: [info@equinetrails.ie](mailto:info@equinetrails.ie)**

**W: [www.equinetrails.ie](http://www.equinetrails.ie)**

A perfect

trekking

experience,

set in the

magnificent

grounds of

Borris

House,

ancestral

home to the Kings of Leinster.

Come and enjoy the spectacular

scenery in 650 acres of parkland

and woodland, fringed by the

River Barrow. Spend a pleasant

morning or enjoyable afternoon

away from the hustle and bustle

of everyday life. Accompanied by

a fully qualified instructor. Horse

and rider are matched, based on

experience levels. Suitable for

novice and experienced riders,

jumping optional.

**Location:** In the grounds of

Borris Estate in the centre of

Borris Village.

**Open:** Tuesday – Sunday, 9.30

a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Rates per hour** – €35 one person.

€30 two or more. €25 child.

### RAPID FIRE PAINTBALL

**Castleroe East, Maganey,**

**Co. Kildare. T: 059-9145826**

**E: [info@rapidfire.ie](mailto:info@rapidfire.ie)**

**W: [www.rapidfire.ie](http://www.rapidfire.ie)**

Rapid Fire

Paintball

invites you

to a new

combat

environment

which

captures

the imagination of all. Open all

year round, facilities range from

multiple paintball zones including

"Night Ball" and "Speedball".

With fully floodlit and all weather

courses, amenities also include

changing rooms, toilet/shower

facilities and a range of snacks



making Rapid Fire Paintball a more attractive and competitive venue to participate in. Advance bookings only for groups of ten or more aged 12+.

### OUTDOOR PURSUITS

(location is mobile – we come to you!) **t: 086-3352903**

**E: [adventuredays@live.com](mailto:adventuredays@live.com)**

**W: [www.adventuredays.biz](http://www.adventuredays.biz)**

Adventure Days is

a mobile outdoor

pursuits

business based in

the South East.

Activities are for

the total beginner

or intermediate

and no experience

is needed. Evening and multi-day

activity sessions, for families/

groups of two to 12 people.

Activities run by highly qualified

instructors with over 20 years'

experience. All types of adventure

days out are provided including

kayaking, rock climbing, abseiling,

hiking, back packing, camping,

archery, orienteering, multi-

activity days, mountain activity

days and 2/3 day excursions.



### SWIMMING POOLS

Graigucullen Swimming Pool, Carlow. **T: 059-9140330** – year round.

Bagenalstown Outdoor Heated Swimming Pool, Leighlinbridge Road, Bagenalstown. June – August. See page 38.

Carrigduff Swimming Pool, Carrigduff, Co. Carlow – July and August. See page 39.



### SNOOKER

**The Ivy Rooms, Unit 8,  
Barrow Valley Retail Park,  
Graigucullen, Carlow**

**T: 059-9137714/9132387**

Twelve full sized championship snooker tables, six American pool tables, two English pool tables and three table tennis tables. Four dart boards. Venue for national and international championships. Café serving hot and cold meals all day. Video games and juke box.

**Open:** 9 a.m. – late seven days per week. Booking facility available.

**Rate per hour:** €10 (snooker). €8 (pool and table tennis).





## *Carlow Local Authorities Welcome you to County Carlow*

**FAILTE, BON JOUR, HOLA, GUTEN TAG, CZESC!!!**

*Serving the Community, Supporting Business,  
Promoting the Arts, Protecting Our Heritage,  
Enhancing the Environment*

*Working in partnership with communities  
& agencies throughout our county,  
making Carlow a great place  
in which to live, to work or to visit*

**Visit “VISUAL” Centre for Contemporary Art,  
& take in a show in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre**



**For Further Information:**

**Telephone: 059-9170300/9170319/9136210**

**Fax: 059-9141503 E Mail: [secretar@carlowccoco.ie](mailto:secretar@carlowccoco.ie)**

**[www.carlow .ie](http://www.carlow.ie)**



The Carlow Garden Trail is a collection of 16 gardening attractions including great old gardens that have been lovingly restored and maintained throughout the years, and smaller gardens which are maturing beautifully with time. Award-winning garden centres and forest parks complement the joy of a visit here. The trail can be driven in a day if so desired but naturally we encourage you to relax and enjoy the remarkable beauty of these gardens, garden centres and forest parks at a more leisurely pace.

#### tips for driving the carlow garden trail

- The trail can be joined at any gardening attraction and driven in either direction by following the identifiable finger signposts.
- Large map boards are located in the grounds of each participating centre providing further information.



#### altamont gardens

FREE INDIVIDUAL ADMISSION

Tullow, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9159444  
F: 059-9159510  
E: altamontgardens@opw.ie  
W: www.heritageireland.ie/www.carlowgardentrail.com



Widely respected as the jewel in Ireland's gardening crown, Altamont Gardens are an enchanting blend of formal and informal gardens with riverside walks covering over 40 acres (16 hectares). The estate gains much of its character from the many mature trees, natives in the avenues and woodland areas, and exotic specimens throughout the gardens. Lawns, bisected by sculpted yews, slope down to a lake surrounded by rare trees and rhododendrons and lead in turn to a very different garden featuring exotic shrubs and trees. A fascinating walk through the Arboretum, Bog Garden and Ice Age Glen with its canopy of ancient oaks and huge stone outcrops leads the visitor to the River Slaney. When Corona North, who lovingly cared for the gardens for over 50 years died in 1999, the gardens were left to the State at her request. Ongoing restoration and maintenance continues under the careful stewardship of the Office of Public Works (OPW).

*"Every visitor says it has a special atmosphere, that's why so many people come back. Every element you want from a great garden is here, from lovely lawns, floral beds and beautiful woodland going down to the river, to a walled garden and really superb collections, such as the snowdrops, rhododendrons and the fabulous oaks in the arboretum" - Paul Cutler, head gardener at Altamont Gardens.*

**FACILITIES:** Toilets, outdoor picnic tables, large car and coach park, restricted wheelchair access.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Exit the M9 at junction 5 for N80 Rosslare. Continue along the N80 through the village of Ballon and the N80/N81 junction. Continue for 2km, turn left at the next cross road

junction signed Altamont Gardens. Alternatively, visitors travelling directly from Carlow Town may follow the N80 Rosslare Road and continue as above.

#### OPENING TIMES:

01.02.10 – 28.02.10 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 7 days per week, except Friday closes at 3.30 p.m.

01.03.10 – 31.03.10 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. 7 days per week, except Friday closes at 3.30 p.m.

01.04.10 – 30.04.10 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. 7 days per week

01.05.10 – 31.08.10 9 a.m. – 7.30 p.m. 7 days per week

01.09.10 – 30.09.10 9 a.m. – 6.30 p.m. 7 days per week

01.10.10 – 31.10.10 9 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. 7 days per week

01.11.10 – 31.01.11 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. Friday. Closed weekends. Check for Christmas opening times.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Free individual admission. Guided tours available for groups by prior appointment – adults €2.00.

#### altamont plant sales

The Walled Garden @ Altamont, Altamont Gardens, Tullow, Co. Carlow  
T: 087-9822135  
E: sales@altamontplants.com  
W: www.carlowgardentrail.com

An unmissable highlight of a visit to Altamont Gardens is the Walled Garden situated within the grounds of the estate and run privately by gardener and nursery man Robert Miller. The area consists primarily of the Corona North Commemorative Border planted to honour the late Corona and Altamont Plant Sales and Nursery. Each border has its own individual theme and colour from striking reds to cool white and blues,



romantic pinks and warm yellow glows. Altamont Plant Sales has not only grown in size in the last few years, but more so in reputation as a place to acquire seriously good garden plants. Always renowned for its extensive range of herbaceous perennials, Altamont Plant Sales can also boast of having one of the largest collections of old shrub roses available for sale to the gardening public year round. Rare oaks, maples, cherry blossoms, dogwoods, magnolias, beech and smaller flowering trees and shrubs suitable for every-sized garden are also available throughout the year. Robert Miller of Altamont Plant Sales is available for consultancy work for new and mature gardens.

**HOW TO FIND US:** In the grounds of Altamont Gardens – for directions please see previous entry.

**OPENING TIMES:** 01.01.10 – 30.11.10 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. weekdays, 11a.m. – 6 p.m. weekends. Rest of year 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. weekdays. Closed weekends.

#### altamont plant sales

The Walled Garden  
Altamont Gardens, Ballon, Co. Carlow

OPEN 10am to 6pm Daily

Contact: Robert Miller  
087-9822135

Email: sales@altamontplants.com

Specials in Cottage garden plants  
Old roses and rare and unusual trees and shrubs



altamont plant sales



### arboretum lifestyle and garden centre

Kilkenny Road (N9), Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9721558 F: 059-9721642  
E: info@arboretum.ie  
W: www.arboretum.ie



Commitment to excellent customer service, quality products, unbeatable choice and value for money has earned the Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre the coveted title of **Bord Bia five star Garden Centre of the Year** for the past seven years and **Best Customer Service Award** on numerous occasions.

Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre is far more than a place for the gardening enthusiast. It's an entire shopping experience: a place to savour the perfect garden and home experience. Our spacious store is well laid out, the centre guides visitors through elegant displays of garden furnishing, pot plants, outdoor plants, an extensive gift area and homewares section. An entire day can be devoted to the visit, wandering through the fantastic range of items available, seeking expert advice from friendly staff or enjoying a delicious meal or cup of coffee in the tranquil setting of Mulberry's Restaurant. The Arboretum experience has attracted other well-known brands and offerings to the centre. Now open at Arboretum are the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Clothing and Golf Company, Lily O'Brien Chocolate Shop, Maiden Head Aquatics Super Store, Just Water Company and Garden Machinery and Service Centre.

VISIT our online shop NOW! at [www.arboretum.ie](http://www.arboretum.ie)!

**FACILITIES:** Toilets, large car and coach park, wheelchair accessible, restaurant with wine licence, pet shop, retail park with top retail brands including Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Continue along the M9 Carlow Bypass and the N9 towards Waterford. The Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre

is located immediately off the N9 at Leighlinbridge. Alternatively visitors travelling directly from Carlow Town may follow the R448 until it joins the N9 Carlow – Waterford Road. Directions from here as above.

**OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Bank Holidays 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### arboretum inspirational gardens

#### Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre

Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre has created a new and exciting display garden to inspire the modern day customer. Helping visitors to create their own dreams while showing them that gardening is both stylish and fun, this new showpiece allows people to see that gardening can be enjoyed in any busy lifestyle. The concept behind this design was to create a garden that is easy to care for, demands low maintenance and delivers endless enjoyment.



Designed to inspire visitors on planting schemes and solutions, the garden offers endless ideas that can be easily recreated in gardeners' own homes. The team at Arboretum have also included a children's maze which is a maximum height of 1 metre. This is located beside the new terraced area of Mulberry's Restaurant so that children can play while parents enjoy some of Mulberry's fine food. Families can also pay a visit to the fun mud hut or visit the friendly koi who live in the pond. A visit to the garden is a treat for the amateur or the enthusiast who will enjoy seeing the themed planting, use of colour, texture and form.

**FACILITIES, DIRECTIONS and OPENING TIMES:** As per previous entry for Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre. Free admission.

new  
2010

The team at Arboretum have developed a 'Give it a Grow Garden' which is designed to create a fully functional grow your own with fruit, herbs, vegetables and chickens. The garden is designed to be accessible and functional for wheelchairs and disability access. Tours of the Arboretum Inspirational Gardens and the 'Give it a Grow Garden' can be booked on 059-9721558/9721503.

arboretum  
lifestyle & garden centre

Ireland's first 5 star garden centre



Kilkenny Road, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow  
[www.arboretum.ie](http://www.arboretum.ie)  
(059) 9721558

### Great family days are at Arboretum



Retail  
Store of  
the Year  
Finalist



### ashlawn garden centre

Donore, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow  
T/F: 059-9721175  
E: [ashlawngardencentre@eircom.net](mailto:ashlawngardencentre@eircom.net)  
W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

Conveniently situated close to the town of Bagenalstown in an open country setting, Ashlawn Garden Centre is a family run business where excellent service and advice is on hand in a friendly and informative manner. Our plants are our pride and joy and there is something for everyone here, catering for the expert gardener to the complete novice with specially selected ranges to suit different needs and budgets. Ashlawn Garden Centre offers a wide range of healthy trees, shrubs, roses and perennials at outstandingly good value while the 3,000 square feet shop stocks a large selection of sprays, sprayers, terracotta and glazed pots, tools, pet accessories, fountains, lights and bird baths, seasonal bulbs and seeds. A selection of giftware, oak barrels and decorative stone in bulk and bags is always available.



**FACILITIES:** Toilets, car park, wheelchair accessible.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** Situated 3 km outside Bagenalstown off the Borris Road (R705). Take the first turn to the left after the railway bridge. Ashlawn Garden Centre is 2 km on the left hand side of the road.  
**OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sundays and Bank Holidays 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

### delta sensory gardens and garden centre

Strawhall Estate, Carlow  
T: 059-9143527  
F: 059-9130280  
E: [info@deltacentre.org](mailto:info@deltacentre.org)  
W: [www.deltacentre.org](http://www.deltacentre.org)

Eloquently described as an oasis of peace and tranquillity, Delta Sensory Gardens consist of a series of interconnecting gardens of a multi-sensory nature covering 2.5 acres (1 hectare). The gardens are the first of their kind in Ireland with a therapeutic focus to benefit people of all abilities. Visitors can delight in a mix of formal and informal landscapes and the gardens offer something for every season from thousands of daffodils and tulips in spring to the abundant double flowering gorse in summer and the rustic colour of the many trees and beech hedges in autumn and into winter. The amazing water features will take your breath away, with our splashing fountains, cascading waterfalls and the kugal, one ton of pink marble floating on a cushion of water. If this has not blown your mind away, a visit to the musical fountain in the sensory theatre is not to be missed. The garden centre stocks a wide range of shrubs and seasonal plants for sale. If you fancy a particular plant or shrub in the sensory gardens, our friendly staff will be happy to give professional advice and source it for you if not already in stock. Bringing in your own baskets and containers is a unique service which our garden centre offers all year round.



**FACILITIES:** Car park, toilets, wheelchair accessible, restaurant.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** Strawhall Estate is located off Cannery Road, the road which serves Dr. Cullen Park G.A.A. Grounds, on the outskirts of Carlow Town close to the Athy Road roundabout.  
**OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. – 5.30 p.m., Closed weekends in January and February. Please check in at the Sensory Gardens reception upon arrival.  
**ADMISSION CHARGES:** adults €5, OAPs €4, group rate available upon request.

### duckett's grove walled gardens and pleasure grounds

Duckett's Grove, Carlow  
T: Carlow Tourist Office 059-9131554  
F: 059-9170776  
E: [carlow@failteireland.ie](mailto:carlow@failteireland.ie)  
W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)



Duckett's Grove, the 18th, 19th and early 20th century home of the Duckett family, was formerly at the centre of a 12,000 acre (4,856 hectares) estate that has dominated the Carlow landscape for over 300 years. Even in ruin, the surviving towers and turrets of Duckett's Grove form a romantic profile making it one of the most photogenic historic buildings in the country. The first phase of the revival of two old walled gardens has been completed by Carlow County Council, the old paths revealed and the beds and borders reinstated. Stylistically the new planting schemes echo the past yet reflect changing fashions, utilising plants and planting patterns that may have evolved over time. The Upper Walled Garden, hedged with boxwood, is planted with historical varieties of shrub roses, a collection of Chinese and Japanese peonies, a great variety of hardy and tender perennials and choice flowering shrubs. The Lower Walled Garden, once the site of the old orchard, contains a selection of fruits, including figs and historical varieties of Irish apples amongst others. The borders also contain a variety of shrubs and perennials all echoing the past history of the gardens and people associated with Duckett's Grove. Restored paths and the repaired sunken stone bridge plus plantings of oak, lime, hazel, spindle and laurel rekindle the spirit of the Georgian pleasure grounds.

**FACILITIES:** Large car and coach park, toilets, wheelchair access.  
**HOW TO FIND US:** From Castledermot (exit 4 off the M9) take the R418 towards Tullow for 6km and turn right at the signed junction. From Carlow take the R726 Hacketstown Road for 10 km to Killerig Cross Roads. Turn left at this junction onto the R418 for 2.5 km, turn left again at the signed junction.  
**OPENING TIMES:** End March – end September daily from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. Rest of year daily from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### duckett's grove country fairs 2010

Sunday 2nd May  
Sunday 1st August  
Saturday 30th October  
Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th December





### hardymount gardens

Tullow, Co. Carlow.  
T: 059-9151769  
W: [www.carlowgardenentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardenentrail.com)

One of the largest Spanish chestnuts in the country greets you on arrival to 2.5 acres (1 hectare) of lawns and shrubs surrounded by magnificent beech and oak trees. A wonderful walled garden behind the house contains many unusual plants and flowers in the herbaceous border. The grass paths take you past the pond with lilies and fish to espaliered apple trees, a pergola clothed with wisteria and underplanted with hollyhocks and foxgloves and on to a vegetable garden. A summer house at the end of the garden in a sheltered corner provides a quiet area for rest and relaxation.



**FACILITIES:** Wheelchair accessible.

**HOW TO FIND US:** From Dublin - through the town of Tullow onto the Buncloody Road N81. Turn right after the Topaz petrol station, on the outskirts of the town. Turn right at next cross roads – the gardens are 550 metres on the right hand side.

**OPENING TIMES:** Sundays 2 – 6 p.m. May – August inclusive. Open at other times by arrangement. Groups very welcome.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Adults €5.

### herb garden at kilgraney house

Borris Road, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9775283  
F: 059-9775595  
E: [info@kilgraneyhouse.com](mailto:info@kilgraneyhouse.com)  
W: [www.kilgraneyhouse.com](http://www.kilgraneyhouse.com)

Consisting of a series of interconnecting herbal gardens there is a large kitchen garden, a tea walk, a medicinal herb courtyard, a medieval monastic herb garden and a garden of aromatic and fragrant herbs.

The enclosed kitchen garden consists of gravel paths and eleven raised timber beds of varying sizes grouped to form a modern rectangular "potager". Next to the kitchen garden is the tea walk, a short gravel path lined on one side with plants suitable for infusions and herbal teas. The medicinal garden, set in a granite courtyard, consists of nine raised beds in Irish oak timber. In a lower courtyard is an aromatic garden planted with herbs for fragrance and also for their usefulness in cosmetic preparations. In an adjoining courtyard there is a modern interpretation of a medieval monastic herb garden with four oak raised beds surrounded on two sides by an oak timber cloister. A circular cosmic garden helps to explain and facilitate our understanding of the ancient belief that there is a connection between people, plants, planets and constellations.



**FACILITIES:** Car park, toilets, art/craft gallery, restricted access for wheelchairs.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Situated just off the R705, Bagenalstown-Borris Road, the herb gardens are 6 km from the town of Bagenalstown.

**OPENING TIMES:** April – September, Thursday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 2 – 5 p.m. Groups by appointment.

**ADMISSION:** €5 with a complimentary herbal infusion.

# Delta Sensory Gardens

**'An oasis of peace and tranquility'**

**Opening Hours:**  
9-5 Monday-Friday  
11-5.30pm Saturday,  
Sunday and Public  
Holidays.  
*Groups by arrangement*

**STRAWHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CARLOW. Tel: 059 9143527**

- Set on 2.5 acres consisting of 14 interconnecting gardens
- Mix of formal and informal landscaping with a therapeutic focus
- Offering something for every season with an abundance of colour and

- fragrance
- Our water features will take your breath away with our cascading waterfalls and splashing fountains
- Highly acclaimed and winners of numerous local and national awards

- Staging many events through the year – daffodil week, flower shows, christmas lights display etc.
- Our garden centre stocks a wide range of shrubs and seasonal plants for sale
- Tea, Coffee and Snacks available.



