NATIONAL Open GARDEN SCHEME

Gardens open for charity Northern Ireland 2026



Supported by

JOHNMINNIS

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YOUR GARDEN VISITS HELP CHANGE LIVES

In 2025 the National Garden Scheme donated **£3,875,596** to our beneficiaries, providing critical support to nursing and health charities.

CARERS TRUST £450,000	HospiceUK £450,000	MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT £450,000
Marie Curie £450,000	Parkinson's UK £450,000	Qicn The Queen's Institute of Community Nursing £475,000

SUPPORT FOR GARDENERS - £320,000

- English Heritage £125,000
- Perennial £100,000
- National Botanic Garden, Wales £26,000
- Bankside Open Spaces Trust £25,000
- Garden Museum £24,000
- Professional Gardeners' Trust £20,000

GARDENS AND HEALTH - £541,720

Charities include:

- Maggie's £125,000
- Horatio's Garden £110,000
- Army Benevolent Fund £80,000
- The Country Trust £35,000

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS - £288,876

Thank you!

To find out more visit **ngs.org.uk/beneficiaries**

Charity number: 1112664

DONATE

Dear Garden Visitor,

Welcome to the 5th year of the National Garden Scheme openings in Northern Ireland.

We have found gardens to ease your soul, where you can relax with family members, friends or fellow gardeners; enjoy the ambience of colour, water and sound, from popular to unusual planting, to vistas of green, shady arbours and secluded seating. Perhaps bring your sketch pad or camera, and with your family and friends enjoy home-made tea treats in support of the caring charities outlined in this booklet.

We love finding you these escapes and thank the dedicated Garden Owners, and their helpers, for their willingness to open their gardens which raised **c£36,000 in 2025**. Full details of where the funds are allocated between all the beneficiaries and announcements or changes to Northern Ireland openings appear on the website. In addition, £11,788 was awarded to four community garden schemes in Northern Ireland in 2025 with further grants amounting to £9,713 to be paid out in 2026. You can find details of how to apply for a National Garden Scheme Community Grant on the National Garden Scheme website.

Next year 2027 will be the National Garden Scheme Centenary when we will be celebrating with some special events throughout the year. Please do contact anyone on committee if you know of a garden owner willing to join us for this special year. We are very grateful to John Minnis Estate Agents whose generous sponsorship has enabled the printing and distribution of 24,000 copies of this booklet.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you who are going to visit our gardens in the coming weeks and months ahead. You will help us raise a substantial sum of money for our beneficiary charities. Thank you.

Ross

Ross McGookin
Area Organiser

Cover image: 4 Ballynalack Road, Camlough

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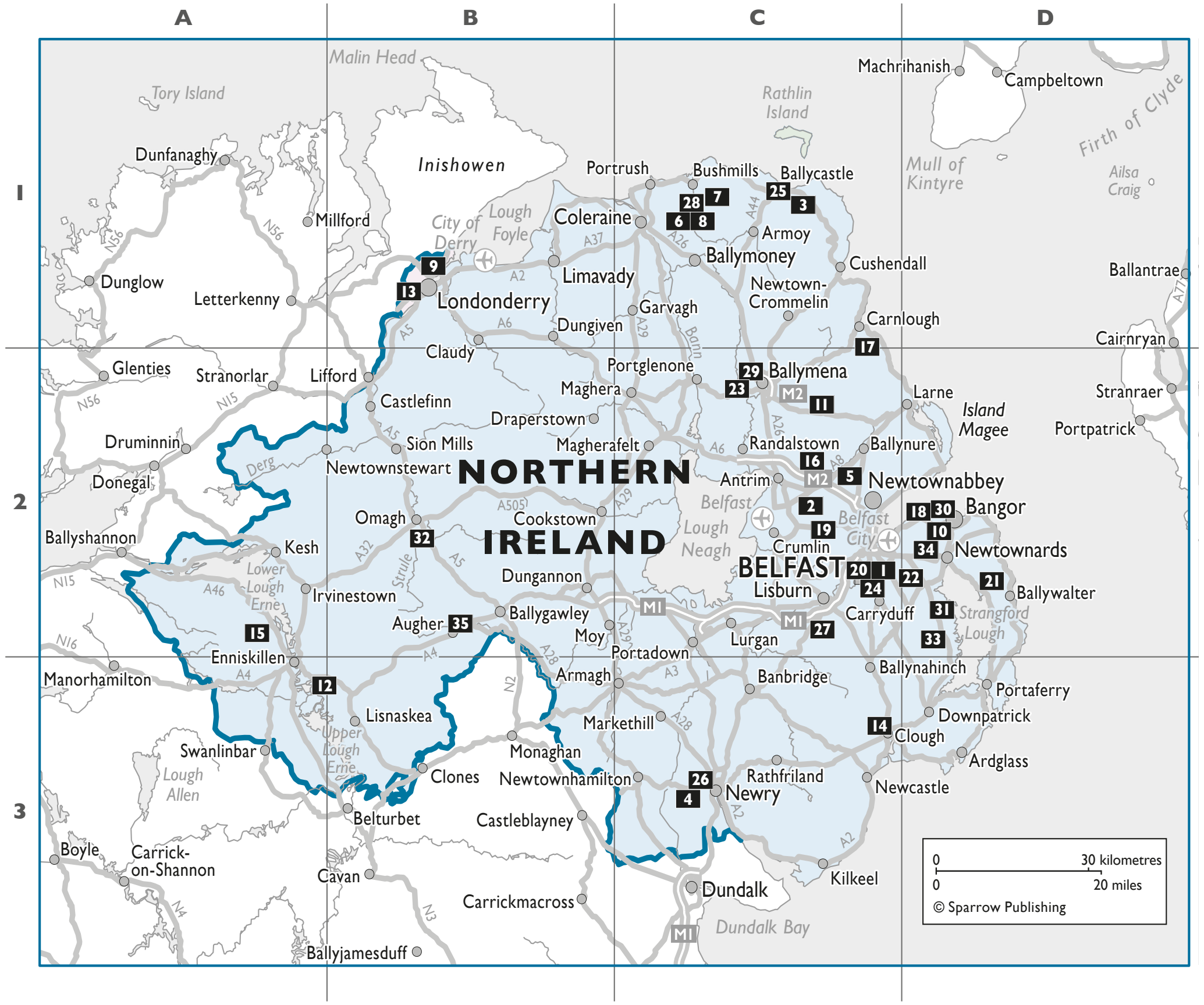
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Symbols at the end of each garden entry indicate features and items of special interest at the garden.

