

# GreenShoots

The Grow newsletter

September - October 2025

## Marguerite Talmage, Grow Director, looks at the benefits of corporate partnering

'This year, two major corporate partnerships with Grow come to an end. While we celebrate the tremendous benefits these collaborations brought, we will miss their enthusiastic backing. Corporate support is vital, especially through CSR volunteering and sharing expertise. Volunteering showcases social responsibility, strengthens community ties and boosts reputation, and it provides charities with essential manpower, skills, and visibility to expand their impact. Sharing expertise in areas like marketing, finance, or legal advice helps charities optimise operations and strategy. This mutually benefits both sides: charities gain operational support while employees develop skills and morale. Companies benefit from enhanced brand image, attracting socially conscious customers and talent, as well as increased employee engagement. These partnerships also create networking opportunities and positive publicity, ultimately fostering societal change and reinforcing corporate social responsibility.

As our current relationships conclude, we are eager to develop new partnerships. So we are inviting interested businesses to visit us, tour our site, meet Crew and staff, and enjoy a coffee at 'Flourish,' our training café, to explore ways we can work together to make a meaningful difference in the community.

Please call me on 07911 719081 or email [marguerite@grow.gg](mailto:marguerite@grow.gg) or contact Mandy Mackelworth, our General Manager on 711600 or [mandy@grow.gg](mailto:mandy@grow.gg) ■



Marguerite Talmage

## Grow goes overseas

If you have visited Sark recently, you may have admired the colourful summer displays created with plants supplied by Grow. The vibrant begonias and impatiens (busy lizzies) at Fleur du Jardin tea gardens were grown by our team, bringing seasonal cheer to visitors. We're also proud suppliers to the Gallery Stores and Post Office, where our bedding plants are available for purchase. In addition, we regularly ship plants to several private customers across the island, sharing Grow's colour and care beyond Guernsey.' ■



Grow goes overseas



Recording The Quarry podcast

## Talking to The Quarry

When Warren Mauger invited Grow to feature in the very first edition of The Quarry Charity Spotlight podcast, we were delighted to take part. He explained that Guernsey's latest news outlet is built to connect our island community with independence and care. It celebrates local achievements, explores challenges, and relies on community support to deliver meaningful journalism. Mandy, Marguerite, and Jack joined The Quarry co-founder Nick Mann in the studio to share Grow's story. They spoke about how Grow began over 40 years ago as a sheltered horticulture workshop for people with learning disabilities. Two years ago, a £4 million redevelopment transformed the site into the modern hub we know today.

The team highlighted how staff now support Crew members to build skills and move into paid employment. With thriving plant sales, a busy café, and strong community backing, Grow has become much more than a workplace, it is now a place of learning, opportunity, and social connection. Above all, it offers pride and purpose for everyone.

To watch the podcast go to [www.thequarry.media/dig-this-podcast/](http://www.thequarry.media/dig-this-podcast/) ■

## CREW PROFILE



### Charlotte Ives

I wanted to come to GROW to work in a team and to use the skills I learnt at Bright Beginnings and Health Connections.

I first started coming to GROW from college and I am now working with Guernsey Employment Trust to find work. Grow will help me to get new skills so I am ready for work, I really want to start earning my own money.

I come to GROW two days a week, on a Wednesday and on a Friday. On Wednesdays I work on the viney in the afternoons and help Roscoe with the produce in the mornings. On a Friday I work in the training café. I like getting the salad prepared by cutting up the tomatoes into 4s. In the afternoon I am Front of House serving customers and taking the food to tables.

My favourite hobbies are fencing, rugby, horse riding and swimming. ■



Visit us for hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, jacket potatoes, homemade cakes and our amazing sausage rolls!



Our retail shop sells a number of items from the workshop, along with various locally made craft items.

Opening times 10.30am - 2.30pm  
Tuesday - Friday

## Saying thank you

We are proud to have shared a partnership with UBP UK, formerly known as SG Kleinwort Hambros, since March 2022. As Program Director Ben Franklin highlights below, our collaboration has been incredibly successful. To express our gratitude we recently invited their team to a barbeque, a small gesture to thank them for their ongoing commitment.

