



# carlow

festivals and events april - december 2013



the year of the gathering



carlowgathering

[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)  
[www.thegatheringireland.com](http://www.thegatheringireland.com)

# april - may



## Barrow River Arts Festival 19th - 21st April

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Founded and curated by Swiss based musicians, violinist Maya Homburger and bass player Barry Guy, the festival presents a weekend of classical music (Hilliard Ensemble, Homburger/Guy Duo, Thomas Demenga, Camerata Kilkenny), free improvised jazz (Katharina Weber, Balts Nill, Barry Guy), Theatre (Conor Lovett performing Samuel Beckett's 'Molloy') and an exhibition of works by Hughie O'Donoghue. There will also be a tribute to the poet Dennis O'Driscoll who died in December 2012. World renowned musicians, writers, artists and actors together with attendees from abroad are invited to participate.

Location: Borris House, Borris, Co. Carlow and Duiske Abbey, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny  
Contact: Susan Proud T: +353 (0)56 776 1497  
E: barrowriverartsfestival@gmail.com  
W: www.barrowriverartsfestival.com

## 2013 AOI Convention 19th - 21st April

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The AOI annual convention has long been one of the highlights of the AOI calendar. In 2013 the Association of Optometrists Ireland invites three

reunion classes: 1982-3, 1992-3, 2002-3, along with the recent graduates of the Diploma in Optometry Studies. Features a trade show attracting delegates from the UK, as well as optometrists from around Ireland.

Location: The Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Country Club, Tullow  
Contact: Peter Coleman T: +353 (0)14 538 850  
E: peter@optometrists.ie

## International Grandmothers Day 21st April

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

This event promotes 'forgotten skills' and places all grandmothers centre stage for the day long event. In 2013 families are encouraged to invite overseas grannies to this special Gathering. Fun event for all ages featuring slow food, farmers market stall holders, cookery demonstrations and workshops throughout the day.

Location: Sandbrook House, Ballon  
Contact: Christopher Bielenberg  
T: +353 (0)59 915 9247  
E: grandmothersday@sandbrook.ie  
W: www.grandmothersday.ie

## Carlow's 1st International Bridge Congress 3rd - 5th May

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The programme features a formal welcome reception, open, mixed, novice and congress pair competitions together with a gala night of entertainment and guided tours of Carlow Town and the surrounding area.

Location: Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow Town  
Contact: Sheila Gallagher M: +353 (0)86 838 1762  
E: sheilagallagher1@eircom.net

## Bluebell Week at Huntington Castle 4th - 12th May

Enjoy the beautiful blue carpet of native bluebells, guided woodland walks and the opening of the new Waterfall Woodland Path.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal  
Contact: Alex Durdin Robertson  
T: +353 (0)53 937 7160  
E: info@huntingtoncastle.com  
W: www.huntingtoncastle.com

## Shad Fishing Competition 5th May

Shad fishing competition from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. attracting entries from all over Ireland. Registration time 2 p.m. at the Mullichain Café,



The Quay, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow.

Location: Banks of the River Barrow, St. Mullins

Contact: Martin O' Brien T: +353 (0)51 424 440

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

### Killeshin Sunday - Remembering and Looking Forward 5th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

A Gathering of everybody from Graiguecullen or associated with Graiguecullen on Killeshin Sunday, an important day in the calendar in bygone years. Entertainment featuring Irish dancing and choir singing and a photographic exhibition. An opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones, to remember and to look forward.

Location: St. Fiaac's Hall, Graiguecullen

Contact: Anna Nolan Gough T: + 353 (0)87 672 6919

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

Facebook: Graiguecullen Carlow (Laois for those who prefer it)

### Duckett's Grove Country Fair 5th May

Summer fun and entertainment at Duckett's Grove Historic House, Walled Gardens and Pleasure Grounds. A hive of activity is on offer in this truly spectacular setting, just 10 minutes

from Carlow Town off the R418 Castledermot/Tullow Road, the R726 Carlow/Hacketstown Road and the R448 Castledermot/Carlow Road. The fair will feature dedicated displays of traditional crafts including basket making, weaving and a blacksmith. A falconry display by Woodlands Falconry, horse drawn carriage rides by Carlow and District Trap and Carriage Riders Club and nature trails are other highlights on the festival programme. Large craft and food market. Free kids entertainment throughout the day.

Location: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town

Contact: Alison Fitzharris T: + 353 (0)59 913 0411

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

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

### Oil Painting at Huntington Castle 10th - 12th May

Three day course suitable for all levels of experience with professional tuition from Gearóid Hayes, former instructor at the internationally renowned Charles Cecil Academy, Florence, and RHA Adam's Award winner. Places strictly limited.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal

Contact: Alex Durdin Robertson

T: +353 (0)53 937 7160

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

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

### The Irish Open Dance Competition 11th - 12th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

A Gathering of some of Europe's top dancers for a two-day event of Hip Hop, Ballroom and Latin American dancing. Open to all levels and ages. The packed weekend includes an invite only official launch in Oak Park House on Friday April 10th. Special guest from Italy is Ms. Sivia Pitton, six time ballroom dancing world champion.

