

# No Standing Still at Hodnet Hall

Gardener Ross Underwood is planting ready for the new season



Winter is the time when the garden generally stands still waiting for the turn of the seasons.

However, it is often the time of greatest transformation for gardeners when new projects are undertaken. Hodnet Hall is no exception.

Normally the three gardeners who work in the pleasure grounds are kept permanently busy during the growing season. Larger projects must wait until the end of the year.

This time we tackled two areas immediately below the house. One of which was dominated by a rather tired planting of rhododendrons that had originally been put in as a windbreak. The second occurred because a large and imposing Abies had to be felled. Some wind damage resulted in a tree inspection when large cracks were found, and it was decided that the safest thing was to bring it down. Specialists were called in as the tree towered over one of the summer houses next to the main lake. As it had just been renovated and given a new roof care was needed!

This left a large hole in the bank which we have been working to replace. A large Liriodendron was purchased to quickly fill a gap and surrounded with three Eucryphia. Below it on the south facing slope have been added Euonymus, flowering dogwood (Cornus), roses and deciduous Azaleas. On the opposite side Magnolia stellata and hydrangeas have been planted for a massed effect in spring and summer.

As I write this in February there is nothing to see but we hope that when you visit you can begin to see the new planting taking shape!



"On the south facing slope flowering dogwood (Cornus) have been added"

Photo: Ross Underwood



"On the opposite side hydrangeas have been planted for a massed effect in spring and summer"

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