

# Sheltered Work Opportunities Project

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

Autumn  
Newsletter  
2022



# MANAGER'S NOTES

## CERRY TREE NURSERY

What a summer, as we read this newsletter those long, hot days seem a distant memory. We were very lucky not to have a hosepipe ban in this area and we hand watered as much as possible to try and use our water supplies carefully but it was certainly hard to keep the plants from wilting.

Our Volunteers' Tea Room was finally restored following a flood in December 2021 and we used some restricted funding to improve the kitchen facilities at the same time. We now have an oven and hob on an island, an extractor fan and a dishwasher. The plans are to provide cooking lessons for our Volunteers and to have soup and jacket potatoes days in the colder weather.

It was wonderful to hold our Autumn Fayre and Plant Sale in September after an absence of three years. The weather was perfect and I am sure all who attended will agree, the atmosphere was fantastic. Thank you to all who made this possible by helping, supporting and attending.

How sad to lose our Queen and we marked the event at our Autumn Fayre with a memorial table and two-minute silence. The Princess Royal visited Cherry Tree Nursery in March 2012 to open our Volunteers' Tea Room and was very interested and supportive of our work.

Our thoughts now turn to Christmas and again, after an absence of three years, we will be holding our Cherry Tree Nursery Christmas Party at Pelhams in Kinson. For the past two years, we have managed to celebrate over a four-day period, to ensure the safety of those attending, this year we will be together and we are looking forward to a memorable event!

May I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and to thank you all for your support.

*Tish*



# MANAGER'S NOTES

## CHESTNUT NURSERY

As we head into winter the low-slung sun now glistens across the dew-soaked leaves, casting long shadows across the nursery and drenching all in its golden glow. We reflect back on another season passed and thank all for their hard work and support. The growing season is always a hive of activity on the nursery with volunteers busy potting, watering and tending to plants as well as carrying out sales in the shop. Everyone enjoys the buzz of seeing healthy plants leave the site with happy smiling customers. Knowing that the plants they grow, go on to bring joy in the wider community gives purpose to our volunteer's work.

We will be selling Christmas trees again this year as well as many tempting seasonal delights, so although you may not feel like getting in the garden, there will be plenty on offer to pique your interest right through into the new year and beyond.

The volunteers are now getting stuck into winter projects around the site. Laying new paths with donated paving slabs, installing French drains to improve our growing beds and of course potting up plants for next year. Whilst we savour every moment together working as a team and supporting each other, one of the most uplifting parts of nursery life, is gazing forwards with optimism into a future full of healthy plants and healthy minds. We look forward to sharing our passion for plants with all.

*Andy*



# Cherry Tree timeline

## March 2022 to September 2022



### March 2022 Landmark Trust visit

A group of Volunteers had a week's holiday, courtesy of the Landmark Trust, staying at Woodsford Castle near Dorchester. They enjoyed staying in the surviving part of this 14th Century castle deep in Hardy country. They also went on day trips to Bovington Tank Museum, Sculpture by the Lakes (both kindly donated) and Charmouth beach.



Landmark Trust visit



Repairing the fences

### March 2022 Fence repairs after Storm Eunice

Urgent fence repairs were undertaken on our retail area following the damage caused by Storm Eunice.



Special cakes from the Crumbs Project

### April 2022 Celebrating special birthdays

Spring was upon us and big birthdays were celebrated in the Cherry Tree way including cakes made by our Volunteers and made by the Crumbs Project.

### April 2022 Volunteer's Easter Egg raffle

In April we held an Easter Egg raffle for our Volunteers. Thanks to Bournemouth Lions Club for their donation of Easter Eggs.





# Cherry Tree timeline

## March 2022 to September 2022



Our external help team

### June 2022 Family Fest

Family Fest 2022 took place in June at The Meadows, Julian's Road, Wimborne. We were delighted to be their chosen charity raising vital funds for our volunteers' travel expenses.



