



HISTORY

The Borris Lace cottage industry

Lacemaking was introduced to Borris by **Lady Harriet McMorrough Kavanagh** of Borris House during the Great Famine of the mid-1840s. In a brave effort to help the local people, she taught the skill of lacemaking as a means to provide an income to distressed families.

Lady Harriet was an active woman with interests in archaeology, architecture and art. She sketched her own lace designs inspired by lace collected on her travels in Europe.

Despite a decline in the demand for handmade lace after the Second World War, the popularity of **Borris Lace** meant it survived, albeit in a limited way, until the 1960s.

Lace Collar — Brigid Kinsella



Borris House, Co. Carlow



Celtic Letter — Helena McAteer

REVIVAL

The Revival of Borris Lace

In 2016, a lace workshop was held in Borris House presented by Marie Laurie, a renowned Australian lacemaker and author. Following the workshop, a small group was formed to spearhead the revival.

Today, **Borris Lacemakers** is an innovative and creative community group breathing new life into a local tradition, sharing skills and stories and making connections within the community and beyond.

Borris Lace is a tape lace made with machine-made tape which is sewed down on a pattern and joined by various filling stitches using a needle and cotton thread. It is unique in its stitching techniques and is the only surviving Irish tape lace. Traditional designs are continuous and flowing with motifs based on nature.



Lady Harriet McMorrough Kavanagh



Tree of Life Table Centre — Brigid Kinsella

Be a part of the revival

Borris Lacemakers create exquisite pieces from existing patterns to take the craft to new levels. We use traditional techniques to create new designs with a contemporary edge.

Becoming a member promises multiple benefits that go above and beyond learning the skill of lacemaking.

The benefits of joining

Be part of a growing social outlet, meet like-minded people and make new friends.

Learn the skill of lacemaking and create timeless gifts for your friends and family.

In today's busy world, lacemaking is a wonderful way to relax and unwind, whilst playing your part in the revival of **Borris Lace**.

The Georgian village of Borris

Getting there

Full of charm and heritage, 30 minutes from Carlow or Kilkenny and 15 minutes from the M9, Borris sits in the River Barrow valley and is an ideal gateway for exploring the Blackstairs Mountains.

Things to do

Apart from our own Heritage Walking Trail, Borris also features on Carlow's Trail of the Saints, South Carlow Adventure Trail, Big Houses, Golf, Garden and Food Trails. While attending a workshop or weekly class, why not stay a while and explore our hidden treasures. Visit www.carlowtourism.com for more information.

Borris House

Dating back to the 18th century, Borris House is the ancestral home of the McMorrough Kavanagh family. Here one of the largest original collections of Irish lace can be viewed in its place of origin. The lace garden, within the walls of the original Laundry Green, features designs from original Borris Lace creations.

Store Gift Shop, Borris House

Selling local crafts and the book 'The Borris Lace Collection a Unique Irish Needlace' (2010) by Marie Laurie and Annette Meldrum. Visit www.borrishouse.ie for more information. The Borris area is a haven for crafts, modern and traditional. To find out more visit www.formcarlow.com



MEMBERSHIP

How to join?





Come along to our weekly classes. Suitable for all levels with experienced instructors on hand. Starter packs provided with everything you need.

Workshops, talks and exhibitions take place in conjunction with National Heritage Week and other cultural dates.

All weekly class and upcoming event details are listed on our Facebook page below.

Annual membership entitles you to attend all classes and events. Visitors are welcome to join in for a once-off class or workshop.

Drop us an email or or send a message online to find out more.

-  @borrislace
-  @BorrisLace
-  borrislacemakers@gmail.com
-  @borrislacemakers

BORRIS Lacemakers



Reviving
the unique
and distinctive
tradition of
lacemaking
in Borris,
Co. Carlow

