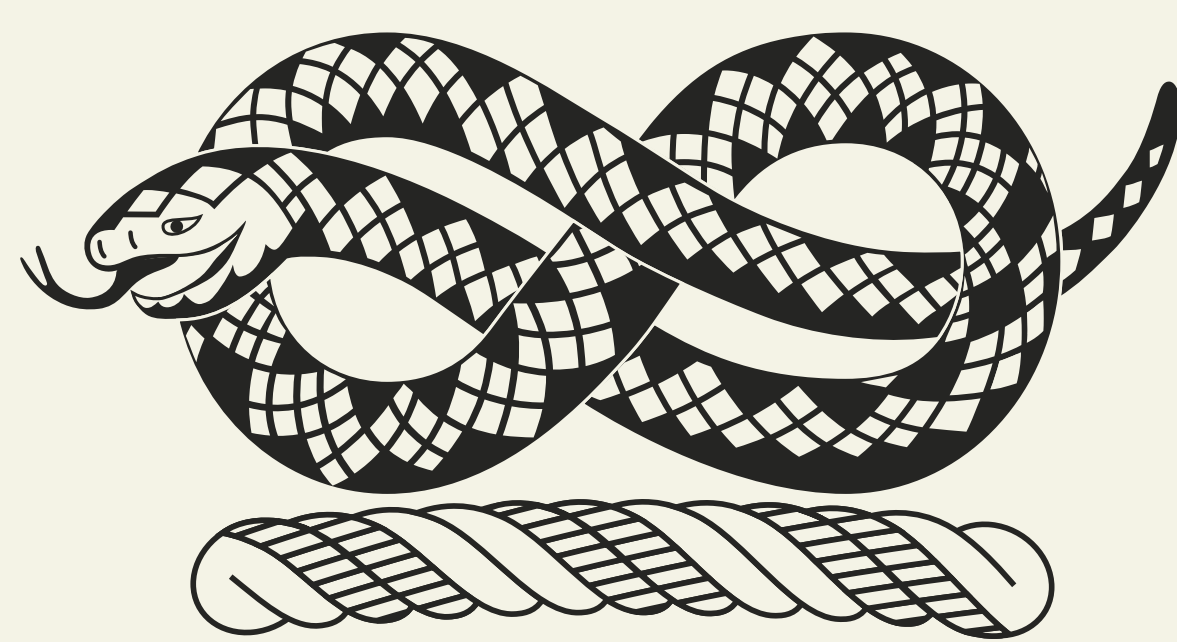


The Gardens at Lismore Castle

VISITOR GUIDE



Welcome to the Gardens at Lismore Castle

We are delighted to welcome you to the Gardens at Lismore Castle and Lismore Castle Arts.

