

Cherry Tree Nursery

Caring for people, caring for plants ...

Spring
Newsletter
2021



MANAGER'S NOTES

Welcome to 2021 and our Spring Newsletter. Who would have thought we would be emerging from our third lockdown? I hope you are all safe, well and looking forward to the summer as much as we are here.

We managed to celebrate Christmas with our Volunteers in a socially-distanced manner, more of that later in the newsletter, that gave us all such a boost and we are very grateful to all those who made it possible. We took the decision to stay closed in January and February as the welfare of our Volunteers, Friends, Staff and of course, customers was paramount and it was with great relief we reopened early in March to welcome everyone back.

The nursery benefitted from a deep clean during the last lockdown and is now looking very smart, the benches are filling with plants and soon will be awash with colour and scent.

That we are open and flourishing, is a testament to those behind the scenes who have given freely of their time and energy, our Volunteers, Volunteer Friends, Trustees and Staff and we thank each and every one of you. Here's to a happy and safe 2021.

Tish



MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Hello everyone and I hope that you and your families are safe and well. What a year the last year has been for us all and as Chairman I would like to introduce myself but most importantly say a huge thank you to everyone.

To our supporters you have enabled us to not only survive three lockdowns but to be in a strong position to support our Team of amazing Volunteers, Friends and Staff now and in the future. To our loyal customers who supported us via our online shopping and as soon as restrictions lifted from both Cherry Tree and Chestnut, I know everyone was pleased to welcome you back.

I was fortunate enough to be asked to become a Trustee in 2013 having been a regular customer at Chestnut. When I was asked to become Chairman in the summer, I was genuinely proud but I also had some reservations as Martin Stewart is a hard act to follow. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Martin and I am sure we will get a chance to do this properly when restrictions allow.

Behind the scenes so much has happened. During the COVID pandemic we have held meetings via Zoom on what was a weekly basis and then fortnightly and as and when the government made an announcement. I hope that you agree and understand that some of the decisions were extremely hard to make but I can reassure you that every decision was taken with the safety of our Volunteers, Friends, Staff and Customers at heart. I cannot thank the Board of Trustees and Tish and Andrew, our nursery managers, enough.

I would also like to give a special mention to Nigel for braving a socially distanced Wing Walk and raising over £3000 for our charity.

Looking forward to the Spring and Summer and thank you all.

Regards *James*

CHERRY TREE NURSERY TIMELINE

May 2020 to January 2021

May/June 2020 – Reopen to the public

During the first national lockdown many people found gardening beneficial to their health, so the restrictions were lifted to allow garden centres and nurseries to reopen to the public. For the safety of our customers, we introduced a one-way system with social distancing guidelines in place.



July/August 2020 – Welcoming back our Volunteers in “bubbles”

We were delighted to have Volunteers back with us in separate groups in either morning or afternoon sessions between Tuesdays and Fridays.

September 2020 – High Anxiety – Wing Walk for Cherry Tree Nursery

On Friday 4th September one of our staff, Nigel, did a Wing Walk at Compton Abbas Airfield and raised over £3000 towards our Volunteers' welfare.

Nigel explains why he did it. "Whilst working alongside Volunteers at Cherry Tree Nursery I had gained further insight into the impact that mental health issues present on a day-to-day basis. For some Volunteers living with severe anxiety, it is a real challenge just to get out of their front door and get to the nursery, for others meetings and appointments are frightening and they need support and encouragement from staff. They face these challenges each and every day.

Having watched our Volunteers go through this process daily, I was given a chance to experience this acute anxiety myself by doing a sponsored Wing Walk for Cherry Tree Nursery. I do not enjoy flying and I am afraid of heights! The thought of being strapped to a biplane and doing a loop quite frankly scared me and set my heart racing. Once I was up in the air though, I was able to get over my short-term anxiety; long-term, day to day anxiety, as experienced by many of our Volunteers, is another matter and is much less easy to overcome."





