



# Cherry Tree Nursery

## Annual Newsletter 2016



The summer has been very busy at Cherry Tree Nursery. The lovely weather helped to bring lots of customers keen to fill their gardens with colour and scent. The July Plant Sale was well attended, despite several heavy showers which sent our customers into the shelter of the indoor stalls temporarily, but did nothing to dampen spirits. We introduced a children's play area at our Autumn Plant Sale in September which was very successful and the children enjoyed arts, crafts and face painting while their parents were free to shop.

We were glad to welcome community projects at both plant sales including the Stour Valley Project, The Friends of Redhill Common, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Fernheath Play and Muscliff Garden Club. We thank them for coming to support us and it was interesting to learn about their work and for them to learn about ours.

We held our annual Open Day and Friends and Family Day in the days before our July Plant Sale and both days were well attended. It is always such a pleasure to meet and talk with our loyal supporters and the friends and families of our volunteers. Thank you to all those who came and supported these days so enthusiastically.

## Weedathon

We held a week long 'Weedathon' in September and all available volunteers, staff and friends joined in the mammoth task of weeding the plants in the nursery and generally tidying up and stacking the plants in neat rows as we went. It is amazing how quickly the weeds can grow, something all you gardeners are all too aware of, and it was pleasing to see the results of our labours and for everyone to work together in the fresh air. Once again, we were blessed with lovely weather. Midway through the week we were joined by staff of LV who worked very hard and brought so much lunch they provided volunteers with pasties and cakes galore!



## Dorset Police Community Engagement

Cherry Tree Nursery has police students placed with us throughout the year. The students come for four days in which they work alongside our volunteers in a very much hands-on role. We have found this to be hugely beneficial to both the police students and the volunteers. New police training and guidance in mental health has recently been published by the College of Policing to give officers the knowledge they need to resolve situations and ensure the public get the most appropriate service. For the first time, police training is giving guidance on responding to calls and incidents that involve people who are mentally ill, vulnerable and those with learning disabilities. This practice updates previous guidance and takes other factors into account including lessons learned from the Independent Police Complaints Commission and Coroner's Inquests.

Our latest trainee Police Community Support Officer was able to tell us directly how informative and insightful he found this training and how its importance was stressed to the trainee officers.

We are always heartened and encouraged by the standard of trainee police officers who come to spend time with us. For many of our volunteers, previous experiences of the police have not always been positive particularly if they have been very unwell and not always treated with the understanding they needed. They are able to talk to the police students about these experiences and both sides gain a better understanding of the others point of view.

Feedback from our police students requests a longer placement at Cherry Tree because it is so valuable!

The volunteers enjoyed many outings during the summer months. Our grateful thanks to the teams of Dolphin and Knoticat who have provided boat trips to Wareham and around Poole Harbour. The summer weather was wonderful and the volunteers very much enjoyed being at sea, the cooling breeze and the chips at Wareham Harbour, which we are reliably informed, are very good!

Harry Roffey Day on 13<sup>th</sup> July was to Pecorama in Beer, Devon this year and volunteers from our sister project, Chestnut Nursery in Poole,



joined us. It was a fiftieth birthday for one of the Chestnut volunteers so it was an extra special day all round. Liz, one of our volunteers has very kindly put pen to paper to give her account of the day. Thank you Liz!

A special mention and thanks to Bournemouth North Rotary Club who raised the funds for Harry Roffey Day from the barbeques they run at our Plant Sales and who also put on a wonderful light lunch and cream tea for our volunteers in early September.

# Memories of Harry Roffey Day



The coach set off from the nursery passing through Bridport and Chideock, a lovely village with thatched cottages, then we crossed the small tram line into Seaton. In the winter, enthusiasts ride on the tram to see wild birds using the river area.

We finally arrived at Beer which is a very small town. The Pecorama is in the north of the town and is situated on a hill-side. The coach driver took us to the top of the hill as he said we would appreciate walking down rather than climbing up! We were given tickets and maps and we went and had coffee in the café, it was lovely coffee and a very nice view from the window.

After that, Annette and I took our time looking round the lovely flower beds and recognising the varieties. There was one unusual area called the 'Moon Garden' which had a mirror at the back and lilac flowers were planted in front.

We decided to find the train as we had heard it whistling. It was hard to find even though we had maps but I asked a railway employee busy cleaning an engine, she was very

nice and told exactly which way to go. The train was in and people were queueing when we got there. We didn't think there were any seats left but someone pointed out two separate single seats so off we went. It was a very interesting ride coming back through a small tunnel which made the party of school children on the train start screaming.

After that we decided to look at the exhibition which was all small trains set out in scenes. One was of Dawlish where the railway goes along the edge of the sea and in the exhibition, they had also put in a beach scene to make it real.

