



Sheltered Work Opportunities Project

(Cherry Tree Nursery & Chestnut Nursery)

Caring for people, caring for plants ...

Annual
Newsletter
2017



We are thrilled to have been voted AFC Bournemouth Supporters charity of the season for 2017/18. This means a lot to our Volunteers and we are enjoying working with the Club and the Cherries Trust who are both fundraising for us this season.

On World Mental Health Day we were invited to the Vitality Stadium along with the Dorset Mental Health Forum where Volunteers enjoyed a tour of the stadium, a question and answer session with AFCB coach Stephen Purches, tea and cake and a kick about organised by AFCB Community.

AFC Bournemouth played Chelsea at home on Saturday 28th October and a group of our Volunteers had a once in a lifetime opportunity to be the flag bearers for the match. They stood on the pitch forming two opposite lines through which the players were waved onto the pitch. They were all given match tickets for the game and given the latest team shirts.

During the week prior to the Chelsea game our Volunteers had a surprise visitor to the Nursery. First team player Marc Pugh met with them and had a tour of the Nursery. Marc also presented our flag bearing Volunteers with a football shirt for each of them which he duly signed. We very much appreciate AFC Bournemouth for organising these events. It was an experience our Volunteers will never forget.

'VIVA VOICES' SUPPORT SWOP

Local choir Viva Voices (Choir on the hill) chose SWOP (Chestnut and Cherry Tree nurseries) as their charity to support this year which was a first for us and we hope it will happen again. Viva Voices are a talented group who perform a variety of songs and styles at various events in the area.



They appeared at the Chestnut Nursery open day in July and at their Christmas event and at the Cherry tree sale day in September. The choir have been fundraising by holding collections at their performances and proceeds from their Christmas Concert on 16th December will also be donated. Thank you, Viva Voices!

VOLUNTEER NEWS ...

National Open College Networks – Level 1 Award in Horticulture

We are thrilled and very proud of our ten students who successfully completed the Level 1 Award in Horticulture recently at New Leaf Allotments, courtesy of BCHA.

The course covered various modules including soil types and enrichment, propagation and hazard awareness, and all of the students enjoyed the course and the wonderful location in Muscliff Lane.

The site has no electricity and the much-used kettle is heated on a wood-burning stove and I am reliably informed the tea and coffee tastes wonderful. The team welcomed our students wholeheartedly and our students gained a great deal in knowledge and confidence. There were students from outside of Cherry Tree and friendships were made and stories exchanged. A Graduation ceremony was held at New Leaf Allotments and baked potatoes, mulled apple juice and toasted marshmallows were supplied. A huge 'thank you' to BCHA and we look forward to sending you more students in the coming year.



STAFF NEWS ...

We have welcomed Sue into the weekday retail team while Helen is on a sabbatical. Sue of course, is well known to us as she has been our week-end retail staff member for some time. Ray is now our Events Co-ordinator and StJohn is our Office Co-ordinator and both are current staff members but we have redefined their roles.



Did you know that our Volunteers get a Cherry Tree birthday card on their birthday? One of our volunteers is an expert at creating an individual card with their name and relevant pictures. Everyone signs the card and it is another volunteer's job to take the cards round the nursery and get as many signatures as possible. On special birthdays, with a zero, we arrange for a cake to be made by Crumbs a local charity that we work with closely. These cakes are also themed as much as possible, so we've had a dart board, a Tardis, some Doctor Martin boots and a swimming pool to name a few.

A TREE FOR JESS



Bournemouth Borough Council wished to dedicate a tree in memory of Jess Davies, our former manager. Their Arboricultural Team sent us a list of trees that we could choose from and we opted for the Black Walnut *Juglans nigra*. This is a statuesque and majestic tree when fully grown with distinctive dark, heavily ridged bark. It produces edible walnuts and we loved the idea of being able to share the delicious produce in the future. The tree is sited at Muscliff Arboretum, adjacent to Muscliff Lane and a short walk from the river bank. We held a private ceremony on the 27th November where we walked from Cherry Tree Nursery to the Arboretum along the banks of the River Stour. It is about one mile and a beautiful walk. We hoped to see

the otters but I expect we made too much noise as we walked along. At the tree we each took turns to place some soil around the sapling and then we read some poems. We look forward to watching this small sapling grow, rather like Cherry Tree Nursery did and we can visit as the seasons change.

