

## People making a difference

**This month: Co-founder of the prison gardening scheme The Glasshouse, Kali Hamerton-Stove helps female prisoners gain RHS qualifications**



**I've always done work** for charities. I had a long career in global PR, then started sourcing ethical products and owned a shop. One day a volunteer introduced me to East Sutton Park women's prison in Kent. It had lots of unused glasshouses, which we realised could create a supportive environment for the prisoners where they could gain new skills. So the idea for The Glasshouse, our social enterprise project, was born.

**Whether the women** have gardening knowledge or not, our training helps connect them to nature and the Level 2 RHS qualification it provides equips them with skills they can use for life after prison. Even if the women don't continue working in horticulture, they take away a new-found love for plants.

**Through the enterprise,** our team of ex-

offenders grow and nurture beautiful, resilient houseplants to be sold through our online shop. We also run a corporate gifting service and plant-scaping for offices, hospitality and retail.

**Some teams are able** to work outside of prison on ROTL (Release on Temporary License) in our shop in Cranbrook, selling plants in person. It's rewarding to see the women using their horticultural knowledge to speak to customers. All profits are reinvested to expand and grow our prison programmes and for ex-offenders post release.

**Many former prisoners** tell us The Glasshouse changed their lives and helped them make it through their prison term. I hope one day this project will be available in all female prisons.