

Cherry Tree Nursery

Caring for people, caring for plants ...

30
years
and still
Growing



Autumn Newsletter
2020



30 Years
and still
Growing

Registered Charity No: 900325

MANAGER'S NOTES

Welcome everyone to the first newsletter of this year, slightly later than our usual summer edition. This year we celebrate our 30th birthday and we had thirty events planned in honour of this milestone.

Sadly, this was not to be as we joined the rest of the nation in lockdown. Our Volunteers were asked to stay home and keep safe, some staff were furloughed while a skeleton staff kept the plants alive and the cats fed. As with many other horticulturally based businesses, the timing of the pandemic was particularly challenging as spring is our busiest time and the sale of plants helps enormously with the costs of running the charity. We were very fearful of the future in those early days but thanks to local and national charitable trust funds, many of which were made available to mitigate the effects of Covid-19, and the generosity of our many loyal supporters we were able to weather the storm and recoup some of our losses.

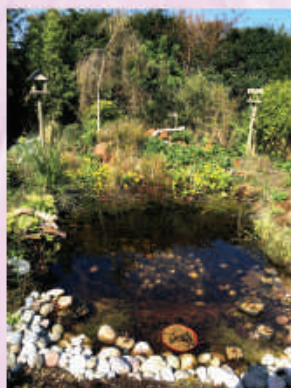


During lockdown we worked very hard to try and maintain the community spirit of care and support we enjoy at Cherry Tree. We quickly learned to use social media and video conferencing so we could meet in the virtual world and for those of us that prefer more conventional methods, we spoke regularly on the telephone ensuring that nobody felt isolated. This was a lifeline for many who otherwise would not have had contact during the long months in lockdown. Many of our Volunteers took up new hobbies and we share some pictures later in this newsletter.

The nursery shop reopened in the middle of May and we welcomed our customers back in the new socially distanced format. Our plants were looking beautiful and it was thrilling to see them finally leaving in packed trolleys. We have many new gardeners as customers, the benefits of gardening becoming more and more apparent as people re-engaged with their gardens and nature.

Our Volunteers returned in July, again in a very different and cautious setup following the 'bubble' system schools were using. They have adapted well to the new arrangements which consist of small socially distanced groups, working outside or in the polytunnels depending on the weather.

Mental health has been very prominent in the media with increasing numbers seeking help, many people experiencing mental illness for the first time. We all have a point where we simply cannot cope with all that life is throwing at us and this pandemic has affected people adversely in many ways for many reasons. The charity is seeing an increased number of new referrals and we aim to help as many people as possible.



While no one knows what the future holds, we remain optimistic and prepared to face the challenges ahead. This year we have been unable to celebrate our 30th birthday and to hold any of our planned fundraising events, however not all is lost as one of our brave staff members, Nigel Short, took part in a wing walk at Compton Abbas Airfield on Friday 4th September. Please see our website for more details.



Thank you all for your continued support
in so many different ways,
we would not be here
without you.

Stay safe
Tish
Nursery Manager



CHESTNUT NURSERY, THE YEAR SO FAR ...

During the winter months we were busy installing an irrigation system into the outside retail and polytunnel areas – with the Volunteers working hard to help dig trenches, lay pipes etc. The project was finished during lockdown and we now have an efficient irrigation system which helps to save time during the busy season.

When the lockdown was put in place our Volunteers were busy potting and tending all the summer bedding which at the time was very small and tender. As they left the site to start the lockdown process two members of staff tended the plants and fortunately, we did not have to discard any of our stock. By the middle of April with demand for bedding plants and compost soaring we opened our online Web Shop – a first for Chestnut! This was hugely successful and kept our team of 4 working flat out processing, packing and delivering orders. After a few weeks we added a Click and Collect service which was also well received and introduced many new customers to our Nursery.

Throughout the lockdown we kept in touch with all of our Volunteers via a weekly telephone call. Everybody experienced lockdown differently - some Volunteers joined the Cherry Tree Volunteers' Facebook page which enabled them to keep in touch and share experiences; a group of Volunteers had a WhatsApp group so they could all 'chat' together; lots of decorating was done and music-making in the sun was popular too.