**HOW TO FIND US:** Strawhall Estate off Cannery Road in Carlow close to Athy Rd roundabout. Follow brown tourist signs.

**Ph: 059-9143527, Email: [info@deltacentre.org](mailto:info@deltacentre.org) Web: [www.deltacentre.org](http://www.deltacentre.org)**

### huntington castle and gardens

Clonegal, Co. Carlow  
T: 053-9377552  
E: [genova@reachbroadband.com](mailto:genova@reachbroadband.com)  
W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

These gardens were mainly laid out in the seventeenth-century by the Esmondes who built Huntington Castle in 1625. They include the French limes on the Avenue, the "parterre" or lawns to the side of the house, the fish ponds on either side of the centre walk through the wilderness and the Yew Tree Walk. Larger plantings have resulted in Huntington possessing a number of great Irish trees including four varieties of hickory, a cut leaved oak, a Siberian crab and buckeye chestnut. A lake at the bottom of the wilderness was built for ornamental purposes but next to it is one of the earliest water turbine houses in Ireland, providing Huntington with its own electricity as early as 1888. The River Derry flows along the bottom of the wilderness, providing a pleasant setting for woodland walks. The guided tour also features a visit to Huntington Castle.



**FACILITIES:** Car park, toilets, restricted access for wheelchairs, guided tours of Huntington Castle. Tea, coffee and snacks available.

**LOCATION:** In the village of Clonegal – well signposted.

**OPENING TIMES:** June – August daily 2 – 6 p.m. Open at other times by arrangement.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** House and gardens: adults €8. Senior citizens and children under 12 €6.

### leighlinbridge – the garden village

T: Mary Meaney, Secretary, Leighlinbridge Improvement Group 086-6027751  
W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

Leighlinbridge enjoys a range of gardens, built and designed by the local community to commemorate various aspects of village life over the years. These include the Millennium Garden, seven small individual gardens, each with its own theme represented by trees, shrubs and stones. The Vivaldi Garden is based on Vivaldi's musical concerto *The Four Seasons* while the Garden of Remembrance commemorates important occasions in the history of the village. These include the visit by the Canadian Prime Minister, Ireland's first all county World War 1 memorial and the Entente Florale Gold Medal Award. The Sculpture Garden is dedicated to three of Leighlinbridge's most famous sons – Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran, John Tyndall, the mountaineer and scientist and Captain Myles Keogh, second in command to General Custer.



**FACILITIES:** Restaurants, award winning garden centre, hotel, public houses, castle, historic buildings, angling, walking routes, picnic site.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Continue along the M9 Carlow bypass and the N9 in the direction of Kilkenny. Leighlinbridge is clearly signposted off the N9, 3km from here. Alternatively visitors travelling from Carlow Town should follow the R448 in the direction of Kilkenny until it intersects with the N9 and continue as above.

**OPENING TIMES:** Daylight hours. Free admission.

### morgan's garden centre

Green Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9143092  
F: 059-9143179  
E: [morgansgc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:morgansgc@yahoo.co.uk)  
W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

Based on the outskirts of Carlow Town, Morgan's Garden Centre is a family run business which has developed and grown rapidly in recent years to become recognised as a leading garden centre. This award winning garden centre features a well-stocked shop and extensive covered plant sales area for summer bedding and seasonal plants, most of which are grown in the adjoining nursery. All trees, shrubs, roses and heathers are sourced from leading Irish nurseries ensuring high quality plants. Visitors are guaranteed something for every season – bedding and patio plants for spring and summer, pottery, stoneware and water features with bulbs, hedging and trees for autumn. Advice is provided by trained and experienced staff who will give ideas and tips for your garden and answer all your gardening queries. Service is guaranteed to be friendly, helpful and efficient.



**FACILITIES:** car park, toilet, wheelchair accessible.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Located on the outskirts of Carlow Town, off the R448 (in direction of Kilkenny). Take the first turn to the left after Carlow Institute of Technology and take the right exit at the next roundabout.

**OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Saturday 9.30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 2 – 6 p.m., Bank Holidays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### oak park forest park

Oak Park - outskirts of Carlow Town  
T: 059-9131554 Carlow Tourist Office,  
College Street, Carlow  
E: [carlow@failteireland.ie](mailto:carlow@failteireland.ie)  
W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

There are few locations which could rival the beauty and tranquillity of Oak Park Forest Park. Ideal for leisurely strolls and walks, a visit here is a relaxing and pleasurable experience and a must for any visitor to Co. Carlow. Colour coded circular walkways of varying lengths with excellent accessible surfaces and easy gradients make a visit here an enjoyable experience for young and old alike.

The park is a mature, mixed species woodland of over 120 acres with a predominance of beech, oak, scots pine, silver fir, larch and sycamore. The proximity of the walkways to the extensive collection of ferns, mosses and woodland flora provides the visitor with an ideal opportunity to interact with nature. Boasting a rich diversity of wildlife, the lakes and their surrounds provide a habitat for swans and ducks, while the islands shelter many wild and game birds. The Woodland Walks have been laid out to encompass the broadest range of natural features. Extending over 4 kilometres they include Butlers Wood Loop (700 metres), the Lake Path (800 metres), Fox Covert Track (1,100 metres) and Sally Island Trail (1,700 metres).





### oak park forest park continued

Situated on the outskirts of Carlow Town, the park is a popular destination for walking and educational visits. The park also features a picnic area, informal leisure areas and seating at regular intervals.

**FACILITIES:** wheelchair accessible toilets, large car park, outdoor picnic tables, wheelchair accessible walkways and birdwatching area.

**HOW TO FIND US:** At Castledermot (exit 4 off the M9) take the R448 in the direction of Carlow. Take the first right after Toughers Restaurant (on the outskirts of Carlow Town). Take a left at the next junction. Access also possible off Dr. Cullen Park Road on the outskirts of Carlow Town.

**OPENING TIMES:** End March - End September daily from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., rest of year daily from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Check for Christmas opening times.

**ADMISSION CHARGES:** Free entrance.

### rathvilly garden centre

Rathvilly (on N81), Co. Carlow

T: 059-9161594/087-8344582

F: 059-9161296

W: [www.carlowgardentrail.com](http://www.carlowgardentrail.com)

Rathvilly Garden Centre is a family run business, operated by Dermot and Derry Byrne who pride themselves on offering a comprehensive range of home grown bedding plants and shrubs for the gardening enthusiast.

This country garden centre is set on 5 acres (2 hectares) with a 1 acre (.5 hectare) amenity garden with picnic and children's play area. A large covered plant area also includes a fine gift shop which stocks pottery, candles, houseware, glassware and innovative gift ideas. The garden centre features a range of bulbs, seeds, garden tools and a large selection of trees, shrubs, container pots, fruit trees, patio slabs, outdoor pots, moss peat, trellis and fencing. There is a strong emphasis on "growing your own" and the centre also features a vegetable exhibition area. Trained and experienced staff will give advice on all gardening queries to the extent of visiting your garden and planning where everything should go. Blue Berry Café now open (the café closes a half hour earlier than the garden centre).



**FACILITIES:** Wheelchair accessible, toilet (wheelchair), picnic tables and café.

**HOW TO FIND US:** 3.5 km from Rathvilly and 6 km from Baltinglass on the Rathvilly - Baltinglass N81 Road. Well signposted.

**OPENING TIMES:** Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday 11.30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Bank Holidays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### rathwood

Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

T: 059-9156285

E: [info@rathwood.com](mailto:info@rathwood.com)

W: [www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com)

Rathwood is a multi-award winning family owned centre located in the countryside, with gift shops, garden centre, furniture and interior shops, solid wood kitchens, ladies fashions and shoes, children's outdoor play equipment, log cabins, fencing and stone products. Customers from the green fingered to the new home owner are guaranteed expert advice and friendly service.

Lunch at Rathwood's country style restaurant with fresh, wholesome food and home baking. Combine a lunch stop at Rathwood with your visit to Altamont Gardens. A ride on the Rathwood Train, walk in the Forest, visit to Woodlands Falconry and Birds of Prey Centre or Christmas wonderland makes Rathwood a joy to visit at any time of the year. Rathwood has something for every group and all the family and promises an unusual day out.



**FACILITIES:** Multi-award winning exclusive centre consisting of furniture and interiors shops, gift shops, restaurant, garden centre, ladies fashions and shoes, potteries, vintage style children's clothing, stone landscaping, log cabins, garden sheds, children's outdoor play garden, train rides, forest walks, large coach and car park, toilets, wheelchair access, tourist information point.

**HOW TO FIND US:** 10 km from Altamont Gardens or take the R725 Tullow to Shillelagh Road (off the N9, N11 or N81 Dublin to Tullow Road)

**OPENING HOURS:** Monday-Saturday including Bank Holidays 9.30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### rath wood forest walks

Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow

For information contact Rathwood T: 059-9156285

The serene, tranquil woodland trails of Rath offer gentle walks for all ages from a short leisurely wheelchair accessible path to the longer looped Molloy walk. Rath Wood offers a sanctuary for many mammals, birds and insect species within its 185 acre boundaries. It is home to red deer, rabbits, mink, foxes, pheasants and dragonflies amongst others. The forest contains a great variety of tree species including beech, oak, sitka spruce, norway spruce, birch, douglas fir and alder. Take a pleasant stroll through the natural beauty of Rath Wood and discover a landscape rich in geology, archaeology and wild life. The entrance to this forest is from Rathwood Home and Garden World's carpark. The historical feature of Rathgall Hillfort which dates back to 800 BC is located nearby. Call into Rathwood's reception for brochures on all of the above or check out our website [www.rathwood.com](http://www.rathwood.com).



**FACILITIES:** Coillte forest walks – wheelchair/child buggy friendly walk to the pond with seating at regular intervals. Woodland map guide, toilets and restaurant available at Rathwood. Information and bridge entrance to woods is via Rathwood car park.

**HOW TO FIND US:** Immediately adjacent to Rathwood. 10km from Altamont Gardens or take the R725 Tullow to Shillelagh Road. Off the N9, N11 or N81 to Tullow.

**CAR PARK OPEN:** Monday – Saturday (incl. Bank Holidays) 9.30 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sundays 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Coillte operate an open door policy.



The character and heritage of the county's rural towns and villages reflect some of its most charming aspects. Nestled in sleepy nooks along the Rivers Barrow and Slaney, as they meander through undulating valleys, are some of the most beautiful country towns and villages in Ireland. Riverside towns with graceful medieval bridges, old stone-built estate towns, bustling market towns and hillside villages add their individual colour and character to the Carlow landscape. Meet and enjoy the best of company, relax over a good meal or savour a drink as you listen to a story or tap your feet to the rhythm of a song. Use the map on page 24 of this publication to guide you on your touring route.