NEW Gardens opening for the first time this year or re-opening after a long break.

◆ Garden also opens on non-NGS days. (Gardens which carry this symbol contribute to the NGS either by opening on a specific day(s) and/or by giving a guaranteed contribution).

Wheelchair access to at least the main features of the garden.

Dogs on short leads welcome.

Plants usually for sale.

NPC Plant Heritage National Collection Holder.

Gardens that offer accommodation.

Refreshments are available, normally at a charge

Picnics welcome.

Cashless payments available.

D Garden designed by a Fellow, Member or Pre-registered Member of the Society of Garden Designers.

Garden accessible to coaches. Coach sizes vary so please contact garden owner or County Organiser in advance to check details.

Group visits Group Organisers may contact the County Organiser or a garden owner direct to organise a group visit to a particular county or garden. See above for County Organiser details, or visit www.ngs.org.uk.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Photography is at the discretion of the garden owner; please check first. Photographs must not be used for sale or reproduction without prior permission of the owner.

Share To indicates that a proportion of the money collected will be given to the nominated charity.

Toilets are not usually available at private gardens.

Find us on Social Media @ngsnorthernireland

Facebook

Instagram

OPENING DATES

All entries subject to change. For latest information check **www.ngs.org.uk**

Map locator numbers are shown to the right of each garden name.

February

Snowdrop Openings

Saturday 14th
Billy Old Rectory Peace Garden 7

Sunday 15th
Billy Old Rectory Peace Garden 7

Saturday 21st
Benvarden Gardens 6

Sunday 22nd
Benvarden Gardens 6

April

Saturday 11th
◆ Brook Hall Estate & Gardens 9

Sunday 12th
◆ Brook Hall Estate & Gardens 9

Saturday 25th
35 Sheridan Drive 30

Sunday 26th
35 Sheridan Drive 30

Tuesday 28th
NEW ◆ Glenarm Castle Walled Garden 17

May

Friday 15th
NEW Clendinning Cottage 12

Saturday 16th
NEW Clendinning Cottage 12

Saturday 23rd
Brockagh Wood 8
NEW Tuffley Lawn 34

Sunday 24th
Brockagh Wood 8
Clandeboye Estate 10
NEW Tuffley Lawn 34

Monday 25th
Clandeboye Estate 10

June

Saturday 13th
Holly House Garden 19
NEW 26 Leyland Park 25

Sunday 14th
Holly House Garden 19
NEW 26 Leyland Park 25

Saturday 20th
Billy Old Rectory Peace Garden 7
NEW L'Arche Village 24

Sunday 21st
Billy Old Rectory Peace Garden 7

Sunday 28th
◆ Ballyrobert Gardens 5

July

Saturday 18th
NEW Donegore Hill Garden 16

Sunday 19th
NEW Donegore Hill Garden 16

Saturday 25th
9 Devenish Church Road 15
NEW 46 Killane Road 23

Sunday 26th
9 Devenish Church Road 15
NEW 46 Killane Road 23

August

Saturday 8th
Horatio's Garden Northern Ireland 20

Friday 21st
Rustic Garden at 14 Woodgrove 29

Saturday 22nd
Rustic Garden at 14 Woodgrove 29

Sunday 23rd
Rustic Garden at 14 Woodgrove 29

Monday 24th
Rustic Garden at 14 Woodgrove 29

Saturday 29th
Helen's Bay Organic 18

February 2027

Saturday 13th
Billy Old Rectory Peace Garden 7

Sunday 14th
Billy Old Rectory Peace Garden 7

Gardens Open by Arrangement / Group Visits

Some of our gardens offer the opportunity of 'By Arrangement' visits for groups on days other than the official National Garden Scheme open days. It's easy to arrange in advance with the garden owner, contact details are listed in each individual garden entry, where appropriate.

