



Sheltered Work Opportunities Project

(Cherry Tree Nursery & Chestnut Nursery)

Caring for people, caring for plants ...

Annual
Newsletter
2018

MANAGER'S NOTES

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. We hope you like the content which includes pieces written by our Volunteers and lots of photos to show off some of the highlights of our summer.

We welcomed a new member of staff, Nigel, who joined us in July as our Horticultural Nursery Assistant and we also had Theresa with us for the summer months as our Retail Assistant.

Our sister project, Chestnut Nursery, based in Poole, is undergoing an exciting new build for their retail area and, while the site is under construction, some of their Volunteers have been coming to Cherry Tree during the week. More details on page 7.

This time of year, we turn our attention to the maintenance required to get ready for the winter months. We are replacing some of the polytunnel skins and making sure the woodwork and glass are safe and secure. We also have a chance, after the busy summer months, to try and tackle the weeds and generally tidy up the site.

Before we know it, Christmas will be upon us and we are already looking at fundraising for our Christmas events. Each of our Volunteers receives an individually chosen main gift and stocking fillers, all wrapped in a brown paper parcel, at our yearly Christmas Party. These presents are given out by our very own 'Santa' and her team of Elves while the party goers are enjoying a Christmas buffet of delicious home-made treats, entertainment and much laughter!

We also open our doors on Christmas Day for those Volunteers who would otherwise be isolated and lonely. These few hours give a chance to be with others, exchange small gifts and have some seasonal fayre and provide a focal point for a time that can be very difficult to cope with for some.

If you are able to help us with donations of money, food or suitable gifts, it would be much appreciated. Please note we have a strict 'no alcohol' policy on site at all times so cannot accept items that contain alcohol.



VOLUNTEERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY SUMMER CELEBRATION

In August we held our first ever Volunteers Friends & Family Summer Celebration. Volunteers invited their friends and family to celebrate their time with us. Over 120 people attended. Westbourne Rotary provided a delicious barbeque with Volunteers and Friends providing an accompanying salad. 'Reeds in Harmony' saxophone quartet played for us. The weather was lovely, the pool table came out and overall there was a great atmosphere. We plan to hold a similar event in 2019.



HIDDEN ISSUES, HIDDEN TALENTS

'Hidden illness, Hidden talents...' We all have our own talents and many people are able to feel proud, confident and happy to express and share their talents in everyday life. Living with a mental illness can sometimes cause you to lose all self worth, making it hard to believe that you have any purpose in life....let alone talent. Cherry Tree provides a safe and comfortable environment where our Volunteers are able to gradually gain confidence, build up their self-esteem and then feel able to express and share any hidden talents that have been hidden behind their illness. We love discovering what talents our Volunteers have. Here is a photo montage of just a few of our Volunteers' talents. **Ses**



RHS UPDATE ... a progress report



Students with course tutor, Helen Marshall (centre)

It has been a busy year for the six volunteers studying for the RHS Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture. The students have been continually assessed on a range of horticultural tasks with written and practical assignments. With just one term to go, they are well on their way to completing the course by Easter 2019.

'It's been great to watch the improvement,' says course tutor Helen Marshall. 'It's not just the development of their horticultural skill that impresses but their growing levels of confidence, and as a group, they are incredibly supportive.'

In October, five more students from Chestnut and Cherry Tree were enrolled for the Level 1 Award. One student remarked: 'The course promises I'll leave feeling better than when I arrived. I arrived feeling rubbish; now I feel energised. And, I've learned things too!'

Over the winter period, students will explore more of the syllabus with topics such as soil testing, vegetative propagation and dealing with bare root material.

SWOP teamed up with Kingston Maurward College at the start of the year to become their first satellite centre for RHS training. 'We are really grateful to the college for all their help and guidance,' says Helen 'and we look forward to developing more learning opportunities in the future.'

So far, it's a 10/10 for progress!

