



Open gardens offer a rare opportunity to explore the secrets of hidden and private gardens not usually open to the public and the Ulster Gardens Scheme is bringing together a spectacular array for summer 2017. Whether you're a keen gardener eager for some helpful tips, or you simply enjoy the splendour and beauty of unusual plants, there will be something for everyone to enjoy in charming surroundings. While you're there browse the plant stalls for that special plant or relax with a cup of tea.

Admission £3

All funds raised help support National Trust gardens in Northern Ireland

It is regretted that dogs cannot be admitted even on a lead and that National Trust Membership Cards are not valid for entry to private gardens open under the scheme.

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www.ulstergardensscheme.org.uk

May

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May 2-5pm

Lady Nicholson

Ballylolly House, 19 Ballylolly Road, Comber, BT23 5PN

Originally designed by the late Hugh Armitage Moore of Rowallane, this beautiful, mature garden of approximately 6 acres has a wide range of rare shrubs, mature trees, herbaceous plants and many other horticultural delights. The lawn sweeps down from the house to a large pond at the bottom of the garden. The damp area surrounding the pond is planted with swathes of candelabra primula, azalea, rhododendron and rogersia. Bluebells have naturalised in abundance. Head gardener Adam McMurray will be in attendance. (Walking shoes or wellies are recommended). Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: From Comber, take the Saintfield Road; turn right after one mile on to the Hillsborough Road and right again after a further mile on to Ballylolly Road. From Belfast, follow the Ballygowan Road from the Castlereagh Road for approximately 4 miles, turn left on to the B178 (junction of Ballygowan and Comber/Hillsborough Road), Ballylolly Road is second on left.

[Plant Stall / Teas](#)

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May 2-5pm

Lorna and John Reid

3 Cedar Lane, Station Road, Craigavad, Holywood BT18 0BW

This true plantsman's garden is situated within the original estate of the historic Lorne House, built in 1875 by Henry Campbell, a wealthy linen merchant. This beautiful garden comprises formal planted beds containing a wide variety of perennials and shrubs, including rhododendrons and azaleas. A sweeping path leads to a wooden area containing a wide range of mature specimen trees planted in the Victorian era. Under the tree canopy grows a variety of wild flowers including slipper orchids, anemone, and bluebells. One of the features of the garden is the walk along the Glen River with a number of charming waterfalls.

Location: From Belfast take the A2 towards Bangor. Go past the Culloden Hotel and the Folk and Transport Museum. At the next set of traffic lights turn left down Station Road (Craigavad). Cedar Lane is the third lane on the left.

[Plant Stall](#)

June

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 June 2-5pm

Lord and Lady Anthony Hamilton

Killyreagh House, 8 Ballylucas Road, Tamlaght, Enniskillen, BT74 4HX

Mixed informal gardens with abundant herbaceous borders and flowering shrubs. Lawns and paths lead through mature camellia, magnolia and rhododendron under-planted with vinca 'major', white daffodils, trillium etc (this area is attractive, natural and wild, but no longer in flower by June). There are also beautiful views over surrounding fields, woodland and hills, woodland walks, azaleas etc. and a vegetable garden.

Location: From Enniskillen take the B80 towards Tempo. After approximately 1.5 miles turn right, signposted Killyville, stay on this road for approximately 1.25 miles and at T Junction turn left, garden 150 yards.

From Dungannon take the M1 and A4 towards Enniskillen. At Fivemiletown mini roundabout take second exit onto Murley Road, follow road to the left and then take the next right onto Clabby Road, B107. At roundabout turn left, signposted Tempo and Enniskillen. Go through Tempo and take right hand fork signposted Enniskillen B80. Stay on this road for approximately 5 miles from Tempo and then turn left, follow Ulster Gardens Scheme signs. Parking in field.

[Plant Stall / Teas](#)

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June 2-5pm

Dawn and Ken McEntee

Old Barrack House, 7 Main Street, Hillsborough, BT26 6AE

Old Barrack House garden is in essence a secret garden, hidden away behind the Old Barrack House, a grade 1 listed building on Main Street in Hillsborough village. Venturing down the alley between the houses you reach the cobbled yard and barn. Over the years Dawn and Ken have subtly changed and improved the yard, garden and buildings to create the now charming collection of pebbled terraces and garden rooms that keep you guessing as you proceed further down the garden. Dawn is an artist and garden designer, and that creative instinct is much in evidence, as plants are chosen for height form and colour of leaf and flowers, in relation to the ambience of each area. You may have seen this garden on the TV show 'Greatest Gardens' where Dairmuid Gavin and Helen Dillon critiqued nine gardens. Dawn and Ken's garden won its heat, and Dairmuid described it as a little bit of heaven, a must see!

