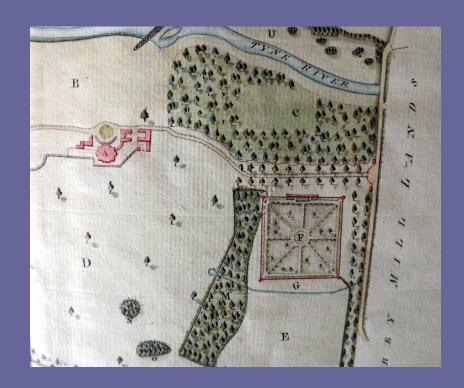
# AMISFIELD PARK

Discovering a Hidden Landscape



Amisfield Preservation Trust

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Amisfield Preservation Trust 2021

### Introduction

On the outskirts of Haddington, in the county of East Lothian, lie the remains of a forgotten landscape. The pleasant parkland setting of Haddington Golf Club offers few immediate clues to the rich history of Amisfield Park. On closer inspection, an avenue of ancient lime trees, a derelict stable building, a Rococo summerhouse and an ornamental cascade on the River Tyne all indicate a former grandeur.

Hidden within neglected woodland at the east end of the Park lies a vast walled garden with circular corner pavilions. Further investigation reveals a Gothic folly near the southern boundary, and derelict lodge houses by the east entrance. This diverse collection of garden buildings is the remnants of a fine designed landscape associated with Amisfield House, a Palladian mansion built by the Earl of Wemyss in the 1750's, now sadly demolished.

This booklet is a result of research, drawing on documentary records and plans, which is being used to inform an ambitious restoration project within the Park.

Research into the Park's history is not yet complete, there is undoubtedly much remaining to be discovered. Nevertheless, we hope that this booklet will give a taste of the fascinating history of Amisfield Park and its owners, and will encourage those who read it to explore the park for themselves and to support its conservation.



### **Origins**

The story of Amisfield Park begins in the 12th century, with the founding of the Abbey of Haddington. In 1139, Countess Ada of Northumberland and Huntington married Prince Henry, the only son and heir of David I. Ada was given the Royal Burgh of Haddington, together with other surrounding land, as a wedding gift from her new father in law, the king. She decided to found a Cistercian nunnery dedicated to St. Mary, and chose to site it on the north bank of the River Tyne, about a mile to the east of the town.

The Abbey was built between 1153 and 1178, and stood on flat ground on the north side of the River Tyne, near to the site of the present Abbeymill Farm. The land on which Amisfield Park is now situated formed part of the wider area of land which supported the Abbey.



Abbey Bridge

The Abbey flourished for nearly four centuries as a centre for worship and an educational college. It played its part in Scots history when, in 1548, during the siege of Haddington, the Scots Parliament was convened at the Abbey. The Queen-Mother, Mary of Guise, was received at the Abbey, and through her influence it was agreed that the young Mary Queen of Scots should be educated at the French court and become betrothed to the Dauphin of France.

The Abbey later fell into decline and the lands were disposed of in the 1560's. It is not clear who obtained them. Records exist showing them passing to William Maitland of Lethington, secretary to Mary Queen of Scots, but there are also accounts that they passed to his rival, James Bothwell.

## The New Mills Cloth Manufactory

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the land that is now known as Amisfield Park was in the ownership of a wealthy Englishman, Colonel James Stanfield. A former officer in the Cromwellian Army, Stanfield was a capable businessman with political connections, and sat in the Scots Parliament as representative for East Lothian.

In 1681, Stanfield acquired existing mill premises on the banks of the River Tyne, a site chosen for its situation near to the wool-producing Lammermuir Hills, and for its proximity to Edinburgh and the Port of Leith. Stanfield then granted a nineteen year lease of the premises to a newly-formed company for the manufacture of fine woollen cloth. The company was named the New Mills Cloth Manufactory, and had Stanfield, together with Robert Blackwood, a director of the ill-fated Darien Company, as chief shareholders.