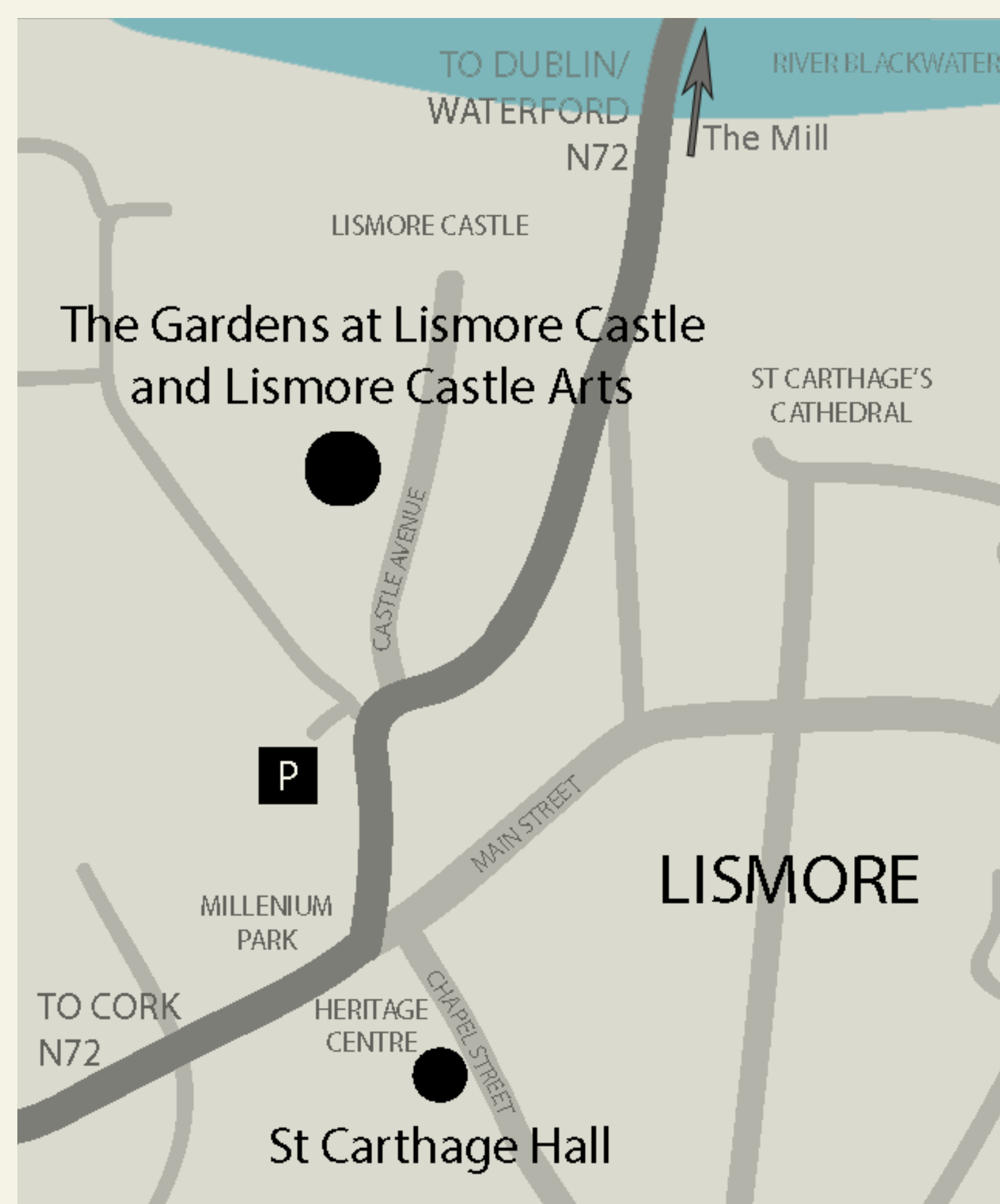
Lismore Castle is our family's private home in Ireland and it is an honour to share its wonderful gardens and gallery with visitors from far and near.

In the gardens you will find evidence of the changing tastes and requirements of succeeding generations of our family over a period of more than 400 years. Today the gardens continue to evolve, ensuring there is always something new or different to enjoy.

Similarly, the gallery hosts a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events which, we hope, will engage and challenge visitors. We very much hope you enjoy your visit and look forward to welcoming you back again soon.

Lord Burlington

Lady Burlington



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Lismore Castle

There has been a castle at Lismore ever since 1185 when Prince John built a 'castellum' on the present site. When John became King of England he handed the Castle over to the Church and it was used as a Bishop's Palace until 1589.

In 1589 the Castle was leased and later bought outright by Sir Walter Raleigh. In 1602, he sold Lismore to Richard Boyle, who later became the first Earl of Cork. Richard Boyle's youngest son, Robert Boyle, the philosopher and father of modern chemistry, was born at Lismore in 1626.

In 1753, the Castle and its lands passed to the fourth Duke of Devonshire following his marriage to Lady Charlotte Boyle, the only surviving daughter and heiress of the fourth Earl of Cork. With the help of Joseph Paxton, the sixth Duke undertook an extensive restoration of the Castle and Gardens in the nineteenth century.