Our annual Harry Roffey day out



### July 2022 RHS Kew trip

In July, students who had completed the RHS Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Everyone enjoyed exploring the 300-acre site which included the world's largest Victorian glasshouse, home to over 10,000 plants. The giant lily pads in the Waterlily House were another highlight and the day was a fabulous way to consolidate what had been learned on the course. Our thanks to Norman Aish who sponsored the event and to Nigel for driving the minibus. And, of course, well done to all of our students.



Trip to RHS Kew



### May 2022 Welcoming external help

At our busiest time of year, we welcomed help on the nursery from corporate organisations on away days including Nationwide.



Family Fest '22

### July 2022 Harry Roffey Day

In July, our annual Volunteers' coach trip took place in memory of a long-term supporter of ours, Harry Roffey. We had a lovely day out in beautiful West Dorset, visiting Lyme Regis and West Bay. The coach trip was supported by Bournemouth North Rotary Club and Tesco Kinson.



# Cherry Tree timeline

## March 2022 to September 2022

### August 2022 Volunteers and Friends Picnic at the Beach

In August we hired the Branksome Dene Room for our first social get together since pre covid. Our Volunteers were provided with a buffet lunch by Friends. It was lovely to be together again enjoying each other's company, the lovely surroundings and the summer sunshine.



Picnic at the beach



Ellingham Show

### August 2022 Ellingham Show

We had a stall at the Ellingham Show, which was celebrating their 75th anniversary and able to take place for the first time in four years despite the extreme heat. We were delighted to receive the Nurseries Cup.

### August 2022 Re opening of Volunteers Tea Room

One of our patrons Norman Aish re-opened our Volunteers' Tea Room following a complete refurbishment after the flood in December 2021.



Reopening the Tea Room



Before



After

### September 2022 Plant Sale and Autumn Fayre

Our first Plant Sale and Fayre for three years took place in September. As well as plants on sale at special prices, we had craft stalls, live music and a BBQ provided by Westbourne Rotary. We were pleased to see so many people attend and support us. A two-minute silence was impeccably observed in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.



September Plant Sale



& Autumn Fayre





# COMMUNITY LIAISON UPDATE

Dear Supporters

Well I'm now six months in to my role as Community Engagement Officer and I can't thank you all enough for your welcome and support. I've learned so much about the Sheltered Work Opportunities Project and it is a privilege to be able to work with such amazing people for such amazing people.

We started the year with "The Great Garden Party" when we asked supporters to host events in their gardens to raise awareness and funds, and that culminated in a Great Garden Party at the nurseries with music, tea and cake. What better way to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month.

This was closely followed "The Great Duck Race" in Bournemouth gardens where we saw 6,000 ducks released into the stream over two days and raised £3,000.

We were delighted to have been chosen as the charity to support at the Gordon Barker Charity Golf Day this year – the funds are still coming in but early indications are that the event raised over £6,000.

And, at the end of September some of our Volunteers and supporters took part in The Inflatable 5k – a 5km run over 32 Giant Inflatables. Great fun was had by all and over £700 was raised.

Other events have included bucket collections, presentations, plant sales, and fetes.

Upcoming events include the 21 Challenge and the Santa Paws Dog Walk on 11th December. Please keep an eye on our social media pages and websites for more details or get in touch via email [maria@swopcharity.org.uk](mailto:maria@swopcharity.org.uk)

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support.

Maria  
Community Liaison Officer



The Great Duck Race



Flower Fairy



The 5k Inflatable Volunteers



Chestnut Garden Party



Cherry Tree Garden Party



Tesco Kinson Bucket Collection

## 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

Barbara Kilburn, Chris Peacock, Malcolm Rattue, Margaret Geddes, Shaun Mizen, Theo Frank and Shirley Mitchelmore.



Chris Peacock



Margaret Geddes



Barbara Kilburn



# CHESTNUT NURSERY UPDATE

The volunteers started the Spring season busily potting up our fabulous, healthy, homegrown plants, as well as welcoming some new volunteers for us to support.