Location: Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow Town

Contact: Breda Lynch M: +353 (0)86 831 5468

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

F: [www.facebook.com/home/TheIrishOpen](http://www.facebook.com/home/TheIrishOpen)

### Tractor Nuts Gathering 11th -12th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

On the 10th Anniversary of the event to raise vital funds for both the Irish Cancer Society and the Irish Kidney Association, come see the spectacular annual Tractor Run as well as a "Gathering of Fordson Tractors" with ploughing exhibitions, farmer's markets, kids entertainment, 'Ho Down Barn Dance' and a Bachelor Bootcamp with traditional music and fun for all the family.

Location: Borris House, Main Street, Borris

Contact: Siobhan Donohoe M: +353 (0)86 172 7972

may



### Carlow 2013 Ford Escort Rally Challenge 12th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Rally consists of nine stages in the general areas of Myshall, Bagenalstown and Nurney. The ever popular MK11 Escort Challenge, the only one of its kind in Ireland is being held in conjunction with the main rally. Celebrating 50 years in 2013. Location - headquarters of the event: Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa & Country Club, Tullow  
Contact: John Meaney M: +353 (0)86 814 6842  
W: www.mk2challenge.com

### Watercolour Painting at Huntington Castle 14th - 16th May

Three day course catering for all levels of ability with professional instruction from John Hoar, professional painter with decades of experience, and teaching DVD's. Booking essential as places strictly limited.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal  
Contact: Alex Durdin Robertson  
T: +353 (0)53 937 7160  
E: info@huntingtoncastle.com  
W: www.huntingtoncastle.com

### Carlow Vintage and Classic Motor Club Vintage Car Display and Sale 19th May

A great opportunity for all the family to enjoy a marvellous display of vintage and classic cars and tractors from pre-war to the 1980s. Various activities for all family members, young and old including craft stalls, auto jumble, fun fair and a dog and agility show in the walled gardens. Vintage clothes show with models in costume. Enjoy a leisurely walk through the wonderful estate and walled gardens.

Location: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town  
Contact: P.J. Lawlor M: + 353 (0)87 672 2972  
W: www.carlowvintageandclassicmotorclub.com

### Carlow Golf Gathering 24th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The Carlow Golf Club Gathering is a golf and social event for former members and friends of members abroad returning home to play in a festival of golf. It is hoped that families and friends will reconnect with those they haven't seen in years and maintain this connection going forward.

Location: Carlow Golf Club, Deerpark, Carlow Town  
Contact: Donard MacSweeney

T: +353 (0)59 913 1695  
E: carlowgolfclub@eircom.net  
W: www.carlowgolfclub.com

### An Post Rás 24th - 25th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The An Post Rás 2013, Ireland's unique bike race, will have a stage finish and start in Carlow Town on Friday May 24th and Saturday May 25th. 2013 marks the fortieth anniversary of Mike O' Donaghue of Carlow winning the An Post Rás in 1973. In its sixty one year race history Mike is the only Carlow man to win the Rás. A demanding eight days of competition faces the riders with over 1,180 kilometres of cycling.

Location: Throughout Ireland  
For Carlow details contact: Dermot Mulligan  
T: +353 (0)59 913 1554 E: dmulligan@carlowcoco.ie

### Barrowfest Leighlinbridge 24th - 26th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Leighlinbridge is the venue for the Carlow County Fleadh Cheoil and in 2013 the community is inviting overseas visitors and their families to return home and enjoy a fun-filled weekend and some great traditional Irish music.

may - june



St. Fiacc's NS  
Fírinne le Mianeach



Location: Main Street, Leighlinbridge  
Contact: Mary Meaney M: +353 (0)86 602 7751  
W: www.leighlinbridgetidytowns.ie

### European Kenpo Karate Camp 24th - 26th May

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

A great event for martial artists to train and socialise in a positive environment with some of the world's most respected Kenpo Karate teachers.

Location: The Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa and Country Club, Tullow  
Contact: Eddie Downey M: +353 (0)86 157 5525  
E: eddiedowney@kenpokarate.ie  
W: www.kenpokarate.ie

### Barrow Dragon Boat Regatta 26th May

The Irish Dragon Boat Association is bringing one of its events to Carlow Town. Dynamic and colourful dragon boating is one of the fastest growing sports in the world today. Teams are invited to take part in a fun-filled day of dragon boat racing. No previous experience required.

Location: River Barrow, Carlow Town.  
Contact: Julie Doyle T: +353 (0)59 916 1685  
W: www.dragonboat.ie

### St. Fiacc's Primary School Reunion 31st May

This event celebrates the 21st Birthday of St. Fiacc's Primary School, Graiguecullen. Students, past and present are invited to join the Organisers for this very special reunion.

