



Carolside

Carolside
Earlston, Berwickshire, TD4 6AL

Anthony and Rose Foyle
SG late June to early August
Wed, Fri, Sun; ££
Turn off A68 at sign 1 mile north
of Earlston, 6 miles south of
Lauder
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Carolside would probably match many people's vision of the perfect English garden, though Rose Foyle says that it is more inspired by gardens familiar from her childhood in Northern Ireland. The old drive to the house crosses a handsome arched stone bridge over the Leader Water which can be appreciated from the newly planted riverside walk, where you might meet the collection of black and white ducks. The main plantings are in and outside the walled garden and around the house. The oval-shaped garden appears to have a skirt of *Nepeta* which spills out from under the shrub roses and *Philadelphus* on either side of the main door. Inside it has the traditional cruciform layout, dividing it into quadrants, and the curved walls create an intimate space. The deep main herbaceous borders up the middle are backed with climbing roses on a series of poles linked with chains. The perennials include *Delphinium*, *Campanula* and lupins at the back with *Salvia*, peonies, *Viola*, *Alchemilla* and *Nepeta* spilling out onto the path. The centrepiece pergola is covered with *Wisteria* and two vigorous rambling roses. There are 200 varieties of old roses planted around the perimeter walls and these are Rose Foyle's particular passion; she reels off the names of each one as we walk round and she has assembled what is clearly a collection of historical importance. Next to the greenhouses at the far end a parterre is filled with a David Austin rose 'Eglington' which produces its double pink flowers from midsummer to autumn. East of the main walled garden are two further enclosed sections, the first is a small oval walled 'secret garden' which features an urn, surrounded by pink roses and a pool of tumbling blue-purple *Nepeta*. Next to this is a further walled area with a set of four

triangular box beds filled with herbs, with muscular sprawling tufts of comfrey and spikes of angelica around the outside. Again the walls are covered with roses, including the flamboyant *Rosa gallica* 'Versicolor'. Carolside is one of Scotland's finest walled gardens and one of the best collections of roses; the garden's reputation in the Borders is exceptional; other garden owners were high in their praises and for good reason. Carolside is a brilliantly planned and executed garden by a passionate gardener; Rose has a clear vision of exactly what she wants to achieve: she delights in the 'calm oasis and beautiful serene place' she has created, full of memorable colour combinations, vistas and bold contrasts from one 'room' to another. I particularly liked the sudden change from the luxuriant colours of the walled garden, through the door to the cool, simple colours of the *Hosta* border, minimalist green hedged square and pillar with a surround of white *Iris sibirica*. Carolside is at its best from late June to early August and is one of Scotland's finest private gardens.

Corbet Tower

Simon and Bridget Fraser bought Corbet Tower and its garden, which nestles under the scenic Cheviot Hills to the south of the River Tweed, in 2004. The garden was already established and well planted. Historic Corbet Tower, which stands in the garden, served as a retreat during frequent cross-border warfare in the Middle Ages. Still in good condition it was restored for use as a studio in Victorian times. The hillside garden falls into four sections: parkland, a woodland walk, a formal rose parterre and a working walled garden. The parkland contains a mixture of established and newly planted deciduous trees. A path leads from the main drive under lime avenues forming the woodland walk, with carpeted snowdrops, hellebores, trilliums and daffodils in spring, which in turn leads to a newly landscaped pond and Japanese bridge and stream, bordered with *Ligularia* and hostas. Above this, to the east of the house via flowering cherry trees underplanted with lilies, is the rose parterre formally laid out with box hedging bordering two main blocks of 'Ispahan' and 'Madame Hardy' with 'Blue Magenta', 'Tuscany Superb' and 'William Lobb' in the surrounding beds. Above this, further up the hill is the sloping well-stocked fruit and vegetable stone-walled garden which contains 12 different varieties of flour-ishing rhubarb, espaliered apples and a working greenhouse. *Nepeta* and lavender line all the gravel paths and the Frasers have included flower beds with delphiniums, 'Ballerina' roses and peonies alongside annual cutting beds for sweet peas, hollyhocks, dahlias and gladioli. A herbaceous bed runs the length of the upper drive between the rose and walled gardens. The Frasers bought Corbet Tower almost unseen and many people would have been daunted by the extent of the garden. But inspired by Simon's parents' wonderful garden at

Corbet Tower
Morebattle, Kelso,
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Simon and Bridget Fraser
SG every other year – next
opening July 2014, groups by
appointment. Please e-mail well
in advance
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