

Trading Secretary's Report - AGM, November 2023

We have had another good year for the Store on Site 2 and the sheds on Site 3. People really appreciate having the facility to buy heavy items on Site 3.

We re-introduced providing cake at the Main Store on Sunday mornings this year from March to September. We have our regulars who like to come to the Store to get their piece of cake but we hope for more takers next year. These cakes are, in the main, made by our volunteers.

Country Natural and SylvaGrow continue to be our most popular products, together with the seeds and the Advanced Slug Pellets. We were fortunate to have Catherine Dawson, Senior Associate at Melcourt industries, who make SylvaGrow, to come and talk to us in May about their products. It was interesting to hear how difficult it has been to produce compost that was free of peat.

Prices have stabilised to an extent this year. The exceptions are Pelleted Chicken Manure and any product with seaweed in it. Indeed we have stopped stocking seaweed meal as we would have to charge £10 a kilo for the meal that I used to purchase! The seaweed liquid feeds have also increased in price but we always try to ensure that Tomorite is in stock as an alternative.

Some items have been difficult to source. We have been informed that the 8' strong canes will not be available until January, 2024. I have been trying to order large gravel trays (the ones without holes so useful for seedlings) all year but they have been out of stock. I will try again in January.

I would like to give my thanks to all the volunteers that give up their Sundays (and Saturdays when the Stores open during the busy growing months) to help at the Stores. Also, a big thank you to Greg who ensures that we never run out of Country Natural and to Georgina O'Reilly who looks after the tea/coffee station.

Gill Tamsett
Trading Secretary

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