Adrian Walsh Belfast Garden 1
NEW Alder Cottage 2
13 Ballynagard Road 3
NEW 4 Ballynalack Road 4
Brockagh Wood 8
Clayburn 11
Creevagh House 13
Cumran House 14
NEW Donegore Hill Garden 16
Iona Cottage Garden 21
Ivydene 22
The McKelvey Garden 26
Old Barrack House Garden 27
10 Riverside Road 28
35 The Straits, Lisbane 31
Tattykeel House Garden 32
NEW 85 Thornyhill Road 33
Tullybroom 35

THE GARDENS

1 ADRIAN WALSH BELFAST GARDEN C2
59 Richmond Park, Stranmillis, Belfast, BT9 5EF. Adrian Walsh, 07808 156856, www.facebook.com/belfast.garden. *From the r'about at Stranmillis College & going along the Stranmillis Rd towards Malone Rd, Richmond Park is the 2nd exit on the L. No 59 is on the L.* **Visits by arrangement June to Oct for groups of 5 to 20. Adm £5, chd free.** Described by Shirley Lanigan, in 'The Open Gardens of Ireland', as a garden that 'has become a favourite horticultural destination', and 'a veritable sea of plants', this is an imaginatively designed naturalistic city garden that combines a vibrant mix of annuals, perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees set within a formal layout. Former winner of BBC UK TV 'Gardener of the Year' competition. Featured in Autumn 2025 issue of 'The Irish Garden' magazine.

2 NEW ALDER COTTAGE C2
71 Printshop Road, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, BT29 4YN. Elizabeth & James Stothers, 07870 203459, estothers51@gmail.com. *Printshop Rd off 7m straight. Coming from Antrim join the 7m straight heading for Nutts Corner after large farm buildings on R, turn L into Printshop Rd take the 3rd laneway to the top.* **Visits by arrangement in May for groups of 6 to 20. Adm £5, chd free.**
A mature and natural habitat created for wildlife with a water rill pond containing Koi and a wildlife pond. Inc a small glade with ferns and grasses. The garden wraps around the one level house with mature shrubs and flower beds with priority given to wildlife and is organic. Two greenhouses and planters are used for family produce.


Alder Cottage

3 13 BALLYNAGARD ROAD C1
Ballyvoy, Ballycastle, BT54 6PW. Tom & Penny McNeill, 07754 190687, pennymcneill@yahoo.co.uk. *3m outside Ballycastle. Drive through Ballycastle, pass hotel on L, 2nd exit at r'about to Cushendall. From Ballyvoy drive ¾m, Ballynagard Rd is on R. Drive ¾m. Arrive at 1st bungalow on R.* **Visits by arrangement 12 June to 28 Aug for groups of up to 10. Adm £5, chd free.**
A challenging ½ acre site 400ft above sea level with stunning rural and sea views. Designed to meet prevailing environmental conditions and to protect each section from severe winds. Seasonal planting with mature shrubs and rockery on a terraced site create cosy contrasting rooms with seating area. Regret unsuitable for young children due to steep paths through rockery.

4 NEW 4 BALLYNALACK ROAD C3
Camlough, Newry, BT35 7HU. Martin & Sheila Darling, 07710 174752, martinjdarling@hotmail.co.uk. *From Newry, A25 through Camlough, after that L onto B30, Crossmaglen/Castleblaney, across the lake, L, same signs, from the lake up the hill, 1st L into Ballynalack Rd, 1st house on L.* **Visits by arrangement 28 Mar to 26 Sept for groups of up to 20. Adm £6, chd free.**
Nestled in the County Armagh countryside overlooking Camlough Lake (The Crooked lake) with lots of colour from Spring to Autumn. Borders with herbaceous perennials and a variety of colour. A selection of trees and shrubs adding to interest among the beds. Colour and texture right through the season. Room to relax and wander at leisure.

5 ◆ BALLYROBERT GARDENS C2
154 Ballyrobert Road, Ballyclare, BT39 9RT. Mr Maurice Parkinson, 02893 322952, maurice.parkinson@ballyrobertgardens.com, www.ballyrobertgardens.com. *At the northern edge of Ballyrobert Village, near Ballyclare, on the B56.* **For NGS: Sun 28 June (1-5). Adm £14, chd free. Pre-booking essential, please visit www.ngs.org.uk for information & booking. Light refreshments. For other opening times and information, please phone, email or visit garden website.**
Ballyrobert Gardens is a uniquely created Ulster Garden. The setting for the garden is a C17 landscape complete with the original cottage, barn and wilding area extending to 16 acres. Sensitively integrating the elements is a six acre garden containing an extensive collection of plants. Appeared on BBC TV's Breakfast programme as an exemplar naturalistic garden. There will be a guided tour at 1pm and 3pm. Traditional entrance, extensive plant collection, small lake/large pond, large spiral, concentric rings and Bridgid's Cross in the wilding area. Traditional buildings inc the cottage and nearby barn. Stream running through a glen. Access is available for key areas in the garden.

