

GreenShoots

The newsletter of Guernsey's Rural Occupational Workshop

May 2021



Exciting changes ahead for GROW

Welcome to our first monthly Newsletter featuring updates on life and times at GROW and our future plans.

We shall introduce Crew members and highlight the role our staff play in providing a safe and secure working environment where Crew receive training and mentoring in a stimulating work environment, encouraging them to develop their self-confidence, workplace and life skills, so they can achieve their full potential in life.

There are big changes ahead for GROW as we prepare for the redevelopment of our vinery site in the Coutanchez. Plans were

given final approval in December 2020 so fundraising has begun in earnest.

We aim to raise £1.5million by October, to give us the confidence to relocate our operation to temporary accommodation and begin clearing the site. Fundraising will continue until we have raised the anticipated £2.5million to complete the project.

All things going to plan the GROW disability community hub will re-open in the spring of 2023. ■

Mark Dunster – Chair of the Board of Directors at GROW



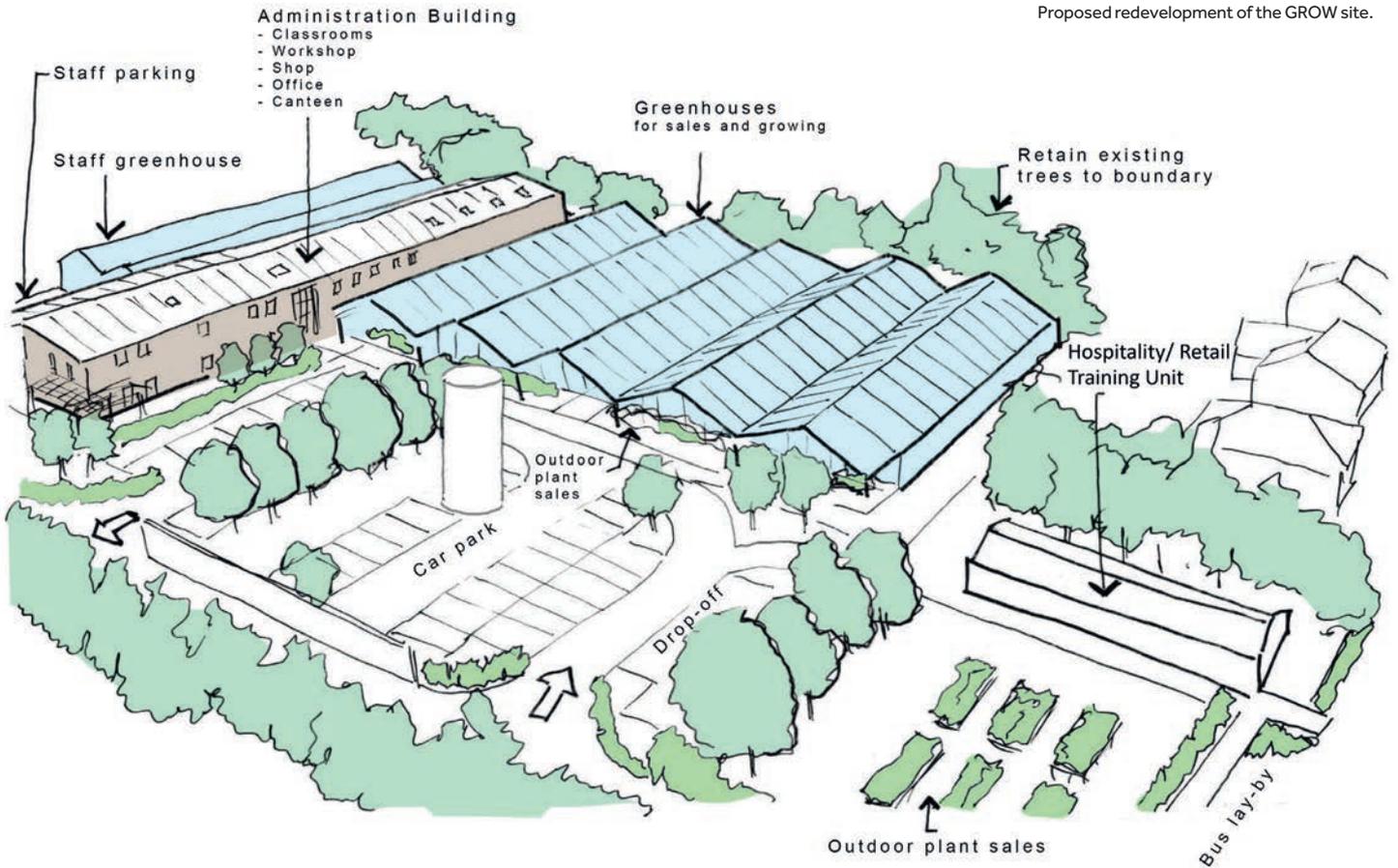
Spring Tips

- In the garden it's time to make sure your borders are weed free and ready for your summer bedding (which you have bought from Grow of course!).
- Plant up your hanging baskets, tub and containers (keep an eye out for that cold wind and chilly nights with tender plants).
- Plant your tomato plants out in the green house, feeding weekly once they start to flower.
- Get your courgettes and aubergines in the glasshouse too (did I mention we grow and sell veg plants?).
- Plant up perennials to improve your borders but remember to water them.
- Come to Grow Ltd and see the fantastic range of plants available, grown by our crew who are supported by a great team of staff. ■



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Patrons announced for redevelopment project

We are delighted that Julia and Guy Hands have become Patrons of the GROW redevelopment project demonstrating a huge level of confidence in GROW's work.