Aghade Bridge on the River Slaney

**AGHADE:** a beautiful viewing spot over the River Slaney, close to the village of Ardattin and an ideal location for sightseeing.

**ARDATTIN:** a picturesque country village, 6 km south of Tullow near the River Slaney. Located closeby was **Ballintemple House**, birthplace of Pierce Butler, soldier, statesman and signatory of the American Constitution. Although the house was sadly destroyed by fire in 1913, an extensive tree nursery tended by the State forestry service, Coillte, now occupies the Ballintemple Estate which is also the base of the National Tree, Shrub and Seed Centre in Ireland. The beauty of this village is strengthened by the pride of its people, which is reflected in its overall character.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The Cottage Collection boasts a unique display of domestic appliances, gramophones and radios, many dating back to the early 1900s. **Open by appointment.** T: 059 - 9155639.

**BAGENALSTOWN:** otherwise known in its Gaelic version as **Muine Bheag** is sited on a pleasant stretch of the River Barrow and derives its name from Walter Bagenal, who, in founding the town, had visions of mirroring the city of Versailles in northern France. Shortly after he had made an impressive start in the 1700s by building a magnificent square courthouse, his efforts became frustrated, due to the re-routing of

the coach road away from the town. He left more than enough however, for visitors to enjoy with handsome stone public buildings including the impressive **Courthouse**, now a public library. The arrival of the railway in 1846 rejuvenated the town, and its **neo-classical railway station** is one of the finest in Ireland. It is a seven bay, two storey construction in an Italianate villa style. This former mill town made full use of the River Barrow to transport grain, beet, coal, turf and Guinness by barge, evidence of which can be seen in its fine industrial architecture. Near the railway bridge on the R705 Borris Road is an example of the Carlow Fence, a distinctive feature of the Carlow landscape which consists of a decorative fence made of granite pieces, crudely worked to shape and assembled together.

One of the finest views of the town may be enjoyed on the approach road from Leighlinbridge and includes the spire of **St. Andrew's Catholic Church** and the fine tower of **St. Mary's Church of Ireland Church**. St. Andrew's Catholic Church was built in 1820 on a site provided by the Newton family, successors to the Bagenals. The stained glass behind the altar is worthy of particular attention.

Nowadays, riverside walks, picnic tables and a picturesque lock enhance this fine town which has been twinned with the French town of Pont Pean since 1999.

**ATTRACTIONS:** **Dunleckney Manor.** Home to the Bagenal family since 1585. Parts of the original house are incorporated in the present Tudor-Gothic structure, which was designed by the renowned architect Daniel Robertson and built in 1820. Open to the public on selected days throughout the year. T: 059-9721932. See page 12 for details. The ruins of the early 14th century **Ballymoon Castle** and 13th century **Ballyloughan Castle** are located near the town. **Wells Church**, situated closeby, is the preserved ruin of a church dating back to 1262.



Bagenalstown Courthouse by night

**ACTIVITIES:** There is an **outdoor heated swimming pool** on the approach road from Leighlinbridge, open daily June – August from 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., 2.30 – 5 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. Swimming lessons, summer camps and water safety courses available. The **McGrath complex** offers fine sporting facilities including cricket, hurling, soccer and Gaelic football, a tennis court and pitch and putt course. The River Barrow in this area is renowned for **coarse fishing** with wheelchair friendly fishing stands located near the swimming pool. The **Barrow Way** long-distance walking route passes through the town.



Fine neo-classical railway station at Bagenalstown

**BALLYMURPHY:** A gentle hillside village captured in a glen on mountain slopes which derives its name from Matthew Murphy of Clonroche, Co. Wexford, a powerful landowner and builder of a castle in the area in the mid-seventeenth century. This is the first village encountered on the Co. Carlow side of the Blackstairs Mountains by the traveller passing close to the picturesque Scullog Gap.

**ACTIVITIES:** **Quad biking, clay pigeon shooting and shooting cinema** are available at nearby Country Quads. T: 059-9724624.



The village of Ballymurphy at the foothills of Mount Leinster

**BALLINKILLIN:** 8 km south of Bagenalstown off the R705 Bagenalstown - Borris Road is the picturesque village of Ballinkillin, nestling under the shadow of Mount Leinster. In the churchyard you can see a large replica of a nineteenth-century high cross erected by Cardinal Patrick Francis Moran, to commemorate his parents. Cardinal Moran enjoyed a distinguished church career and later became Archbishop of Sydney.



**ACTIVITIES:** Outdoor pursuits include hill walking, pony trekking and fishing.



**BALLON/RATHOE:** The Blackstairs and Wicklow mountains provide a dramatic backdrop to the pastures and cornfields, the winding country roads and traditional farmsteads around the charming rural village of Ballon. There is a strong archaeological presence in the area which includes a motte and bailey at Castlemore and Castlegrace, ringforts, cashels, standing stones and holy wells. Ballon Hill, 450 feet above sea level provides magnificent views of the surrounding countryside while a map board on site supplies information on the archaeological significance of the area. Located on the outskirts of the village at Ballykealey is the Quaker graveyard, strongly associated with the Lecky family for whom Ballykealey House (now Ballykealey Manor Hotel) was built in the 1830s. 26 members of the family are known to be buried in this Quaker plot. **RATHOE** in the northern part of the parish, is situated between Tullow and Ballon, a small friendly village made famous by **Bard Val Vousden**, actor and entertainer who wrote the song *The Roads around Rathoe*. **St. Patrick's Church** is an excellent example of nineteenth-century craftsmanship with a beautiful stained glass window by Early's Studio, Dublin and an ancient baptismal font, octagonal in shape.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Altamont Gardens, Malone's Fruit Farm, The Forge Restaurant and the Lace Gallery, Kilbride near Ballon.

**ACTIVITIES:** Leinster Hills Golf Club, off the N80 at the Fighting Cocks Pub. Walking on the nearby South Leinster Way.

**BORRIS:** a Georgian, granite town, full of charm and heritage nestling in the fertile valley of the River Barrow, below the curve of the Blackstairs Mountains. Borris House, built in Tudor style, is the home of the Kavanagh family, direct descendants of the **MacMurrrough Kavanagh** dynasty, former Celtic Kings of Leinster. The town prospered in the late 1800s as **Arthur MacMurrrough Kavanagh**, the landlord of the time, developed a sawmill and a thriving lace-making industry – **Borris Lace** soon became famous for its beautiful, intricate patterns and found its way to stately homes



Selling the famous Borris Ewe at Borris Mart



Tomduff on the Blackstairs Mountains range

as far away as Russia. He also instigated the building of the spectacular 16-arch viaduct, situated at the lower end of the town, which carried the now defunct Great Southern and Western Railway Line between Bagenalstown and Ballywilliam in Co. Wexford. A pleasing feature of the town is the Sacred Heart Church, built in 1820 with a façade of granite decorated with limestone which incorporates a Romanesque style doorway. The stained glass window over the main altar is particularly noteworthy and consists of three granite framed panels portraying the Crucifixion with the three under portions depicting Saints Fortchern, Brigid and Fiachra.

Today, Borris is a busy village serving its surrounding rural hinterland. The village is a gateway to Mount Leinster and the Blackstairs Mountains, where some of the county's most satisfying walks are to be found.

**ATTRACTIONS:** **Borris House** is open on selected days throughout the year. For more information visit [www.borrishouse.com](http://www.borrishouse.com) **T: 059-9773105.** Mount Leinster Heritage Drive and the Blackstairs Mountains, which are accessible from Borris under the viaduct at

the lower end of the town. **Clashganny Lock**, 5km south of Borris on the R729 New Ross Road offers a panoramic view of Carlow's rich countryside.

**ACTIVITIES:** Hang-gliding and paragliding on Mount Leinster, walking on the South Leinster and Barrow Ways. Coarse angling. Golfing at Borris Golf Club.

**CARRIGDUFF:** a beautiful landscaped village situated on the N80 Carlow-Rosslare Road on the outskirts of Bunclody. It is a gateway to the **Blackstairs Mountains** and the recently developed Kilbrannish Forest Recreation Area (features two looped walks, see page 20 for further details), along the tree-lined hills of the **Clody River Valley**.

**ACTIVITIES:** Fine outdoor heated swimming pool and toddler's pool open during July and August. The adjoining tennis court and playground are in use all year round.

**CARLOW:** Carlow Town, with a population of over 20,000, is the county town and gateway to the South-East standing at the confluence of the Barrow and Burren rivers. Tradition has it that the junction



The VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre in Carlow Town



of the two rivers once covered such a large area of ground that a lake was formed, or, as some believe four lakes, hence the name Ceatharloch or City of the Four Lakes. As a strategic river crossing, the town was the scene of a number of important battles and the Anglo Normans signalled its importance by building the great Carlow Castle in the thirteenth-century. A vibrant college and market town, Carlow enjoys a thriving arts and crafts community, an exciting nightlife, a strong tradition of Irish language and culture and a superb range of shops, boutiques and restaurants.

**ATTRACTIONS: Carlow Town Heritage Trail** – Discover Carlow Town in a one hour self-guided walking trail. The route allows visitors to view some fine historical buildings and starts from the Liberty Tree on Kennedy Avenue in the town centre. Follow the identifiable finger signposts. See page 47 of this publication for further details.

**Carlow Town Park** – a 12.8 acre park on the banks of the River Barrow offering a host of amenities for all the family.

**Brownhill Dolmen** – Europe's largest portal dolmen, with a capstone weighing 101 tonnes, 5km from the town on the R726.

**VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre** on the grounds of Carlow College. See page 8.

**ACTIVITIES:** Carlow Town features Éigse, a nine-day annual extravaganza of visual arts, theatre, comedy, dance, literary events, crafts and street entertainment which takes place from **June 11th – 20th**. The town's rich association with its waterways is celebrated in the annual **Carlow Regatta on June 6th**. **Golf courses, Barrow Way walking route and Graiguecullen Swimming Pool.**

#### CLONEGAL AND THE WATCH:

Favourably referred to as the “Switzerland of Ireland” for its outstanding natural beauty, these twin villages are set in a valley between the Blackstairs and Wicklow Mountains.

