

# ANOTHER MILESTONE *for CW Groves & Son*

It doesn't take a lot of research to learn that very few family run businesses make it beyond three generations. So to see a business still thriving in its sixth generation is an achievement worthy of the greatest pride.

CW Groves & Son in Bridport is that company. Founded in the late spring of 1866 by Charles William Groves, the business is still family owned and is now in its 6th generation. What began as a modest garden nursery in Piddletrenthide in 1866 has grown into one of the county's largest and most respected horticultural businesses.

From seeds once delivered by pony and cart to today's thriving garden centre in Bridport, Groves has spent more than a century and a half helping generations of Dorset gardeners grow.

That same family spirit continues today, with Becky Groves working alongside her brother Charlie Groves, the current Managing Director. In addition to managing the nursery at Groves in Bridport, Becky also oversees the company's sister nursery, Little Groves in Beaminster. Both Charlie and Becky are supported by their parents, Clive and Diana, whose long-standing dedication has helped shape the business for decades.

'Reaching 160 years is something we're incredibly

proud of,' said Charlie Groves. 'We're here because of the generations before us, our wonderful team, and the loyal customers who've supported us for so long. This anniversary is really about celebrating our community as much as our history.'

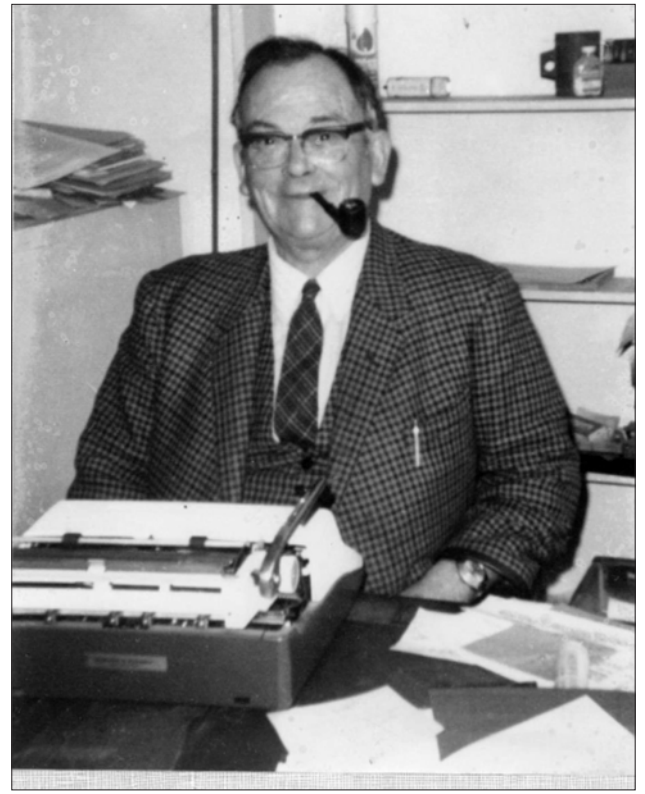
Throughout its history, Groves has combined tradition with innovation. The company introduced onion sets to the UK following government trials and is now nationally recognised for its celebrated collection of Victorian Dorset violets, with over 130 varieties attracting visitors from around the world. The collection has earned national status, prestigious flower show medals, and international recognition.

The business has weathered world wars, economic challenges and changing times, evolving from a traditional nursery into today's modern garden centre complete with a 200-seat restaurant and an ever-expanding range of plants, gardening supplies and family experiences.

Yet despite the growth, one thing hasn't changed: Groves remains independent, family-run and firmly rooted in Dorset.

As the next generation begins to take an active role in the nursery, the Groves family hopes the business will continue to serve local gardeners for many decades to come.





Opposite page, The Ivy House Kitchen at Groves in Bridport.  
 Above and clockwise: The Bridport site in the 80s, Charles William Groves grandfather of Charlie, the current Managing Director. The Piddletrenthide delivery van and below, the Groves family today, Diana, Charlie, Clive and Becky Groves.

