





Standing for Four Carriages, Stalls for Seven Horses, Two Loose Boxes, Harness Room, with Gardener's Room, Fruit Room, Man's Room, and large Lofts over,

FARM YARD, GRANARY, DUNG PIT AND MANURE TANK, DOG KENNEL, PIGGERY, SHEDS, &c.,

WITH AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF WATER,

Lawn, Flower Beds, Pleasure Grounds, and Shrubbery Walks leading to a beautiful Terrace Walk,

ROOKERY, CAPITAL KITCHEN GARDEN,

(ABOUT AN ACRE IN EXTENT),

Surrounded by a lofty Wall and clothed with Fruit Trees in full bearing,

HOT HOUSE AND VINERY, MELON AND CUCUMBER PITS, AND A THRIVING ORCHARD.

ADJOINING THE SHRUBBERIES IS

"THE WARREN,"

A picturesque Knoll of a considerable elevation, well-stocked with RABBITS, and crowned by a small PLANTATION and SUMMER HOUSE.

NEAR THERETO, AND WITHIN A FEW MINUTES' WALK OF THE MANSION, IS

STOBERRY COTTAGE,

WITH STABLE, BARN, GRANARY, KENNEL, SHEDS, AND OUTBUILDINGS,

All recently built, in good repair, and well adapted for the Residence of a Farm Bailiff or Gamekeeper,

TOGETHER WITH

TWO CONVENIENT PADDOCKS AND A PLANTATION ADJOINING.

THE PARK

Is studded with HANDSOME TIMBER, in great variety, is surrounded with BELTS and GROVES of PLANTATIONS, and is enclosed by a WALL,

THE WHOLE CONTAINING

86 ACRES, 3 ROODS, AND 35 PERCHES,

(BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS),

Lying as follows:—



Stoberry House and Garden - A Landscape Transformed

Stoberry House and Park occupies the site of a former Mediaeval field.

Stoberry is approached at the head of College Road . It was built by Peter Davis, one of the resident gentry. In 1718 he began to acquire parcels of land. On this, he built himself a new Mansion, Stoberry, set in landscaped grounds. The name was antiquarian in inspiration deriving from an earlier name of the open field which was Stabergh.

It was built and lived in by 1745.

The House was demolished in 1957 and used to stand where our pond-garden lake-is now situated; the present Stoberry House was originally the coach house





When we first viewed
Stoberry, my first reaction
was to turn around and flee



"A whole new chapter in the family's life began, arriving in Wells from Botswana and transforming an English jungle into a fantastic garden - a piece of paradise from a wilderness, filled with black sheep and barbed wire, left to run wild the untamed garden was awaiting transformation", wrote garden journalist Mervin Hancock.

On viewing Stoberry for the first time, my first reaction was to turn around and flee, but my husband fell in love with the view and the position, so persuaded me to reconsider and imagine a vision that could be created on the large blank canvas. So, we started gardening at Stoberry in 1997.



To the East of the House is the Walled Garden. Part of this used to be a very rough area, used for sheep and full of thistles and nettles, now the open part of the Garden - with one area leading you through to a view of the next. There is a new rose garden, which is sheltered and enclosed in a peaceful corner, allowing you to sit and enjoy the fragrances and the scent of the Clerodendrum. The sunken garden is a much more contained area, luring you to explore and wander.

When I started to think about of the design for the Garden, the advice given to me by friends was to break it up into several 'rooms' - which I know would have worked successfully - but I feel we are so lucky to have space, and with my African background, I wanted to enjoy this. Gardening is great fun. Everyone's opinions differ about the way a garden should look. I have always felt it is a bit like cooking....some people like spicy food, others bland, and who is to say which one is right!For me living as far as possible in balance with nature is important







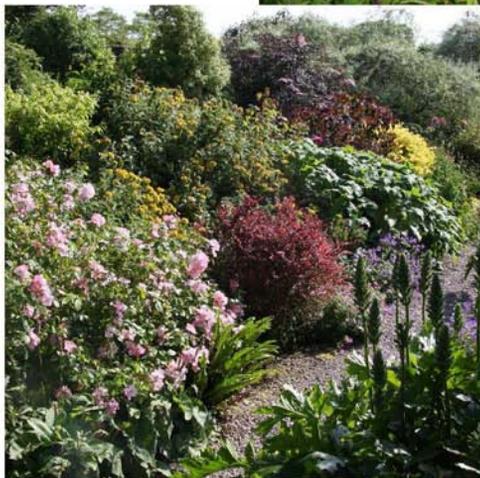
For me a successful garden is one that has interest and colour throughout the year. My aim is to provide that; the freshness of spring daffodils leading through to tulips and iris's, followed by the summer roses, and progresses through the year to the autumn colours.