Scan our QR code for full details our Northern Ireland gardens


Ballyrobert Gardens

6 BENVARDEN GARDENS C1
36 Benvardin Road, Ballybogey, Ballymoney, BT53 6NN. Hugh Montgomery, www.benvarden.co.uk. *Between Ballybogy & Derrykeigan, N.Antrim. From Ballymoney head toward Portrush, in the village of Ballybogey turn R into the Benvardin Rd after ½m (before the River Bush) the Gardens are on your R.* **Sat 21, Sun 22 Feb (12-4). Adm £7, chd free. Tea, coffee & cake in Stableyard Tearoom.** Refreshments in aid of local charity.
The garden at Benvarden has been enclosed since the mid C17, most probably evolved from a semi-fortified Bawn. It is shown on a 1788 map soon after the neighbouring rhomboid cobbled courtyard was built. Bought by the Montgomery family in 1797, it was transformed into a modern walled garden with the bawn wall faced with brick and the height raised to the present 16ft, with paths and beds laid out. From the pond, paths lead to the banks of the River Bush, well-known as the river which leads to the Bushmills Distillery, the world's oldest whiskey, and here the river is spanned by a splendid bridge, built by Robert James Montgomery, who survived the charge of the Heavy Brigade in the Crimean war.

7 BILLY OLD RECTORY PEACE GARDEN C1
5 Cabragh Road, Castlecat, Bushmills, BT57 8YH. Mrs Meta Page. *Ballymoney bypass straight at Kilraughts Rd take 2nd R to B66 sign Dervock turn L (B66) sign Bushmills through Derrykeighan after 2.3 m at Castlecat, R sign Billy ½m & L - Haw Rd at Church R-Cabragh Rd.* **Sat 14, Sun 15 Feb (1-4). Sat 20, Sun 21 June (1-5). Home-made teas on the lawn. Limited refreshments at snowdrop opening. Adm £7, chd free. 2027: Sat 13, Sun 14 Feb.**
Refreshments in aid of Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund. A mature 3 acre garden on an historic site. Front of the Georgian Rectory is a lawn with shrubs, pond and summerhouse. Integrated into the garden are 20 small peace gardens. See guide for further information. There is the Old Orchard Nature Garden comprising of one acre.

"The National Garden Scheme's generous donations of almost £3 million since 2012 have enabled us to bring better care, treatments and quality of life for those living with Parkinson's. In 2025 we were able to fully fund two additional Parkinson's nurse posts for two years along with a dedicated speech and language therapist, bringing life-changing care to people who might otherwise go without. An estimated 1,100 people are now being supported through these three new roles." - Parkinson's UK


Clendinning Cottage

8 BROCKAGH WOOD C1
47 Benvarden Road, Ballybogey, Ballymoney, BT53 6NN. Mr Shaun Boyd, 07973 682319, shaunboyd2020@gmail.com. *From Ballymoney take road to Portrush. At Ballybogey turn R onto Benvarden Rd. 1½m on L.* **Sat 23, Sun 24 May (1-5). Adm £6, chd free. Light refreshments.** Refreshments in aid of local charites. **Visits also by arrangement 25 May to 31 July for groups of 5+.**
Living better with nature. A rewilding habitat created during lockdown 2020. This 15 acre site inc a two acre pond, native wildflower meadows, marginal plants, water lilies, moorhens, mallard ducks and little grebes. The 1 mile undulating walk around the perimeter of Brockagh Wood will enrich our lives and help us to reconnect with Mother Nature. Key to a happy and healthy life. Featured on BBC Gardeners' Corner with David Maxwell. Wheelchair access is available to the main pond but not the perimeter walk around Brockagh Wood.

9 ◆ BROOK HALL ESTATE & GARDENS B1
65-67 Culmore Road, Londonderry, BT48 8JE. Mr Gilliland, 02871 358968, info@brookhall.co.uk, www.brookhall.co.uk. *3m N of Derry, Londonderry. From the Culmore r'about off the Foyle Bridge, take the exit towards Moville (A2). Continue on the Culmore Rd (A2) for 1m to the entrance on the R.* **For NGS: Sat 11, Sun 12 Apr (2-5). Adm £5, chd free. Light refreshments in the Visitors Centre. For other opening times and information, please phone, email or visit garden website.**
Brook Hall Estate & Gardens is a C18 demesne, home to one of the finest private arboretums in the north west of Ireland with unique collections of conifers, rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias. The C17 walled garden on the edge of the River Foyle once used to feed the people of the City of Derry, now home to many of the gardens magnolia and camellia collections. Hard surface paths suitable for wheelchairs and prams through the arboretum and gardens. Please note that some paths may be quite steep.

10 CLANDEBOYE ESTATE D2
Bangor, BT19 1RN. Mrs Karen Kane, www.clandeboye.co.uk. *Main entrance is off the main Belfast to Bangor A2 circa 2m before Bangor.* **Sun 24, Mon 25 May (2-6). Adm £10, chd free. Pre-booking essential, please visit www.ngs.org.uk for information & booking. Tea, coffee & cake at the Banqueting Hall.**
A series of intimate walled gardens adjoin the courtyard and house. These inc the delightful Bee Garden, the Chapel Walk and the intimate Conservatory Garden. Refreshments are available to purchase in the Banqueting Hall each day.

11 CLAYBURN C2
30A Ballynulto Road, Glenwherry, Ballymena, BT42 4RJ. Judith & Hugh Jackson, 07539 712991. *What3words app: schematic.composers.remedy. From the A36 Ballymena to Larne Rd, ½m E of its junc with B94, turn L onto Ballynulto Rd. The garden is 0.8m on the R.* **Visits by arrangement 13 June to 13 Sept for groups of up to 10. Refreshments available by request. Adm £6, chd free.**
Clayburn has been transformed from an exposed site in the shadow of Slemish Mountain to become a low maintenance prairie style garden. Shrubs, grasses and insect attracting perennials along with traditional hedging and many dry stone walls. Also incorporated are numerous trees providing both windbreaks and habitat for many bird species.