Mrs Hands said that what particularly appealed to them is that GROW offers opportunities not available elsewhere in the island. The trainees benefit, not only from learning employable skills, but also communication and other life skills.

This gives them the confidence to work as part of a team and to participate more fully in the community. ■



Left: Proposed Covered Sales Area and Building Entrance. Above: Guy and Julia Hands meeting the crew.

"GROW's redevelopment plans will revolutionise opportunities for the island's learning disabled adults. We are proud to be part of it."

Guy & Julia Hands. Patrons, GROW Redevelopment Project.



Back, left to right, Helen Glencross, head of Heritage Services, Benjamin Tardif and Grow supervisor Andrew Chandler. Front row, Kieren Trebert and Heather Brown. Picture courtesy of Guernsey Press.

Castle Cornet gardens get the GROW touch

Not only do we grow and propagate plants for sale, grow vegetable and create products, from recycled wood, in the workshop, we also have a terrific maintenance team who have kept busy on contracts with private customers, Candie

Museum and now Castle Cornet, which we have recently taken on. These provide fantastic opportunities for our teams to work out in the community and gain confidence and skills in new and beautiful surroundings. ■



Assitant Manager Stuart Smale demonstrating how to make up hanging baskets at the GROW open day.

Welcoming all to GROW

Crew and staff helped to achieve record plant sales at our Open Day on May Day. Hanging basket demonstrations, bug box-making sessions and, of course, some delicious cakes and bakes helped to make the event a great success with everyone

feeling very proud of their achievements. This annual event is organised by Friends of GROW known as FrOGs, our invaluable team of volunteers who support us to run events, fundraise and promote what we do here at Grow Ltd. ■

STAFF PROFILE



Andrew Chandler – Supervisor at GROW

Ever since I can remember I have had an interest in growing, farming and helping people. It's led me along an interesting path of life and careers.

I am Guernsey born: my parents became gardeners, as many have done, to help feed us as a family. My sister and I were roped in to help with sowing, maintaining and harvesting vegetables and fruit, while over the hedge from our bungalow I was fascinated and encouraged to help the farmers who grew crops and reared cattle.

After a short, but successful career in farming, I left the Island to pursue a people focused vocation as a Catholic Priest, where after eight years training I worked in parish and hospital ministry as well as being chaplain to people with disabilities for just over ten years.

I overcame my own personal disability with a stammer, not a helpful one when standing before four hundred people leading them through words!

So, the opportunity to work in a happy, supportive, caring and encouraging environment where all of us with our own struggles offer a place of support and opportunity for all to GROW was an opportunity I could not miss. ■



CREW MEMBER



May at GROW

Spring is always a busy time and since lockdown we have all been working hard to ensure we have a fantastic range of plants available for sale including perennials,

bedding, succulents and tub and basket plants, which are perfect for hanging baskets and containers. Do come and choose your plants from GROW. ■

Heather Brown

I am a local Guernsey girl and left Le Murier School in 2012; then studied at the College of Further Education but found it difficult to get a job afterwards. I took a placement at GO. Then another charity helped me find a placement at GROW.

I love it here! I've been taught how to use a lawnmower, strimmer, hedge cutter and leaf blower – so I can keep people's gardens tidy. I also work on the vinery and help grow the fruit and vegetables. We deliver produce to restaurants and nursing homes.

It's great getting out and about learning where places are. I like to show people around the vinery and help them find certain plants that they like. Learning the names of the plants and varieties of vegetables makes me feel good so I can pass on my knowledge to other people and show them how to do things properly.

I come to GROW three days a week and sometimes I help at the Trinity Café. I like meeting new people and my confidence has grown being at GROW; the staff are really great and give me time to learn. It makes me feel good about myself. Ultimately, I want to make my family proud of me and GROW is helping me to do that! ■

Searching for Frogs

FrOGs
Friends of Grow
Guernsey's Rural Occupational Workshop

Friends of GROW (aka "FrOGs") is the fundraising committee of GROW. We are a group of friendly, local volunteers whose main focus is to raise the profile of GROW in the local community and have some fun along the way.

Rock n' Roll Bingo, a Ladies' Afternoon Tea, Charity Ball and Sheep/Horse Racing Nights are on our agenda each year. We shall be hosting 'It's A Knockout' from the UK on 4th and 5th September at St Sampson High School, kindly sponsored by

BNP Paribas Guernsey. Further information at <https://grow.gg/its-a-knockout/>

The committee members are Nathalie Pike, Chair and Director of Grow Ltd, Carol Brehaut, Secretary and Grow Administrator and Anne-Marie Woodhead, Sadie Bewey, Annie Knights, Sarah Bourgaize and Liz Powell.

We are always looking for new committee members or volunteers to assist at other GROW events including our Open Day, Annual Flag Day, Christmas Fete and selling of GROW produce on stalls at the Farmers' Market and other charity events throughout the year.

Find out more at <https://grow.gg/friends-of-grow/>, facebook or simply email volunteersgrowltd@gmail.com ■

GROW – be a part of it

If you would like to know more about how you can support our redevelopment campaign please contact:

Marguerite Talmage, Director on 07911 719081 email redvelopment@grow.gg or **Eddie Higgins**, Manager on 721865 email manager@grow.gg

Find out more at www.grow.gg

Guernsey Registered Charity CH147