The confined space and strong planting of the sunken garden comes into its own with the intensity of scent; and with the different textures, partially sighted guests enjoy this area; Monty our cat loves to sun bathe there

In the approach to the House, at first we were greeted by piles of rubble left from the demolition of the old house, there were no water features, but by creating a pond we attract a variety of wildlife. There are various sitting areas placed to enjoy the outstanding views.







Sculpture is another great love of mine. Our vision is of works of art integrated as part of the planting scheme. They can be used to accentuate, fill an empty gap or blend a planting scheme together





Sculpture can provide an element of surprise or offer a talking point











The fantasy of frost to enjoy



the artistry of winter



the beauty - the atmosphere







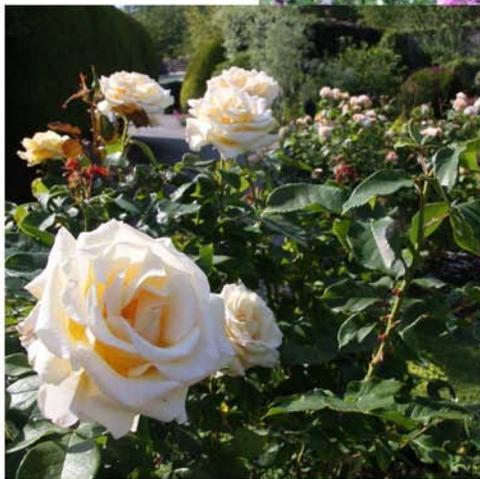
The pristine beauty
of winter



New life bursting
forth heralds the
season of spring











The Aeonium display at Stoberry always draws comment; we started it from one plant and propagate more every year.







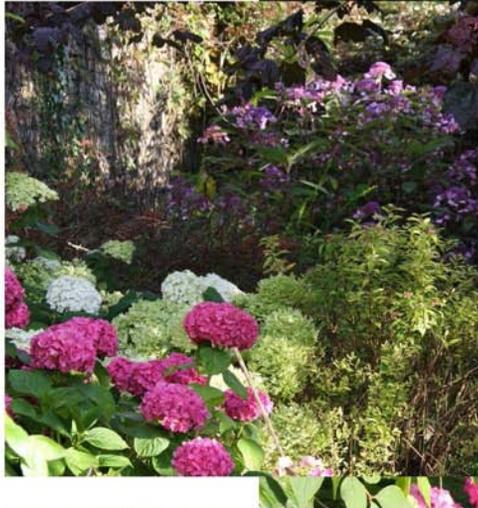
In the meadowland area, we wanted a naturalistic feel; we have experimented with wild spring flowers; however there is a knack to this and so now we have a long bug, bee and butterfly friendly walk - you meander through natural paths to our wild flower circles, spring and summer; then visit the copse and the bug hotel and end with a rest on the bench to enjoy the view surrounded by the birch grove.