12 NEW CLENDINNING COTTAGE A3/B3
71 Cloghcor Road, Lisbellaw, BT94 5BH. Mr I & Mrs J Black. *¼m from village of Lisbellaw. Approaching Lisbellaw from the A4 Belfast Rd turn L onto Faughard Rd, B140. After 0.3 m turn L onto Cloghcor Rd and the garden is ½ m along on R.* **Fri 15, Sat 16 May (2-5). Adm £5, chd free. Cream teas.** This is an established garden on an ancient site incorporating a bronze age stone circle. The elevated position affords extensive views towards Cuilcagh World Heritage Park which encompasses one of the largest expanses of blanket bog in Northern Ireland. Extensive herbaceous planting is enhanced by clipped box hedging and topiary. In addition an antique and garden business adjoins.

13 CREEVAGH HOUSE B1
63 Letterkenny Road, Londonderry, BT48 9XQ. Mr William & Mrs Elma Lynn, 07771 608084, wlynn_geology@hotmail.com. *3m S of Derry-Londonderry. On Letterkenny Rd (N40). From lower deck Craigavon Bridge turn L to Letterkenny. Pass settlement at Nixon's Corner then ½m with entrance on R (white gates) through black iron gates and cattle grid.* **Visits by arrangement 27 Apr to 30 May for groups of up to 20. Adm £7.** A mature garden set in 2½ acres of woodland surrounding a Georgian house c1780 (not open). Variety of trees and shrubs most notably a collection of rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas with mature trees, some dating from the construction of the house. Easy access with a network of level gravel or grass paths with a profusion of bluebells in late April/early May. Some remnants of United States naval hospital in the grounds from 1943 to 1945. Owner can be available for short introductory talk to groups. Wheelchair access to main features.

14 CUMRAN HOUSE C3
231, Newcastle Road, Seaforde, Downpatrick, BT30 8SQ. Mrs Polly Hughes, 02844 811217. *Between Seaforde and Clough, Co Down. Access is via a long (700 metres) lane from the Newcastle Rd. From Seaforde turn R after 750 metres. From Clough turn L after 500 metres.* **Visits by arrangement Mar to Aug for groups of up to 15. Adm £5, chd free.**
A mature garden planted with colourful herbaceous plants and shrubs, surrounding a charming house built in 1840. Stunning views of the Mournes enhance the drifts of snowdrops and daffodils at the start of the year followed by Eucryphia displays in August.

15 9 DEVENISH CHURCH ROAD A2
Monea, Enniskillen, BT74 8GE. J and G Thompson. *5½m NW of Enniskillen. From Enniskillen take A46 to Belleek, after approx 1m turn L (B81 to Derrygonnelly) After 5m, just before Monea, turn R onto Devenish Church Rd. No 9 is last bungalow on L.* **Sat 25, Sun 26 July (2-5). Adm £5, chd free. Cream teas.** Refreshments in aid of FGS Charity - Pancreatic Cancer.
Just 17 yrs on from a neglected site with poor soil, this delightful small garden now contains sunny sitting areas and many flowering plants. Bulbs, perennials and climbers, intermingled with roses and shrubs are planted to provide all year colour. Annuals grown in a cutting bed are used to fill gaps when the perennials finish and a glut of salads and vegetable are produced in raised beds. Bouquets of garden flowers available to buy from near neighbour.


9 Devenish Church Road

16 NEW **DONEGORE HILL GARDEN C2**
24 Donegore Hill, Muckamore, Antrim, BT41 2HW. Kaye Campbell, 07739 095840, kayeonthehill@hotmail.co.uk. *J5 off M2 / Templepatrick. From Templepatrick, follow signs for Donegore. From the B95, follow signs for Donegore. Up the steep hill, pass The Moat Inn and take the 2nd entrance on L.* **Sat 18, Sun 19 July (1-5). Adm £6, chd free. Light refreshments. Visits also by arrangement 1 Apr to 1 July for groups of 10 to 50.**
Well established garden nestled beside the historic Donegore Moat. 2 acres of very colourful gardens with mature shrubs, herbaceous borders, roses and hydrangeas in abundance. 5 acres of semi mature woodland. Gravel paths. Unique opportunity to climb Donegore Moat for panoramic views to the Sperrins and Lough Neagh (steep steps).

17 NEW ◆ **GLENARM CASTLE WALLED GARDEN C1/C2**
Glenarm, Ballymena, BT44 0BQ. The Earl and Countess of Antrim, 02828 841203, events@glenarmcastle.com, www.glenarmcastle.com. *Located close to Glenarm village. Travelling from Belfast, head N on M2, then take the Causeway Coastal Route from Larne to Glenarm. Travelling from Ballymena, head E towards Broughshane and follow the signs for Glenarm.* **For NGS: Tue 28 Apr (10-5). Adm £10, chd £5. Light refreshments at onsite tearoom. For other opening times and information, please phone, email or visit garden website.** Wander through the Walled Garden where thousands of vibrant tulips burst into bloom as part of the Glenarm Castle Tulip Festival, creating a truly magical display. Enjoy delightful herbaceous borders, a soothing water feature and kitchen garden. Located at the top of the Walled Garden, our Woodland Walk offers a tranquil green retreat with sweeping views across the garden and the estate beyond. NGS opening will be part of the Pre-Show week for Glenarm Castle Tulip Festival: 2nd-4th May 2026. All areas accessible to disabled visitors. Designated parking provided.