CHERRY TREE EVENTS

It's been a busy summer in and out of the nursery. In June we had a stand at the inaugural FlowerFest 18 in the grounds of the Red House Museum in Christchurch. It was great to meet new people and be part of this event. FlowerFest 19 will be between 14-16th JUNE 2019.

We held our annual Guests Open Day in July with invited guests enjoying a tour of the Nursery and a light buffet. There was also a display by our Volunteers, in conjunction with Kingston Maurward College, about the RHS level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture course, showing off what they had done so far and how the course is benefiting them.

Our July Plant Sale was in the midst of the heatwave but our Volunteers coped admirably in the heat. Ice creams were much appreciated! Amongst our stalls was Access Dorset with their volunteer-made planters. In August we had a stand at the Ellingham Show. We always love being there with it being a fun day out.

For our September Plant Sale we were blessed with glorious weather and a fantastic turnout. For both Plant Sales we welcomed new craft stalls in addition to our Volunteer and Friends' stalls and the wide range of plants on offer.

In September our Volunteers decided to hold a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Caring Locally. They raised £378.05 which was kindly matched by Barclays.

Our Volunteers really appreciate your support on not only these event days but also every time you visit; all proceeds go towards our Volunteers welfare.



HARRY ROFFEY DAY 2018



Harry Roffey Day – July 2018 to Butterfly Farm, Isle of Wight.

We set off from Cherry Tree with our packed lunches in our usual lovely coach provided by Laguna Travel. It was on one of the hot days we had this year.

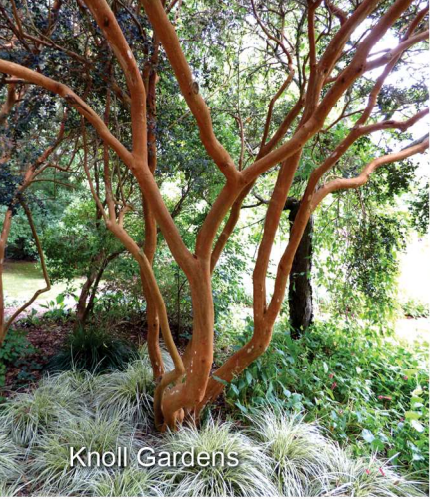
We took the Red Funnel Ferry at Lymington across to Yarmouth, it is always very pleasant as we pass boats tied up and then we set out into the main channel of the Solent. Everyone was sitting on the top deck with their coffees and enjoying the views.

After arriving at Yarmouth we set off for the Butterfly Farm. When we arrived there was someone to meet us and to show us around and answer questions. The butterflies were very big and with lovely colours. Sometimes they landed on a leaf and then we could take photos of them.

As we walked around we came upon a place where the owners had installed some water pipes which shot out water indiscriminately so that it was fun to try not to get wet. Then we came across a large pool with Koi carp including some huge ones. They were coming to see if we could feed them.

There we had lunch, stayed till everyone had cooled down and rested, then we got back in the coach and drove to Yarmouth where we took a stroll around the old part of Yarmouth with shops and houses. Most of us bought ice creams which were very good in the heat of the day. We got back to Cherry Tree, all having thoroughly enjoyed the day, which was in memory of dear Harry Roffey whose idea of the day this was. **Liz**