Botanist, inventor, engineer and architect, Paxton designed the Crystal Palace for The Great Exhibition of 1851. He played a leading part, between 1840 and 1858, in creating Lismore Castle and Gardens as they are today.

Adele Astaire, Fred Astaire's sister, married Charles Cavendish and lived in the Castle between 1932 and 1944. The present owners are Lord and Lady Burlington. The Castle is their private family home and is not open to visitors.

The Gardens

The historic gardens at Lismore Castle are essentially three distinct gardens. They are set within the castle walls and comprise of 10 acres with spectacular views of the Castle and surrounding countryside.

The Reilig Garden, open to the public from 2021, owes its name to a partial medieval burial ground to the west side of the garden. Remains of stone walls date from the 13th/14th and 17th Centuries.

The Upper Garden was first constructed by Richard Boyle, the 1st Earl of Cork in about 1605, where most of the walls and terraces remain the same, although the plantings have changed to suit the tastes of those living within the Castle. The garden is a mix of ornamental borders and productive areas, with vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers grown for the kitchen and house.

The lower garden was mostly created in the 19th century for the 6th Duke of Devonshire, Sir Joseph Paxton's patron. Meandering paths lead you through this informal setting of trees and shrubs and out onto open lawns. The yew avenue in the heart of the garden is much older than the garden itself. From the spring flowering magnolias and rhododendrons through to the later flowering shrubs and borders, there is always something in bloom.

Throughout the garden certain plants of interest are identified in a dedicated plant list. Since 1999 several sculptures have been installed in the gardens, including works by Anthony Gormley and Eilís O'Connell.

Lismore Castle Arts

Lismore Castle Arts, a not-for-profit initiative, was founded in 2005 and is committed to the presentation and promotion of contemporary visual art in Ireland. It hosts exhibitions of international significance alongside a series of smaller exhibitions, projects and events as well as a comprehensive learning programme.

Since opening, the gallery has presented to the work of many leading international artists including Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Nancy Holt, Richard Long, Eva Rothschild and Ai Weiwei.

In 2011 a second space, St Carthage Hall, opened in the centre of Lismore. This gallery, in a former church, has presented a programme of exhibitions including works by Camille Henrot, Niamh O'Malley and Roman Signer.

A third space, The Mill, opened in 2022 on the outskirts of Lismore town, bringing back into use a historically significant building, and allowing an opportunity to present more physically challenging artworks. In 2022 the space hosted *Cascade* by Virginia Overton.

Situated in the historic gardens of Lismore Castle are permanent works by Eilís O'Connell, David Nash and Richard Wright. Lismore Castle Arts has a deeply embedded community engagement programme, with learning projects such as *Artifice*, and projects such as *A Space for Lismore*, which foster long term projects between artists and communities.

Visitor Information

The Gardens at Lismore Castle and Lismore Castle Arts are open 23 March - 27 October 2024

Monday - Sunday, 10.30am - 5.30pm
(last entry 4.30pm)