18 **HELEN'S BAY ORGANIC D2**
Coastguard Avenue, Helen's Bay, BT19 1JY. Mr John McCormick, www.helensbayorganic.com. *Off Craigdarragh Rd. Coming from A2 (Main Belfast-Bangor road). Drive 200 metres past the railway bridge on Craigdarragh Rd then turn L onto Coastguard Ave. Go over 2 speed bumps & enter 1st farm gate on L.* **Sat 29 Aug (2-5). Adm £6, chd free. Light refreshments in the garden provided by Community Garden Volunteers.** An urban market garden, established in 1991, producing over 50 varieties of organic vegetables for direct retailing. Also hosts a community garden and allotments which inc an extensive range of fruit and vegetables. An ideal space to get ideas to combine flowers, fruit, food and biodiversity in your garden.

19 **HOLLY HOUSE GARDEN C2**
3 Ballyutoag Hill, Nutts Corner, Crumlin, BT29 4UH. Mr Will Hamilton, www.hollyhousegardens.com. *In the hills over looking W Belfast. Crumlin Rd, following signs for Crumlin/Int Airport (A52). After 3m Horseshoe bend, 4m turn L onto Ballyutoag Hill & the garden is the 1st entrance on the R.* **Sat 13, Sun 14 June (2-5). Adm £6, chd free. Tea.** Refreshments in aid of The Samaritans.
Holly House Gardens has been created over the last 25 yrs from former farmland. It comprises several contrasting but complementary garden styles inc traditional herbaceous borders, alpine beds, water elements, mature woodland and shrub areas, an Iris Garden and a 'modern' garden. The owner is currently developing a stumpery and a large new wildlife pond. Partially wheelchair friendly.


Donegore Hill Garden


Glenarm Castle Walled Garden

20 **HORATIO'S GARDEN NORTHERN IRELAND C2**
Musgrave Park Hospital, Stockmans Way, Belfast, BT9 7JB. Mr Matthew Lee, www.horatiosgarden.org.uk/the-gardens/horatios-garden-northern-ireland. *Off Stockmans Ln, Balmoral. Off Stockmans Ln turn into Stockmans Way - signed Musgrave Park Hospital the garden is to the rear of the Withers Orthopaedic Centre.* **Sat 8 Aug (1-5). Adm £5, chd free. Tea, coffee & cake.** Refreshments & plants in aid of Horatio's Garden Northern Ireland.
Horatio's Garden Northern Ireland is a beautiful, accessible, restorative garden located at the heart of the Spinal Cord Injuries Unit (SCIU) at Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast. Designed by nine-time RHS Chelsea Gold Medal winner Andy Sturgeon, the garden supports people adjusting to life-changing spinal injuries from across the entirety of Northern Ireland. Designed for patients, their friends and families, and NHS staff spending time at the Spinal Cord Injuries Unit (SCIU) at Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast. Full wheelchair access throughout the garden.

21 **IONA COTTAGE GARDEN D2**
14C Cardy Road, Greyabbey, Newtownards, BT22 2LS. Mr Darren & Mrs Victoria Colville, 07793 672653, victoria.colville@googlemail.com. *From North Ards 4m down Portaferry Rd, turn L onto Mount Stewart Rd. After 3m, sharp R turn onto Cardy Rd. Sharp R turn down concrete lane. Go over 3 speed bumps to 2nd lane, 14C on R.* **Visits by arrangement. Available on 27 & 28 June and 4, 5, 18 & 19 July. Adm £5, chd free.**
A relaxed, environmentally friendly country cottage garden which has been under development for the past 11 yrs. The garden, which inc herbaceous borders, kitchen garden and cut flower garden is pesticide free with wildlife friendly habitats such as pond, log piles, bird boxes and meadow. Some natural exposed rock areas and slightly uneven terrain. Fantail doves fly freely. Most of the garden has wheelchair access.

22 **IVYDENE D2**
64 Ballystockart Road, Comber, Newtownards, BT23 5QY. Mr Robert Russell, robertrussellbally@gmail.com. *Located between Dundonald and Comber. From Dundonald, take A22 (Comber Rd). After approx 2m, turn R at Hill Head Rd, then 200yds turn L to Ballystockart Rd. Drive ½m, garden is on L after the quarry.* **Visits by arrangement in July for groups of up to 10. Adm £10, chd free.**
A charming plant lover's garden surrounding an Irish farmhouse dating from 1850 (not open). Consists of 1½ acres of gardens arranged into rooms together with a 2 acre wildflower meadow with mowed pathway. An inspiring selection of herbaceous plants and over a hundred old and new varieties of roses, also a wide variety of trees from native to specimen.

Scan the QR code
to see last-minute pop-up openings,
which won't be listed in this booklet.


