



Through much of the last two millennia, this place was Church lands. Saint Mobhi established a school by the river Tolka in the 6th Century. In the Middle Ages these fields were planted with wheat and barley to supply Christchurch Cathedral community.

Sir John Rogerson made a home for himself and his family at Glasnevin House, now a part of the Holy Faith Convent building. A series of families occupied the house from the 1740s onward. Hugh Mitchell was particularly interested in horticulture and developed these grounds beautifully. The vista South over Dublin encouraged the development of fashionable villas with extensive gardens in the area. Mary Delaney, Dean Jonathan Swift, George Berkeley all strolled around and conversed here. Bishop Lindsay came from Fife, a younger brother of the Earl. He liked gardens and introduced Scottish gardeners to Dublin – Ninian Niven and perhaps David Muir (later Moore), both involved with the National Botanic Gardens. Orders of Brothers and Sisters came to the grounds. Sufferers during a Cholera outbreak were brought here and treated successfully.

Margaret Aylward and her community came here and stayed. They were inspired by the views and the Tolka valley. The nature of the place soothed their hearts and revived their spirits. We hope you will enjoy our beautiful home too.



#### REFERENCES

[theirishaesthete.com/tag/Glasnevin-house](http://theirishaesthete.com/tag/Glasnevin-house)

Tony O'Doherty – A History of Glasnevin

Vivienne Keely – Glasnevin House

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## The Margaret Aylward Centre Botanical Tour



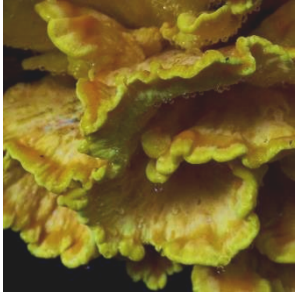
*Go out, go out I beg of you  
And taste the beauty of the wild.  
Behold the miracle of the earth  
With all the wonder of a child.*

*Enda Jaques*

The Margaret Aylward Centre is delighted to offer guests of our centre access to the Loop Walk on-site. All walkers must be signed in (and out) at the centre for health and safety reasons.

Thank you





Let us begin our tour at Glasnevin House -

**Stop 1:**  
walking past the convent, Marian House, and the Grotto to Our Lady

**Stop 2:**  
A very large Holm Oak, or Evergreen Oak tree (*Quercus ilex*). It hosts a white-grey lichen *Diploicia canescens* on its corrugated trunk

**Stop 3:**  
Oak Tree – Unusual American Oak tree (*Quercus ?alba*) with oddly round lobed leaves and raspy cupule holders for acorns.

**Stop 4:**  
Cedar of Lebanon – The prominent and much-loved Cedar (*Cedrus libani*) is a jewel in the crown of these grounds.

**Stop 5:**  
Yew Walk – (*Taxus baccata*), the Yew. This historic walk casts a deep shade. In late Summer some trees display the beautiful orange bracket fungus, *Laetiporus sulphureus*, Chicken of the Woods (see image above).

**Stop 6:**  
River with overhanging trees – mainly Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The wild, riparian trees contrast with the colours and exoticism of plants on the National Botanic Gardens south bank of the Tolka River. Water flows a short distance from near Dunshaughlin to the sea at Clontarf. Trout and smaller fish can be seen swimming over the stones in late Spring, while Mayflies and Dragonflies are on the wing in early Summer.

**Stop 7:**  
Oak – A beautiful Native Irish Oak tree (*Quercus robur*) has lost a limb during a recent storm event. This highlights that even great trees are vulnerable to climate change and spread of diseases and pests.

**Stop 8:**  
Biodiversity Garden - Irish Wildflowers are being planted within and around this area to produce flowers to feed the pollinating insects like bees. A wide range of birds come here through the year.

**Stop 9.**  
Trees along path – A range of pine and other conifers with Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) underneath.

**Stop 10:**  
Native Irish Oak (*Quercus robur*) Pedunculate Oak. You can tell this Oak from the other common Rock Oak (*Quercus petraea*, Doire) tree by looking at the leaf petioles or stems. In *Quercus robur* they are short while the acorn stems are long.



**Stop 11:**  
Margaret Aylward Centre with planted garden trees nearby – Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), Cherry (*Prunus*) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*).

