



A touch of frost in the Borders

Words and photography by Bill Tait

Bill Tait takes us on a personal tour of Carolside, a hidden gem of a garden in the Scottish Borders

*F*ading south down the A68 road from Edinburgh, one could almost be forgiven for missing the house nestling in the valley below. It is a scenic stretch of road, overhung by beech trees, bright green with their fresh unfolding leaves in springtime and with delightful tints as autumn progresses. The eye can be so taken by the colour that it is difficult to keep watch for the traffic speeding around the corners up ahead.

Carolside is situated beside the east bank of the River Leader upstream from Earlstoun, Berwickshire. It has been the home of Rose and Anthony Foyle for 14 years. No records exist of when the house was originally built, but it possibly dates back to the mid-1700s and the present house may have been built on the site of previous dwellings. It faces south-east, a short distance from the river, which makes a lazy 'S' sweep down the valley. Although a veritable suntrap in the