October 2020 – World Mental Health Day Kinson Library Display

In the first week of October, to coincide with World Mental Health Day we were able to have a window display at Kinson Library showcasing our 30th Anniversary. One of our volunteers put together a brief timeline history of Cherry Tree Nursery.



October 2020 – Handing out RHS certificates

We were delighted to be able to hand out certificates to our volunteers who had completed their RHS Level One award in practical horticulture course earlier in the year.



November 2020 – Volunteer bug hotel-making in lockdown 2

During the second national lockdown, our most vulnerable volunteers still attended the nursery and were kept occupied undertaking various tasks on the nursery. Bug hotels were made which were put on sale in our shop and were very popular with our customers.



December 2020 – Christmas Lunches for our Volunteers

The traditional Christmas party for our Volunteers was not possible in its usual format, due to the huge numbers which normally attend, but it was even more important to ensure that we celebrated together, even if those celebrations had to be held over several days rather than one mass gathering.

We know many of our Volunteers find Christmas very difficult as it highlights feelings of isolation and loneliness, and the worries around Covid-19 added to the stresses and strains of the season. We provided Volunteers with a socially distanced, two-course Christmas lunch at the Nursery, supplied by our friends at The Crumbs Project. Each Volunteer also received a selection of Christmas festive treats and presents.

Many thanks to all the donators from the local community who enabled us to bring a little bit of Christmas joy to our Volunteers. One of the Volunteers wrote the following letter, which we would like to share with you.





VOLUNTEERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

What a wonderful day we had. On arrival at the Nursery, we were greeted with Ray taking our temperatures as usual and then were shown to our places, 2m apart in the tearoom, which was covered with Christmas decorations and a lovely tree. Around the walls were large photos of volunteers all smiling at us. We had cold drinks poured for us and then we sat down together and waited for our lunch.

Two staff from Crumbs were there in the kitchen section waiting for their van to arrive with the dinner, and Ray and Tish were all ready to serve our meals. We each had a placename on the table with a small present and a Christmas table decoration with a candle.

When it arrived, Ray and Tish brought us our meal and it was so delicious with slices of turkey, cranberry sauce, 'pigs in blankets' and chestnut stuffing. The vegetables were sprouts, carrots, cauliflowers, roast potatoes and roast parsnips and some volunteers had a vegetable bake. We all tucked in and thoroughly enjoyed the meal. After our plates were cleared, we had either Christmas pudding and custard or a meringue with winter berries. Delicious and very filling.

Tish told us that we would have a surprise afterwards and it was our very own 'Mrs Claus' on the TV screen sitting in her armchair beside a large, decorated Christmas tree and wishing us all a Happy Christmas. Truly a lovely surprise!

The surprises didn't stop there because when we all left, Tish and Ray gave us each a shopping bag with wonderful presents inside.

How could you have a better Christmas lunch party than that, being greeted with lovely smiles? It made everyone feel wanted and happy. A huge thanks to everyone involved on what was a truly lovely day.

Liz Pitkin
15/12/20



Jan 2021 – Lockdown 3

In January we entered a third national lockdown, and because the Covid 19 case rates were so high in the Bournemouth area we decided to close until case rates improved. A minimum number of staff were on site to look after the plants and cats during this period.

VOLUNTEER'S LOCKDOWN 3



1.

ready... STEADY...



2.



3.



4.



6.

1. Valentine's Day crafts
2. Creative courses
3. Painting
4. Food art
5. Making cakes
6. Sharing Inspiration



5.

Many of our Volunteers have found the recent Lockdown to be particularly tough. A couple of our Volunteers have written poems expressing how they have felt during this time.

'The words that are spoken are so bossy and unkind the thing I call it... taking over my mind. I will not allow them to control me as they continue to mutter.

For their words will be wasted I throw them to the gutter. I will destroy the thing I call it..., like a tree in a storm...and in time. I will survive my fall. I am strong... I am me. I will continue to grow Allow myself the chance to be free. For I am me...I love me. The warrior will win!!! For these are only words... bad and controlling and are suitable only for the bin.