46 Killane Road

23 NEW 46 KILLANE ROAD C2
Ahoghill, Ballymena, BT42 1JB. Mrs Kay Rainey. *½m from Ahoghill Village. From Galgorm Rd, turn R at Graham's MAXOL ⅓m 1st bungalow on L. From Portglenone Rd travel through village, turn L at Graham's MAXOL ⅓m bungalow on L.* **Sat 25, Sun 26 July (2-5). Adm £7. Light refreshments.** Refreshments & plants in aid of Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.
A bee and butterfly haven, this recently extended garden has deep herbaceous borders. Generously repeated pops of colour delight the eye and create a sense of rhythm. At the rear a wildlife pond and stone folly add interest and mature trees provide shade. Ornamental plants, tomatoes, vegetables and cut flowers are grown from seed. Stone path encircling the garden area is accessible with caution.

24 NEW L'ARCHE VILLAGE C2
36B Manse Road, Belfast, BT8 6SA. L'Arche Village, www.larchebelfast.org.uk. *Beside Lagan College Belfast. From Four Winds r'about, head along the Manse Rd to Lagan College on R, pass Lagan College and proceed down the hill, L'Arche Village is next on R.* **Sat 20 June (12-4). Adm £5, chd free. Tea, coffee & cake.** Refreshments in aid of L'Arche.
The two acre site is a former tree nursery. Now named 'The Village', it has been developed with a community garden space, two polytunnels, a greenhouse, several working spaces and kitchens. The biodiverse planting is naturalistic, sustainable and attracts wildlife. It inc shrubs for green structure, grasses, herbaceous and annuals to provide cut flowers, along with seasonal vegetables. The garden is designed by a member of the GLDA (Garden and Landscape Design Association, Ireland). Most of the main areas in the garden are accessible.

25 NEW 26 LEYLAND PARK C1
Ballycastle, BT54 6DL. Mr Gregory Baptie. *Arriving on the B67 or A44 into Coleraine Rd. L into Leyland Rd. Across the r'about and 1st R into Leyland Park to No 26 on RHS.* **Sat 13, Sun 14 June (12-5). Adm £7, chd free.**
Attractive bijou setting with garden rooms and topiary; home-made hurdle fencing, trained privet arch, pleached willow, 2 water features inc fish. Roses, clematis, geraniums, alliums, flower arrangers' shrubs. Stunning views of Knocklayde Mountain from this town garden.

26 THE MCKELVEY GARDEN C3
7 Mount Charles North, Bessbrook, Newry, BT35 7DW. Mr William & Mrs Hilary McKelvey, 02830 838006, www.facebook.com/themodelgarden. *In the village of Bessbrook. Enter village from Millvale Rd. Turn L at Morrow's Garage. 300yds up hill past terraced houses turn L through gate.* **Visits by arrangement 2 May to 31 Aug for groups of up to 50. Adm £5, chd free.**
A connoisseurs garden situated in a village setting containing snowdrops, alpine crevice beds, salvias and a large collection of clematis planted among herbaceous and shrub borders. Wheelchair access via side entrance.

27 OLD BARRACK HOUSE GARDEN C2
7 Main Street, Hillsborough, BT26 6AE. Ken & Dawn McEntee, 07711 617585. *Situated at the bottom of Main St in Royal Hillsborough, opp the Parish Church.* **Visits by arrangement in June. Adm £5, chd free. Refreshments not in aid of NGS.**
Old Barrack House garden is in essence a secret garden, hidden behind the Grade I listed house. Venturing down the alley between the houses you reach the yard and barn, subtly changed and improved to create charming pebbled terraces and garden areas. Dawn's creative instinct is much in evidence. Plants and flowers are chosen for height, form and leaf colour in relation to the ambiance of each area.

28 10 RIVERSIDE ROAD C1
Bushmills, BT57 8TP. Mrs Pam Traill, 07927 956720, pmtraill@gmail.com. *1½m from Bushmills on Riverside Rd, off the B66. Turn L by Drum Lodge, 100yds further on R beware ramps.* **Visits by arrangement 15 Jan to 30 June for groups of up to 30. Adm £7, chd free.**
Rambling cottage garden with unusual shrubs, deep borders, spring garden with aconites, snowdrops and scillas, rockery and arboretum.

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L'Arche Village

29 RUSTIC GARDEN AT 14 WOODGROVE C2
14 Woodgrove, Ballymena, BT43 5JQ. Colin & Gill Agnew. *1½m N of B'mena on the B'money Rd At r'about turn L onto the Carnburn Rd. Turn R onto the Carniny Rd then L onto the Woodtown Rd. Woodgrove is the 1st cul-de-sac on R.* **Fri 21, Sat 22, Sun 23, Mon 24 Aug (10-8). Adm £10. Pre-booking essential, please phone 07710 577732 for information & booking. Light refreshments.** Refreshments in aid of Diabetes UK.
The Rustic Garden is a suburban garden bordered to the north by the Antrim countryside. Features inc a small pond and stream with marginal planting and a modest collection of hydrangea species. Well established trees help to create a natural canopy under which a sunken fernery has been developed. Ornamental grasses and agapanthus thrive in the south facing aspect of the garden. There are water features, mature ornamental trees and quirky recycling artwork.
Garden visit inc tour.