Location: St. Fiacc's Primary School, Graiguecullen  
Contact: Mary Fleming T: +353 (0)59 913 2444

### Carlow Golf Club Open Week 31st May - 8th June

One of the most enjoyable things about the start of summer is Carlow Golf Club Open Week which features plenty of prizes, team spirit and a friendly welcome.

Location: Carlow Golf Club, Deerpark, outskirts of Carlow Town  
Contact: Donard MacSweeney  
T: +353 (0)59 913 1695  
W: www.carlowgolfclub.com

### Ballon GAA BBQ 2nd June

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

A lot of ex-club members and players have emigrated over the years. The present club committee are inviting all who have emigrated to a huge, family friendly BBQ on the Sunday of the June Bank Holiday.

Location: Ballykealy Manor Hotel & Kavanagh's Public House, Ballon

Contact: Michael O' Toole M: +353 (0)87 260 2161  
E: secretary.ballon.carlow@gaa.ie

### Carlow Regatta 2nd - 3rd June

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

One of the oldest rowing festivals in the country celebrating it's 154th year in 2013 on Sunday June 2nd. For the Gathering the festival committee is inviting former members from abroad and all rowing clubs in towns twinned with Carlow for a photographic exhibition and reception on Monday June 3rd.

Location: Rowing Club, Carlow Town  
Contact: Brian Lyons T: +353 (0)59 913 1665  
E: blyons@dooleymotors.com

### Wood Art Gathering 5th June

#### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Twenty wood artists from across the world and Ireland join together, for one week, in the Wood Study Centre to create an intriguing sculptural wall in wood. An Open Day will take place at the collaborative workshop venue on the final day, June 5th. Meet the artists - carvers,



turners, furniture makers and more, see the “wall” sculpture, watch them demonstrate and hear them talk about their work. The sculptural wall in wood will be launched at Éigse Carlow Arts Festival on June 7th in VISUAL.

Location: Wood Study Centre, Flanders Cross, Bagenalstown  
 Contact: Glenn Lucas M: +353 (0)86 825 6783  
 E: info@glennlucas.com

## Welcome Home of Sister Communities 7th - 10th June

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Carlow Local Authorities welcome home their twinned and associated sister cities and towns in 2013 to celebrate the Gathering. This three-day event involves visits to a number of tourist attractions, business communities and cultural events finishing with a Gala Gathering.

Location: Carlow Town  
 Contact: Michael Brennan T: +353 (0)59 917 0300  
 E: mbrennan@carlowcoco.ie

## Carlow Arts Festival Éigse 7th - 16th June

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Ten days of extraordinary and innovative exhibitions, theatre performances, comedy shows and live music. The festival displays a vibrant programme of events featuring a dynamic range of entertainment and arts and transforms Carlow into a cultural hub. The festival has something for every member of the family to enjoy, promoting cultural diversity, community spirit and establishing Carlow as a centre of artistic excellence. Features a party on the Barrow on Saturday June 8th. Includes the Borris House Festival of Writing and Ideas featuring writers Martin Amis, Paul Murray, John Boyne and Anne Enright, and also concerts from Bronagh Gallagher, Sharon Shannon, John Cooper Clarke and the film premiere of Ceol.

Location: Carlow Town, Borris, Tullow, Graiguecullen and Duckett’s Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town  
 Contact: Hugo Jellett M: +353 (0)87 287 3629  
 E: info@eigsecarlow.ie  
 W: www.eigsecarlow.ie

## Parkville Utd FC Tullow 35th Anniversary 7th - 9th June

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The club will attend the Ireland v Faroe Islands game on Friday June 7th, hold a golf classic and dinner dance in Mount Wolseley Hotel on Saturday June 8th, with Sean St. Ledger as special guest, mass for past and present members followed by a family fun day and an official opening of facilities on Sunday June 9th. Past and present club members and their families from home and overseas are invited to participate.

Location: Tullow  
 Contact: Garry Coady M: +353 (0)86 795 4468  
 E: garry.coady@fai.ie Twitter: @parkvilleunited

## Beasts of England, Beasts of Ireland Visual Art Exhibition 8th June - 8th September

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Internationally renowned artist and curator Stephen Brandes assembles a group of overseas artists whose work looks at the role of animals in our society. ‘Beasts of England, Beasts of Ireland’ will see Ben Long’s (United Kingdom)

# june - july

Get Ready to  
**Relay!**



monumental horse sculpture as its centrepiece in the Main Gallery in VISUAL, supported by a series of European and Irish artists including Djordje Ozbolt (Czech Republic), Stephen McKenna (Ireland), Frances Upritchard (New Zealand), Isabel Nolan (Ireland), Dan Hayes (United Kingdom), Yuriy Nourshteyn (Russia) and others to complete the narrative. Each of the artists will be invited to Ireland to give talks, lectures and public interviews over the course of a three-month period.

