

# GREENSHOOTS



## Who We Are

A registered charity formed some 45 years ago, specifically to provide rehabilitation and training for adults with recurring mental ill health or with a learning disability.

The Charity's aim is to provide a safe environment where people are able to build or rebuild their skills, confidence and, where possible, move into full employment.

The Charity started in a building loaned from the then Reading based company, Huntley and Palmer, before moving to Caversham, with the support of Courage Brewery, then also based in Reading.

In June 2014 the Charity's Caversham site, housing the warehouse, Greenboro, Caverill and the canteen, relocated to Manor Farm, Rotherfield Peppard. So now the five areas of the Charity are on one site. (at last!)

The five areas of the Charity are:

**A light commercial packing and repackaging operation** which offers contract packing, e.g., shrink-wrapping, collation, hand finishing, assembling point-of-sale displays and packing products for retail sales.

**A canteen operation** which has a mixture of domestic and commercial catering equipment. Allows learning of skills for independent living and gives experience for catering employment opportunities.

**Caverill** is a small 'own product' operation, e.g., microwaveable oat filled heat packs, which take the place of the traditional hot water bottles and are safer to use. Caverill has recently expanded to include bespoke soft furnishing design projects for customers.

**Greenboro** is the trading name for the Charity's contract cleaning and garden maintenance company, which operates within a 20 mile radius of Reading.

**Greenshoots**, the Charity's horticultural therapy unit is situated in Rotherfield Peppard, near Henley-on-Thames, South Oxfordshire, set in a five-acre plot, on the edge of the beautiful Chiltern countryside.



## Greenshoots - Garden Centre

We set up our first horticultural therapy unit fourteen years ago, and moved to our present location at Rotherfield Peppard two years later.

This move gave us a five acre site and the space to have a 60 foot glasshouse and two polytunnels. It also allowed us to formalise our training centre with dedicated classrooms and additional meeting space.

At Greenshoots we provide a variety of work realistic nursery tasks, underpinned by classroom teaching, for example,

Identification of groups of plants

- Propagation & cultivation
- Ground preparation & crop rotation
- Pest disease control & irrigation
- Container, vegetable and fruit crops
- Cultivation of the herb garden & bedding plants.

Students may work independently, but often they choose to work in small teams to achieve the planting, growing and harvesting tasks.

We specialise in growing vegetable, salad, soft and orchard fruit crops, which we pick and sell throughout the seasons.

Where possible, these crops are grown without added chemicals, for example, pesticides, fertilisers, fungicides, etc., so though we don't have the Soil Association's Organic Standard mark, our produce is nearly all chemical free.

During the spring and summer months we sell bedding plants for troughs and tubs, and a range of hanging baskets. Many of these plants are grown from seed, though we do grow-on some from small plug plants.

We work with customers, both commercial and private, to design bespoke hanging baskets and trough planting schemes for summer and winter displays, or for a special event, for example, a wedding or celebratory occasion. These will often need to be planned and ordered well ahead of the event.

We have recently launched a plant vacation service, whereby customers return their hanging baskets and troughs to us as they go on holiday; we care and water the plants, or refill with new seasonal planting.

Over the past year we have introduced chickens and ducks to the site. They live in our orchard and seem very happy there. The students are involved in cleaning & looking after

them and also collect eggs from the chickens daily, which we sell to the public. We have also hatched some chicks recently, who are growing fast.

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[Click Here for a Map to Manor Farm](#)