The Nursery re-opened to the public at the beginning of July, after processing over 1,000 orders on the web shop and also welcomed our Volunteers and Friends back to a Nursery that needed many jobs doing! The Volunteers were keen to return and have adapted to the new guidelines that are in place to keep everybody safe – we devised a system whereby our Volunteers attend the nursery for one day per week, between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. forming a daily 'bubble'. They have slipped back into their nursery routines, enjoying re-connecting with their colleagues and have been busy potting, tidying and sorting out and helping to maintain the nursery.



The completion of a Perspex screen around our till area has made the payment process much more streamlined whilst ensuring safe social distancing for everybody. This means that we have been able to expand our opening days to include Sundays and are now open from Tuesday – Sunday; closed on Mondays. Please check our Website or Facebook page for our opening hours.

As summer draws to a close we are planning lots of lovely plants for your autumn and winter garden. In addition to the various jobs that will keep us busy, we will continue our fundraising to help us provide ongoing support for our Volunteers and, of course, our Christmas celebrations, which will no doubt come around very quickly!



CHERRY TREE NURSERY TIMELINE

November 2019 to March 2020



November 2019 Craft and Create Days for Christmas

Before Christmas, Volunteers gathered together to make items to sell at our fundraising Christmas Fayre and in our shop. More Volunteers than ever joined in; on wet days this was the perfect activity to keep everyone occupied.

November 2019 Ann Malone Quiz

The annual Volunteers versus Staff Quiz took place for the 'Ann Malone' trophy, in memory of a much-loved Volunteer Ann Malone. Sue and Steve Matthews were the quizmasters this year. Needless to say, a Volunteer team won!



November 2019 Volunteer Friends get together

Volunteers organised a get together to thank our Friends for all they have done during 2019. They put on a wonderful cream tea with home-made scones and cakes galore.



December 2019 Volunteer's Christmas Meal

In early December, our Volunteers went for their annual Christmas Meal at Toby Carvery. They really enjoy the chance to get together and enjoy a delicious meal. We thank Toby Carvery, Northbourne for their hospitality.



December 2019 Christmas Fayre

Our fundraising Christmas Fayre was expanded from last year to include more stalls in the Volunteers' Tea Room space. Our Function Room was also open, selling seasonal food and decorated in the style of a gingerbread house. A big thank you to our creative Volunteers who helped make the Fayre look so festive.



December 2019 Volunteer's Christmas Party

Our big Volunteers' Christmas party was held as usual at Pelhams. Volunteers enjoyed the large selection of food made by Friends and supporters. Music was provided by Rod Bush and there was a special time-travelling 'Santa', only at Cherry Tree Nursery!

January 2020 Winter walk and Running sessions

Led by one of our Volunteers, running group sessions continued and In January a group of Volunteers went on a long walk along the Stour Valley Path.

Another Volunteer started a writing group for Volunteers in which they shared their feelings by way of creative writing, poems and stories. We hope to publish in some form in the future.



January 2020 Revamp of retail covered area

The retail covered area was completely revamped with the old uneven and damp flooring taken up. The floor was 'whacked' to get it level and protective underlay put down using recycled materials. The new covering was pinned down using recycled pins. Once the covering was down, multipurpose benches made of trestles and scaffold boards were assembled. We can now incorporate multi-level displays as well as remove and add display space according to the season.



February 2020 Volunteer's Soup Day

On a cold February day Volunteers enjoyed homemade soup. Sue and St John were head chefs for the day and Tesco, Kinson kindly donated bread and cheese.



February 2020 Craft and Create Wet Felting

A Volunteer with help from her sister, led a group of Volunteers wet-felting. These unique crafting sessions were for Volunteers to create their own individual designs which were due to go on display as part of our 30th anniversary roadshow at Bournemouth Libraries. Due to Covid 19 this has now been postponed until a later date.



February 2020 Nursery bed maintenance

Approximately 20% of our nursery beds were re-covered during the winter months. New wind breaks were put in and irrigation re-laid to manage water usage and improve efficiency. Many thanks to New Milton Sand and Ballast for all their help.

March 2020 Into Lockdown

We were ready to begin our 30th anniversary programme of events in March with our season opener Plant Sale and Spring Fayre. This was cancelled with all subsequent events postponed until further notice. Volunteers were asked to stay at home and our RHS courses were curtailed.