Location: VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow Town  
Contact: Emma Lucy O' Brien  
T: +353 (0)59 917 2457  
E: elobrien@visualcarlow.ie

## History Festival of Ireland 15th - 16th June

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

This weekend brings together leading national and international historians speaking, debating and discussing a range of topics. The focus this year will be on the diaspora. It is not an academic event, but is open to the general public and provides a forum for all with an interest in history. Speakers will include Ruth Dudley Edwards, Robert Ballagh, Ciaran Brady, Myles Dungan, Turtle

Bunbury, Manchan Magan and Jane Ohlmeyer, and includes several theatre productions.

Location: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town  
Contact: Hugo Jellett M: +353 (0)87 287 3629  
E: info@eisgecarlow.ie W: www.eisgecarlow.ie

## Relay for Life 22nd - 23rd June

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Relay For Life is a 24-hour team walking relay event in support of the Irish Cancer Society. The event starts with a celebration of cancer survivors. Irish and overseas cancer survivors are invited to come along to the event to represent the worldwide survival of people with cancer.

Location: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town  
T: +353 (0)59 913 0550 E: carlow@relayforlife.ie

## Rose Week 24th - 28th June

Showcasing the magnificent variety, colour patterns and scents of the significant rose collection in Altamont Gardens, this is an unmissable event.

Location: Altamont Gardens, Tullow  
Contact: Heritage Ireland T: +353 (0)59 915 9444  
E: altamontgardens@opw.ie

## Leinster Way Gathering: The Carlow Show

Each Monday night from June  
24th - August inclusive

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

A Carlow Show, providing a high quality evening's entertainment with a distinctive Irish and Carlow experience focusing on storytelling, singing and dancing in traditional and contemporary styles.

Location: Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow Town  
Contact: John Candy M: +353 (0)87 263 2324  
E: info@candytours.ie W: www.candytours.ie

## Blackstairs Vintage Club Annual Rally 7th July

This 9th annual vintage rally features vintage steam engines, oil engines, tractors and cars, music and songs, crafts, stalls and exhibits. Family fun day.

Location: Myshall Village  
Contact: Tommy Murphy M: +353 (0)87 625 6028

## Stone Mad Multistage Marathon 13th - 14th July

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Open to walkers and runners. Distances are 10km / Half / Full / Ultra marathon. Join us

# july - august



and explore the unspoiled passage through Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny & Wexford following the River Barrow and up over Mount Leinster passing by the Nine Stones. The 10km event is flat and gentle. Take part on 1 or 2 days.

Tickets for this event T: +353 (0)89 447 9100  
W: [www.stonemadultra.com](http://www.stonemadultra.com)  
F: [www.facebook.com/stonemadultra](http://www.facebook.com/stonemadultra).

## Bagenalstown Returning Emigrants Dance 18th July

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Bagenalstown extends a warm welcome to members of the Co. Carlow Associations in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Location: Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge  
Contact: Michael Lakes T: +353 (0)59 972 1566  
W: [www.bagenalstownfestival.webs.com](http://www.bagenalstownfestival.webs.com)

## Bennekerry Past and Present 19th - 22nd July

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

An invitation is extended to past and present members of Bennekerry Community for a reunion like no other. This special weekend festival will include activities gathering all friends and family who have had any association with the

community whether it is through Bennekerry National School, parish, business, GAA club or social groups. Programme of events will include sport, art, music, dance, food and entertainment. A celebration and a reunion of all those who have spread their wings near and far over the years.

Location: Bennekerry NS, Palatine GAA Club and Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, near Carlow Town  
Contact: Gerardine Walsh M: +353 (0)86 172 4074  
E: [bennekerrypastandpresent@gmail.com](mailto:bennekerrypastandpresent@gmail.com)

## St. Mullins Parish Gathering 19th - 26th July

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Pattern Day in St. Mullins Parish has more than 1,300 years of history behind it. This year in a week long event surrounding Pattern Sunday, everyone with roots or connections to the Co. Carlow parish is invited back to be at their family's ancestral grave. Events include walking and guided tours, a talk on life in the 1830s, a display of hurling, a rambling house session, a medieval picnic, music, song and dance.

Location: The Green, St. Mullins  
Contact: Bridie Lawlor M: +353 (0)87 681 2839  
E: [stmullinsgathering@gmail.com](mailto:stmullinsgathering@gmail.com)

## Clonegal "Entente Florale" Gathering 25th July

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The village of Clonegal has been selected as Ireland's village entry in the European Entente Florale Competition. Join the judging committee for a special day of activities, events and a carnival atmosphere. The twin villages of Clonegal and The Watch lie between the Rivers Derry and Slaney, surrounded by hills of forest and farmland. Often referred to as the "Switzerland of Ireland" for its outstanding natural beauty, this charming historic village is a joy to walk in, explore and discover.