VOLUNTEER OUTINGS HIGHLIGHTS



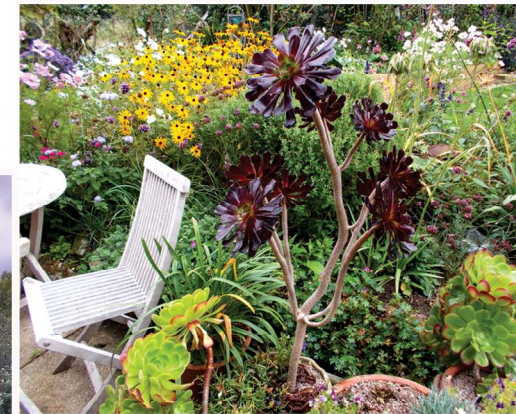
Knoll Gardens



With our peak season behind us we organised some days out for our volunteers. First up Knoll gardens entertained us, volunteers enjoyed walking around these beautiful gardens. Dolphin boats put on a trip around Poole harbour for us. For those feeling energetic there was a trip to Kimmeridge. On all these trips it was a chance to enjoy the beautiful scenery in places where normally they wouldn't be able to get to. For the volunteers who were unable to go on the main Harry Roffey day trip this year, we ran a trip to Sculpture by the lakes near Dorchester. In October our friend Diana Guy hosted a group of volunteers, showing them around her new garden followed by a homemade soup lunch. Volunteers have also visited Wareham Market and Quay. World Mental Health day was on 10th October. We held various activities including a walk along the Stour Valley river path, a visit to friends' stables and a games club.



