

## **Plant Growers Group 2017**

The Plant Propagators have worked really hard again this year to make our sales events a great success. While the core group of propagators still do the bulk of the propagating, a few others are slowly building up skills under the supervision of the main growers.

In 2018 we will again aim to train more of our enthusiastic volunteers to propagate and grow on plants for our sales. We urgently need a larger group of people to share this vital work.

We held a wonderful two-day event in early December 2016. This was a "Hydrangea walk". Maureen Purtell and Tony Davis opened their garden and their neighbours Liz Nicholls and Viv Brown kindly did likewise. This made a lovely circular route through the three gardens. The hydrangeas in all gardens were spectacular, many of which were available at the plant stall.

The Autumn Gardens Fair in April was a huge success. We had over 80 volunteers helping us over the weekend at the Plant Fair alone, and they all enjoyed it so much that they are keen to help again next year. The atmosphere was welcoming and the quality and variety of plants outstanding. The new pricing and labelling system worked very well.

Anne and Tony Emmett kindly opened their lovely garden for us in September to have a "Bluebell Walk" and plant sale. We had the opportunity to have a stall at Harpers Mansion in October. Les Musgrave also sold plants at his open garden in November.

Throughout the year visiting Garden Clubs were keen to see the way our Botanic Gardens is developing and they contributed to our sales and donations.

Our regular working bees at the gardens provide volunteers an opportunity to buy plants from time to time.

All together our sales from plants in 2017 were 24% greater than 2016.

We have one more sale planned on 9th December when the gardens will be open to the Community for a Picnic day.

We are looking forward to continuing the work in 2018 and we are always looking for ways to do it better, for new plants to grow and new people to help us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team for their enormous effort.

**Dianne Grant**  
**Coordinator**  
**Plant Growers Group**