We were beginning to feel tired and decided to have a cup of tea in the Pullman Coach. It was lovely tea and we rested there until our coach came to collect us.

The Pecorama is own by the Pritchard family and they have workshops making all these different sizes of train to sell abroad. They have spent a long time in setting out the exhibition and the gardens.

# Announcements

Sadly we lost some special people this year - Ann Malone, Chris Wallis and Richard Lee. We hold a Day of Remembrance in October where friends and families of volunteers who have died can come and share their memories in a celebration of their lives.

On a happier note, we welcomed new arrivals into the world in the form of Alfie Mauger, Kiran Kerker and baby Semple.



A welcome also, to our new treasurer Andrea Thompson.

One long-standing volunteer has left the nursery to work part-time and we wish them every success.



Lots of volunteers greatly enjoyed our annual trip to the beach at Durley Dene where we hire the Community Beach Hut for the day. A chance to sit and talk, soak up the sun, brave a paddle and enjoy an ice-cream – a perfect day! We also had our annual outing to the Steam Fair and a group of volunteers had a week's holiday at a caravan park in Weymouth. We held One World Week In October in which we invited speakers to talk about current events and projects in the world.

## Britain in Bloom



Congratulations were in order for our win of a Silver Gilt Award for Best Commercial Landscaped Premises in 2016's Bournemouth in Bloom awards. Well done to our volunteers for their hard work and creative planting.

## Ferndown Golf Club

The new Ladies Golf Captain has chosen Cherry Tree Nursery to be one of her two charities of the year. We are thrilled to have been chosen and look forward to a successful partnership. Ferndown Golf Club has a long history of fund raising for local charities and we thank them for choosing us.



We are now busily preparing for Christmas at Cherry Tree Nursery. Letters have been written to Father Christmas and

his elves are busy making up the parcels ready for our annual Christmas Party.

This is, of course, often a very sad and lonely time for our volunteers. Everywhere is the suggestion that we are all surrounded by family in a warm and festive home setting but for many the opposite is the case.

## Cherry Tree and Christmas

We make sure that every one of our volunteers has a chance to come to our Christmas Party, to be offered a mouth-watering array of foods and soft drinks, and to have their own Christmas parcel containing several gifts. By special appointment, the outrageous 'MisSes Claus' comes to distribute the parcels helped by her team of Elves. The fantastic 'Daisie Ukeladies' will be playing at the party and are already a very popular act at our plant sales.

Presents are given to all of our volunteers regardless of if they can come to the Christmas Party or not. This year for the very first time and in response to a request from our volunteers, the nursery will be opened on Christmas Day to allow volunteers to come in and spend the day with other volunteers who might otherwise be alone.

# 'Flut-ter-ance'

**This was an extraordinary community project that volunteers were invited to join and here they explain the project in their own words.**

"A couple of years ago we were invited by Bournemouth Parks department at Hengistbury Head to join the volunteers working on the wildlife garden. This year the Inside Out Project in Dorset approached Cherry Tree Nursery to join them at Hengistbury Head to work with a sound artist, Jane Pitt. The end result would be exhibited at Hengistbury Head's Visitor Centre.

As many of us at Cherry Tree Nursery struggle with anxiety we were unable to join the Hengistbury Head group, however, we were able to work on the project at Cherry Tree Nursery going out to the Stour River area listening and focusing on sounds around us. On our return to the nursery we created sonic maps using a variety of media – collage, drawing, painting and writing etc. The result is on display at Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre. We enjoyed the experience very much." Anita

"When I was first told about the project I wasn't really sure but I have to say it was very interesting. Getting out and listening to the trees, birds and wind. I now look forward to seeing the sound map completed." Julie

"It was a delightful commune with nature and humanity. Full of life, peace, happiness and nature's beauty."  
Annette

"I enjoyed the exercise and the day out from Cherry Tree Nursery." Ivan

"I found it peaceful and relaxing staying in the moment."  
Daniel

"I enjoyed the listening opportunities as I stood still focusing on the sounds around me from each side in turn." Anita



**One of the group likened the experience to 'mindfulness' where he focused on the present moment in time, listening to the sounds around him. Another liked meeting people, getting involved and enjoying the opportunity to create their own visual picture as a recording of the bird sounds.**

**With thanks to the Flut-ter-ance Project for the chance for our volunteers to experience something very different in a guided and supportive form.**

## Dates for the Diary

The shop will close at weekends for the winter – the last day open is the 10<sup>th</sup> December and we will reopen on Saturdays from the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Plant Sale Dates for 2017**

**25<sup>th</sup> March**

**1<sup>st</sup> July**

**9<sup>th</sup> September**



**May we at Cherry Tree Nursery take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our supporters for your continued good will and efforts without which we could not survive. A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all and a prosperous and joyful 2017.**

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