

CAROLSIDE GARDENS



The 1834 New Statistical Account of Scotland described Carolside in Berwickshire as "a sweet and secure asylum from the toils and troubles of the world". That still remains true today. Commanding a romantic view down the Leader valley and sheltered by the surrounding slopes of its own extensive woodlands, this eighteenth century mansion set in a former deer park is now protected as a Designed Landscape in an area of natural beauty with a thriving birdlife. Today Carolside is best known for holding a National Collection of pre-1900 Gallica Roses and for having one of Scotland's finest walled gardens.

The Georgian house, built in 1740 with Regency wings, is as handsome as its situation. It is thought that the facade was modelled on a design by Isaac Ware, the renowned eighteenth century architect, for Chesterfield House in London's Mayfair. There has been a dwelling on the site of Carolside for over 800 years and the present house has been owned by several distinguished Scottish families, many of whom were enthusiastic gardeners, in particular Lady Mary Gilmour, a daughter of the Duke of

Abercorn. As a child she was instilled with a passion for gardening which continued throughout her life and at Carolside, after the Second World War, she brought new life to the extensive Edwardian rose garden. She was a remarkable plantswoman and the bare bones of the planting in the garden are owed to her. The garden in its current splendour is the vision of the present owner, Rose Foyle, who has spent the last twenty five years building up an incredible rose collection of historical importance and breathing new life into the house and gardens. Just as for her predecessor, gardening has been a lifelong passion, inspired in childhood by a grandmother who loved roses above all things and by an aunt who was an outstanding plantswoman and botanist. The history of the rose and its beauty are what appealed to her so much. The fact that roses, the most loved flower of all time with an ancient and romantic history, are known to have existed for 35-40 million years, captured her imagination as a girl. She loved the story of the famous twelfth century Rosa Mundi, named after the Fair Rosamund, beautiful mistress of Henry II. Legend has it that as



A Gallica Rose from the collection

Henry rode off to war this rose sprang from her tears and that when she died she was buried in its petals.

The Gallica Rose, in particular, is the oldest rose in existence and is thought to have been brought to France by Thibault IV during the Crusades in the early thirteenth century. Most of the Gallica roses we know today were raised in France in the early nineteenth century. French growers hybridised them and Empress Josephine was said to have grown over 160 varieties at Malmaison in Paris, the greatest rose collection in the world at that time. Today Carolside holds many rare varieties in its collection and many that would once have been seen at Malmaison.

The romantic oval walled garden has been cultivated for over 200 years and its well-known rose garden from the Edwardian era has been restored, but this time inside the protective walls and with a rose collection, that on a summer's day, is staggeringly beautiful. It is known for its soft and delicate herbaceous borders in subtle colour schemes,

its striking delphinium beds, its secret garden, winter garden and herb garden backed by espaliered pear trees and filled with herbs and yellow and white roses. Lovers Walk has been replanted through the wrought iron rose gates. This walk was originally planted in 1796 when Lady Louisa Lennox, one of the four famous daughters of the 2nd Duke of Richmond eloped with her lover, Lord William Gordon, and took refuge at Carolside.

Kenneth Cox in his book 'Scotland for Gardeners' describes Carolside as 'one of Scotland's finest private gardens and would probably match many people's vision of the perfect English garden. There are over 200 varieties of old roses planted in double borders around the walls of the garden. The narrower inner borders were designed as home for the National Collection of Gallica Roses. These are grown alone, so that they can be intensively fed, but in the herbaceous borders the roses grow happily in association with a rich variety of perennials and the herbaceous plantings are particularly beautiful.

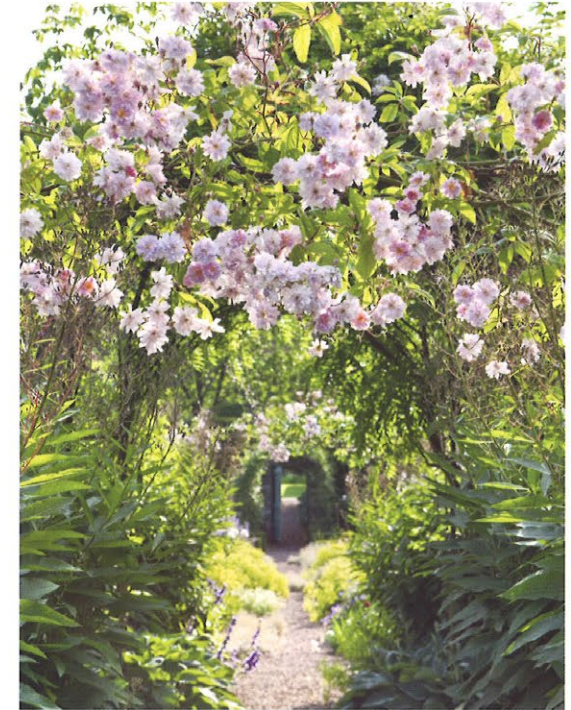
Carolside is a brilliantly planned and executed garden by a passionate gardener. Rose Foyle has a clear vision of exactly what she wants to achieve. She has created a garden full of memorable colour combinations, vistas and bold contrasts from one room to another.'

Carolside is a garden one should not miss. It has an atmosphere all of its own, a garden planted with love and charm, in an incomparable setting and is a step back in time to a gentler age, leaving one with an enduring memory.

Carolside Gardens are open to the public Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 24th June - 31st July, 11am - 5pm

Group tours and special visits by arrangement

www.carolside.com



Charles de Mills, 1786



Chateau de Namur, 1845