#### New Mills

"A great manufactory stone house on the south syde of the village of Newmylnes being one hundredth and one foot in length, twentie-one foot in breadth within the walls, and three storie high."

Besides this property, the Company rented some other buildings, including a dye-house and adjoining land. Around the same time, a new mansion house, Newmills House, was built near to where Haddington Golf Clubhouse sits today.

The company established mill buildings to house twenty looms. Annual output was estimated at 55,823 ells of cloth, giving a yearly turnover of £55,823 Scots. Profits were estimated at £16,395 Scots, or equivalent to over £200,000 in today's currency.

The New Mills Cloth Manufactory was one of the first enterprises to benefit from an Act of Parliament passed in 1681 with the aim of developing trade and manufacturing in Scotland, and which granted protective rights to a number of ventures. The State protection afforded to the company was a prohibition on the imports of cloth on the one hand and of the export of wool on the other.



The weir on the River Tyne, close to the site of New Mills

For over twenty years the company carried on its operations with varying success. From the outset it faced difficulties in finding local labour, and in paying the high wages demanded by skilled workmen from England and abroad. The management ruled the workforce with a rod of iron. A prison was built, where disobedient workers were detained until the following market day in Haddington, when they had to "stand in time of the mercat two hours, with a paper mentioning their fault in great letters".

Within three years the company was thriving, employing a workforce of over seven hundred, and paying a handsome dividend to its shareholders. Stanfield was knighted for his success with the venture. However, licences for the importation of English cloth continued to be issued, in spite of the Government's policy to prohibit such imports, and conflicts abounded between the local weavers and those from England and abroad.

By 1686,' Stanfield himself was in financial difficulties due to the extravagance of his wayward eldest son, Philip. It is known that Stanfield was keen to sell his share in the land and buildings at New Mills in order to pay off his debts and to set up a new company. However, these plans were never realised due to his untimely death.

#### Stanfield's Death

Stanfield's body was found one morning in early December 1687, lying in a ditch, in such a condition that either suicide or foul play was suspected. Lord Fountainhall of Pencaitland, a contemporary judge, wrote: "Sir James Stanfield being found dead some few days before, beside his oldhouse of Newmills, some thinking he had drowned himself in some melancholy fit, to which he was incident; the fame of the country did run that he was strangled by his son or servants; for he had disinherited his eldest son for his debauchery and disponed his fortune to his second son. On this suspicion there was an order directed from the Privy Council to Muirhead and Crawford, chirugions, in Edinburgh to visit his body and report; for they had very hastily buried him, pretending that they would not have his body to be gazed upon and viewed by allcomers".

The surgeons had the body exhumed and examined it in Morham Church. The inspection concluded that the body did indeed show signs of strangulation, and those suspected of the murder, including Stanfield's eldest son Philip, were brought to touch the corpse. The old-time custom of making a suspected murderer touch the corpse of his victim, to see whether the wounds would bleed again, was used in this case for the last time in Scotland.

On Philip going through the ordeal, his father's head did indeed bleed, which was accepted as an indication of his guilt. The deceased's relations were then required to lift the corpse back into the coffin after the inspection, whence

"the said Philip Stanfield touching of it (according to God's usual mode of discovering murder), it bled afresh upon the said Philip, and that thereupon he let the body fall, and fled from it in the greatest consternation, crying, 'Lord, have mercy upon me'

Philip, together with two of Sir James' servants and a woman, was apprehended and imprisoned. Philip's presumed accomplices were brought before the Privy Council on 8th December, and were "tortured with the thumbikins, but confessed nothing".

### The Trial of Philip Stanfield

Philip Stanfield was brought to trial, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged at the Cross of Edinburgh on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1688. Furthermore, it was decreed that

"his tongue should be cut out for cursing his father, and his right hand cut off for the parricide; and his head to be put upon the east Port of Haddington, as nearest to the place of murder; and his body to be hung up in chains betwixt Leith and Edinburgh, and his lands and goods to be confiscated for the treason".