I have learned that life is full of anger conflict and stress, with so many variations of chit chat and worry I am doing my best. I am choosing to not have it in my world...as it causes me to become unwell, I live in hope that covid will do one...but only time will tell.

A year without hugs,, Or able to be free. I can't wait for normality, and get back to the heart of hugs. Cherry Tree Nursery'

- By whispering virtues, a solitary state, my imagination unfolds an involuntary trait, a passion for knowledge a letter to write it is getting late on this very night
 - I may be wrong it's my deep centred view, of all that is, not just me and you
 - Its flowers the trees the birds the bees, with grasses of greens the cold winter breeze it's the animals that forage from dawn until dusk, the sweet smell of lavender a fragrant musk
 - The morning dew the first rain of spring, listening to the birds chirping as they sing, yes there's more to learn but hours have gone by so I say goodnight y'all



CHESTNUT NURSERY, July 2020 onwards ...

In July we welcomed the Volunteers back to the Nursery, much to their delight! We were able to accommodate all those who wished to return for 1 day per week, thus forming daily 'bubbles' to keep everybody safe and to enable us to work socially distanced.

The shop re-opened in the middle of July after re-arranging to form a '1-way' system and our customers were pleased to finally be able to visit; we had many favourable comments regarding the quality of our plants and the service that had been received via our web shop.

Throughout the summer the Volunteers were able to carry on with potting, plant care, watering, and general nursery maintenance. As the second lockdown came into force, only the most vulnerable Volunteers came to the Nursery over 2 days when the shop was closed. We installed Perspex shielding around our till area to further ensure the safety of our Volunteers, Friends and Customers. We missed being able to hold our annual BBQ but hopes are high that we will be able to gather together this year. We were also unable to have a Christmas party and so we decided to hold a 'Fish and Chip' day with each daily 'bubble' during the week before Christmas. These were enjoyed by all and thanks to donations from local companies, individuals and supermarkets everybody received a gift and the chance to win a prize in the raffle. We did, of course, hold a Christmas Quiz by popular demand! Our thanks also go to Barclays Bank who funded the printing of our Christmas cards.

One of the gift choices that we were able to offer the Volunteers was for a t-shirt, beanie hat or cap printed with the Nursery logo. These were very popular and we are looking forward to seeing them being worn as the weather improves!

Returning to the Nursery after the Christmas break was for 1 day only as the third lockdown was announced. As in the previous lockdowns we kept in touch with the volunteers by telephone every week and access to the Facebook page was also encouraged. The Volunteers were able to return to the Nursery during the first week of March and, with the advent of the vaccine programme we are hopeful that we can now look forward to a busy and healthy year, spending time in our outdoor spaces.



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 much missed.

Rest in Peace

Hugh Knapton, Olive Boswell



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

Jean Aish, Norman Aish, Alice Ellen Cooper-Dean Charitable Foundation, Archers Trust, Asda Foundation, Rob Batson, Naomi Bennett, Mrs E J Blake, Christchurch Calligraphy group, Co-op Community fund, John Coulston, Katie Cox, Philip Craft, Eileen and Barry Cross, Customers of Bearwood General Stores, Chrissie Davies, Family and Friends of Olive Boswell, Adrian Fry, Hudson Charitable Trust, Malcolm and Jenny Jefferies, JP Morgan, Arthur and Doreen King, Kinson Tyres, Leonard Laity Stoate Trust, DG and CE Levitt, LV =/Karen Mullen, Josh Lyon, Jill Manlove, Frank Matthews, AR and VM Mesher, Sonya Middlemast, Moose International Winton and Wimborne, Arthur Moseley, Peoples Postcode Trust, Liz Pitkin, Pitt Rivers Charitable Trust, Poyser Fund, Deidre Redstone, Rebecca Rolls, Rotary Club of Bournemouth North, Rotary Club of Westbourne, Mr H and Mrs E Ruff, Nigel Short, Michael Smith, Richard Smith, Julie Sprules, Squishy Peas Limited, Talbot Village Trust, Tesco Kinson, Bryan Tizzard, Trinity United Reformed Church, White Stuff foundation.



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



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