30 35 SHERIDAN DRIVE D2
Helen's Bay, Bangor, BT19 1LB. Prof Desmond and Mrs Amy Archer. *Located between Bangor and Holywood, Co. Down. A2 to Craigdarragh Rd, Helen's Bay, and 2nd L to Sheridan Dr. The garden is on the sea side.* **Sat 25, Sun 26 Apr (2-5). Adm £6, chd free.**
Two acre garden along Belfast Lough. Developed over 50 yrs from a challenging site with a stream, small pond and steep inclines. The garden features Japanese maples, magnolias, azaleas, hydrangeas, unusual trees inc *Cornus controversa* 'Variegata', *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, *Magnolia campbellii* and *Parrotia persica*.

31 35 THE STRAITS, LISBANE D2
Comber, Newtownards, BT23 6AQ. Mrs Olwen Sheridan, 07721 880137, olwensheridan@hotmail.co.uk. *4m S of Comber towards Killinchy on A22. In the village of Lisbane, turn into The Straits (opp The Old Post Office Tea Shop). No.35 is situated on R after ½m. Garden entrance on L at top of a long lane.* **Visits by arrangement 1 June to 10 July for groups of up to 30. Adm £5, chd free.**
Nestled in the Co Down countryside with wrap-around views of Strangford Lough and Scrabo Tower, this 8 yr old garden of approx 1 acre comprises well-stocked and herbaceous shrub borders. A delightful Bothy Garden complete with pond and potting shed provides an enchanting foil for an impressive display of pots and window boxes. In development is a vegetable garden. Wheelchair access to most parts of the garden.

32 TATTYKEEL HOUSE GARDEN B2
115 Doogary Road, Omagh, BT79 0BN. Mr Hugh & Mrs Kathleen Ward, 02882 249801, tattykeelhouse@hotmail.com, www.tattykeelhouse.com/gardens. *Approx 2½m from Omagh on the S side of the A5 Omagh to Ballygawley Rd. There's a sign outside the entrance Tattykeel House & Studio.* **Visits by arrangement May to Aug for groups of 5 to 30. Adm £7, chd free. Refreshment to be arranged at booking.** Refreshments in aid of The Children's Heartbeat Trust.
'Borders brimming with blossom and lush planting are seamlessly offset by sweeps of well tended lawn in the carefully choreographed garden at Tattykeel House' as described by Conrad McCormick (Irish Garden Magazine Aug 2024). The garden features in 'The Open Gardens of Ireland' by Shirley Lanigan. The 1½ acres inc sheltered seating areas, a Japanese inspired area, and many climbers. Partially suitable for wheelchairs.

33 NEW 85 THORNYHILL ROAD D2
Killinchy, Newtownards, BT23 6SG. Mrs Inge Ferguson, 07889 854711, ingeferguson@outlook.com. *Between Killinchy and Raffrey. From Comber S to Balloo. 0.2 m after Balloo House, turn R to Thornyhill Rd. 2m then No.85 is on R. From Raffrey take B'gowan/Carrickmannon Rd. After 0.1m take R to Thornyhill Rd, 1m, No.85 is on L.* **Visits by arrangement in May for groups of up to 30. Adm £5, chd free.**
An eco-friendly cottage garden of roughly an acre, in picturesque drumlin country. The garden has diverse mature trees, a labyrinth, a walk to a flax pond once used in the linen industry, wildflower meadows and a gravel garden. It features land art made from locally sourced materials and there is a gallery/exhibition space promoting the celebration and conservation of nature.

34 NEW TUFFLEY LAWN D2
14 Ballyrogan Park, Newtownards, BT23 4SD. Doreen and Ivan Wilson. *3m W of Newtownards. From Dundonald, travelling along dual carriageway to Newtownards turn L into Belfast Rd. After 0.9m turn R into Ballyrogan Rd then 1st L into Ballyrogan Park.* **Sat 23, Sun 24 May (2-5). Adm £7, chd free. Light refreshments.** Refreshments in aid of Leukaemia Research.
A one acre, organic plantsman's garden containing many exotic and rare plants which has been developed over 45 yrs. Azaleas, rhododendrons, herbaceous plants, fruit trees and vegetables grow in abundance while the small pond is surrounded by rodgersia, primulas and hostas. Most of the garden is wheelchair accessible.

35 TULLYBROOM B2
48 Tullybroom Road, Clogher, BT76 0UW. Mr Alan Beatty, 07713 851777, alanwbeatty@gmail.com. *Do not rely on SatNav. Road signs are Corick Rd. Access via the A4. ½way between Augher & Clogher. At sign for Corick House Hotel turn L (from Clogher), R (from Augher). Pass hotel and at the Xrds go straight over. Garden ¼ m on R.* **Visits by arrangement 1 June to 20 Sept for groups of 8 to 25. Adm £6, chd free.**
½ acre intensively planted garden developed over the last 30 yrs in rural setting with borrowed landscape of green-fields and surrounding hills, inc Knockmany, burial site of Queen Anya, an ancient Queen of Ireland. Plantspersons/flower arrangers garden featuring mostly shrubs and herbaceous - many unusual. Features inc borders, small courtyard, gravel area and stone troughs. Most of the garden is accessible to wheelchair users.





Share your story

In 2027 the National Garden Scheme marks 100 years of opening gardens for great causes. As part of the celebrations we want to tell our story through you - our garden visitors. Whether you've visited once or 100 times, perhaps a visit changed your life, lifted your spirits, inspired your gardening or brings back happy memories we'd love to hear from you.

Please send your stories in full or in brief to:
stories@ngs.org.uk

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