

Adlington Hall Gardens at RHS Tatton 2016

Following on from our Bronze award winning Back to Back garden, at RHS Tatton 2015, we decided to exhibit, again in 2016 with the Cheshire Gardens of Distinction, to see if we could top the Bronze.

We have a team of 4 gardeners here at Adlington Hall. Between them, they manage to keep the 60 acres of land we are situated within neat, tidy and colourful all year round.

Preparation for this year's Back to Back Garden started early in the autumn of 2015. Our Head Gardener, Anthony O'Grady, was asked to come up with an idea of the type of garden he would like to exhibit. Whilst visiting a museum in Liverpool, Anthony came across a poem that was written about Adlington Hall. Written by Thomas Townsend, 1st Viscount Sydney (24/2/1732 – 30/6/1800) it is believed to have been written after November 1778. The full poem follows;

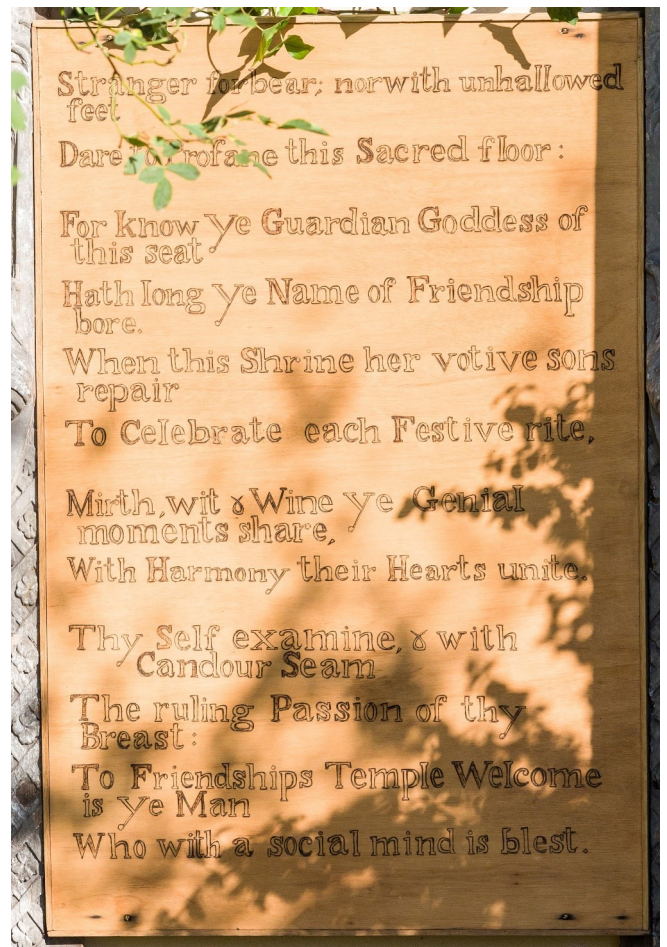
*Stranger forbear; nor with unhallow'ed feet
Dare to profane this sacred floor :
For knows ye Guardian Goddess of his seat
Hath long ye Name of friendship bore,
When this shrine her votive sons repair
To Celebrate each festive Rite,
Mirth, wit and wine ye genial moments
share;
With Harmony their Hearts unite.*

*Thy self examine, and with candor seam
The ruling passion of thy Breast;
To Friendships Temple welcome is ye man
Who with a social mind is blest.*

The idea was to recreate a garden around the era that the poem was written. Anthony wanted the garden to



Anthony O'Grady
Head Gardener at
Adlington Hall



pay homage to the eclecticism of the early English landscape garden. There would be a serpentine path that would lead to a classical niche set in a mossy glade framed by mixed borders. It would be both contemporary in its planting and strongly evocative of the 18th century English garden.

The following list of plants were used;

Amelanchier Lamarkii

Buxus Sempervirens "Latifolia"

Rosa alba single form

Betula Pendula "younngii"

Enkianthus Campanulatus

Ceratostigma Willmottianum

Acanthus Mollis

Phlomis Russeliana

Verbena Bonariensis

Iris Siberica

Hemerocallis Summer Wine

Echinacea Purpurea

Sidalcea Malviflora

Penstemon Firebird

Geranium Renardii

Aster Frikartii Monch

Hemerocallis Stella D'oro

Knautia Macedonica

Chrysanthemum Maximum Wirral Supreme

Polemonium Caeruleum

Persicaria Amplexicaule Speciosa

Astrantia Major Start of Fire

Veronicastrum Virginiana

Linaria Purpurea Canon J Went

Euphorbia Sikkimensis

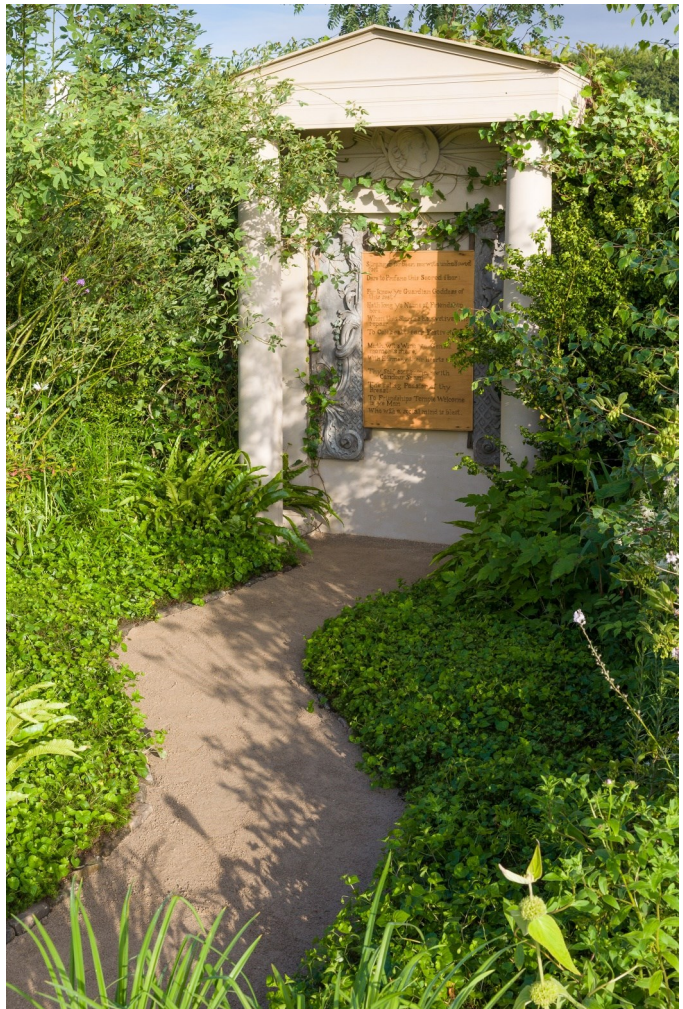
Sanguisorba Tenuifolia

Geranium Phaeum

Anemone Tormetosa

Anthony's ideas for the Back to Back Garden came together beautifully and culminated in a stunning piece of art that has been exhibited at the RHS Tatton, for the last week.

We were more than delighted when the results were announced to find out we had topped last year's Bronze award, with a 'Silver Gilt' award. We were also were honoured with 'Best Show Feature'. A huge success for Anthony and his team; Bart, Matt and Paul, safe to say we are very proud of them all and glad all their hard work has paid off!



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