

## Bairbre Mulvany

### *Johnsfort – Ireland at Your Leisure*



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**B**airbre Mulvany, who is originally from Skryne in Co Meath, runs Johnsfort – Ireland at Your Leisure with her husband Richard on their family farm at Johnsfort, Clonmellon, Co Westmeath.

Bairbre was a primary school teacher, while Richard worked as a farmer. The couple had offered accommodation at Johnsfort through Airbnb and Booking.com since 2016, but in March 2023 they developed their offering into a tours and accommodation package.

Johnsfort – Ireland at Your Leisure is a small, family-run organic farm about an hour from Dublin, offering five-day farm stays and guided tours. Richard leads the tours, while Bairbre, who has left teaching, looks after the farm-stay experience and hospitality.

The idea grew from work Richard had taken on as a tour guide in Dublin. They decided to combine his guiding experience with their own setting and create a hosted Irish experience built around accommodation, tours, food and local culture.

The business is now focused fully on Monday-to-Friday farm stays with daily bespoke tours, and 2026 has been booked out since September 2025. Most guests come from the US and Canada.

Bairbre says a major milestone has been putting their own stamp on the business and creating a package that gives guests a full experience while allowing the family to reclaim weekends for farming and other work.

Participating in the ACORNS programme helped Bairbre develop “The Ballroom”, a renovated traditional Irish kitchen and social space now used for brown-bread baking, storytelling, history talks and group activities with guests. She says the programme also gave her contacts, confidence and peer support.

Bairbre and Richard plan to keep enhancing the visitor experience, including the addition of a self-guided farm walk with QR code stations, while continuing to support local businesses through workshops, tours and food experiences.

*Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.*



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