**ATTRACTIONS: Huntington Castle and Gardens** are known world wide and guided tours are conducted daily June – August inclusive from 2 – 6 p.m.  
T: 053-9377552.



Huntington Castle, Clonmel



Clonmel – favourably referred to as the Switzerland of Ireland

**The Weavers Cottages**, located in the village were built to the direction of Alexander Durdin of Huntington Castle in 1690. They were lived in by weavers when the trade was at its height and now feature many articles and pictures from by gone days. From time to time they are also used for spinning, bread making, crochet demonstrations and evenings of story telling and music. T: 053-9377575.

**St. Fiac's Church of Ireland** in the village is built on what appears to be a rath or motte.

**St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church** features beautiful work by Italian artisans while the most important feature of the Sanctuary area is the paired Corinthian columns.

**ACTIVITIES:** Clonmel is a favourite location for walkers, marking the end of the **Wicklow Way**, a 130km way-marked walking trail, which starts in Marley Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin. The village also features a 7km Slí na Sláinte walk via Ballyredmond and Clonogan Woods – starts from the Wicklow Park opposite the Weavers Cottages in the centre of Clonmel Village.



Crosshead at Clonmel

**CLONMEL** is one of Carlow's most important early Christian sites with a wealth of history for visitors to discover. Situated in the scenic north-easter corner of Co. Carlow,

the present road cuts through the monastery founded by St. Maedóc around 600 AD.

No traces of the monastic buildings remain but the importance of the site is attested by the presence of two large crosses, nineteen cross-inscribed stones, an ogham stone and two bullaun stones. Clonmel houses a fascinating collection of crosses featuring exceptional examples of craftsmanship.

The area is a haven for the historian, researcher and photographer to enjoy a rich legacy of historical items from the sixth century abbey remains to the twelfth century castle ruins and the nineteenth century McCall connection. **P.J. McCall**, the famous balladeer was born here and composed hundreds of ballads of historic interest including *Boolavogue* and *Follow Me Up to Carlow*.



Fine stonework in Fenagh Village

**FENAGH:** Fenagh is known for its architectural design and granite buildings with fine examples of stone work to be seen in the houses and surrounds throughout the village. One of the most famous families associated with the area was the Lecky Watson's, a Quaker family, who first settled here in the early eighteenth-century. Descendants of the family created the first set of written rules for playing polo while another member of the family hunted down the last recorded wolf in Ireland on the slopes of Mount Leinster. Outside Ballydarton House on the outskirts of the village is a fine example of the Carlow Fence.

**ATTRACTIONS: Fenagh Steam Rally 12th September.**

**HACKETSTOWN: Eagle Hill**, south of the town, has delightful views from its summit and most of the county can be seen spread out below. Surrounded by woodland and farmland, the village is a gateway to the higher Wicklow Mountains to the east and the beaches of Wexford to the south.

**ACTIVITIES:** Situated at the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, the area has a wide variety of walks including a Slí na Sláinte route.



**KILDAVIN:** is a small picturesque village, outside Buncloody, off the main Carlow - Rosslare Road (N80). The meaning of Kildavin is thought to refer to an early church (Cill) or an ancient wood (Coill). Ellen Keogh, the grandmother of **Cardinal Spellman of New York** emigrated from the Kildavin area in 1850.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The South Leinster Way long distance walking trail starts here at the Church of Ireland Church. Stage 1 leads the walker from Kildavin to Borris, covering a distance of 20 km.

**KILLESHIN:** an important medieval monastery, was the centre of learning and culture since early Christian times. The present church was built c.1150 and is well worth visiting not just for its beautiful Romanesque doorway, one of the finest examples in the country, but for its scenic setting. Nestling in peaceful countryside, it has such wonderful views across the Barrow Valley to the Blackstairs Mountains that it has been called the "The Balcony of Carlow". The doorway is also one of only a small number of doorways in Ireland with a triangular gable above the arches.

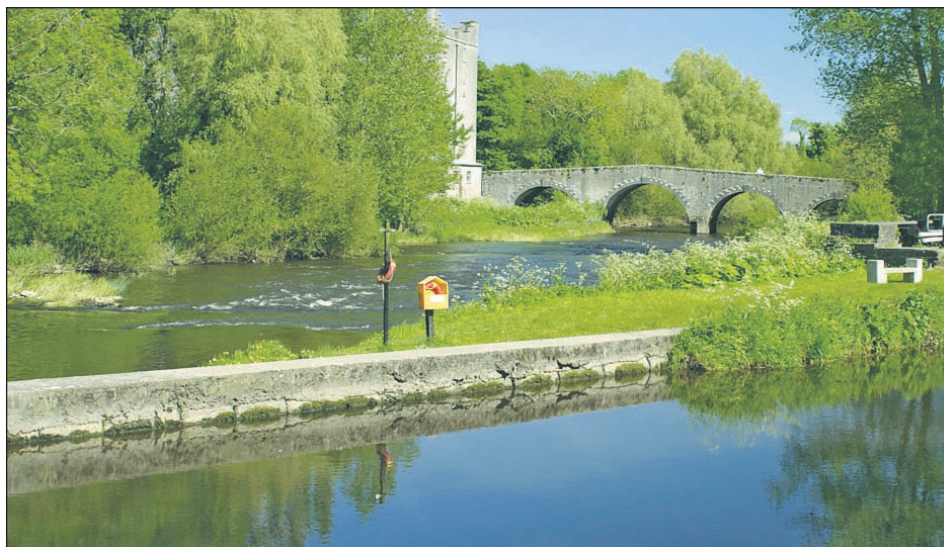
**ATTRACTIONS:** Oisín Park with picnic area and children's playground. Slieve Margy long distance walking route.



The fourteenth-century valerian bridge in Leighlinbridge

**LEIGHLINBRIDGE:** The village of Leighlinbridge is a popular stop for those boating or walking along the river. An attractive village and winner of numerous awards, the River Barrow is spanned here by a fine valerian bridge, reputedly one of the oldest functioning bridges in Europe. The Black Castle which dominates the river crossing is an Anglo-Norman fortress, built in 1180 by Hugh de Lacy. South of Leighlinbridge, sited on the west bank of the River Barrow lies the fort of Dinn Righ which was the capital of the Kingdom of South Leinster for over 2000 years.

Leighlinbridge has produced more than its share of famous people including the daring Captain **Myles Keogh**, aid to General Custer, the scientist and mountaineer **John Tyndall**, the former archbishop of Sydney,



A picturesque view of the River Barrow at Milford

**Patrick Francis Moran** and the **Right Hon. Brian Mulroney**, Prime Minister of Canada from 1984 - 1992 whose family hailed from Leighlinbridge.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The Millennium, Vivaldi and Sculpture Gardens and Garden of Remembrance, Ireland's first all-county World War 1 Memorial. Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre.

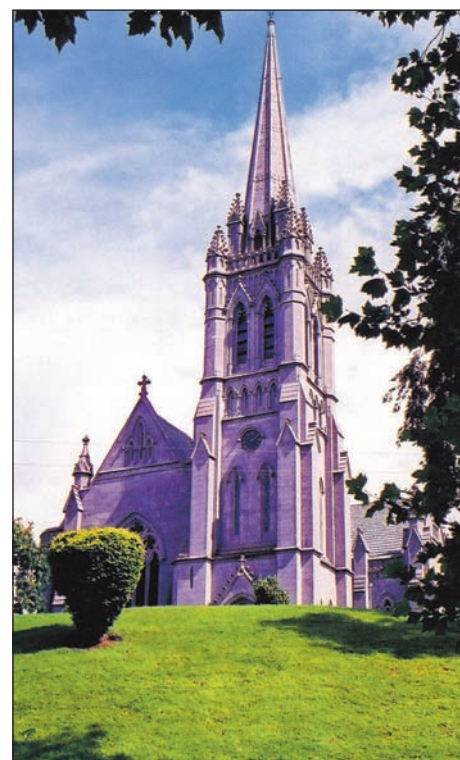
**ACTIVITIES:** Walking along the Barrow Way. Bird watching and marina for mooring boats.

**MILFORD:** A pleasant stop on the River Barrow which was once the centre of a thriving milling industry. The mill at Milford was established in the 1790s and is one of the most extensive and celebrated in Ireland. Electricity was generated from here in 1891, providing Carlow with the distinction of being the first inland town in Ireland and Britain to receive electric power. Three bridges and a wooded area contribute to an idyllic setting. Famed bird watching location. The Barrow Way Walking route can be joined here.

**MYSHALL** lies at the foot of the northern slopes of the Blackstairs Mountains which provides a magnificent backdrop to the rich pasturelands and winding country roads. The village forms part of the stunning Mount Leinster Heritage Drive which offers beautiful views of Mount Leinster and the Nine Stones vantage point. **Peter Collier**, founder of the famous Collier Publishing Company in New York, hails from here.

The village enjoys a long religious history with St. Finian born in the townland of Rosacurra near Myshall in 454 AD while St. Columbanus, Ireland's first great European saint, has strong links with the area. The ruins of St. Finian's Church in the village centre date to the sixth century, and feature fine granite stonework.

**ATTRACTIONS:** The Adelaide Memorial Church. Built as a miniature of Salisbury Cathedral in England, this architectural gem was completed in 1912 by John Duguid of Dover, to commemorate his wife Adelaide who died in 1903 and his daughter Constance who was killed in a riding accident near the village. In this "exquisite church of rare beauty" many objects of interest are to be seen including marble, mosaic, woodcarving, stained glass and ironwork. The design of the marble floor in the Chancel is taken from St. Mark's in Venice while the stained marble steps and the red granite pillars came from Aberdeen. The key is held locally by Mrs. Bridie Daly (white bungalow opposite church grounds T: 059-9157671 – please phone in advance).



Adelaide Memorial Church, Myshall



**NEWTOWN: St. Patrick's Church** in the village was built in the 1850s and is considered one of the most beautiful churches in the diocese. The church features eight stained glass windows made by the famous Clark family of Dublin in the early part of the last century. The decorative plasterwork on the ceiling is particularly eye-catching and is believed to be the work of Italian refugee artisans who were working locally in Fenagh House at the time the church was being built.