The sentence was duly carried out, but Philip did not enjoy a swift end. The knots on the rope slipped as Philip was being hanged, and he fell to his knees on the scaffold. The executioners held him down and strangled him. The resemblance between his own death and that of his father was seen as further evidence of his guilt.

The body was hung up in chains on the Gallowlee, (now part of Leith Walk), but after a few days was stolen and was subsequently found lying in a ditch. Again the resemblance to his father's death caused a great stir among the populace. The body was hung up for a second time, and was again stolen, but this time was never recovered.

Following the death of its founder, the New Mills company began to decline. With the Treaty of Union in 1707, free trade was provided between England and Scotland, with the result that imported cloth was sold at much lower rates than could be produced at New Mills. The company was unable to operate under these economic conditions, and by 1711 preparations were being made for the company to be wound up. The machinery was sold off and in 1713 the lands and house were purchased by a Colonel Francis Charteris.

## **Amisfield under the Charteris Family**

# Colonel Francis Charteris (1675-1732)

Born in 1675, Francis Charteris was the last male representative of the ancient Charteris family of Nithsdale in Dumfriess-shire. He was the son of John Charteris and of Mary Kinloch, daughter of Sir Francis Kinloch of Gilmerton.

Charteris entered the army when still in his teens, but his career as a soldier was not a success. He was twice expelled from his regiment after numerous incidents of cheating at cards and of stealing. His father purchased another commission for him, but he could not resist gambling and trickery and, in 1711, he was again forced to leave his regiment in disgrace.

Upon leaving the army, Francis Charteris continued to practice his skills as a professional gambler. He amassed a vast fortune by tricking his rich victims out of their Colonel Charteris

Colonel Charteris From 'Portraits, Memoirs and Characters of Remarkable Persons' by James Caulfield, 1820

money, and then lending it back to them at exhorbitant rates of interest. On one notable occasion, he took the immense sum of £3000 from the Duchess of Queensberry, allegedly by using mirrors to cheat at cards.

Charteris also gained a reputation as a womaniser, a trait which allowed him to put his expert swordsmanship to the test in the frequent duels to which he was challenged. He was accused of raping one of his woman servants, was convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment in Newgate Prison. Confiscation of a proportion of his estate ensured his pardon by King George II.

Charteris' evil ways earned him the dubious distinction of figuring as a reprobate in the writings of Alexander Pope and in the drawings of Hogarth. In the frontispiece of Chancellor's Lives of the Rakes there is a portrait of Charteris in the dock with a description of him as a "cardsharper, thief and scoundrel generally".

His life of vice led to him being disinherited from his family estate in favour of a female cousin. In spite of this, Charteris was able to use his ill-gotten fortune to buy the New Mills and adjoining land in 1713. He changed the name of the estate to Amisfield, in memory of his ancestral home in Dumfriess-shire.

It is not known in what way Amisfield Park was altered during Charteris' lifetime. However, it is likely that he laid out the first extensive planting on the estate, including the avenues of trees leading to the house from the west and east, and perimeter planting around the southern boundary of the park. It is likely that the lodge houses to either side of the west and east entrances also date from this period.

Charteris married Helen, daughter of Lord Mersington. Their only child, Janet, married James, later the 5th Earl of Wemyss, in a secret wedding. Upon Charteris' death in 1732, his estate was left to Janet's second son Francis. It was a requirement of his grandfather's settlement that the young man should adopt the name of Charteris in order to inherit, and thus perpetuate the family name.

# Francis Wemyss Charteris (1723-1808)

The individual who had the greatest influence on Amisfield Park was Francis Charteris, who became the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Wemyss. In contrast to his maternal grandfather, from whom he inherited the estate, he was a refined and cultured man, with a great interest in the arts.