Sculpture by the Lakes



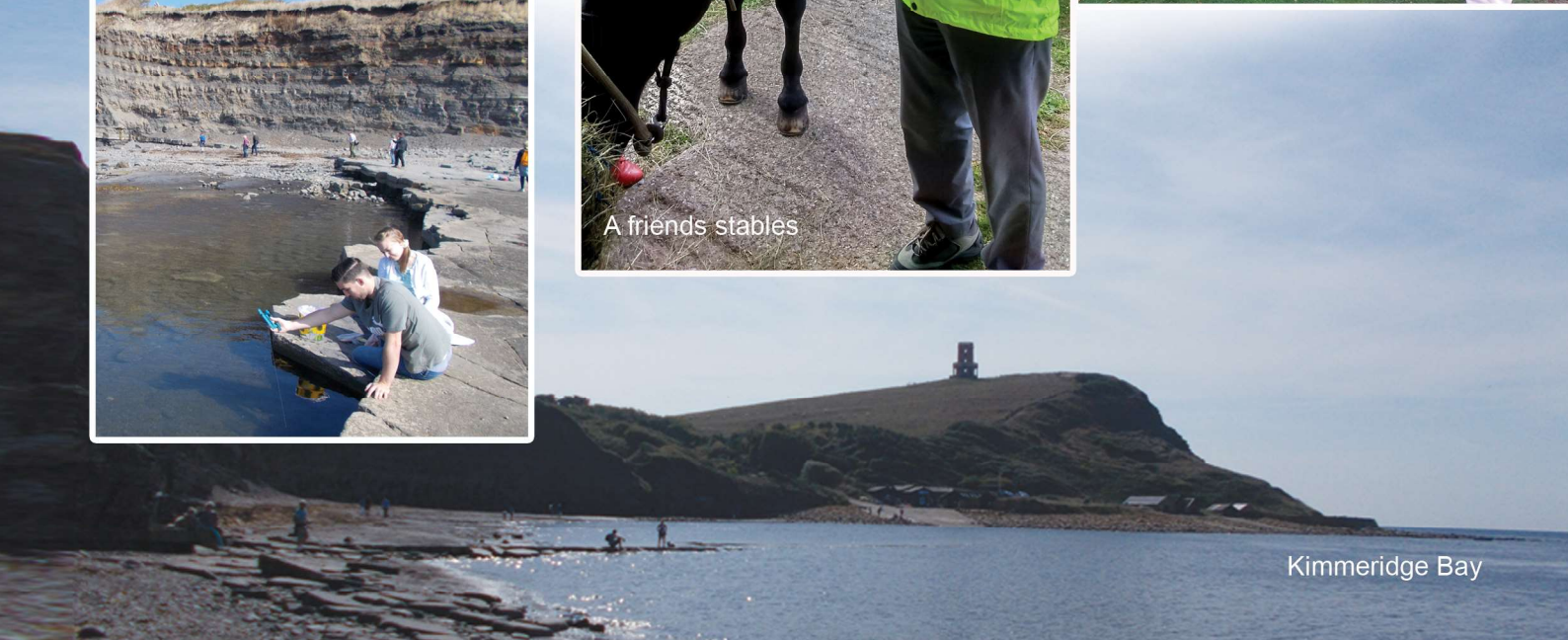
Diana Guy's garden



Wareham



A friends stables



Kimmeridge Bay

A YEAR IN HORTICULTURE



Hi. What a year of weather extremes we have had as gardeners, with challenges galore this year. We had snow and ice when the daffodils were in flower and they got covered with a cold white blanket for almost three weeks in March. Then a few weeks later it seemed like Summer. You would think by now we would all be used to it but it caught a lot of us out and it upset a lot of plants with the extreme cold and temperatures jumping all over the place. A lot of plants in people's gardens got stressed this summer with the dryness and hot temperatures and the long drought, every plant and person got thirsty and needed water and a bit of T.L.C. and a lot of people got too hot under the collar. Thankfully we had a new potting barn to work under which shaded us from blazing hot sun. Thanks to the 'Moose' charity it soon became the best place to work this exhausting summer, which was too hot for everyone and even the plants at times, when the sun's rays were at their highest and beating down on us. We really do have a great team of people that all mucked in to help. It is wonderful what can be achieved when everyone pulls together.



It definitely makes gardening interesting with all the challenges the plants have to put up with especially when they are growing in flower pots. The little plants stand there waiting for someone to adopt them and give them a good new permanent home.

At our wonderful nursery, we have this bond for people and plants and appreciation for both to live side-by-side, that way the plants flourish and the people thrive. Four and a half acres of living colour, flowers and foliage and all the plants look fabulous. What with the butterflies and bees and all the birds flying above our heads it's like a wildlife haven and it brings harmony and pleasure for all of us on the nursery and we have this happiness that covers the site and most of the people can have a good day. Our aim is to help people while growing a wide range of wonderful garden plants for everyone to enjoy and that's where you can step in.

We really are a friendly bunch of professional and amateur gardeners and we grow most of our plants ourselves. The plants will fit and snuggle and brighten up any corner of any garden. They are ready to be purchased and planted in your garden so you can feel at home. Every plant on this nursery has been grown and nurtured especially for you and a lot of love has gone into every one and that is because we all care and want your garden to look its best. We all take great pride in what we do and grow because we know when it is planted in its permanent place, in your garden, it will fill your heart with joy and give you years of pleasure. Every garden should have its own little piece of living paradise. So come and take a look because we have got what you need for your taste in most gardening schemes. We've got the plants that will look beautiful and they are the real jewels in the crown and you could plant them in your garden.

So please support us by buying our plants and thank you for taking the time to visit our wonderful Charity today. You really are helping a very worthwhile cause by supporting Cherry Tree Nursery. **Trevor**



CHESTNUT NURSERY UPDATE

2018 was always going to be a busy year here at Chestnut, with the build due to start in June. However, the 'Beast from the East', followed by a prolonged cold spell, prompted us to make the decision to postpone the build until September. The late start to the season, coupled with the hottest summer anybody could remember, meant that we had a hugely successful season with our highest sales figures ever! Thank you to all of our customers, regulars and new, who have supported us.



The busy season also kept our Volunteers busy – working in the shop, potting up and caring for the plants as well as all-day daily watering! As we had to completely clear the Nursery site, we started our Clearance Sale on 18th August – this was our biggest ever sale, the shop (as it was then) was full of queues with three tills working flat out to try and keep things moving. Hundreds of people came through the doors during the day and nearly everybody left with at least one bargain – some had many bargains packed into trolleys. Our thanks go to our stalwart 'Friends' who barely had a chance to draw breath on the day – we couldn't have done it without them!

Over the remainder of August we managed to sell just about everything and by the end of August had managed to empty our potting shed, workshop and plant storage areas in readiness.