THE POTTING STATION



Winton and Wimborne 397 Moose Group have very kindly paid for our new Potting Station. The old one was getting very tired and gave little protection to our volunteers in summer or winter. We will have a formal dedication ceremony very soon and the Potting Station will have a plaque proudly displayed.



OPEN DAY



2018 Plant Sales: March 24th, July 7th, September 15th



CRAFT DAYS, VISITS & DAYS OUT

We have had a lovely summer, learning all sorts of new skills. Some of our volunteers learned about self-defence, others have been learning woodworking skills and helping to build bee hives and a yurt. There was even a course on using a fire extinguisher on a live fire and another on decoupage.

We have had a run of craft days where volunteers have designed and created their own items to sell in our shop. The focus is for our Christmas Shopping Week but the ideas and skills can be used all year round and it has been very enjoyable to work as a large group and share tips and ideas.

One of our Friends held a sewing workshop and the volunteers made some beautiful bags, again to sell in our shop. What a wealth of talent we have here.

Did you know our volunteers organised and ran their own Macmillan Coffee Morning this year? Lots of people came to eat the delicious cakes and have a chat. They raised a whopping £282!



We love the summer months and the chance to have some day trips and this year we were very lucky that Dolphin and Knoticat Boats both put on boat trips around Poole Harbour. They always look after us so well and we love to see if we can spot any of the dolphins in Poole bay.

The annual Harry Roffey Day in July was to Athelhampton House and gardens this year and we had a great time exploring both. We always take a packed lunch of pasty, fruit, snacks and drinks and we had a choice of lovely locations in which to eat our lunch. Our coach driver knew all the local history and told us the story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs on the way home.

The volunteers also went to visit the Secret Garden at Serles House which was fascinating and described by one of our volunteers as 'being in someone's dream'

Our Beach Hut Day at the Community Beach Hut at Alum Chine is always a fun day with lots of ice cream and paddling, swimming for some of the hardier souls, or just relaxing and watching the world go by.



CHESTNUT NURSERY CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

It's been a busy year at Chestnut Nursery, and it's only now that we look back and review the year we realise quite how busy it's been! Here's a brief roundup of what's been happening at Chestnut Nursery in 2017. Volunteers have enjoyed trips to the RNLI training facility, Compton Acres and Marwell Zoo as well as the events we hold at the nursery such as our fish and chip day in March and summer BBQ in August where we were joined by 3 helpers from Lloyds Bank who helped to prepare and cook the food.

Our volunteers have also enjoyed lots of lovely home-cooked meals this year thanks to food donations from Tesco and Sainsburys. The lunches have become a regular event and an opportunity not only for volunteers to enjoy lunch together but also to learn new skills by helping with the cooking.

This year we were very lucky to welcome groups of helpers from Morgan Sindall in May and BNY Mellon in October to spend a day with us and help with jobs on the nursery. It means a lot to us to have the support from companies like these and we were able to get lots of jobs done that we wouldn't be able to otherwise, like painting the black railings at the front of the nursery, giving our meeting room a fresh coat of paint.



Trethowans Solicitors have been a wonderful support to Chestnut this year, running a very popular stall at the open day, printing the design for this year's Christmas card and most exciting of all- they are fundraising to provide us with a new kitchen!

Dolphin Shopping Centre chose Chestnut as one of 3 charities to support this year and have kindly given us the opportunity to have a stall in the centre for 4 dates to sell our stock and promote the charity. They will also be donating the proceeds of the sale of their delicious 'Rooftop Honey' and from ticket sales from this year's Christmas Grotto.

The Lifeboat WI chose Chestnut as their charity in their inaugural year which was a real honour. As well as their own fundraising over the year through a variety of events including a sponsored walk, the ladies also volunteered at our open day and were a great help.

A big thank you must go to the Lions of Poole who raised funds to buy us a new van. The Lions have been raising funds for us since 2001 and are celebrating their 100th year! Our sale days have gone from strength to strength with higher numbers of customers attending and more plants sold than ever before. We hope to build on this next year at our sale day on Saturday 17th March and our open day on 9th June.

NEW BUILD UPDATE ...

We are Nearly There!