He married Lady Catherine Gordon, the daughter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Gordon (known locally for building Lady Kitty's Garden and Doocot). Their wedding was held at Preston Hall, in September 1745, during the Jacobite Rising. At the time, Sir John Cope's



troops were marching from Dunbar to Edinburgh, and had camped for the night in a field to the west of Haddington. It is related that, as the bridal party proceeded to Amisfield, accompanied by a small escort, the alarm was raised in the camp that the Jacobites were on the march and were approaching fast. Cope immediately called out his men, to his subsequent embarrassment on realising the false alarm.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl and his wife set about improving their estate with great vigour. They commissioned the English Palladian architect, Isaac Ware to design a new mansion house to replace the existing New Mills house. Construction began around 1755. Amisfield House was built in red-coloured Garvald freestone, with a seven-bayed frontage and Ionic portico. Unusually, the house faced north, towards the River Tyne, and would thus have been prominent from the Haddington to Dunbar post road.

The landscape around the house was re-modelled according to the English Landscape Garden style, with the house set amongst sweeping parkland. The course of the River Tyne was altered to take it further from the house, and a cascade was constructed. The kitchen garden, which had been situated on low-lying ground to the north-east of the house, was relocated to an impressive new walled garden near the east entrance.

The landscape was enhanced by strategically placed pavilions and buildings. Formal gardens next to the house are thought to have been designed by William and James Bowie, who worked as landscape gardeners between 1752 and 1768, and were based at Stoneyhill, a property also owned by Charteris.



An undated plan, entitled 'Amisfield Pleasure Grounds', thought to be c.1800. Note the parkland setting, with its clumps of trees, extending over the River Tyne as far as the Haddington to Dunbar post road

At around the same time that Amisfield House was built, an ornamental summerhouse was constructed, on low-lying ground overlooking the River Tyne. The summerhouse, with its Roman Doric portico of four columns with rusticated bands, and a Rococo frame in the pediment, was built on two levels. The ground floor room may have been used as a banqueting house, warmed by an open fire, and affording fine views over the river to the cascade and the Garleton Hills. The basement room, with its vaulted cellar and rear entrance, may have been used by servants to prepare food.



The Summerhouse

The designer of the summerhouse is unknown. There is a possibility that it may have been Isaac Ware, or it may have been constructed according to a pattern book of the day. There is evidence that the design was altered during construction, the side walls being infilled with dressed stone after the rustic columns were complete.

Within 30 Years of the new house being built, the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl had commissioned John Henderson to carry out alterations to the house and to build a new stable block and walled garden. The house was extended by the addition of new wings, and the facade altered to include a new ramped entrance.

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The designed landscape included a number of follies, such as this farm building on the Dunbar to Haddington road, which was given a false ornamental front to act as an eyecatcher

Other built structures within the park include a crenellated building to the south of the walled garden, shown on the Ordnance Survey plan of 1855 as 'the old Dovecot'. This was probably originally built as a lectern dovecot and converted into a landscape ornament at some later date.

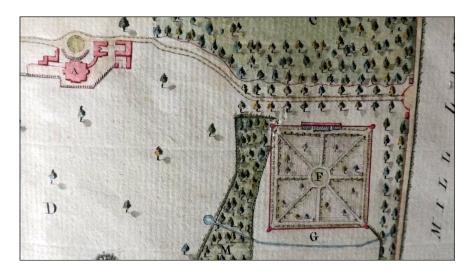


The Old Dovecot

A pump house situated next to the cascade on the River Tyne had a vaulted main chamber, leading into a narrower one with stone slabbed floor on massive stone joists. The building was fed from a small lade just above the cascade. An estate plan of 1872 describes the building as a 'force pump', and this gives a clue to its purpose. The energy generated by water from the river was used to pump clean drinking water, which was gathered from the Garleton Hills, then fed under the river and up the slope to the house. The pump may also have been used to feed ornamental water features, such as a rill to the rear of the summerhouse.

#### The Walled Garden

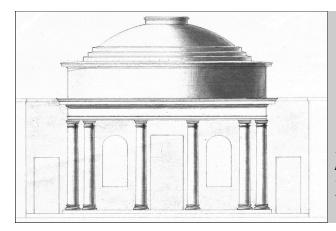
In 1783 a new walled garden was built to the east of the house, to replace a low lying kitchen garden near the River Tyne that was prone to flooding. Enclosing an area of eight acres, and with walls sixteen feet in height, the garden was built to impress.