Location: Clonegal  
Contact: Anna Byrne T: +353 (0)59 917 0300  
E: [abyrne@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:abyrne@carlowcoco.ie)

## Ryan Family Clan Reunion 27th July

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

If you are looking to research, and possibly meet your long lost Irish relatives from the Ryan Clan of Idrone East & West (Carlow/Kilkenny) this is the event for you. The aim is to bring together Ryans from near or far with the aim of discovering lost roots and building new friendships. Background: The O'Riain (Ryan) sept descend from Lathaoir Mor, 2nd Century King of Leinster; the chief of

# august



this sept was Lord of Ui Drone, one of the seven baronies of Co. Carlow, Ireland.

Location: Main Street, Borris

Contact: Ted Ryan E: ted.ryan@me.com

## Carlow Garden Festival 27th July - 4th August

From bulbs to borders and woodland to wildlife, Carlow's Garden Festival is a great opportunity for budding and experienced gardeners and nature lovers to obtain practical advice and tips from some of Ireland's most respected gardening and nature personalities. Informative gardening and environmental workshops together with family fun activities form part of the festival programme. Visitors to the festival also have the opportunity to visit the Carlow Garden Trail, a collection of 16 different gardening attractions.

Location: Throughout Co. Carlow

Contact: Eileen O' Rourke T: +353 (0)59 913 0411

W: www.carlowgardentrail.com

## National Country Fair 3rd - 4th August

The National Country Fair is one of the largest country related events in Ireland and a real celebration of the Irish countryside. It is an occasion where all ages and backgrounds can try their hand at sports such as clay-pigeon shooting,

archery, falconry and fishing as well as enjoying equestrian and gundog events, horses and hounds, birds of prey displays and childrens' pet shows. Air show both days. Children free.

Location: Borris House, Borris

Contact: Bill Beckett 0044 (0) 284 483 2775

E: info@nationalcountryfair.ie

W: www.nationalcountryfair.ie

## Borris Welcome Home Gathering Festival 3rd - 15th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Borris Tidy Towns Association invites all residents and their family and friends especially those from overseas to join them in a fantastic 12-day event. Incorporates the National Country Fair in Borris House on August 3rd and 4th, a book launch to mark the Borris - Palace East railway line on August 9th and 10th and the annual Borris Fair on August 15th.

Location: Borris

Contact: William Quinn M: +353 (0)86 165 9115

E: wquinn@carlowcoco.ie

## Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch Regatta & Rowing Festival 4th - 5th August

Two days of rowing, swimming, diving, cor racing, competitions plus novelty events i.e. rope across river, diving for plates, open to all.

Location: River Barrow at Graiguenamanagh

Contact: Kieran Phelan M: + 353 (0)87 262 8121

## Tullow Community School Class of 1988 Reunion 10th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The 1988 class of Tullow Community School are holding their 25th year reunion in Mount Wolseley Hotel Spa & Golf Resort, Tullow. If you started in Tullow Community School in 1983 or joined the year anywhere between 1983 and 1988 join fellow classmates for a great night out. Many of the year from across the world have already confirmed their attendance.

Location: Mount Wolseley, Hotel Spa and Country Club, Tullow

Contact: Annette Hogan M: +353 (0)85 743 0258  
E: annettehogan26@gmail.com

# august



## The 2013 IBSF World Under 21 Snooker Championships 12th - 23rd August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

A premier world event for under-age snooker. Upwards of 300 people will travel to Carlow from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, China, Thailand, India, Japan and many other Asian countries to take part in this event.

Location: Ivy Rooms, Graiguecullen  
Contact: Jim Leacy T: +353 (0)59 913 7714  
E: jim@dome.ie

## Tullow Community School Class of 1983 Reunion 16th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Tullow Community School opened its doors in 1978 and this Gathering is a reunion of the first year class of that year who completed their full school cycle in 1983.

Location: Tara Arms, Church Street, Tullow  
Contact: Fergus Dalton  
E: ouimet777@hotmail.co.uk

## Heritage Week 17th - 25th August

Week of indoor and outdoor events celebrating the rich heritage the county has to offer and to promote 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.

Location: Throughout the county  
Contact: Dermot Mulligan  
T: +353 (0)59 913 1554  
E: dmulligan@carlowcoco.ie  
W: www.heritageweek.ie

## Tullow Agricultural Show 18th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

One of the most established agricultural shows in the country, Tullow Show is inviting friends, family and members from overseas to join in a special 2013 Gathering. The 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.

Location: Coppengh, Tullow  
Contact: David Burgess M: +353 (0)86 834 6931  
E: tullowagrishow@eircom.net

F: [www.facebook.com/tullow.show](http://www.facebook.com/tullow.show)

## Carlow 800 22nd - 25th August & throughout the year

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

2013 marks a historic occasion in Carlow Town as they commemorate the 800th anniversary of the construction of Carlow Castle. This four - day event celebrates this important milestone with a history conference, an International Taste of Carlow Food and Craft Fair, musical performances, walking tours, film nights and lots more. Other events throughout the year will also commemorate this important occasion.