We have been lucky to be able to have a 'pop-up shop' for the duration of the build, thanks to the Dolphin Centre. The shop, staffed by our Volunteers and Friends, is situated in Kingland Crescent, just past Specsavers and opposite Waves, and sells houseplants and gifts, jams, chutneys and local honey and a selection of outdoor plants.

Those Volunteers who do not work in the shop have been travelling over to our sister nursery, Cherry Tree, with Andy and Netta accompanying them. Whilst there they have been helping with nursery maintenance, clearing and tidying. Cherry Tree runs a RHS Horticultural course which two of our Volunteers were chosen to participate in. At the end of the course (assuming that they pass!) they will gain a RHS Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture. We still managed to hold two of our annual favourite events -Fish and Chip day was due to take place in March but had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions, so we held it on our last day at the Nursery before the build started, on 31st August. In June, we held our BBQ, supported by the Bank of New York, whose staff cooked and served a feast for all our Volunteers and Friends on a very hot and sunny day. Our thanks go to them for all their help. The new build is on schedule and the shop looks set to be completed mid-March. We hope to stock lots of sundries such as seeds, tools and, of course, our lovely plants. We will be able to sell house plants year-round, continuing on from our pop-up shop. We look forward to welcoming everyone in next Spring.

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



AFC Bournemouth, Norman Aish, Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean Charitable Foundation, Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust, Asda Poole, Autumn Trust, Bank of New York Mellon, Barclays, Barclays Africa, BCHA National Citizenship Scheme, Beacon Hill Community Group, Beer Harris Memorial Trust, Bernard Sunley Trust, Boscombe Cliffs Bowling Club, Bournemouth District Tinnitus Society, Bournemouth Oddfellows 6258, Rod Bush, C & A Frizzell Charitable Trust, Cotton Trust, Graham and Mary Court, Richard Cox, The Darwins, Bob Irwin, Dolphin Boats, Dorset Community Foundation, Dudsbury Golf Club, Lesley Frampton, Karen Burghart - Gap, Graham Burrough Fund, Diana Guy, Highcliffe WI, Hobson Charity, Holdenhurst Charity, Homelands House, Incorporated Bournemouth Free Church, Jean Bisgood Trust, Malcolm and Jenny Jefferies, JP Morgan, Neil Lucas - Knoll Gardens, Mr and Mrs Legg, Leonard Laity Stoaate Charitable Trust, Letterbox Sewing Group, Lloyds Bank Foundation, John Lockwood, Lodge of Hospitality and Concord 8645, Louis Nicholas Residuary, LV=, Josh Lyon, Moose International, Nationwide, New Milton Sand and Ballast, Orr Mackintosh Foundation, Over 70's Men's Hockey Team, Gary Parsons, Rosemary Pilley, Pitt-Rivers Charitable Trust, PKF Francis, Poole Greyhound Stadium, Poole Lions, Poole Park Tea - Dolphin Shopping Centre, PUPS, Quartet Community Foundation, Reeds in Harmony, John Ridings, Rotary Club of Bournemouth North, Rotary Club of Poole, Rotary Club of Westbourne, Holly Smith, Mary Spooner, St Albans Church, (Coffee Pot), St Anthony of Padua, St Catherine's Hill WI, St Saviours Thursday Club, Sue Stebbing, Doreen Stewart, Jane Stone, Swop Trustees,

Talbot Village Trust, Tesco Bournemouth, Tesco Kinson, The Sunrise Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, Truemark Trust, Tuesday Luncheon Club, Vitality, Waitrose Parkstone, Waitrose Winton, Miss Walter, Wareham Inner Wheel, Waterside Church, Whitestuff, Mr and Mrs Yarrow, The Youngsters.

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.

Thank you



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Registered Charity Number 900325



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Registered Charity Number 900325

Please visit our websites for current opening times



Cherry Tree Nursery 2019 **PLANT SALE** dates:
23rd March, 6th July, 21st September