As we were able to relax Covid restrictions the majority of the volunteers were happy to be offered a second day at the Nursery and business returned to normal! We will still retain our screens around the till area as an ongoing precaution for all those who work on there.

Our houseplant range continues to expand and includes a wide selection of 'tropical' style plants as well as cacti and succulents, together with feeds and fertilisers to keep them happy and growing. During the spring we introduced our bag-for-life of compost scheme, whereby on purchasing an empty bag, this could be filled with peat-free compost and then returned for a refill whenever needed – an excellent way of being environmentally friendly and no wastage!

We were excited to be able to hold our first plant Sale since the pandemic which took place in our old greenhouse shop. With amazing bargains and a huge range of plants of all types, sizes and varieties our customers were happy to stack their trollies high!

The best news of the year so far was that we were, for the first time in 3 years, able to hold our annual Volunteers' BBQ. The weather was fabulous, the food was delicious and everybody was happy to be able to spend time together, renewing friendships and catching up with everybody's news.

Fundraising has continued with events such as the Garden Party, Duck Race, Golf Day and most recently the '21 Challenge' – fundraising to restore our iconic greenhouse, the heart of the nursery, providing our volunteers with a safe and therapeutic environment to nurture plants and develop as individuals. Follow our social media for further details and updates!

As we come to the end of September the volunteers are busy adding drainage to our outdoor plant areas and will follow this by laying paving slabs for safer and easier access around the Nursery.

Our lovely shop is filled with an amazing selection of houseplants, indoor pots, gardening tools, accessories, gifts and seasonal bulbs for planting now ready for that colour Spring display! We will have Christmas trees and holly wreaths available from mid-November as well as gifts and goodies for gardeners everywhere!

Further details to follow!



Call in and see us to discover our plants and chat to our knowledgeable and friendly staff who will be happy to help with your gardening queries.

We are open at 75 Kingland Road, Poole, 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 & CHESTNUT NURSERIES TO ...

Norman Aish, Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation, Aaron Barker, Asda Foundation, Audrey Allen, Autumn Club, Barclays, BH10-BH11 Business Association, Rob Batson & Family Fest, Bournemouth Quakers, Bournemouth Tangent Club, Broadstone Golf Club, Debbie Browning, Capital School of English, Coastal Garden Buildings, Mr and Mrs M Clifford, Corfe Mullen Gardening Club, Susan Coupe, Coversure Insurance, Customers of Jeremy Warner, Dancing Daisy, Dance Mania, Dan Green, Evenkeel Financial, Family and Friends of Barbara Kilburn, Family and Friends of Chris Peacock, Family and Friends of Sydney Gillingham, Ferndown Business Network, Leon Field, Fix It Windows and Doors, Dan Green, Dr Martin Green, Groundworks (Tesco), Gordon Barker Sales & Lettings, Heathland House Care Home, Holdenhurst Charity, Individuality Swimming, Inner Wheel Club, Julie Stevenson/Ferndown Friendship, Kindness and Recycling Group, Malcolm & Jenny Jefferies, Val Lampard, Daisy Lapworth, Rachel Lapworth, Donna Lemon, Leonard Laity Stoate trust, Leading Edge Network, Lougham Motors, Frank Matthews, B D Muskett, NFU Mutual, Parkstone Gardeners, Parkstone Plant Society, Pitt Rivers Foundation, PKF Francis Clark, Poole Methodist Wesley Guild, Poulner Players, Rotary Club of Bournemouth North, Rotary Club of East Cliff, Rotary Club of Ferndown & Parley, Rotary Club of Poole, Ricardo Skocisio, Richard Smith, Peter Stockwell Jones, St Anthony's Church, West Moors, Talbot Heath School, Tesco Kinson, The HR Dept, Throop WI, TK Maxx/Homesense, Jeremy Weller, Wessex Aloe, Winton Methodist Church.

Capital School



Broadstone Golf Club



St. Anthony's Church



Bournemouth North Rotary



*Thank you*



Mike & Tina Clifford



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

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Registered Charity 900325

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