

# Sheltered Work Opportunities Project

*Caring for people, caring for plants ...*



Spring  
Newsletter  
2022

# MANAGER'S NOTES

CHERRY TREE NURSERY

Thank goodness the long, dark nights are shortening and spring is making its presence felt. The birds are busy nesting and the early flowers and blossom are a welcome reminder that it will be summer before we know it. With all the pain of world events and the strains of daily living, it is even more important to spend time appreciating how beautiful nature is and how it can bring comfort in times of need.

We are slowly returning to more normal pre-pandemic activities and recently five of our Volunteers and a member of staff were lucky enough to spend four nights in Woodsford Castle, courtesy of The Landmark Trust's Fifty for Free scheme. They had a wonderful break and our thanks also to Bovington Tank Museum and Sculpture by the Lakes who kindly donated entrance tickets.

Our Volunteers have endured a great number of restrictions during the past two years, as have many others, and our thanks and admiration to all who have helped to keep everyone safe. We hope now that the worst is behind us and we can once again enjoy each other's company in the summer months ahead, with trips and events to enjoy.

We are very pleased to welcome Zoe as our permanent Sales Supervisor and Suzanne and Richard as our seasonal Retail Assistants at Cherry Tree Nursery. A welcome also to Maria, who is joining the team as our charity's Community Liaison Officer and will be introducing herself later in this newsletter.

The nursery is bursting into life, the bedding and vegetables are arriving and we have a host of plants ready for your gardens. We are now open seven days per week, 9am to 3pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 3pm Sundays, we look forward to welcoming you all.

**Tish**



# MANAGER'S NOTES

CHESTNUT NURSERY

It's been another busy and enjoyable few months on the nursery. We spent the winter carrying out some much-needed improvements to the drainage underneath our poly tunnel and to the access around our plant stock beds. Special thanks go to those who donated money or materials towards the projects and especially to our hard-working volunteers who enjoyed the challenge of installing new drains and pathways. These improvements provide our volunteers with a safe environment to grow the healthy plants they enjoy so much. The new shop continues to be a success and our range of products and produce is expanding all the time. As the seasons progress and soil temperatures and light levels increase, so does the rate at which we pot and grow, and we are now well under way with the busy growing season and are fully stocked with a wonderful array of plants. It means so much to the volunteers that their hard work and dedication should bring joy to the wider community. Knowing that our plants go into your gardens and brighten your days further enhances the therapeutic benefits of working at Chestnut.

This year is a milestone for Chestnut as it's our 21st birthday! We can't believe it's been twenty-one years since SWOP took over the old council nursery next to Poole Park, but look how far we have come. Over the years, many volunteers and individuals have worked at the nursery. It is due to everyone's input and support that Chestnut has been able to develop into the vibrant and welcoming place it is today. Here's to another twenty-one years of 'Caring for People, Caring for Plants'.

**Andy**

# The Cherry Tree Wildlife Pond in Spring



The pond, Autumn 2021

Winter 2021



Following the removal in late autumn of much of the aquatic plant growth, which was choking the pond, the area has been allowed to settle during the winter period. With the onset of spring, the wildlife area with its pond is gradually showing signs of life. The hellebores and pulmonarias, with their subtle shades of purple and the vivid yellows of the primulas are in full flower, making an impressive display. The berberis and cornus shrubs have yet to reach full vigour, while the highly scented daphne odora has nearly finished flowering.

In the pond, the aquatic plants are showing signs of life. The newly potted arrow grasses (*peltandra virginica*), planted in the autumn are now beginning to grow. There are signs that the palmate newts are becoming more active and have been seen occasionally rising to the surface for air. Palmate newts are smaller and less common than the common smooth newt. They can be identified by their darker colour and webbed feet on their back legs. Microscopic animals such as fresh water shrimps, water fleas and pond lice provide food for the newts and frogs and are a sign of a healthy environment.

We look forward to monitoring the pond and surrounding area during the coming seasons.