Location: Main Street, Hillsborough opposite the Parish Church. Dawn and Ken live in the Old Barrack House - the only house with Wisteria across it.

[Plant Stall / Teas](#)

Private tours also available (10 persons minimum). Telephone for appointment on 028 9268 2329. Refreshments can be provided on request at time of booking.

July

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 July 2-5pm

Hugh Jackson and Judith O'Keeffe

30A Ballynulto Road, Glenwherry, BT42 4RJ

Since opening for the Ulster Gardens Scheme in 2013, Hugh and Judith have extended their prairie style garden, nestled in a fold of moorlands south of Slemish Mountain to include a newly planted woodland. Designed to take full advantage of the surrounding landscape, the mass planting of trees and layers of colourful herbaceous plants add to the spectacular views from the site. By retaining and extending the dry stone walls characteristic of the area; using largely native trees and hardy perennials to overcome the sometimes difficult growing conditions, and installing sustainable elements into their recently built house; the owners have succeeded in creating a wonderfully comfortable home and garden in a location that is, somewhat 'off the beaten track'. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: From the A36 Ballymena to Larne road, a half mile east of its junction with the B94, turn north onto the Ballynulto Road. The garden is 0.8 miles on the right.

[Plant Stall / Teas](#)

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 July 2-5pm

Mr and Mrs D I Page

Billy Old Rectory, 5 Cabragh Road, Castlecat, Bushmills, BT57 8YH

A mature garden of three acres on an historic site. To the front of the Georgian rectory is a large lawn with mature trees, a small peace garden, an ancient well and a developing woodland garden with a small fernery leading to a secret garden. To the rear of the house is another large lawn with contrasting borders of roses, herbaceous plants and shrubs, as well as an attractive pond area. A wooden rustic fence separates the long herbaceous border from the kitchen garden, with greenhouse, herb, vegetable and fruit gardens. Beyond the lawn is a large old orchard and an experimental area with wildflowers and annuals. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: From Ballymena take A26 towards Ballymoney. On Ballymoney by-pass go straight on at Kilraughts roundabout and then at Portrush Road roundabout take third exit, BT62 Portrush. Continue on this road, enter Ballybogey and turn right, signposted B67 Ballycastle. Continue on to Derrykeighan and turn left. Continue to Castlecat and turn right, signposted Billy 0.5 mile and then immediately fork left on to Haw Road. Continue to church and park on Haw Road. Garden is on the right on Cabragh Road. From Coleraine take Ballycastle Road (B67). At T junction turn right and then next left, Benvardeen Road. At Derrykeighan turn left, signposted Bushmills and on to Castlecat, from there follow directions as above.

[Plant Stall / Teas](#)

August

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 August 2-5pm

Mr Andrew and Mrs Heather White

Summerhill, 77 Mullavilly Road, Tandragee, Craigavon, BT62 2LX

A mature plantsman's garden of one acre with an interesting collection of plants sourced from Ulster Gardens Scheme plant stalls over the last 30 years. It has been developed around a traditional farmyard. There are formal and informal areas of trees, shrubs, roses, clematis and herbaceous plants which have been established in artistic combinations to give seasonal interest. It also contains raised beds for vegetables and propagation. Mostly suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: On the A27 main Portadown to Tandragee Road approximately 3 miles from Portadown and 2 miles from Tandragee. Leave the A27 at Ballyisk roundabout signposted to Laurelvale. Garden is 0.25 miles on left hand side beside Mullavilly Parish Church.

[Plant Stall / Teas](#)

Ulster Gardens Scheme Review Evening

Thursday 16 November 2017 at 7.30pm

The Old Courthouse, Antrim

Join members of the Ulster Gardens Scheme Committee and garden owners for our very popular annual review, when we look back at another successful season's garden visiting on behalf of the National Trust, and enjoy a light supper.

Admission: A charge of £5 per person will be made, to avoid a drain on National Trust funds.

Pre-booking is essential, as numbers are strictly limited.

Contact The Old Courthouse on 028 9448 1338 to ensure a reservation



National Trust

Gardens Open by Appointment 2017



These gardens are open by appointment in aid of the National Trust for Northern Ireland. Money raised by this scheme will be used to fund projects in National Trust gardens which otherwise might not have been financed. This scheme is in addition to the established Ulster Gardens Scheme of fixed day openings.

