



## Report to Stanley Smith UK Horticultural Trust July 2019

In November 2018, Winterbourne was in receipt of a £1,000 grant from the Stanley Smith UK Horticultural Trust for the purpose of container planting as part of our planned exhibition, The Evolution of a Garden. Following a slight delay, the exhibition was opened to the public on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

The exhibition is in two parts, the first covering 1904 to 1944, and the second covering 1944 to the present. The Trust's grant was spent on container planting for the first section, which comprises graphic interpretation panels and objects set in a courtyard which was formally closed to the public.

The exhibition covers the following themes:

### Part 1 – 1904-1944

**An Edwardian Lady's Dream:** The Arts and Crafts design of the garden, and the influence of Gertrude Jekyll's ideas

**Margaret Nettlefold's Garden:** Features designed by the Nettlefolds which are still in evidence today

**A Place to Work:** Some of the gardeners who worked at Winterbourne

**The Changing Face of Gardening:** Technology in use at the time of the Nettlefolds

**A Businessman's Passion:** The changes which took place in the garden under John Nicolson in the 1930s, and features introduced by Nicolson which are still in evidence today

**A Place for People:** Charity events, weddings and political gatherings which took place at Winterbourne between 1904 and 1944

### Part 2 – 1944 onwards

**A Botanical Garden:** The transfer of Winterbourne to the University of Birmingham and its adoption as the University's botanical and research garden. Pioneering research projects including the seed bank, the MSc course in plant genetics, the British Antarctic Survey.

**Throw it Open!:** The restoration of the garden in the 2000s and its opening to the public

The exhibition greatly enhances our offer for visitors, and deepens their understanding of the history of Winterbourne's garden.

The courtyard before redevelopment:



The same courtyard following redevelopment:



The container planting has transformed the space, inviting visitors to explore an area that was formerly inaccessible to them. The grant was spent on the purchase of giant half-barrels, which lend a rustic feel to the space, and on plants and compost. The containers are complemented by planting in the surrounding gravel which gives the containers a context and creates the impression that the planting scheme is well-established. The



planting colour scheme, which includes rich reds and purples, complements the interpretation boards and the red-brick construction of the surrounding buildings.



Winterbourne House and Garden is deeply grateful for the support of the Stanley Smith UK Horticultural Trust in making this container planting possible. Without it, the transformation of this space would not have been achieved. Visitors are already benefiting



from the new exhibition and a larger proportion of this historic is now accessible to the public.

