

Report for the Stanley Smith (UK)

Horticultural Trust

PAINSHILL PARK TRUST APRIL 2020



Restoring the east facing fruit bays on the productive garden wall.

## **Report on Funding of £2675.00 given by the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust for the purchase of fruit trees and bushes on the east facing wall of Charles Hamilton's walled gardens at Painshill Park received October 2019**

### **Background to the project**

The walled (productive) gardens at Painshill were constructed in 1756. The kitchen garden contained a hothouse and 'pine pits' (hotbeds for growing pineapples) and the walls were planted on the outside as well as the inside. Currently the north and west walls are already planted on the outside with a selection of apple, pear and cherry trees to recreate Hamilton's orchards. The aim of this project is to plant fruit trees and bushes on the east facing wall which is so important as it is the first aspect seen by visitors as they cross the bridge and approach the Painshill landscape. Having the fruit trees in place on the east wall will help recreate for visitors the atmosphere of Hamilton's productive garden and set the scene for their experience of an 18<sup>th</sup> century garden.



The trees will be grown in espalier style using wires and vine eyes to recreate the method used in Hamilton's time and it is worth noting that the walls are original and still contain some of the nails and holes from those very first plantings.

The walls include a small overhang designed to give the trees some protection from frost. Apples and pears are commonly grown as espalier as it is a space-saving planting method.

### **How the money was spent**

The money has been spent in planting the east facing wall with fruit trees and planting fruit bushes in the beds in front.

There are 15 bays in total and a range of different apple and pear trees have been purchased to ensure that there is a different fruit tree in each bay. The plants purchased include:

Pear : Pyrus 'Triumph de Vienna' and Pyrus 'Beurre Hardy'

Apple: Malus 'Tom Putt', Malus 'James Grieve', Malus 'Ellisons Orange'

Fruit bushes have also been purchased for the beds in front of the bays with each one containing one type of soft fruit: Blackcurrant, Blueberry, Gooseberry, Loganberry, Raspberry, Red currant, and White currant so that the range of soft fruits planted is authentic to Hamilton's original design



The total cost of the planting amounted to (£975.00) with the remainder of the funding being spent on 30 tonnes of top soil (£800.00) and other costs associated with the preparation of the plantings such as the fencing supports and wall vine eyes (£800.00).

### **How we executed the project**

Six months after the funding all the required plants have been purchased and the ground prepped along the east wall making use of the topsoil.



The wall vine eyes are also now in place.

However due to the Covid 19 pandemic all the landscape team, other than Head of Estates Andy Mills and one other gardener are now furloughed so the project is not yet completed.

The plants and shrubs are currently held in the kitchen garden beds where they can more easily be tended by Andy before planting out during the autumn. We had planned to involve our volunteers in this project but at this time we are unable to do so but very much hope they may be able to assist with the planting in the autumn.

The photos below show the fruit trees which have been purchased lined out in the kitchen garden where they can be tended in advance of planting in the autumn.



At this time Andy has not yet wired the walls and installed the sleeper and fencing – this will be done over the coming months.

Until the landscape reopens, unfortunately we will not be able to prepare the interpretation panel (£100) to inform visitors about the history of this part of the garden and the information about the fruit trees and bushes.

### **Conclusion**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees of the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust and the Trust's Director for granting this application which has enabled us to restore the 15 east facing fruit bays on the productive garden wall. For our visitors coming across the bridge this will be their first glimpse of Painshill so it is crucial that the plantings they see there are authentic and true to Hamilton's 18th century gardens at Painshill.

I hope you will agree that this project meets the objectives of the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust and we are grateful for your enormous support for this project which has been successful in helping to restore a garden of historic interest.

I do hope that before too long I might have the pleasure of showing the Director or any of the Trustees of the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust around Painshill so you can see the impact of the past three projects on these historic landscape gardens.