Ben said 'All the staff at UBP UK, formerly SG Kleinwort Hambros, have enjoyed working with Grow for the past three years across many events and initiatives. Whether it be practical volunteering at both the temporary and the new site, fundraising through bake sales and sporting competitions, or donations of IT equipment, vehicles or money, our staff are committed to helping the Grow team and Crew realise their ambitious goals.

Our recent visit to meet everyone and see the new facilities really hammered home the excellent work that has been done and continues to be done day-in and day-out, to empower so many deserving individuals. We are all very proud to support such a worthy cause and see the crew flourish under the expert guidance of the Grow team and hope to maintain this partnership for the foreseeable future.' ■



Meeting the UBP team on site



Donna serving ice cream to Deputy Andy Niles

### Cafe news

Over the past few months, 'Flourish', our training café, has continued to go from strength to strength. The recent addition of our Guernsey Dairy Ice Cream stand has been a fantastic success, creating new opportunities for customer interaction and providing the Crew with valuable new skills.

Customers can now enjoy four delicious flavours, Mint Choc Chip, Vanilla, Strawberry, and Chocolate, served in either a cone or a tub.

July was our busiest month ever, with more than 600 hot drinks and nearly 400 meals served, firmly establishing 'Flourish' as a favourite spot for our community.

At the heart of what we do is providing the Crew with meaningful workplace training, but in an environment that is quite different from traditional employment. We focus on building confidence, developing social skills, and encouraging teamwork. So far this year, the café has delivered over 2,400 hours of training in both the kitchen and front of house, an achievement we are truly proud of. ■

## Preparing for our orchard

During July a dedicated group of 13 volunteers from the Office of the Data Protection Authority joined the Grow team and Crew on site to help clear the raised beds and begin preparations for a new orchard of fruit trees. The volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the day, contributing their time and energy to support the project. Their efforts mark an exciting step toward establishing the orchard, which will provide fresh fruit for the Grow café and healthy snacks for the Crew. At the end of the day, Jack, one of the crew members, gave



ODPA volunteers with the Grow team

a heartfelt thank you speech to express gratitude for the volunteers' hard work. We are looking forward to planting the fruit trees during the autumn. ■



# Grow success at the North Show



Tim and Jonathan all ready for the Show

Wow what a terrific Show for Grow! Our produce won prizes in a variety of categories including onions, garlic, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, strawberries, eggs and Hayley's flower arrangement. We are all thrilled because all the vegetables were grown from seed and cared for by the Crew.

This summer, we decided to return to the North Show with a stall bursting with colour and creativity. Our vibrant plants, always a popular choice for brightening late summer gardens, were joined by the Crew's handcrafted creations. From bug hotels and bird boxes to hedgehog houses and striking Halloween pallet-wood pumpkin lanterns

(featured elsewhere in this newsletter), the display reflected the talent and hard work of everyone involved.

Taking part in events like the North Show is a real highlight for Grow. The Crew play an active role in every stage of preparation: caring for plants, crafting items in the workshop, and helping to set everything out for display. On the day, they also enjoy welcoming visitors to the stall, sharing their work, and engaging with the community.

We are deeply grateful to our FrOGs volunteers, who generously give their time to support staff and Crew. ■

## From Pallet Wood to Pumpkins!

At Grow Ltd we're getting ready for Halloween in our own creative and sustainable way! Our workshop team has been busy crafting beautiful pumpkin lanterns made entirely from reclaimed pallet wood. Each lantern is designed to last for many Halloweens to come, offering a reusable and eco-friendly alternative to single-use decorations.

The process is hands-on and full of care: the team sketch out unique pumpkin faces, then carefully relief cut each design so no two lanterns are ever the same. Once the carving is complete, the lanterns are scorched, sanded back, and finished with a warm orange stain that makes them glow with festive charm.

Perfect with an LED candle inside, these lanterns are safe, stylish, and a wonderful way to bring Halloween spirit into your home. By choosing one, you're not only supporting sustainable craft but also the amazing work of our workshop crew. ■



Karl and Abi with the Halloween boxes they helped to make

## STAFF PROFILE



## Hans Jungeruis

I joined Grow in 2023, just before the 40th anniversary, and from day one I felt warmly welcomed by the Crew and staff. It was a little daunting at first, but I quickly knew I'd found a good place to be. Growing up, I was surrounded by plants – my father had vineries and I spent many hours helping with odd jobs in horticulture.