It is thought that the architect John Henderson, who had carried out improvements to Amisfield House, also drew up plans for the new walled garden. At each corner was built a circular domed pavilion with a pillared entrance and niches for statues. Wide paths were laid diagonally and straight across to a central circle containing a sundial.

Receipts in the estate accounts show 'work on the Abbey Quarry for walls for the new garden reckoned 2 foot thick.... including hewn stone in the south facing wall'.

In the same year there were payments made for the supply of coping stones from Hailes Quarry and for stone columns for the corner pavilions from Craigleith Quarry in Edinburgh.



Elevation of a corner pavilion from estate records.
Artist unknown.

James Burns, a local stonemason, was paid for work on the domes of the corner pavilions, and there was payment made to the Carron Company for the transport of two cupolas to Amisfield, indicating that the roofs of two of the pavilions were built with iron cupolas.

Two years later, Burns was paid to fit up one of the pavilions as a pigeon house, lining the walls with 8 inch square timber boxes. The rearing of pigeons in the walled garden would have provided a welcome source of fresh meat in winter as well as contributing pigeon manure to help fertilise the garden soil.

Estate records also show that the Earl of Wemyss consulted widely on how to lay out his new garden. Mr Wilson, gardener to the Countess of Glasgow was paid for a set of plans for hothouses along the north wall.

The hothouses at Amisfield were an early example of a 'Pinery-vinery'. Pineapple plants were propagated and grown on in raised beds, with grape vines planted just outside the glasshouse and fed through the walls to grow inside, suspended from the sloping glass roof.

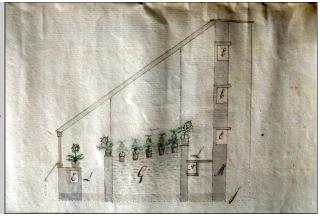
Cultivation of tropical fruit, in particular pineapples, was a source of horticultural pride in 18th century estates. The vast resources that were required to provide a constant source of heat meant that only the wealthiest could afford to successfully grow these exotic fruit.

Records show that the Earl of Wemyss paid nearly £30 to purchase young pine plants (pineapples) and a further £13 to have them transported from Glasgow in two carts. This equates to around £3000 in today's money.

Young pineapple plants were grown in beds lined with manure and tan bark which fermented slowly to produce a steady temperature over a period of two to three months. The tan bark was a by product of leather tanning which was an established industry in Haddington.

The glasshouses were heated initially with hot air flues in the walls and within tiled hypocausts. These required constant stoking of furnaces located behind the walls with coal. By the middle of the 19th century, the hot air system had been replaced by more reliable and safer cast iron pipes heated by a boiler.

Elevation of the Pinery-Vinery, showing hot air flues within the garden wall, and pineapple plants in the raised bed.



At the same time as carrying out these improvements at Amisfield, the Earl was undertaking major building work at Gosford, near Aberlady. The Earl had been in the habit of playing golf on the links at Gosford, and in 1781 he bought the estate. He commissioned Robert Adam to design a new house, and shortly afterwards the family moved to the Gosford Estate from Amisfield. The 7th Earl's eldest son, Lord Elcho remained with his wife at Amisfield, until his death there in 1808. Six months later, the 7th Earl himself died at Gosford. His estates and titles passed to his grandson, also Francis (1772-1853).

## **Amisfield in the Nineteenth Century**

With the main residence of the Wemyss family now at Gosford, the history of Amisfield Park during the nineteenth century is not so well documented. The family did, however, continue to make use of the house until the 1880's, when it was rented out to a succession of tenants.

Further planting was carried out in the park during the 19th century. In particular, the narrow belt of trees which ran along the southern and eastern boundaries was broadened, and is shown as a mixture of broadleaves and conifers. To the north of the Walled Garden, and linking to the House is a densely planted area, containing numerous pathways, which may well have been an ornamental wooded shrubbery. Trees dating from this period are evident today. Lining the drive from the east entrance are a number of exotic conifers which are examples of the fashion for planting newly discovered species from North America and the Far East.