**By Cherry Tree Volunteer RG**



Bournemouth in Bloom  
Silver Gilt Certificate

The pond bench, in memory of  
Sophie Hoff



Spring 2022

A newt from the  
pond



# Cherry Tree timeline

## September 2021 to November 2021



A special birthday **September 2021**

Whether it's a big 50 or big 60 we like to celebrate our Volunteers' special birthdays with a themed cake, made by our friends at the Crumbs project.



Preloved garden tool shed

**October 2021**

Reduce, reuse, recycle ... One of our Volunteer Friends turned an ordinary shed into our preloved garden tool shed. Volunteers recondition gifted garden tools for sale for a donation to our charity. Donations of garden tools always welcome!



New look shop ranges

**October 2021**

In October we introduced new ranges of garden accessories and houseplants into our retail shop.



Craft & create for Christmas

**November 2021**

As the days became darker and shorter, Volunteers led craft and create sessions in their tea room, making personalised notecards and notebooks that would be given as gifts to fellow Volunteers at Christmas.



Impromptu jacket potatoes

**November 2021**

On a cold day in November, Volunteers were treated to some jacket potatoes cooked on a bonfire by our bonfire expert Nigel.



New retail benches

**Winter 2021**

Volunteers enjoyed making new benches for our retail area, made possible by generous funding from one of our supporters.

# Cherry Tree timeline

## December 2021 to February 2022

### December 2022

In December we were able to provide Volunteers with a much-deserved Christmas celebration. Many of our Volunteers find Christmas a very difficult time as it highlights isolation and loneliness therefore our celebrations are a time to come together.

Each day for four days, we provided Volunteers and our regular Volunteer Friends with a two-course Christmas lunch at the Nursery, supplied by The Crumbs Project.

We held a daily raffle, with every Volunteer going home with a prize. Each Volunteer also went home with a goody bag of festive treats and presents. A massive thanks to all the donators from the local community who enabled us to bring Christmas joy to our Volunteers.

We had some lovely feedback from our Volunteers including the following -

*'Thank you once again for a lovely Christmas Lunch. You obviously worked hard to make it special for everyone and I appreciated being invited'*

*'The Christmas meal was delicious and thank you for all your very hard work in making it an enjoyable party. By the way, I am absolutely over the moon with my raffle prize of the Aran jumper, it fits a dream and so warm'*

*'The gifts were a lovely touch and a special surprise'*

### January 2022

One of our Volunteers led a Chinese Cookery Class for other Volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the class, the food tasted and smelled great!



### February 2022

The nursery didn't escape the damage that Storm Eunice caused throughout much of the country. Polytunnels were ripped open and fences bordering our retail area were blown down and destroyed. With funding we have been able to repair the polytunnels and install replacement metal fencing. Thanks to Broadstone Golf Club, Men's Team, for their timely donation.



# Introducing our new Community Liason Officer . .

Spring has Sprung and our new Community Liaison Officer, Maria Tidy, is ready to "Spring" into Action. Here's her message to you . . .

Firstly, thank you for taking a few minutes to read this message which will, hopefully, give an insight into who I am, what I hope to achieve in this new role and how YOU can help ?

Here goes . . . . . I'm a Dorset girl, born and bred, and have lived in and around Bournemouth and Poole for most of my life, apart from a little ten-year jaunt to Wimbledon in my 20's. I'm embracing being on the wrong side of Fabulous 50 – 50 is the new 30, isn't it? I live with my long-suffering hubby of over 30 years, Tony – not sure who's suffering more, me or him. And, I am owned by the most handsome (in my opinion), 15-month-old Golden Retriever named Winston.

My hobbies include gardening (no surprise there), baking, socialising with my family and friends, going to the theatre and walking. Oh, and I LOVE my job - I've worked in the voluntary sector for over 15 years and get a great sense of pride from the work I do helping others.

Which brings me neatly into my role at the Sheltered Work Opportunities Project which is to raise the profile of the charity and to raise funds to support our Volunteers in their work but I can't do this alone so, I'll be calling on you all for support.