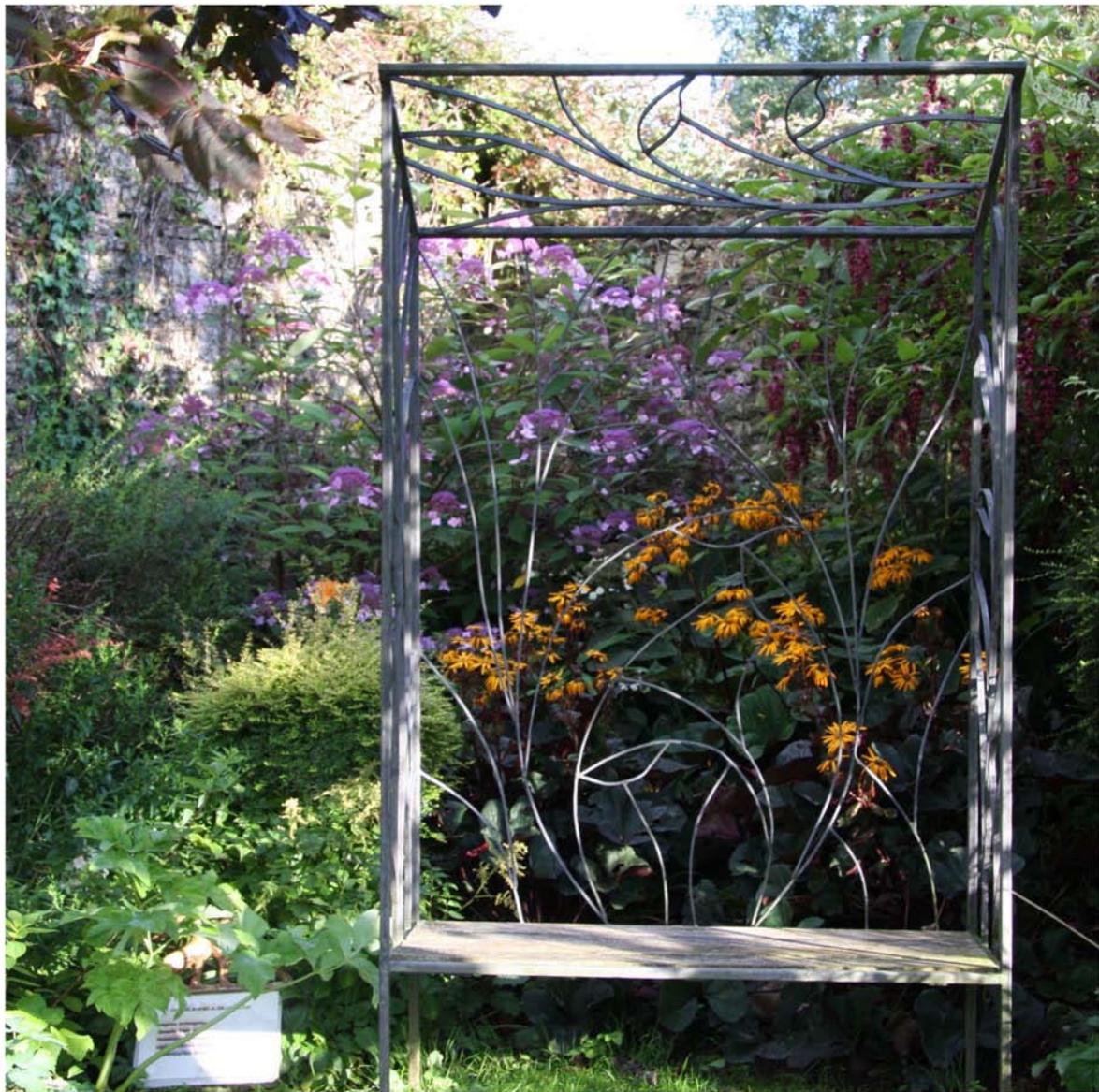
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In a shady damp area of garden we have planted many varieties of Hydrangea; we enjoy them all and smile when we think of Christopher Lloyd's comments on Hydrangea 'Annabelle' - "She's a bit of a pushy lady, isn't she....."





We planted a fernery; developed from the concept of a stumpery, we wanted, as with all our planting at Stoberry, for those with small gardens to be able to easily transfer our ideas to their gardens, using interesting pieces of wood, easy to collect while out on a ramble and planting them up with ferns, one adds interest to a shady space. As wood decays just add more pieces!





We light the one and a half acre walled garden to portray the visual difference - it is like painting with light. The changing light casting shadows, flickering as the breeze plays through the foliage; for various events we have lighting around shimmering water







Stoberry garden, which
gives us so much pleasure



As we
experience the
garden
changing and
maturing, new
beds completed
new ideas
formed, new life
bursting
forward and the
beautiful sounds
of nature as the
wind swishes;
buzzing bees
and bird song
add to the
orchestra and
life that is part
of the magic

A family Garden such as Stoberry is full of memories and moments of vivid recollections - happy, funny and sad: the happiness it has given to all the family as they have grown up and flown the family nest, and when coming home always wanting to enjoy the garden and see what new ideas we have had, watching the antics of our pets and the wild life sometimes a little vexing; visitors to the garden, overheard comments bring a smile to one's lips; my beloved mother who in the last years of her life lived at Stoberry and toiled in the garden; I still see her there; friends who are with us no longer but gave me plants, and advice, and made suggestions, so when passing by or working in the flower beds a reflective moment brings together all who have joined our journey through the yearsWhen planning and planting Stoberry Garden, I have done this not as a plants woman but more as an artist - yes, I love our more rare and unusual plants that are incorporated into the garden, and appreciate the naming of plants in the beds is important but colour, texture, and form are most important to me; this I like to bring to every season, the joy of such a large canvas. I have to admit to sometimes chastising myself for making life so difficult, it is so much easier to have a spring, summer, autumn or winter garden.

I am not the only influence at Stoberry; so many ideas are formulated, discussed and implemented by what we grandly call the garden team, all involved in the garden and bring a little of themselves to it. Stoberry is still an on-going developing project with new schemes being discussed all the time; and do remember that with a garden, it is not just the challenge of creating that gives one confidence, but also the knowledge that if you make a mistake you just dig it up and rearrange; so your mistakes do not need to be forever present. My thanks to the garden team, Dan Frost who has headed up the team and has helped me to create this garden over many years, Tim my husband for all his support and all the guests and professional photographers who have allowed us to use their work to publicise the garden we love having such an extensive library of pictures to remind us of how we have progressed through time .

Plant list

The dynamic nature of gardening means we are always adding and subtracting from our Plant list. We are happy to provide you with our latest version If you would like a Plant list.

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