Amisfield House from the north

Amisfield Park played an important role in the social life of the local area. In 1833 the Tyneside Games were instituted and were held within the grounds. The Games attracted nearly six thousand spectators. The games included Quoiting, Hop, Step and Leap, High Leaps, Putting the Balls, Throwing the Hammer, Wrestling, Short and Long Foot Races, Sack and Steeple Races and Shooting with the Rifle.

Competitors were drawn from all over the neighbourhood, and even the nobility and gentry agreed to take part. The most notable race was the long race, in which competitors ran along the southern bank of the River Tyne for about a mile, before crossing by the .Abbey Mill Bridge, and returning by the north bank to a spot opposite to where they had started.

"Then, indeed, the race became most interesting, for the run home to the winning post was, in the first place, right through the river, and, secondly, up a very sloping turf of some hundred yards. In they rushed, the water being so deep as to cover them to the shoulders, and pressing through the stream, happy was he who first put his foot upon the sod, and came in winner amidst the shouts of the assembled multitude".

The Park also hosted the East Lothian Agricultural Show, an annual event which lasted for two days and attracted huge crowds. In 1865 members of the Haddington Golf Club were given permission by Lord Elcho, the son of the 9th Earl of Wemyss, to play over Amisfield Park during the winter months. These rights were withdrawn in 1881, when the house and park were let. Amisfield Park was sold to Haddington Town Council in 1969. An area of housing was developed in the south-west of the Park, and the town's

### The Decline of Amisfield Park

From 1881 until the First World War, Amisfield House was rented out. In spite of this, it remained a scene of busy life, with a whole community of estate workers, gardeners and house servants living and working within the house and grounds.

The head gardener held a position of considerable responsibility, being in charge of up to thirty-five men. He was housed in the north-east lodge house at the East Entrance, a three-storey building with cellar and garden.

A description of life in the house is given by a newly-arrived housemaid, writing to her friend.

"I hope you both are quite well. It is very hard here, the house is five stories high, so no rest from the stairs. There are five housemaids, three under me, but still it is not so easy as Nunthorn, or half as nice. We have been to Edinburgh and feel better".



A postcard dated 1906, showing greenhouses along the north wall.

During the First World War, Amisfield House was requisitioned, providing accommodation for the First Regiment of the Lothian and Border Horse. Tents and wooden huts covered large areas of the Park, and the House was occupied by the officers. Thousands of soldiers were trained and drilled. During the winter of 1914-1915, the troops complained of the muddy condition of the parade ground on the banks of the Tyne to the north of the mansion.



Following the war, the interior of the House was dismantled and all furniture and paintings removed. A large part of the adjacent stabling and offices was demolished, and the stone used for building work locally. Many of the finest trees in the parkland had been cut down for timber. Amisfield House remained in a derelict state until 1923, when it was sold to a local builder, Mr. Richard Baillie. The house was demolished in 1928, and the stone used to build the Vert Hospital in Haddington and Preston Lodge School.

In 1926, much of the land was leased to Mr. Steedman, who farmed at the nearby Abbeymill Farm. He ran the walled garden as a market garden, with the potting shed converted to a piggery.



The walled garden c.1940, ploughed up and used as a market garden.

Greenhouses remain against the north wall.

During the Second World War, Amisfield again became an army camp, firstly housing the Sherwood Foresters and a section of the Polish forces, and later as a prisoner of war camp. The camp at Amisfield was set up in 1944 as a satellite camp for Gosford, which was becoming overcrowded. The prisoners were of mixed origin, but many were Germans taken following the Normandy landings. The majority of the prisoners worked on farms in the surrounding countryside and had some contact with the local community.

After the war, the camp continued to operate, as a displaced persons camp. In particular, the camp housed many Ukranians. Upon their release, a number of these men settled and made their homes in the local area. The camp was closed in 1948.