Later, I moved to England to study engineering, but within a year my path changed completely when I began DJing. What started as a sideline turned into a 20-year career in nightclubs from 1989 to 2009. When I returned to Guernsey, I worked for Guernsey Clematis for 13 years before joining Grow.

Now, as a supervisor, I manage the main vinery, making sure the plants are nurtured and kept in the best condition possible, which has been particularly challenging during this hot summer.

It's rewarding working with new varieties beyond roses and clematis. Most of all I value working alongside the Crew and being part of the team – it's fulfilling, rewarding, and I'm genuinely happy here. ■



# Stained glass at the Crafty Frog

Angela Horsepool both artisan supplier and FrOGs volunteer tells us:

'I have been making stained glass items as a hobby for 20 plus years. Along with two of my daughters, Samantha and Charlotte, we make up the 'Glassy Birds'.

When the opportunity came to sell our wares in the 'Crafty Frog' we jumped at it. It is a chance to support a great charity and also make a little income to buy more glass!

We try to cater at Grow for the garden with glass plant stakes and vegetable sticks for the green fingered and glass succulents for the not so green fingered (you can't kill them!).

I also enjoy volunteering in the Grow shop once a week. It is a chance to give my time to the charity. It is great meeting the Crew and staff and seeing how happy everyone is. I often take the chance to go into the café for lunch or a coffee.

Also, meeting the shoppers is lovely as they often ask about the stained glass and are fascinated by how the items are made. ■



Angela Horsepool



Dahlias

## What's for sale in the vinery

After a vibrant summer, we're now celebrating the rich colours of autumn – and our vinery is full of fresh inspiration! Brighten beds and containers with our stunning seasonal plants: seven shades of Chrysanthemums, elegant Cyclamen, cheerful Polyanthus and Bellis daisies, plus winter-flowering Pansies and Violas. Add structure with our selection of ornamental grasses and trailing ivy, perfect for finishing any display.

For those who love to grow your own, we have rhubarb and blueberry plants, along with coriander, mint, parsley and lettuce. Gardeners can also stock up on well-rotted horse manure and bags of woodchip to prepare for the season ahead.

Looking forward, our popular Christmas trees will be arriving during November, with new potted options that can be replanted in your garden or repotted ready for the next festive season.

We're open 24/7 with an honesty box and sum-up machines. If you visit us Tuesday – Friday, between 10.30am–2.30pm you can pop in to 'The Crafty Frog' gift shop then relax at 'Flourish' our café for a well-earned coffee or lunch. ■

## Save the date!



Come and meet Frollo at these events

We're looking ahead to three events where we can enjoy meeting friends, bringing them up to date with our latest news and selling plants, produce and items from the workshop and goodies from the café.

Sunday 14th September – Seafront Sunday hosted by the Association of Guernsey Charities. Always a popular event, it runs from 10am – 4pm.

Saturday 20th September – 'The Powering Life for Less Show'. Guernsey Electricity's annual event at St Pierre Park Hotel between 10am – 3pm. Frollo, our friendly frog mascot will be there with us.

Saturday 18th October - Our Halloween Craft Fayre. 10am – 2pm. Lots to see with artisan stalls throughout the greenhouse and delicious refreshments from the canteen and café. A good place to start Christmas shopping! ■

## Grow – be part of it

If you would like to talk to us about how you can support GROW please contact:

**Mandy Mackelworth**, General Manager on 01481 711600 email [mandy@grow.gg](mailto:mandy@grow.gg)

General enquiries to 01481 711600 email [hello@grow.gg](mailto:hello@grow.gg)

FrOGs enquiries to [frogs@grow.gg](mailto:frogs@grow.gg)

Les Petits Quartiers Vinery, Coutanchez, St Sampsons, GY2 4GE

Find out more at [www.grow.gg](http://www.grow.gg)

Guernsey Registered Charity CH147

If you would like to make a donation to GROW please go to [www.giving.gg](http://www.giving.gg)