Admission £3

Antrim

17 Drummamallaght Road, Ballymoney, BT53 7QX

An interesting garden with unusual plants, scree, crevice garden, stone troughs, herbaceous border, pond, and a stream. Featured in the Greenmount Gardens television programme and listed in Shirley Lanigan's book, 100 Best Gardens in Ireland. Plants for sale.

Tel: Mrs Dorothy Brown for an appointment and directions to the garden on 028 276 62923

April – end September

11 Sallagh Road, Cairncastle, Ballygally, Larne, BT40 2NE

A two acre plantsman's garden situated on the Antrim Coast and consisting of a number of paths winding through maturing woodland. There are several small ponds and it holds an extensive collection of herbaceous plants, bulbs, shrubs and trees, many of which have been propagated by the owner. Large collection of Hellebores. Parking limited. Not suitable for children. Partial wheelchair access.

Location: From A8 Belfast to Larne Road, turn left on B148 for Cairncastle at new Millbrook roundabout. After approximately 4 miles, leave B148 at 'Old Dairy' (yellow cottage), and fork left onto Sallagh Road. House is 0.75 miles on right, below road.

Alternatively: From A2 Coast Road at Ballygally, from rear of Ballygally car park turn left and drive approximately 1.75 miles to T junction. Turn left again onto B148 and then, shortly after, sharp right onto Sallagh Road access.

Tel: Mr and Mrs D Ledsham for appointment on 028 2858 3003

April – end October

13 Ballynagard Road, Ballyvoy, Ballycastle BT54 6PW

This country garden near Ballycastle, on a 0.5 acre site, is approximately 400ft above sea level with a stunning view of the sea and Kenbane headland. The garden is designed for the prevailing environmental conditions and to protect each section from the severe winds structured windbreaks have been created from ceanothus, potentilla, fuchsia, escallonia, weigela, cistus and conifers. From the first snowdrops, daffodils and primulas in the main garden there is a continual mass of colour until early autumn with lilies, agapanthus, alliums, azalea, hydrangea and many more. At the end of the garden a number of small paths lead through a large rockery of mature plants and rhododendrons to a fruit tree area. Another area of the garden is planted with a wide variety of hostas, apple trees and other mature shrubs.

Due to limited car parking and narrow road, groups are limited to 10 and regrettably unsuitable for wheelchairs.

Location: Drive through Ballycastle, pass the Marine Hotel on left, take second exit at the roundabout onto the A2 and follow signs for Cushendall. Two miles onto Ballyvoy (Hunters Pub on corner) continue on A2 for 0.75 miles, Ballynagard Road is on the right. Drive approximately 0.75 miles and arrive at first bungalow on the right.

Tel: Dr Tom and Mrs Penny McNeill for appointment on 077 5419 0687

Late May – September



Armagh

N'Eoghain Lodge, 32 Ennislare Road, Armagh, BT60 2AX

A three acre country garden developed over 30 years. Fine specimen trees and shrubs, herbaceous beds and borders, water features, gravel garden and woodland area under-planted with shade loving plants and much, much more.

Location: From Armagh take the Keady Road (A29). 2.5 miles along, opposite a row of cottages, turn left into Ennislare Road, take the second left on Ennislare Road and house is first on the right.

Tel: Kathleen McGeown for appointment on 078 8419 1215

May – end September

Down

77 Magheratimpany Road, Spa, Ballynahinch, BT24 8PA

This delightful 25 acre garden includes a cottage garden, woodland with shade loving plants and a rock garden. There is a wonderful collection of trees and a wildlife pond. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: South of Ballynahinch A24. 200 yards past the Millbrook Lodge Hotel turn right on to the Ballymaglave Road, towards Spa. Turn left on to Magheratimpany Road and Number 77 is on the left hand side.

Tel: Dr and Mrs Colin Tindall for appointment on 028 9756 2812

May – September

7 Mount Charles North, Bessbrook, Newry, BT35 7DW

The garden is in the delightful 18th-century village of Bessbrook. A connoisseur's garden with a superb collection of alpinas and clematis, cleverly planted with herbaceous plants and shrubs.

Location: From Belfast take the A1 for Dublin then take the A27 turn-off for Newry. At the roundabout take the 3rd exit under the bridge (signposted A28 Armagh). At the 2nd roundabout take the 2nd exit (signposted A28 Markethill/Armagh), after 50 yards turn left onto Kidd's Road (signposted Craigmore/Bessbrook 2). At Crossroads at Millvale Arms turn right onto B133, after 0.6 miles take first left past Vauxhall Garage, Bessbrook B112. 0.3 miles past the Gospel Hall turn left through the iron gates at railings.