### **Amisfield Today**

Amisfiels Park was sold to Haddington Town Council in 1969. An area of housing was developed in the south-west of the Park, and the town's sewage works were built on the banks of the River Tyne. The parkland continued to be used as a golf course, initially as a municipal course, and now leased to Haddington Golf Club.

The walled garden was cultivated and used to grow grain until about 1980, when East Lothian District Council laid it out as a tree nursery. The nursery trees were never used and the garden fell into a state of neglect. The garden buildings suffered from vandalism and the corner pavilions became roofless.

The condition of the buildings within the Park has continued to deteriorate. Both the former stable block and the summerhouse became dangerously unsafe and had to be fenced off from the public. The woodland areas were unmaintained and invasive shrubs such as rhododendron and snowberry prevented the regeneration of woodland trees and suppressed the natural ground flora.

In recent years there has been renewed interest in Amisfield Park. An informal group of interested local residents began discussions with East Lothian Council regarding the conservation of the buildings, and in December 1999, a charitable trust, The Amisfield Preservation Trust, was constituted and registered.

The Trust successfully sought funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to stabilise the Summerhouse to prevent further deterioration in its condition, and in 2006 was granted a lease for the Walled Garden. The Trust began to draw up development plans to restore the garden as a community resource for local people and as a visitor attraction. Much work has been done by volunteers to begin to develop a productive and attractive garden. An ambitious long term project is being planned to restore the garden buildings and walls. After years of neglect, the walled garden is being brought back to life.

## The Amisfield Walled Garden Project



The Amisfield Preservation Trust has embarked on a long term project to restore the walled garden as a community resource and visitor attraction.

The aim of the project is to provide a garden where the local community can come to participate in a garden restoration project, and learn about horticulture, healthy eating and local history. In the longer term, the Trust hopes to restore the garden buildings and provide an attraction for visitors from East Lothian and further afield.

In 2006, the Trust commissioned a Historic Survey and Development Plan, and later a feasibility study. These reports have been used to draw up a business plan to seek grant-aided funding for the project.

Volunteers work in the garden on a regular basis and welcome visitors throughout the summer months and on frequent open days. The garden has been transformed from its neglected state at the start of the project back into a working garden. At the outset, the majority of the overgrown nursery trees were cut down and their roots dug out. Excavations were then carried out to establish the position of the historic footpath layout, and new paths were laid to restore the original garden plan.



The walled garden in 2006 prior to clearance work





New footpaths being laid on the original path layout following clearance work

A new garden layout is being developed, with beech, hornbeam and yew hedges lining the paths and planting areas of differing character being developed. The walls are once again being covered with fruit trees, including heritage varieties. The garden now produces a wide range of fruit and vegetables for sharing amongst the volunteers and for sale to visitors.

In addition to the regular volunteer sessions, many local groups use the garden for education and enjoyment. These include schoolchildren learning about rural skills and horticulture, people with additional support needs participating in the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's Grow and Learn programme, and adult education classes in art and willow crafts.

The garden is open to the public free of charge.

The vision of the Amisfield Preservation Trust is: 'to develop Amisfield Walled garden as a working garden, visitor attraction and community resource through conservation of its heritage assets, restoration of the garden layout, integration of a diverse range of traditional and new horticultural features and provision of visitor facilities.'





Education building, funded by Viridor Credits Environmental Company, completed in 2016





Volunteers at work

The Amisfield Preservation Trust is a registered charity dedicated to the restoration of Amisfield Walled Garden and surrounding area. We run regular volunteering sessions in the garden and welcome new members and visitors. Details of our organisation can be found on our website at:

#### www.amisfield.org.uk

## Acknowledgements

Plan of 'Amisfield Pleasure Grounds' and elevations of greenhouse and walled garden pavilions by kind permission of the Earl of Wemyss.

Photograph of the walled garden in 1940s by kind permission of the late Mr Robert Steedman.

Other photographs by members of the Amisfield Preservation Trust

**Amisfield Preservation Trust** 

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