St. Patrick's Church, Newtown

**NURNEY:** A small village with an interesting pub, a church and ancient stone cross. Nearby at **Clonmelsh cemetery** Walt Disney's ancestors are buried.

**OLD LEIGHLIN: St. Laserian's Cathedral** was built in the thirteenth-century on the site of a church founded by St. Gobban in 632 AD. This early church was one of the foremost monastic houses in Leinster at one time with over 1,500 monks in residence. An important seventh century church synod took place here which influenced the date of Easter for the entire Christian world. See page 12 for more details.

**ATTRACTIONS:** **The Ridge Drive** - a route over Old Leighlin and the Castlecomer Plateau.



St. Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin

**RATHVILLY:** The picturesque village of Rathvilly in north Carlow lies at the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. It is a most historic village as the Kings of Hy Kinsellagh had a residence here. St. Patrick visited and baptised its king, his wife and his infant son in 450 AD at the Holy Well, which may still be viewed in the local graveyard. The scene is depicted on a mural in St. Patrick's Church,



St. Mullins on the River Barrow

a beautiful granite building, located in the village centre. The River Slaney which flows through Rathvilly offers angling and a rich variety of bird life including herons to visitors.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Monument to **Kevin Barry**, a local boy who joined the fight for Irish freedom. **The moat of Rathvilly**, in the townland of Knockroe, was the residence of the King of Leinster who reigned from 443 AD to 483 AD.

**ST. MULLINS:** The peaceful village of St. Mullins in south Carlow is situated on the River Barrow, nestling between the Blackstairs Mountains on one side and Brandon Hill on the other. The village is steeped in history, culture and tradition and has been associated with Fionn mac Cumhail who gave the village its first name **Rinn Ros Broic**, and later **St. Brendan the Navigator**. The locality acquired its name from **St. Moling**, a seventh-century cleric who built a monastery here with the help of "Gobban Saor", the legendary Irish builder. Throughout his life he performed many miracles, raising the dead, cleansing lepers, giving sight to the blind and curing many diseases. The complex includes a medieval church ruin, the base of a round tower and the former Church of Ireland church, built in 1811.

**ATTRACTIONS:** **Heritage centre** displaying all aspects of local history including publications, church records, maps and old photographs while a most interesting tour of the settlement departs from here.

**ACTIVITIES:** **Barrow Way walking route**. **Slí na Sláinte Walk**, 6.35km long. **Carrigleade Golf Course**.

**TINNAHINCH:** is a very popular **boating centre** on the banks of the River Barrow and is linked with its sister town of **Graiguenamanagh** by a beautiful bridge, constructed in 1767 when a canal system was being built to improve navigation. **Tinnahinch Castle** was built around 1615 by

James Butler who later lost his lands because of his involvement in the Confederate War of 1641. It was built to control a crossing where a wooden bridge once spanned the Barrow. The castle was burnt around the year 1700 and has lain that way ever since.

**ACTIVITIES:** **Canoeing, scenic riverside walk** from Tinnahinch to St. Mullins - 6km. **Graiguenamanagh Town of Books**, September 17th - 19th.

**TINRYLAND:** A quiet picturesque village located 5.5km from Carlow Town, off the N80 Carlow-Rosslare Road. St. Joseph's Catholic Church, built in 1819, contains the striking stained glass window to the memory of Captain Myles Keogh who was born in Leighlinbridge in 1840 and was killed at the battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. St. Joseph's claims to be the first rural church in Ireland to use electric light due to local man Mr. Paddy Dowling, who played an important part in bringing electricity to rural Ireland in the 1940s.

**TULLOW:** Tullow is located in the **River Slaney Valley** in the midst of rich, fertile agricultural land. Tullow reflects an enduring historical culture with many items of antiquity including an ancient holed stone "**Cloch a Phoill**" (**Ardristan**), a pre-historic ring fort (**Rathgall**) and a prehistoric burial place (**Bawnoge**). Tullow is also the ancestral home of the famous **Wolseley** family - Frederick York Wolseley gave his name to the Wolseley car. It is known locally as the **granite town** because of the fine stone used in its walls and public buildings.

**ATTRACTIONS:** **Tullow Museum**, **Bishop Daniel Delany Museum**, **Rathwood** and **Rath Wood Forest Walks**.

**ACTIVITIES:** Golfing at nearby Mount Wolseley and Killerig Golf Clubs. **June 11th - 13th: Annual Gordon Bennett Rally** commemorating the original 1903 car race. Headquarters Mount Wolseley Hotel, **Tullow Show August 15th**.



restaurants		
<b>Bailey's Brasserie, Clanard Court Hotel, Dublin Road, Athy, Co. Kildare T: 059-8640666</b>	Bailey's Brasserie offers a commitment to superb food and excellent service in a relaxed and intimate setting. Choose from an extensive and creative menu, complemented by an excellent choice of wines. Open daily from 6.30 – 9.30 p.m. Early bird Sun – Thurs, 6.30 – 9.30 p.m. 4 course €22.	
<b>Boats Bistro, The Quayside, Tinnahinch, Co. Carlow T: 059-9725075</b>	Situated at the foot of the bridge overlooking the beautiful River Barrow. Enjoy quality Irish ingredients combined with Mediterranean influences while watching the gentle action of the river. This is a perfect location to replenish after a walk.	
<b>Brooks Café Bar and Brasserie, Dinn Rí, Tullow Street, Carlow T: 059-9133111</b>	From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. this is a continental café, serving the highest quality speciality teas, coffees, panninis, breads, sandwiches, scones and pastries. While by night it transforms into an ultra stylish bar and restaurant with a modern, lively atmosphere. Full bistro menu 6 – 9.45 p.m.	
<b>The Forge Restaurant, Kilbride, Ballon, Co. Carlow T: 059-9159939 M: 086-8165531</b>	Mary Jordan takes pride in sourcing ingredients from local suppliers and the menus offer home-made vegetable soup with soda bread scones, ploughman's sandwiches and comforting hot lunch favourites like baked ham, roast beef or lamb. Recommended by the Georgina Campbell and Bridgestone Guides 2010. Display and sale of local artwork. Open 7 days 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Open late by request. 1km from Altamont Gardens.	
<b>Frederick's Restaurant, Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Country Club, Tullow, Co. Carlow T: 059-9180100 E: sales@mountwolseley.ie</b>	Dining at Mount Wolseley is a true experience. Start off the evening with an aperitif in the stylish Aaron Lounge or the electric Wolseley Cocktail Bar. Dinner is served in Frederick's Restaurant – local and regional Irish ingredients are prepared freshly and traditionally – with a contemporary twist. An extensive wine list, offering a large selection of wines by the glass, all complement your choice of dishes. After dinner, sit back and relax with a cocktail from Frederick's Cocktail Bar.	
<b>The Garrison Bar and Restaurant, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow T: 059-9721474</b>	A fine restaurant and a warm, welcoming bar in the heart of historic Leighlinbridge, promising a dining experience that will have you returning time and time again. The Garrison Bar and Restaurant focuses on a mix of Irish and Eastern cuisine using freshest local ingredients.	
<b>Jasmine Chinese Restaurant, 1st Floor, Hickson's Supermarket, Tullow Road, Carlow T: 059-9139222</b>	Customers can enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the Jasmine Chinese Restaurant with the wonderful aromas of a delicious Chinese menu to create a truly oriental feel. The appetising menu is rich and varied with a delightful array of tantalising choices. Also features European dishes.	
<b>The Jury Room Restaurant and Courthouse Bar &amp; Bistro, McHugh's Courthouse Hotel, Dublin Street, Carlow T: 059-9133243</b>	Features a wonderful fusion of traditional Irish and Asian cuisine offered in comfortable surroundings with the addition of a warm, friendly atmosphere. Whether it is roast of the day, Peking Sweet and Sour or Thai Chicken, the Courthouse Hotel will prepare it freshly for you.	
<b>Lautrecs Brasserie, 115 Tullow Street, Carlow T: 059-9143455 also at: 9 Kieran Street, Kilkenny T: 056-7762720</b>	Lautrecs Brasserie has established itself as one of Carlow's leading restaurants with a great reputation for good food, friendly service and a lively atmosphere in a casual brasserie setting. In the heart of Carlow Town, it features a wide and varied European and Mediterranean menu with seafood a speciality. Opening times: 7 nights from 5 p.m., lunch Thursday – Saturday, 12.30 – 2.30 p.m. Sunday lunch 2 – 4.30 p.m. Great value in the early bird menu served Sunday– Friday from 5 – 7 p.m.	
<b>Liberty Tree Restaurant, Talbot Hotel, Portlaoise Road, Carlow T: 059-9153000</b>	The Liberty Tree is an amazing 90-seater restaurant situated on the fourth floor of the Talbot Hotel Carlow. Specialising in fresh home made produce amid elegant and comfortable surroundings overlooking the rolling hills of this beautiful countryside. Serving an eclectic twist of fare centred on modern, fresh and home made cuisine with particular emphasis on European dishes.	
<b>La Piccola Italia, 144 Tullow Street, Carlow T: 059-9140366</b>	La Piccola Italia is located in the heart of Carlow Town, on Tullow Street and serves the finest authentic Italian food and cuisine. Owned by Giuseppe Iafrate, La Piccola Italia appeals to a broad base of guests from business people and young professionals to families and for people looking for a romantic night out. Inside, an elegant atmosphere reminiscent of quaint Italian hillside restaurants pervades, offering the best Italian food in a warm, and inviting setting. Early bird €17.50 2 course, €19.50 3 course. Lunch €9.95 2 course, €12 3 course with glass wine. Sunday Lunch €14.50 2 course €16.50 3 course.	