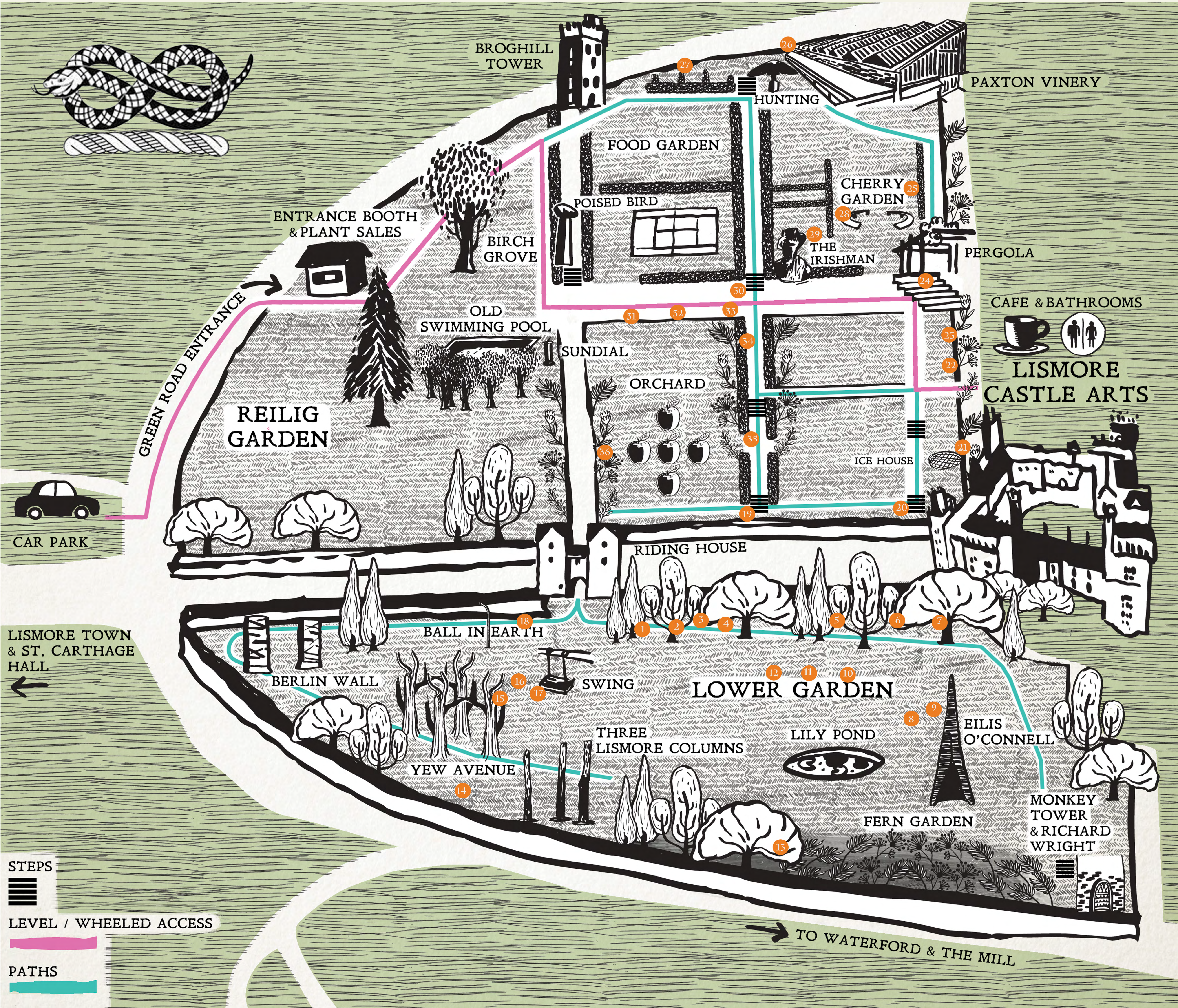
Lismore Castle Arts: St Carthage Hall
Open Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm
and by appointment (during exhibitions)
Admission to St Carthage Hall is free.

St Carthage Hall is located on Chapel Street, Lismore town centre, behind the Heritage Centre. P51 WV96

Lismore Castle Arts at The Mill
Open Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm
and by appointment (during exhibitions).
Admission to The Mill is free.

The Mill is located a short walk from Lismore town centre, on the road to Ballysaggartmore Towers. The Mill, Ballyin, Lismore, P51 E93A.

MAP OF THE GARDENS AT LISMORE CASTLE



POINTS OF INTEREST

REILIG GARDEN

OLD SWIMMING POOL

Now covered, Adele Astaire built this swimming pool in the 1930s.