We've already launched our "Great Garden Party" Campaign which calls on people to host a coffee morning, afternoon tea, networking event or celebration by candlelight to raise some funds. We would love for you to get involved either by hosting an event yourself or by spreading the word and we will be offering coffee and cake at Cherry Tree Nursery on Saturday 14th May so why not pop along.

On Saturday 30 and Sunday 31st July we will be hosting the "Great SWOP Duck Race" in Bournemouth Gardens and watch this space for the "Great Santa Paws Dog Walk" in December plus many more events and activities in between.

And that's just the events, I'm also looking for support from local business, community groups, clubs and individuals so if you're able to introduce me to anybody who you think would like to be involved please don't hesitate to give me a call on 07899 973614 or email [maria@cherrytreenursery.org.uk](mailto:maria@cherrytreenursery.org.uk)

Thank you much for indulging me be reading this and I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

**Maria**



## We Remember ...

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

Rest in Peace. Sophie Hoff,



# CHESTNUT NURSERY UPDATE

After our busiest spring and summer ever last year, we entered Autumn with some important maintenance tasks to complete!

Throughout Autumn and winter, the volunteers remained in their daily 'bubbles' and readied the Nursery for winter as well as undertaking a project to revamp the drainage in the Polytunnel.

After emptying all the plants into the greenhouses, a large amount of gravel was hand-balled around the site and emptied into the polytunnel, flattened down and topped with a fresh layer of weed control fabric. The plants have been returned and are flourishing in their freshly prepared space.

We were able to celebrate Christmas with a Fish and Chip lunch for each daily bubble, with our ever-famous quiz playing its part in our celebrations. Our thanks go to all who donated for Christmas, which ensured that each volunteer had a gift and a 'goody bag' to celebrate with.

Our next job was to lay paving slabs in our outdoor stock area to make easier access for trolleys; again, the volunteers worked hard to get this job finished. We are now planning to extend this 'pathway' for further easier access and are grateful to the Rotary Club of Poole and Sydenham's for their support in providing us with more slabs.

Since Christmas the volunteers have been busy potting up bareroot roses, fruit trees and bushes and as we write this, the spring bedding is starting! The greenhouses are filling up and we are looking forward to the flower-filled season ahead of us.

The roses are thriving and with a selection of named roses we think that we have a rose for every occasion. Similarly, the fruit trees are starting to blossom and if you are planning to 'plant a tree for the jubilee' one of these may be perfect, with their annual crop providing a delicious snack for all.

Call in and browse in our shop where we have a wide range of houseplants and indoor pots, a children's gardening range, gardening tools and accessories as well as treats and gifts for gardeners of all ages! If you want to achieve growing success and make sure your plants flourish, then please pay us a visit, our knowledgeable and friendly staff will be happy to help with your gardening queries.

We are open from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday and 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday. We are closed on Mondays. We look forward to seeing you!



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

Jean Aish, Norman Aish, Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation, Asda Foundation, Barclays, Rob Batson, Bourne Group Ltd, Bournemouth Free Church, Broadstone Golf Club, Mr and Mrs Clifford, Katie Cox, Customers of Jeremy Warner, Linda Davies, Family and Friends of Eva Ruff, Family and Friends of Pip Lane, Family and Friends of Shirley Vinney, Family and Friends of Sophie Hoff, Family and Friends of Sybille Finnegan, George Fry Ltd, Dr Martin Green, Holdenhurst Charity, Malcolm & Jenny Jefferies, JP Morgan, Kinson Royal Arch Charter, Kinson Tyres, Leonard Laity Stoaite trust, Frank Matthews, Moose International, More Bus Community Fund, B D Muskett, J Osbourn, PFM Associates Poole, Mrs E Pitkin, Pitt Rivers Charitable Trust, RAF Association, Rotary Club of Bournemouth North, Rotary Club of Ferndown & Parley, Rotary Club of Poole, Henry Ruff, MJ & A Smith, Richard Smith, Julie Sprules, Talbot Village Trust, Tesco Kinson, Waitrose Winton, Alex & Ingrid Wells, Mr David Woodbridge, Mr & Mrs DM & MM 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.



Registered Charity 900325

## Sheltered Work Opportunities Project

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