restaurants		
<b>Lord Bagenal Bar and Restaurant,</b> Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow T: 059-9774000	The Lord Bagenal Bar and Restaurant, established in 1979 is widely regarded as one of the most innovative and evolving restaurants in the country, renowned for fine food and excellent value for money. Recommended by John McKenna's Bridgestone Guide, Lucinda O'Sullivan's Little Black Book, Georgina Campbell Guide and Michelin Guide. The Waterfront Restaurant with its elegant and classical dining room is open to groups by prior appointment.	
<b>The Lotus Chinese Restaurant,</b> Unit 2, Kennedy Avenue, (beside Carlow Shopping Centre), Carlow T: 059-9131986 W: www.lotuscarlow.com	Located in the heart of Carlow Town for the past 22 years, the Lotus Chinese Restaurant has developed a fine reputation for exquisite food, good service and fine wine. Our menu offers a range of Cantonese, Chinese and European dishes. Catering for parties of all sizes. Delivery service 5 – 11 p.m. daily.	
<b>Mulberry's Restaurant,</b> Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow T: 059-9721558	Experience Mulberry's Restaurant at the Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre. Enjoy our delicious home made cooking from breakfast and lunches to famous homemade desserts. While at Mulberrys visit our foodhall and experience a great selection of jams, cakes, chutneys and hampers to go.	
<b>Pearls Indian Restaurant,</b> Unit 204-205, Barrack Street, Carlow T: 059-9134414	Pearls Indian Restaurant is one of the best Indian restaurants in Carlow. Established in 2005, Pearls serves freshly-prepared dishes all made to order of authentic Indian cuisine, using a blend of the freshest herbs and spices. For anyone eating out in Carlow, Pearls Indian Restaurant serves delicious dishes of our favourite Indian cuisine like Jal Frezi, Tandoori and Tikka Masala and offers an unmatched experience to the connoisseur of fine food.	
<b>Reddy's Bar and Restaurant,</b> Tullow Street, Carlow T: 059-9142224	Full Irish breakfast, hot carvery, cold buffet and table d'hote luncheon menu. Steaks and seafood a speciality. À la carte and dinner menu served in Green's Restaurant. Full bar food menu and chef's special are available daily in our lounge. Various function rooms available. Open all day, seven days. We cater for large parties. A rendezvous for a pleasant evening.	
<b>Rathwood,</b> Rath, Tullow, Co. Carlow T: 059-9156285	Rathwood's country style, friendly restaurant is spacious and welcoming. It serves traditional hot dinners like your mother used to cook, complete with all the trimmings of well-remembered family dinners. Full Irish breakfast served Monday to Saturday. A tempting selection of freshly baked breads and cakes, alongside a range of tasty deli sandwiches, is offered every day.	
<b>River Bank Restaurant,</b> Tullow, Co. Carlow. T: 059-9152944	A variety of great value offers are available to suit every palate and budget. The menus offer quality Irish food including fresh fish and vegetarian options. Casual dining serving firm favourites like paninis, roast of the day, chowders and freshly caught fish is on offer during the day. At night time an extensive dinner and à la carte menu features lamb, beef and a selection of fresh fish. Opening times: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday – Friday. Saturday 12 – 10 p.m., Sunday 12 – 8 p.m. Extended opening hours in Summer.	
<b>Sha-Roe Bistro,</b> Clonegal, Co. Carlow T: 053-9375636	Beautifully appointed little restaurant, in an immaculately maintained 18th century building. Henry Stone, who was formerly head chef at Marfield House, is exceptionally talented and this delightful spot is definitely worth a detour. Georgina Campbell Newcomer of the Year 2007, "Bib Gourmand", Michelin Guide 2010, Best Atmospheric Restaurant Georgina Campbell Guide 2010.	
<b>Sir Henry's Bar and Seasons Restaurant,</b> The Killerig Resort Hotel and Golf Club, Killerig, Co. Carlow T: 059-9163050	Sir Henry's Bar is contemporary in style offering lunch, bar snacks and afternoon tea. Seasons Restaurant offers a Brasserie style menu with an emphasis on fresh local produce, deliciously prepared. Sunday Lunch is a speciality, offering superb food at very reasonable prices.	
<b>Teach Dolmain Bar &amp; Restaurant,</b> Tullow Street, Carlow T: 059-9130911 E: teach.dolmain@live.ie	Whether you're looking for a delicious meal, or meeting friends for a drink, the tastefully refurbished Teach Dolmain in Carlow Town is the perfect location. Teach Dolmain has built up a firm reputation for great food in a relaxed setting. Superb food begins at 9.30 a.m. for breakfast and our famous morning coffee menu. Lunch is served from 12.15 – 3 p.m. and a full Evening and à la Carte Menu from 3 – 9.30 p.m.	



## restaurants

**T.D. Molloy's, Seven Oaks Hotel,**  
Athy Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9131308

TD Molloy's Restaurant offers intimate surroundings in which to enjoy the very best of Irish and International Cuisine. Our Executive Head Chef and his highly trained team carefully plan menus to suit the needs and requirements of our guests using only the finest and freshest local produce. Value menus Monday – Thursday. The Oaks Bar has a superb bar lunch and the popular Nite Bites served every evening. No bookings required. VISUAL and George Bernard Shaw Theatre Early Bird menu 6 – 7.30 p.m. Two courses €20, three courses €25, with glass of wine.



**The Weeping Thaiger,**  
Mill Lane, Castle Hill, Carlow  
T: 059-9137000  
W: www.weepingthaiger.ie

Delicious and exotic Thai Cuisine from one of Ireland's leading Thai Restaurants, prepared by highly skilled Thai Chefs using only the finest, freshest ingredients available. A subtle blend of flavours are mixed together to produce a distinctive and delightful taste.



**Lennon's at VISUAL, VISUAL Centre & George Bernard Shaw Theatre,**  
Old Dublin Road, Carlow  
T: 059-9179245

Dynamic and eclectic food is served in this contemporary style restaurant. Lennon's opened in 2009, serving good food using the very best of local and Irish produce. The modern interior is a welcome addition to the centre and the town itself.



## cafés

**The Auld Black Kettle, Mill Street, Tullow**  
T: 059-9151788

Traditional restaurant in the heart of Tullow Town, featuring breakfast and hearty meals from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily, Sunday lunch 12 – 4 p.m. with a strong emphasis on home cooking - quantity and quality on the one plate.

**Country Kitchen Restaurant**  
Haddens Centre, Carlow  
T: 059-9140613

A wide range of food from an extensive salad bar including home cooked meats, scones and sandwiches. Breakfast and hot lunch. Fresh home baking is a hall mark of this premises with all food cooked on site. A fresh fruit smoothie bar while guests can also dine in the outdoor terrace.



**The Little Coffee House,**  
Penny Lane Indoor Market,  
Tullow Street, Carlow T: 087-9394586

Speciality coffees, teas and hot chocolate to go. Mobile coffee unit available for all shows, events and celebrations. Special drinks for special people. Enjoy a little TLC from the Little Coffee House.



**The Mullicháin Café**  
The Quay, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow  
T: 051-424440  
W: www.oldgrainstorecottages.ie

The Mullicháin Café is part of the tastefully restored old grain store buildings that in times gone by were used by the Grand Canal Company and then Odlums, the millers. Enjoy a coffee and a scone or glass of wine and smoked salmon/brown bread as you look out the window at the changing tides. Opening hours: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., closed Monday except on Bank Holidays, closed Tuesday instead.



**McDonald's Fast Food Restaurant**  
Kennedy Avenue, Carlow T: 059-9135460

Open 9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. for breakfast. Main menu 10.30 a.m. – 11 p.m. 7 days per week. Try our changing tastes menu.



## pubs

**The Ardattin Inn,**  
Ardattin, Tullow, Co. Carlow  
t: 059-9155652

The Ardattin Inn, Bar and Restaurant is a family owned business. Features a large function room, restaurant and kitchen serving excellent quality lunches from 12 – 3 p.m. daily and bar and restaurant menus until 9 p.m. Close to Altamont Gardens and Mount Wolseley.

**Carpenter's Bar/Lounge Restaurant and Off-Licence,**  
Barrack Street, Carlow  
T: 059-9131237

Lively, comfortable bar serving the finest food in the centre of Carlow Town. Lunch served daily with extended bar menu until 9 p.m. in the summer months. Function room available.

**JJ's Bar, Mill Street, Tullow, Co. Carlow**  
T: 059-9151285

Traditional comfortable bar in the heart of Tullow Town. Warm welcome and friendly service guaranteed. Music on selected nights at weekends.

**Kearney's Bar & Lounge**  
Fenagh, Co. Carlow. T: 059-9727115

Bar & Lounge, Grocery, Light Hardware, Coal and Gas. Complete Undertakers. Auctioneers: Tom and Edward 059-9727115.

**O'Shea's Pub,**  
Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9773106

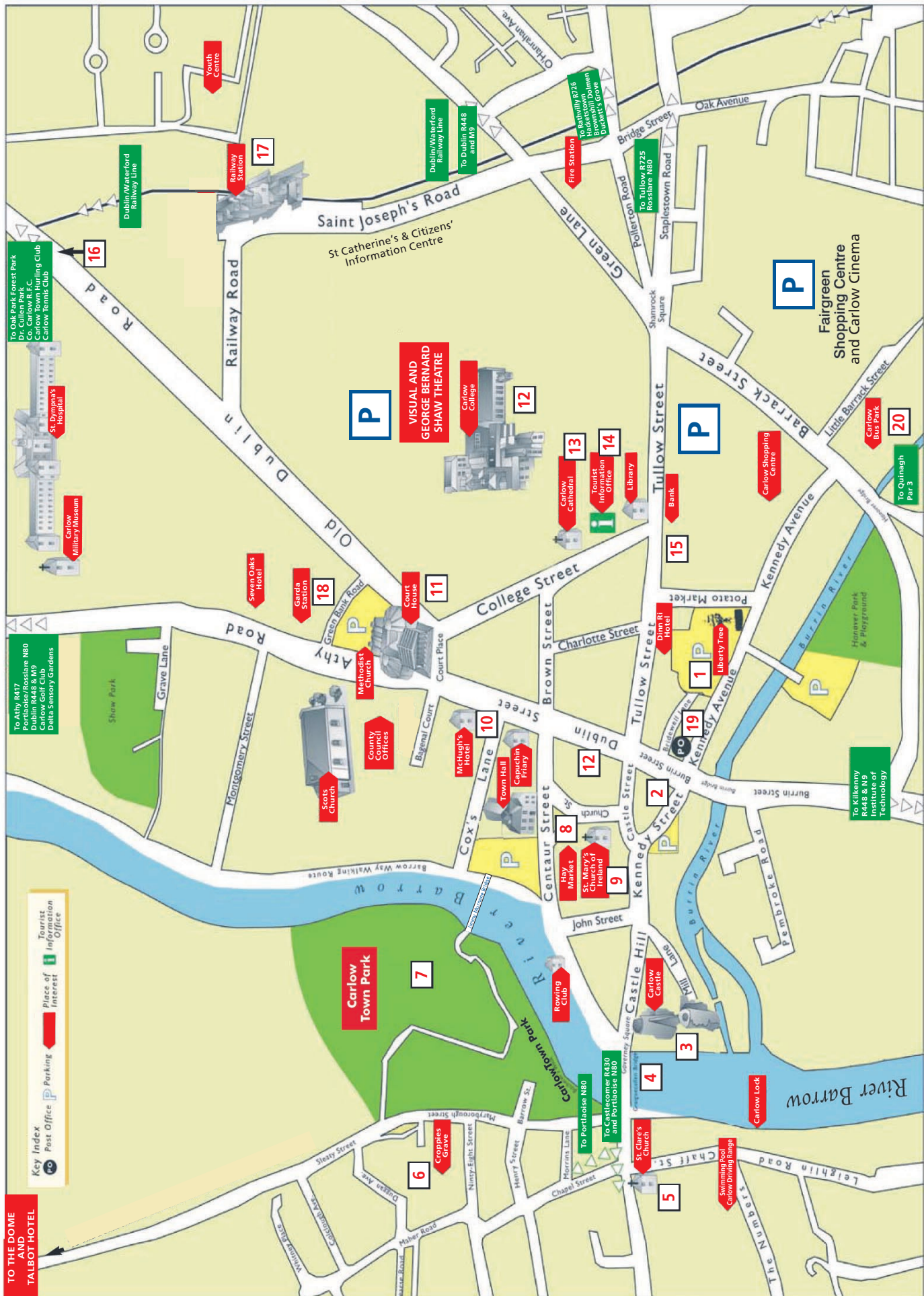
Situated on the main street in Borris, this charming, rural pub in traditional style, has an extensive bar menu on offer, serving quality local produce. An ideal spot for a relaxing drink and a bite to eat with a lovely range of old photos and memorabilia.