BIRCH GROVE

Planted in 2009

LOWER GARDEN

LILY POND

Water Lilies inhabit this pond in the Lower Gardens

MONKEY TOWER

Located overlooking the River Blackwater near where the town's main port would have been. There is much speculation as to the origins of the tower's name. Theories include the tower being used to house a Monkey Puzzle tree or possibly to store artillery

YEW AVENUE

Dating from the 17th Century, the Yew Avenue is where Edmund Spenser is said to have written part of The Faerie Queen

BERLIN WALL

Two sections of the wall which divided Berlin between 1961 - 1989. Installed here in 2015

UPPER GARDEN

ORCHARD

The trees here produce the apples which are pressed to make Lismore Castle Apple Juice

THE ICE HOUSE

Lismore has three ice houses, which were used to store salmon, in boxes packed with straw and ice, caught in the local river Blackwater prior to export

PERGOLA

Constructed using a Sweet Chestnut from the estate, which fell during a storm in 2014

JOSEPH PAXTON DESIGNED VINERY

Designed by Joseph Paxton (known for designing the Crystal Palace) in the 19th century and restored in 2021

THE CHERRY GARDEN

Originally created by Lady Burlington as a gift to Lord Burlington for his 40th birthday. Designed by Matthew Tull in 2009 and redesigned in 2023.

BROGHILL'S TOWER

Part of the outer defences of the castle, a cannonball remains lodged in the tower from the Irish Confederate Wars in the 17th Century

SCULPTURES

LOWER GARDEN

Richard Wright- no title (2011)

Acrylic on Stone. Commissioned as part of Still Life, 2011, curated by Polly Staple.

Eilís O'Connell - Over and Under Series IV (1999)

Bronze (Unique cast for Lismore Castle)

David Nash - Three Lismore Columns (2005)

Oak (Commissioned by the Duke of Devonshire for Lismore Castle)

Roman Signer - Ball in earth (2011)

Steel, ball bearings, bell. Please ask at the entrance desk for information on how to listen to this artwork.

UPPER GARDEN

Bridget McCrum - Hunting (2001)

Bronze

Bridget McCrum - Poised Bird (1997)

Clipsham stone on blue Hornton base

Edwin Whitney Smith - The Irishman (1907)

Bronze on a veined green marble base

PLANT GUIDE FOR THE GARDENS AT LISMORE CASTLE

Look for numbered plants in the gardens and find them here. Ask a member of the gardening team for assistance identifying any plant you may be interested in. There are a number of plants and seeds for sale at the entrance gate.

LOWER GARDENS

1 *Magnolia hypoleuca*

A native of Japan, this Magnolia blooms in mid-summer with creamy white, scented flowers followed by large seedpods

2 *Davidia involucrata*

The Handkerchief Tree from China is so called for the showy white bracts that surround the tiny flowers in the spring

3 *Hoheria sexstylosa*

Endemic to New Zealand, this evergreen Lacebark produces masses of white scented flowers in summer

4 *Luma apiculata*

A native of Chile, this myrtle has an abundance of flowers in summer and a luminous, cinnamon bark that flakes into patches of orange and white

5 *Nothofagus dombeyi*

Dombey's southern beech from southern Chile and Patagonia. A fast growing evergreen tree that can reach 40ft. In its native land it grows in groves mixed with the Monkey Puzzle tree and is happy in the Irish climate

6 *Rhododendron luteum*

Sweetly scented yellow flowers open in early summer on this deciduous azalea from the Caucasus

7 *Magnolia delavayi*

A beautiful and rare evergreen Magnolia, this is a fine specimen and an Irish champion. Large fragrant blooms sporadically open through the summer amongst the large glossy leaves

8 *Zelkova serrata*

Related to the Elm, this elegant tree has good autumn colour and is often used in the art of Bonsai

9 *Eucryphia x intermedia* 'Rostrevor'

Bees love the abundant nectar rich white flowers that cover this columnar evergreen in the late summer

10 *Paulownia tomentosa*

A native of China, the Empress Tree flowers in the spring as the large leaves unfurl. It can also be coppiced to produce even larger leaves

11 *Arbutus unedo*

This shrub, native of Killarney, thrives in acid soil. Former President Mary Robinson planted this specimen in 1991, however a large part was uprooted in a storm in 2014. The edible fruit look delicious but 'unedo' in latin means 'you eat only one'

12 *Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata'

All true Irish Yews, such as this one, are descended from a specimen discovered in Co. Fermanagh in 1778.