Location: Carlow Town  
Contact: Michael Brennan T: +353 (0)59 917 0300  
E: mbrennan@carlowcoco.ie

## Irish Chef's World Culinary Challenge 23rd & 24th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

One of the highlights of the annual Taste of Carlow Festival will be the Inaugural Irish Chef's World Culinary Challenge. Ireland and Co. Carlow is sending out an invitation to Irish Chefs living abroad to take part in a culinary challenge that will showcase their skills and

# august - september



creativity over a two-day iron man style culinary competition. There will even be a guest celebrity judge or two. The winner will be crowned the Irish Culinary Challenge World Champion.

Location: Carlow Town Hall, Haymarket, Carlow  
Contact: James Murray T: + 353 (0)87 205 0863  
E: murray.james@hotmail.com

## Taste of Carlow Food & Craft Fair 24th & 25th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Artisan food and craft fair on the Riverside Promenade on the Barrow Track in Carlow Town. A free event, it promises a great weekend of entertainment and over 40 stands by leading Carlow craft and food producers and restaurants. Celebrity chef appearances and food demonstrations. Face painting, bouncy castles, barrel train and animal display area for the kids.

Location: Riverside Promenade, Barrow Track, Carlow Town  
Contact: Michael Brennan T:+ 353 (0)59 917 0300  
E: mbrennan@carlowcoco.ie  
W: www.carlowtourism.com

## Rockford Roof Tiles 4 Mile Race 24th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Tinryland AC present their annual four mile road race which will be held around the village and visitors from abroad are invited to attend. Upwards of 300 participants. Top class spot prizes include a €1,000 holiday voucher. Cash prizes for senior men, masters and team categories. Mini Rockford for children at 5 p.m. Special medals for all finishers.

Location: Tinryland  
Contact: Sean Doyle M: +353 (0)87 250 9520  
Carol Pender T:+353 (0)59 913 2693

## Killoughternane National School Reunion Saturday 24th August

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The Organisers invite all past pupils of the school to a special reunion starting with mass followed by food, drinks and musical entertainment.

Location: Killoughternane National School, Killoughternane, Borris  
Contact: Jim Quirke M: +353 (0)87 261 2194  
E: killoughternane@gmail.com

## Nolan Family Clan Reunion 7th September

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

All Nolans, Nowlans and O' Nuallains from across the world in particular Canada, America and England are invited to this Gathering.

Location: Carlow  
Contact: Catherina O' Brien M: +353 (0)87 972 3024  
E: obrienecat@eircom.net

## Fenagh Steam Rally 8th September

Steam engines, vintage tractors, vintage cars, steam threshing, tractor pulling, ploughing by steam, plenty of side shows, fun for all the family.  
Location: Fenagh, Co. Carlow  
T: +353 (0)59 972 7233

## Carlow International Golf Classic 9th - 11th September

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Carlow Tourism hosts its annual golf classic featuring three top quality Carlow courses - Carlow Golf Club, Mount Wolseley Golf Resort and Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club. The Organisers extend an open invitation to golfers worldwide. 10% discount on ferry transport for

# october - november



those travelling with Stena Line from England. Special accommodation packages available.

Contact: Eileen O' Rourke T:+353 (0)59 913 0411

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

W: [www.carlowtourism.com/golfclassic](http://www.carlowtourism.com/golfclassic)

## Outdoor Carlow

13th - 15th September

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Taking place over three days, walks will be offered for various fitness levels. Local guides will lead you through beautiful unspoilt landscapes with some walks focusing on specific topics including history and heritage.

Location: Blackstairs Mountains and Barrow Valley

Contact: Mairead Langedijk

W: [www.eventelephant.com/outdoorcarlow](http://www.eventelephant.com/outdoorcarlow)

## Centenary Celebration - Adelaide Memorial Church

14th - 29th September

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

The Adelaide Memorial Church, a replica of Salisbury Cathedral and based on a tragic love story celebrates 100 years in September 2013. A work of outstanding artistic beauty, the church has links with Salisbury and Dover in Great Britain. Members of the Duguid Family and

international choirs as well as Myshall emigrants will be invited to this special celebration. Also includes a Floral Festival and Myshall Fair, featuring traditional crafts and street entertainment.

Location: Myshall

Contact: Tom James T: +353 (0)59 972 7343

E: [clashgannyfarm@yahoo.ie](mailto:clashgannyfarm@yahoo.ie)

## Rosdillig Vintage Rally and Steam Threshings

15th September

Rosdillig Vintage Rally displays working machinery, including steam engines, vintage tractors and steam threshing. Host of the All-Ireland Vintage Society Rally.