**Smyths of Newtown,**  
Newtown, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow  
T: 059-9727159

Situated in Newtown, a lovely village, Smyth's is a traditional comfortable piano bar across the road from St. Patrick's Church. The Smyth Family have been in the pub for over 200 years. Michael Smyth, an accomplished pianist, plays the piano every Saturday night for visitors and locals alike.

**Tully's Bar, 148-149 Tullow Street, Carlow**  
T: 059-9131862/9136963

Spacious and stylish pub in the centre of Carlow Town with a lively and welcoming atmosphere. Lunch available from 12 – 3 p.m. D.J. Thursday night – Sunday night.





# Walking Tour of Carlow Town

Discover the history of Carlow in a one hour self-guided tour assisted by identifiable finger signposts and large map boards

**1** The Liberty Tree commemorates those who were killed in the 1798 insurrection in Carlow and who lie interred in the nearby Croppies Grave. It was designed by John Behan who has skilfully created a fine memorial and an ambience around which people gather to relax. **Continue along Kennedy Avenue.**

**2** Deighton Hall Up until the early 1830s this building functioned as the County Courthouse and seat of the Grand Jury (forerunner of the County Council). The prisoner holding cells were located in the basement with direct access to the courtroom. In 1909 businessman Joseph C. Deighton handed this building over to St. Mary's Parish to use as the Parochial Hall. **Continue along Kennedy Street to Carlow Castle.**

**3** Carlow Castle, now a ruin stands on the eastern bank of the River Barrow. It is thought to have been built by William de Marshal, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster between 1207 and 1213. Originally the castle was a rectangular block, containing the castle's principle rooms protected by cylindrical towers at its corners. Today, two battered towers and part of an intervening wall are all that remain after a local physician tried to remodel it as an asylum in 1814. In an effort to demolish the interior he placed explosive charges at its base and knocked all but the west wall and towers. **Continue westwards to the River Barrow.**

**4** Graiguecullen/Wellington Bridge There is much speculation of when and how many bridges were built before this present bridge was constructed in 1815. The four arched bridge was named in honour of the Irishman, the Duke of Wellington who had defeated Napoleon's army at the famous Battle of Waterloo. The bridge is more commonly referred to by the local population as Graiguecullen bridge, which incidentally, for

boats, is the lowest bridge on the River Barrow. **Continue straight through the traffic lights at Graiguecullen/Wellington Bridge.**

**5** St. Clare's Roman Catholic Church (on the left hand side) was originally built in 1852 as St. Anne's Church of Ireland Church on the Athy Road in Carlow Town. In 1927 after a period of disuse, the church was sold to the Catholic Parish of Graiguecullen and stone by stone was brought across the River Barrow and rebuilt by local company Thomas Thompson. **Turn left at the traffic lights into Chapel Street. Turn right at the end of the street, into 98th Street. The Croppies Grave is on the left hand side.**

**6** The Croppies Grave A handsome monument rises above the site of an old sand pit where in the aftermath of the disastrous rising of the United Irishmen in 1798, the bodies of slaughtered Carlow insurgents were thrown and covered in quicklime in a mass grave. The Croppies was the name given to the United Irishmen after the habit of cropping their hair to mark their allegiance. **Proceed to the Town Park.**

**7** Carlow Town Park A fine attraction for all the family, this 12.8 acre site on the banks of the River Barrow has been completed to the highest standards with a safe and secure children's playground. The children's play area is open daily 8 a.m. – 8.30 p.m. during the summer months and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily for the rest of the year. **Cross the Millennium (Jimmy Murnane) Bridge over the River Barrow in the Town Park, go through the car park into Haymarket.**

**8** On the north side of the Haymarket is the Town Hall designed by the Church architect William Hague in 1884 and opened in March 1886 by Carlow Town Commissioners. **Cross the Haymarket area to St. Mary's Church.**

**9** St. Mary's Church of Ireland is located in an area of long standing religious importance. In the sixth century St. Croneybeg had her religious cell located in this general area. This church dates from 1727, though the tower and spire, reaching 195 feet were added in 1834. The interior retains its traditional galleries. There are also several monuments including some by Sir Richard Morrison, the important neo-classical architect.

**Turn right at gate, left into Castle Hill and left into Dublin Street in the direction of the Courthouse.**

**10** The Assembly Rooms In 1899 well known literary figure George Bernard Shaw inherited this property from his uncle, Walter Gurl. It is thought that the Assembly Rooms were built in 1794 and were used by the nobility and gentry of the county to host dinners, balls and musical performances. In 1918 George Bernard Shaw offered Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin and Chairman of the County Carlow Technical Institute Committee, the building as a school, which opened in 1923. The building is now owned by Carlow County Council and re-opened in 2005 after renovation.

**Continue straight on to the Courthouse from Dublin Street.**

**11** Carlow Courthouse Noted architect William Morrison designed this building in the late 1820s. It is one of Ireland's finest examples of ancient Greek revivalist architecture. The Courthouse, based on the Temple of Lissus in Athens, gives the impression of a temple set on a high plinth, but this obscures the fact that the basement is a maze of cells and dungeons. A cannon from the Crimean War stands on the steps. **Walk south-east down College Street to Carlow College.**

**12** Carlow College. Built before the French Revolution, Carlow College is one of Ireland's oldest educational institutions. The college first opened its doors to students five years before the Irish rebellion of 1798. Originally founded as a lay college, Carlow functioned as a college of the humanities and a seminary from 1793 to 1892. From 1892 until 1989 it was principally a seminary for the education of priests. During its 200 year old history Carlow College has educated generations of politicians, priests, poets and leaders in the public life of their day. **The new VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and George Bernard Shaw Theatre is situated in the grounds of Carlow College.**

**13** Carlow Cathedral – located immediately beside Carlow College. The Cathedral, started in 1828 and completed in 1833, at a cost of £9,000, was the brainchild of the energetic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, James Doyle – J.K.L., the prominent champion of Catholic emancipation. The design of the Cathedral is attributed largely to Thomas Cobden, who drew his inspiration for the Carlow building from European models, particularly the Belfroi tower in Bruges, Belgium. This is the cathedral for the Catholic Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin and is known officially as the Cathedral of the Assumption.

**14** Tourist Office. Visit our state-of-the-art tourist office located beside the Cathedral where you will receive information on all local attractions and events, as well as a copy of our county promotional brochure and a comprehensive range of guidebooks. Local amenities include

- 15. Tullow Street
- 16. Oak Park Forest Park
- 17. Railway Station
- 18. Garda Station
- 19. Post Office
- 20. Carlow Bus Park

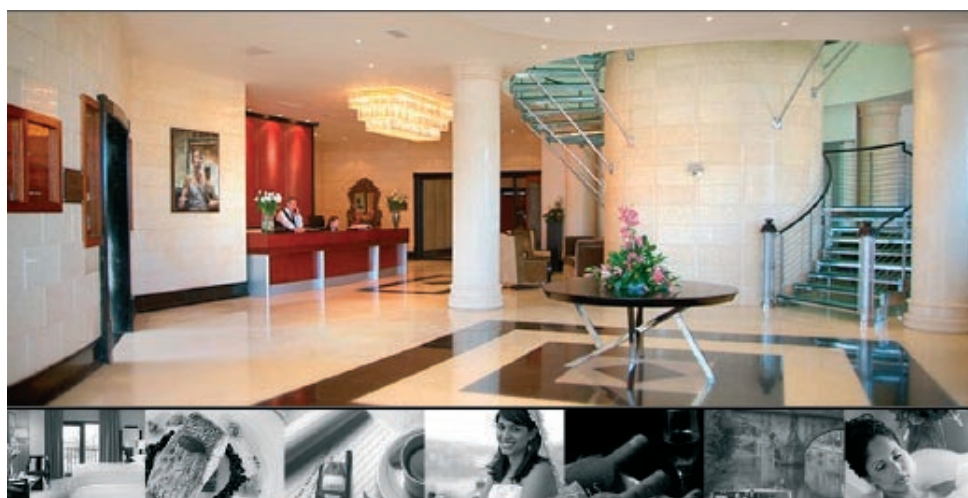


LORD BAGENAL



## *The Lord Bagenal Hotel*

Main Street, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow, t: 059 9774000, e: info@lordbagenal.com



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