13 *Rhododendron augustinii*

Large clouds of flowers in shades of blue to purple appear in spring on this small leaved Rhododendron from the Himalaya

14 *Camellia x williamsii* 'St Ewe'

Bred in Cornwall in 1926 as one of the first Williams hybrids, this early flowering camellia has a mass of pink flowers over a long period

15 *Rhododendron arboreum* ssp. *cinnamomeum*

This Rhododendron has a distinctive dusty brown underside to its leaves with large trusses of white flowers produced in spring

16 *Magnolia sprengeri* 'Diva'

This native of western China is an attention grabber when in full flower in the spring when it is covered in rose to magenta blooms

17 *Rhododendron barbatum*

Introduced by Joseph Hooker from the Sikkim Himalaya this fine Rhododendron has brilliant red flowers in spring

18 *Schisandra rubriflora*

The Magnolia vine is a deciduous twining climber producing clusters of dangling crimson red flowers in early summer

UPPER GARDENS

19 *Abutilon vitifolium*

This fast growing shrub from Chile likes a sheltered sunny spot where it will happily produce lilac flowers from early summer

20 *Aralia elata*

The angelica tree is a an architectural plant that can sucker to create thickets of stems up to 20ft tall with huge bi -pinnate leaves growing from the tips.

21 *Phellodendron amurense*

The Amur Cork Tree is one of 50 fundamental herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine. As it matures it develops a corrugated bark

22 *Osmanthus yunnanensis*

Native to the Yunnan province in China, this evergreen shrub has sweetly scented flowers in late winter that last up to two months, weather permitting

23 *Tetradium daniellii*

When in flower in late summer the common name of this small tree becomes apparent. The Bee-Bee Tree attracts masses of bees and hoverflies to its blooms

24 *Rosa* 'the Generous Gardener'

Deliciously fragrant climbing rose producing pale pink flowers all summer long

25 *Ficus carica*

Reputed to be one of the first plants cultivated by humans, figs are encouraged to ripen here by being grown in a sunny site against a south facing wall

26 *Polylepis australis*

Known as tabaquillo where it is a native of central Argentina. It's main feature is it's bark which is a lovely cinnamon brown that flakes and rolls on the trunk and branches. A semi evergreen that will get to 6m

27 *Euphorbia mellifera*

Found in Madeira and the Canary Islands this handsome evergreen honey spurge has lovely honey scented flowers in the spring. Bees love it

28 *Prunus* 'Shirotae'

Gently weeping is probably the best way to describe the habit of this small but vigorous tree with a profusion of semi double white flowers in the spring

29 *Styrax japonica*

The graceful spreading habit of the Japanese snowbell shows off the numerous pendulous white bell shaped flowers that appear in early summer beautifully

30 *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

The Katsura tree has lovely shaped leaves that colour orange, yellow and red in the autumn and give off a scent of burnt sugar

31 *Rosa filipes* 'Kiftsgate'

A very vigorous, tough rambling rose that produces large clusters of small creamy white flowers with a strong musky fragrance

32 *Acer capillipes*

A small tree whose foliage unfurls red, turning green and then red in the autumn. The bark provides additional interest being striped green and white in the juvenile stage

33 *Amelanchier canadensis*

The serviceberry has white flowers in the spring followed by small edible fruits that can be used in jams

34 *Trachycarpus fortunei*

The Chusan palm grows well in cool damp climates, cultivated in China for its coarse fibre used for making rope and sacks

35 *Rosa bonica* 'Meidomonac'

A modern rose with an old fashioned look that produces clusters of small soft pink flowers throughout summer and autumn

36 *Cryptomeria japonica*

This tree was grown from seed given to Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire, by her sister Pamela Mitford in the 1950s, a few years before the adjacent orchard was planted