We are really excited to say that we are not far from our target and have a provisional build start date of 2nd July 2018! As regular customers are aware, we have been busy fund raising for a new shop and poly tunnels to improve the working conditions for our volunteers and to enable us to stock a wider variety of items for your gardens. Thanks to our lovely customers, we have raised over £3000 through our 'Buy a Brick Appeal'.

The new shop will offer a much nicer environment for everyone as well as providing more training opportunities for the volunteers to learn about stock management and customer service. There will be space to run more community type events and activities such as talks and workshops. The total cost of the project is £390.000, and to date we have raised £380.000. This has been received from some fantastic supporters including Trusts, Foundations, customers and the families of people who have benefited from our work.

Thank you to all that have supported us and if you would like to further support our appeal you can do so by popping in to see us at 75 Kingland Road, emailing us at info@chestnutnursery.org.uk, or telephoning 01202 685999. This time next year we hope to invite all our supporters to a grand opening of the new facilities and the team look forward to showing you around.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ...

This year our volunteers grew around 600 different species and varieties of plants. Our range of evergreen shrubs and exotic plants have proved to be exceptionally popular with volunteers and customers alike. The climate and soils, local to Poole and Bournemouth lend particularly well to growing Mediterranean and southern hemisphere origin plants. We are all looking forward to the coming season and plan to grow even more unusual plant delights for next year.

Andy Verreck- Horticultural Manager



AND A HUGE THANK YOU FROM CHERRY TREE AND CHESTNUT NURSERIES TO ...

AFC Bournemouth, Norman and Lupita Aish, Albert Hunt Trust, Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Foundation, Autumn Trust, Mr & Mrs Avon, Bear Cross Post Office, The Bisgood Charitable Trust, Blandford Rotary Club, BNY Mellon, Mr Roger Bond, Bournemouth North Rotary Club, Bournemouth Quakers, Amanda Brown, Cherry Tree Nursery Knitting and Sewing Group, The Choir on the Hill (Viva Voices), Mrs Jennifer Coombs, Dolphin Boats, Dolphin Shopping Centre, Mary Drew, AJ Duncan, Mr Roy Edgeley, Debbie Emmett, The Evergreen Choir, Elaine Fairclough, Ferndown and District Horticultural Association, Ferndown Ladies Golf Club, Lesley Frampton, Hilary Fraser, Mrs Gaydon, GDF Consultancy, Graham Burrough Trust, Dr Martin Green, Hale and Woodgreen Horticultural Society, Jane Hales, Angela Hartnell, The Henry Smith Charity, The Hobson Charity, The Holdenhurst Charity, Incorporated Bournemouth Free Church Council, Inner Wheel Club of Ferndown, JP Morgan, Kinson Tyres, Knoticat, The Landmark Trust, Mrs PM Lane, Mr & Mrs Legg, The Leonard Laity Stoute Charitable Trust, Lifeboat WI, Lloyds Bank, Broadstone, The Lodge of Hospitality and Concord, LV=, Morgan Sindall, New Milton Quakers, Pauline Pascoe, Mrs Liz Pitkin, The Pitt Rivers Charitable Trust, Poole Disabled Club, Poole Lions, Poole Rotary Club, Poole Stadium, Pride of Bournemouth Lodge Oddfellows, Rectory Quilters of New Milton, Sainsburys Poole, Southbourne Knitters Group, Mary Spooner, Sue Stebbing, SWOP Trustees, Talbot Village Trust, Tesco (Kinson), Tesco (Ferndown), Tesco (Fleetsbridge), Trethowans Solicitors, Truemark Trust, Tuesday Lunch Club, Vitality, Waitrose (Winton), Jan Walker, Miss M Walter, Westbourne Rotary Club, The White Stuff Foundation, Mrs EM Williams, Sir Philip Williams, Wimborne Rotary Club

Winton and Wimborne 397 Moose Group, Winton Methodist Tuesday Fellowship Group and Angela Wood.

And to the host of friends, helpers, supporters, families, customers and public who give so freely of their time, energy and enthusiasm to contribute to Cherry Tree and Chestnut Nurseries, which allows us to continue to help those in need. We cannot begin to thank every person or organisation who has so kindly donated any of the above in the last year or before. If your name is not included, please do not feel unappreciated, as without your support we simply would not be where we are today.



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