VOLUNTEERS' ACTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN

Our Volunteers coped with lockdown in different ways, here are just two of their stories.

Volunteer's lockdown story 'A' - I was off sick for 6 months with anxiety and depression last year. Those months were sheer misery for me, suffering with severe anxiety and depression. However, the unexpected 6 months off this year due to lockdown/furlough has been so different, in some ways being a weird awakening of what is important.

Everything seemed at a slower pace, no time deadlines, I felt relaxed and started to find things I wanted and enjoyed to do. I set up a potting table and began putting into practice things I had learnt at Cherry Tree

One thing that I really have enjoyed during my time in lockdown has been crafting, making greeting cards – each day I would wake up with inspiration and motivation – I would get up, get dressed, put on my make-up, do my hair as if I were going to work and settle down ready to work on my own little job. This behaviour was very unlike the year before, when I was ill nothing motivated me. This year I was actually strangely looking forward to each day, albeit well aware the world was suffering terribly and obviously watching the news and listening to the awful daily announcements

I hope to continue with this and make more cards to give to Cherry Tree for their fund-raising fayres when they can recommence.



Volunteer's lockdown story 'B' - When the lockdown first started, I felt a bit anxious as I just had built up my confidence a bit more and started to come to Cherry Tree twice a week, and I felt like I had got a lot done. Then we all had to go to self-quarantine and started to feel the full impact of the lockdown. It wasn't too hard to bounce back from it in the beginning, I followed my routine of cup of coffee, smoothie, medication, yoga in the morning and then crafting, a lot of it.

One of the things my partner and I decided to do was build a new enclosure for Mr. Pickles, our little Chinese Water Dragon. We got him 2 years ago this August 29th to help me improve my mental health and get back to routine when I was at my lowest.

He loves cuddles and kisses. I do not recommend kissing any odd dragons though if you don't know for a fact that you can trust them not to try to bite your nose!

Mr. Pickles helped us cope with the lockdown and increased mental health issues. Plus, I used my learned skills, trying to maintain clear routines for bed and wake up and having some kind of routine. We had our struggles at some points but we were able to overcome them.

We are glad Cherry Tree is back on and, though slowly, things are moving forward.

More Volunteer stories can be found on our website <https://www.cherrytreenursery.org.uk/volunteer-news/>



VOLUNTEERS' ACTIVITIES DURING LOCKDOWN



WE REMEMBER ...

We would like to remember our Volunteers, Friends and supporters that have sadly passed away this year. We send our condolences to their family and friends. They will be greatly missed.

Rest in Peace

Tony Bayliss, Joan Bond, Robert Craddock, Richard Place, Alison Habershon, Clive Lambert, Hilary Murphy, Ted Sadler, Mark Smith, Lynne Webb.