Tel: Mr and Mrs W McKelvey for appointment on 028 3083 8006

May – August

'Glenkeen', 12 Dunevly Road, Portaferry, BT22 1NB

This is a 12 year old, informal, half acre garden with a variety of interesting plants. The delightfully colourful garden includes soft fruits and vegetables and is wildlife friendly with bee hives. Woodturning studio, doll's houses and local crafts for sale. Open 10am to 4pm during Creative Peninsula Week with refreshments available during the week.

Location: From Newtownards take the A20 main Newtownards to Portaferry Road. Approximately 6.5 miles from Kircubbin turn left into Dunevly Road (opposite Lough Cowey Lake sign) Number 12 is just over 1 mile on the left at a U bend. From Portaferry take A20 road towards Newtownards. Dunevly Road is just over 2 miles on the right.

Tel: Ann and Mike Miall for appointment on 028 4277 2418

Groups limited to 15 people

May – end September

'Forth Cottage', 67 Lisnacroppin Road, Rathfriland, BT34 5NZ

This cottage garden has been extended and revamped over three generations of gardeners in the family. The changes reflect the greater variety of cottage type plants available in the 21st century and ideas inspired by many garden visits. The south facing road garden, in front of the 19th-century part of the cottage, is planted for year round interest and gravel mulched for ease of maintenance. On the terrace, inside the walled garden, crevice style alpine troughs give spring interest, and gravel paths wind through the beds. The middle lawn is original field grass, with curving beds and a west facing rock solar. The bottom garden is mostly wild flower planting, with the working area, compost bins and the 'rompers and roamers bed'. The garden is largely wheelchair friendly with plenty of seating available. Car parking limited.

Location: Take the B10 Rathfriland Road, exiting from the A1. Go 7.5 miles, then take a right turn up a steep hill onto Lisnacroppin Road. After 2 miles on Lisnacroppin Road, the garden is on the right. Parking on right after the cottage. From Rathfriland go 2 miles on the B10 and turn left onto Lisnacroppin Road.

Tel: Mrs Helen Harper for appointment on 028 4065 1649

Maximum group of 10 people

May – July

Old Barrack House, 7 Main Street, Hillsborough, BT26 6AE

Old Barrack House garden is in essence a secret garden, hidden away behind the Old Barrack House, a grade 1 listed building on Main Street in Hillsborough village. Venturing down the alley between the houses you reach the cobbled yard and barn. Over the years Dawn and Ken have subtly changed and improved the yard, garden and buildings to create the now charming collection of pebbled terraces and garden rooms that keep you guessing as you proceed further down the garden. Dawn is an artist and garden designer and that creative instinct is much in evidence as plants are chosen for height form and colour of leaf and flowers, in relation to the ambience of each area. You may have seen this garden on the TV show 'Greatest Gardens' where Dairmuid Gavin and Helen Dillon critiqued nine gardens. Dawn and Ken's garden won its heat, and Diarmuid described it as a little bit of heaven, a must see!

Location: Main Street, Hillsborough opposite the Parish Church. Dawn and Ken live in the Old Barrack House - the only house with Wisteria across it.

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Tel: Dawn and Ken McEntee for appointment on 028 9268 2329

Private tours only (10 persons minimum). Refreshments can be provided on request at time of booking.

June – September

5 Ballymorán Road, Killinchy, BT23 6UE

In a beautiful part of County Down, this relatively new plantsman's garden is a delight throughout the seasons. It contains a wide variety of herbaceous plants, perennials, trees, shrubs and climbers including roses, honeysuckle and clematis. Candelabra primula, Rogersia and other moisture loving plants enjoy a natural wet area. Soft fruits are grown in cages alongside the broad autumn and spring borders.

Location: From north: take the A22 Comber to Killyleagh Road. Turn left onto Beechvale Road, go through Killinchy village onto the Whiterock Road. Turn right onto Ballymorán Road, 200 yards on right is lane with upright stone marked 3-5-7-9. The garden is the first house on the right down the lane. From south: take the A22 from Downpatrick through Killyleagh to Balloo. Turn right onto Beechvale Road and follow as above. Note: not suitable for use with Sat Nav.