Location: Rosdillig, Borris

Contact: Elaine Stanley M: +353 (0)87 775 1895

## Carlow's 10th International Karate Competition

5th - 6th October

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

Karate based competition with all disciplines included. Welcoming visitors from the Czech Republic, England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Germany and Spain.

Location: Carlow Town

Contact: Sheila Heffernan M: +353 (0)86 105 7071  
E: [carlowkarateclub@gmail.com](mailto:carlowkarateclub@gmail.com)

## The Arboretum Christmas Village

14th October - 24th December

From October through to December

Arboretum will host a traditional Christmas with a modern twist featuring breakfast with Santa, Ireland's only life-size animated displays of your favourite Christmas books and Santa's amazing Gift Shop and Village, the fanciful home of Santa, his elves and his reindeer. Santa's postal depot will open in mid-November with the ever popular Laura Lynn letters to Santa.

Location: Arboretum Lifestyle and Garden Centre, Kilkenny Road, Leighinbridge

Contact: Fergal Doyle T: + 353 (0)59 972 1558

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

## 5th Carlow Tullow Scouts

19th October

### CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

To celebrate our move into a new home at the Old Court House, the 5th Carlow Tullow Scout group would love for all old and new scouts from Tullow to come home and join us in celebrating scouting in Tullow. Try out some of your old skills and learn some new ones.

# october - december



Location: The Old Court House, Barrack Street, Tullow  
Contact: Simon Ronan M: + 353 (0)87 907 8977  
E: simonf@hotmail.com

## Rathwood's Hallowscream Train 26th October - 3rd November

The Hallowscream Train will take children on a magical journey where they will meet some spooky characters and friendly creatures. Fun and games galore with fancy dress encouraged and of course there will be pumpkin carving with prizes on each train.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow  
Contact: Trish Keogh T: + 353 (0)59 915 6285  
W: www.rathwood.com

## Huntington Halloween Experience 25th - 31st October

Featuring a brand new ghostly guided tour with more ghosts, ghouls and screams. Family tours suitable for under 12s available as well as over 12s/adult tours only. Advance booking a necessity.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal  
Contact: Alex Durdin Robertson  
T: + 353 (0)59 937 7160  
E: info@huntingtoncastle.com

## Christmas at The Chocolate Garden of Ireland November and December

Make and decorate your own chocolate Santa this Christmas at The Chocolate Garden of Ireland – enjoy the delights of chocolate tasting, learn how different chocolate products are made and have a great (and delicious) workshop! Enjoyed by all ages. Alternatively, enjoy mould making and a hot chocolate treat outside workshop times – perfect after-Santa-visit activity or a great venue in its own right (next door to Rathwood Santa Train). Workshops, shop, cafe, ice cream parlour. Booking required for workshop.

Location: The Chocolate Garden of Ireland, Rath, Tullow  
Contact: Jim / Mary Healy  
T: +353 (0)59 648 1999  
E: info@chocolategarden.ie  
W: www.chocolategarden.ie

## Where To From Here 16th - 17th November

CARLOW GATHERING EVENT

VISUAL will host a series of talks, lectures, public discussions and dialogues considering some of the urgencies that face institutions

for visual art in their local, national and international contexts. This two-day event will invite together artists, curators, creative practitioners and others and will look at the role of institutions for visual art.

Location: VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and The George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow  
Contact: Emma Lucy O' Brien  
T: +353 (0)59 917 2457 E: elobrien@visualcarlow.ie

## Rathwood Christmas Santa Train 16th November - 24th December

Ireland's most popular Santa Experience. Many generations, from young to old have enjoyed this magical visit to Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves over the years. A fun-filled hour of entertainment, story telling, train ride, magical forest walk and presents for the children. Booking necessary on www.rathwood.com from September 1st at twelve noon.

Location: Rathwood, Rath, Tullow  
T: +353 (0)59 915 6285 W: www.rathwood.com

## Christmas at the Dome 29th November - 23rd December

Visit Santa in his magical forest at The Dome Family Entertainment Centre where Santa will be present daily. Visit includes a picture with

# december



Santa and a small gift. While here don't forget to post your letter to Santa in the North Pole.

Location: Dome Family Entertainment Centre, Carlow Business Park, Graiguecullen

Contact: Susan O' Shea T: +353 (0)59 914 1555

E: info@dome.ie W: www.dome.ie

## Taste of Carlow at Christmas 30th November - 1st December

Savour all that is wonderful about Carlow this Christmas. Meet, experience and taste the produce of the many artisan food producers whose passion and commitment is profiling Carlow as an up and coming food destination. Carlow has an abundance of original, handmade crafts including woodturning, pottery, ironwork and textiles. This is the perfect opportunity to meet local craftspeople and food producers and purchase that special Christmas gift.

Location: Carlow Town

Contact: Michael Brennan T: +353 (0)59 917 0300

E: mbrennan@carlowcoco.ie

## Carlow Farmers Market 30th November, 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th December

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. Fresh produce direct from farmers, producers, hampers of local goods, ready and made to order and speciality foods available.