Lynne

Mark



Hilary

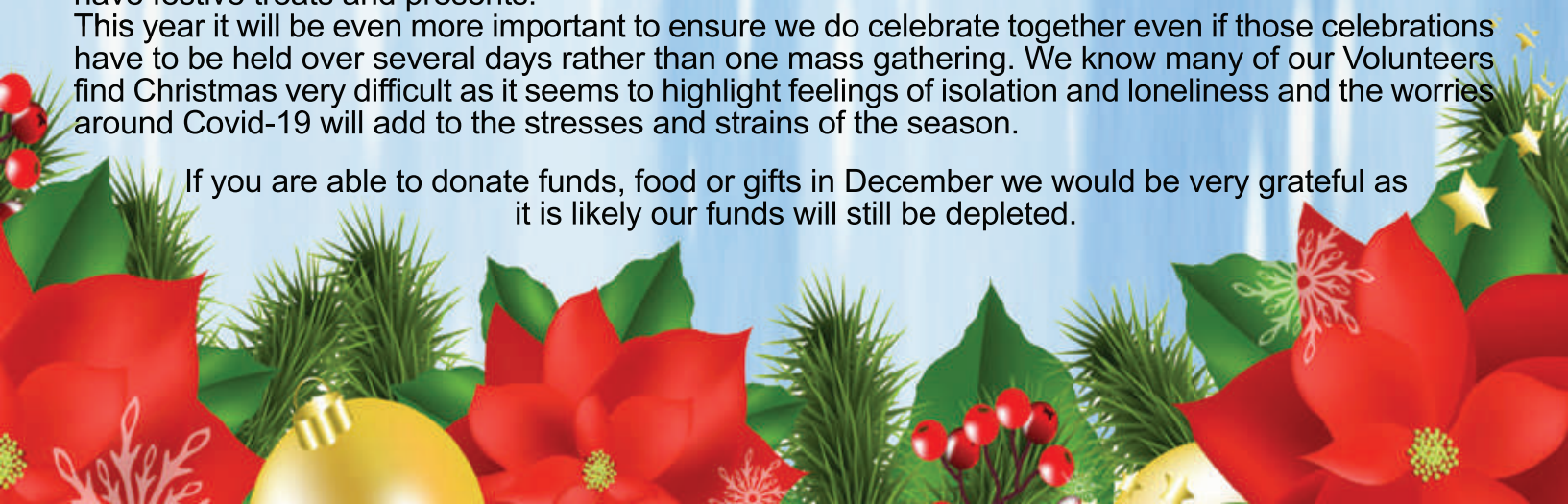


CHRISTMAS

Before we know it, Christmas will be upon us and again we will have to improvise and adapt the way we celebrate. Our traditional Christmas party is unlikely to be possible in the usual format due to the huge numbers that attend, but I am sure we will come up with other ways to ensure all of our Volunteers have festive treats and presents.

This year it will be even more important to ensure we do celebrate together even if those celebrations have to be held over several days rather than one mass gathering. We know many of our Volunteers find Christmas very difficult as it seems to highlight feelings of isolation and loneliness and the worries around Covid-19 will add to the stresses and strains of the season.

If you are able to donate funds, food or gifts in December we would be very grateful as it is likely our funds will still be depleted.



AND A HUGE THANK YOU FROM CHERRY TREE NURSERY TO ...

....Norman Aish, Jonathan Aish, Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean Charitable Foundation, Beer Harris Memorial Trust, Naomi Bennett, Cat Bullen, David Cannock, Jenny Charoenjai, Christchurch Lace Society, Amy Collins, Co-operative Local Community Fund, Community Action Network, Rob Connell, John Coulston, Country Gardener, Barry and Eileen Cross, Estate of Mrs Sheila Black, Good Gym Bournemouth, Richard Grigg, Groundworks, Robin and Denise Hill, Holdenhurst Charity, Horsa Lodge 2208, Katherine Hunt, Incorporated Bournemouth Free Church, Renate Jeans, JP Morgan, Arthur and Doreen King, Kinson Tyres, Val Lampard, Leonard Laity Stoate Trust, David and Collette Levitt, Malcolm Jefferies, Frank Matthews, Sue and Steve Matthews, Shirley Mitchelmore, Moose International, Norman Franklin, Andrew O'Sullivan, Amy and Andrew Peabody, People's Postcode Trust, Liz Pitkin, Pitt Rivers Charitable Trust, Deidre Redstone, Bridie Rocks, Rotary Club of Bournemouth North, Rotary Club of Westbourne, Mr E and Mrs HR Sheriff, Owen Shires, Lana Smith, Gwenda Smith, Richard Smith, Mary Spooner, St Michaels Lodge of Ferndown 3521, Talbot Village Trust, Tesco Kinson and Northbourne, Howard and Lynette Tisshaw, Trinity United Reformed Church, Verwood Afternoon Townswomens Guild, Victoria Park Methodist Church, Waitrose Winton, West Parley Gardening Club, White Stuff Bournemouth, Mrs A Wilson, Mr and Mrs Yarrow.



Thank you

And to the host of friends, helpers, supporters, families, customers and public who give so freely of their time, energy and enthusiasm which contributes to Cherry Tree and Chestnut Nurseries, to allow us to continue to help those in need. We cannot begin to thank every person or organisation who have 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



Sheltered Work Opportunities Project

off New Road Roundabout, Northbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH10 7DA

☎ 01202 593537

✉ contactus@cherrytreenursery.org.uk

🏠 www.cherrytreenursery.org.uk

📘 Cherry Tree Nursery

🐦 @CherryT_Nursery

Registered Charity No 900325

Please see Facebook and our website for up to date opening times and events