Tel: Knox and Shirley Gass for appointment on 028 9754 1012

May – September

'Coille', 15 Finnebrogue Road, Finnebrogue Demesne, Downpatrick, BT30 9AA

The garden of about one acre has a woodland setting amidst several buildings of architectural interest in the historic Finnebrogue Demesne. It is an informal garden developed over the past 17 years from a neglected overgrown site. It features interesting combinations of shrub and herbaceous planting for both sun and shade, together with courtyard areas around a collection of 18th-century estate buildings. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: From Belfast take A7 to Downpatrick. Finnebrogue Road has its junction, a sharp left turn, with the A7, 2.5 miles from Crossgar and it links to the A22 Killyleagh/Downpatrick Road, just before the Quoile Bridge. Entrance to the Demesne is on the north side of the Finnebrogue Road, marked by a red-brick gate lodge and stone gate pillars. The driveway and the surrounding land is in private ownership.

Tel: John and Agnes Peacocke for appointment on 028 4461 2766

June – mid September

5 Aldergrange Avenue, Newtownards, BT23 4FY

This constantly evolving garden is a past winner in Belfast Telegraph's 'Bloomin Marvellous' competition. It has been described as a vibrant paradise which offers a taste of the exotic, home to tropical ginger lilies, banana plants, roses, agapanthus, clematis, succulents, tree ferns and a host of other plants to give colour and perfume, while the pond adds wildlife interest. Mostly suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: From Dundonald follow the A20 to the roundabout at Ards Shopping Centre. Take the first exit onto Blair Mayne Road North. Turn left into Manse Road. Continue straight onto Aldergrange Park. Turn right into Aldergrange Avenue. Parking on the road.

Tel: Mr Victor and Mrs Roz Henry for appointment on 028 9182 6764

June – end September

Old Balloo House and Barn, 15-17 Comber Road, Balloo, Killinchy, BT23 6PB

Gardens of approximately one acre, developed around a late Georgian house and outbuildings, leading down to the River Blackwater. The garden immediately around the house, created in the mid 20th century, has been restored and extended by the current owner during the last 30 years. A wide range of plants is placed artistically, within radically different spaces. Winding paths take you through the garden where spring bulbs, especially daffodils, cherry and apple blossom, primula, flowering shrubs, roses, clematis and specimen trees abound. The planting offers carefully framed views to both the garden and surrounding farmland. Herbaceous material is used throughout the garden as under-planting or in the New European Perennial style. Many of the plants have been propagated on site. The garden includes many interesting features such as a water-trough cascade, feeding a rill which empties into the pond. Please note that part of the garden is not accessible for everyone due to a steep incline. Suitable footwear suggested. Unsuitable for wheelchairs.

Location: 6 miles from Comber on the Killyleagh/Downpatrick Road, opposite Sofaland'.

Tel: Moira Concannon and Lesley Simpson for appointment on 028 9754 1485 or 078 1141 6642

April – June

Londonderry

'Hampstead Hall', 40 Culmore Road, Londonderry, BT48 7RS

A fascinating city garden in the suburbs of Derry. It is comprised of a Japanese style garden, an Italian garden and a formal garden in front of an elegant Georgian House. A new area is under development. Described and illustrated in Shirley Lanigan's 'The 100 Best Gardens in Ireland'. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: Follow the signs for the city centre after crossing the Foyle Bridge. After double set of traffic lights take second right into Baronscourt. House is third driveway on the right.

Tel: Mr Liam Greene for appointment on 028 7135 4807 (evenings) Groups only

May – end September

28 Killyfaddy Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6EX

This is a mature garden of over one acre densely packed with a wide range of trees, herbaceous plants and a small hardy plant nursery. There is a pond and bog garden, fruit and vegetables, greenhouse etc. It has featured in BBC Television's 'Secret Gardens' and is described and illustrated in Shirley Lanigan's 'The 100 Best Gardens in Ireland'. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: Killyfaddy Road is second left off the Moneymore Road from the centre of Magherafelt.

Tel: Mrs A Buchanan for appointment on 028 7963 2180

All year

Tyrone

Tattykeel House, Doogary Road, Omagh, BT79 0BN

A country garden of approximately 1.5 acres created over a 25 year period, planted with conifers, shrubs, roses and perennials. There is a sheltered seating area, a Japanese influenced area, interesting features and a collection of well grown climbers on the house. The garden was featured on the BBC television series 'Greenmount Gardens'. Mrs Ward runs a very interesting craft studio at the house. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

Location: Tattykeel House is approximately 2.5 miles from Omagh on the south side of the A5 Omagh to Ballygawley Road. There is a sign at the entrance gate.

Tel: Mr Hugh and Mrs Kathleen Ward for appointment on 028 8224 9801

May – July