Location: Potato Market, Carlow Town

Contact: Peter Byrne M: +353 (0)86 811 1108

W: www.carlowfarmersmarket.com

## Christmas Pop Up Shops Festival Throughout December

Arts, crafts and creative entrepreneurs will host a series of pop up shops in Carlow Town Centre in association with Carlow County Enterprise Board and Carlow Town Council. Local crafts and artisan foods await those who seek out the Pop Up's while taking in the many other wonderful retail establishments in the centre of Carlow Town.

Location: Tullow Street and Dublin Street in Carlow Town

Contact: Carlow County Enterprise Board

T: +353 (0)59 913 0880

W: www.carlow-ceb.com

## Christmas at the Castle December date to be confirmed

Borris House comes alive with festive cheer as we celebrate Christmas with all the traditional charm you would expect from one of Ireland's great

houses. Christmas craft fair featuring a wide selection of handmade crafts, gifts and seasonal foods. Visitors can also experience a tour of the historical Borris House, by a member of the MacMorrough Kavanagh family and afterwards enjoy a cup of tea and a mince pie by the fire in the Ballroom.

Location: Borris House, Borris

Contact: Morgan Kavanagh T: +353 (0)59 977

1884

E: info@borrishouse.com W: www.borrishouse.com

## Christmas at Rancho Reilly 6th - 8th and 13th - 23rd December

Help our elves make some very special decorations and experience a Christmas Singsong around the fire. Enjoy your trip to Santa's Log Cabin where Santa and his reindeer will be waiting for you! Make a wish at his Christmas Wishing Well. Visit the Hot Chocolate Cabin for some yummy hot chocolate and marshmallows and a cookie. Don't forget to wish all our small animals a very Happy Christmas before you leave.

Location: Rancho Reilly Pet Farm and Children's Activity Centre, Springhill Road, Carlow Town

Contact: Owen O' Reilly M: + 353 (0)87 770 1181

W: www.ranchoreilly.com

# december



## Delta Centre, Christmas Craft Fair and Lighting Display

7th - 22nd December

Delta hosts its annual fair featuring a huge range of traditional gifts, decorations, folk craft and much more. Amazing lights display in the Sensory Gardens up to 7 p.m. each day. Full size nativity scene, Santa Grotto and Christmas competition. Light lunches, tea, coffee, cakes and refreshments available. Planted containers, pots, bulbs, winter bedding and Christmas wreaths.

Location: Delta Sensory Gardens, Strawhall Estate, Carlow Town

Contact: Frank O' Grady T: +353 (0)59 914 3527  
W: [www.deltacentre.org](http://www.deltacentre.org)

## Duckett's Grove Christmas Craft and Food Fair

8th December

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.

Location: Duckett's Grove, Kneestown, Carlow Town  
Contact: Carlow Tourism T: +353 (0)59 913 0411  
W: [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)

## Christmas at Huntington Castle

8th - 24th December

Christmas food fair featuring artisan food producers, cakes, pies, mulled wine and hot food on December 8th. Come along and work up an appetite with a lovely winter walk around the lake followed by a delicious lunch and then pick out your ideal Christmas tree. Experience our old world 'letter to Santa' in the magical castle each weekend in December. Trees on sale every day from Saturday 30th November.

Location: Huntington Castle, Clonegal  
T: + 353 (0)53 937 7160  
E: [info@huntingtoncastle.com](mailto:info@huntingtoncastle.com)  
W: [www.huntingtoncastle.com](http://www.huntingtoncastle.com)

## family gatherings

- Mapes Family Reunion  
2nd June
- Thompson Family Gathering  
25th July
- Amond Clan Gathering  
27th July
- Family Wedding, Kildavin  
15th August
- Quinn/Fenlon Family Reunion  
23rd - 28th August
- Carlow Curry Clan Gathering  
6th - 8th September





# carlow

festivals and events april - december 2013



carlowgathering

**Events featured on front cover from left to right:** Carlow Arts Festival Éigse, Carlow Garden Festival, Bagenalstown Returning Emigrants Dance, Outdoor Carlow, National Country Fair and An Post Rás.

**Events featured on this page:** Barrowfest Leighlinbridge, Nolan Clan Gathering, St. Mullins Parish Gathering, Carlow 800 and Centenary Celebration - Adelaide Memorial Church, Myshall



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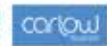
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Coimisiún, Páirt Ábha Banna 2007  
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Fáilte Ireland  
National Tourism Development Authority



[www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com)  
[www.thegatheringireland.com](http://www.thegatheringireland.com)

For more information on the Gathering programme in Carlow contact:  
Carlow Tourism, College Street, Carlow  
T: +353 (0)59 913 0411 E: [info@carlowtourism.com](mailto:info@carlowtourism.com)