



## Garden Store Report 2021/2022

- Firstly, a big thank you to all our members who have supported the store throughout the last year. Our kind volunteers who have helped man the store throughout the season and Andrew Sheard who has kindly supported the store on our website keeping it current and informative.
- Business has overall been on track, however a sometimes-challenging year with supply issues on key products like multipurpose compost being erratic at the peak growing season. Along with having to operate within the latest Covid guidelines. Again, we remained open throughout the winter, importantly keeping the local bird population well fed, as well as boosting sales!
- Overall turnover is down 3.4% but note 2020/2021 was an exceptional year due to the impact of covid. Card sales are the preferred method of payment circa 70%.
- A selection of seed potatoes and a small range vegetable seed. Both of which sold reasonably well, with the seed potatoes sales driven by the VPA Great Potato Growing Competition. However, bulbs were not supplied this year, and the store only had two general enquiries.
- Store sales are strongly reliant on composts and wild bird feed. It would be great to see a wider breadth of sales coming from some of the other products on offer. There is a great range of essential garden products, at competitive prices, providing both real value and the convenience of being local. It is really a case of use it or lose it!
- We now just look forward to seeing everyone as the new season starts, to be able to socialise a little, to continue to offer advice on a variety of garden topics, to solve your garden problems and hopefully, even offer a cup of coffee or tea. To become a place for people to meet up again.
- Trialling some elements of recycling, the repurposing plastic milk bottles using them as containers for the weighed loose product e.g. Growmore, Rosefeed. This provides a convenient pick up and go pack, which is waterproof and easy to use and store.