

Monkton Elm Garden Centre
*Your Award winning
garden and home destination!*

• **OUR QUALITY IS GUARANTEED**

We have one of the largest ranges of quality plants and gardening products in the South West.

• **VISIT OUR AWARD-WINNING
ELM TREE RESTAURANT**

And our beautiful and dog friendly Pondside café for the perfect day out.

• **OUR NEW FARM SHOP**

Has a wonderful range of foods, including fresh and healthy local produce from Somerset and the South West

• **MONKTON ELM PET CENTRE**
for specialist pet foods and pet products

• **HOME AND GIFT STORE**
For gifts, homeware, outdoor furniture, kitchenware, toys, books, greeting cards and much, much more!

• **GARDEN BUILDINGS AND PAVING**
Our Patio and outdoor furniture department stocks a wide range of quality products at excellent value!

• **FRIENDLY AND KNOWLEDGABLE
STAFF!**

Its always a pleasure, shopping with us!

**SPECIAL FLOWER SHOW
OFFERS!**



Monkton Elm Garden Centre

£5.00 OFF

when you spend £30.00 or more!!

*Purchases are in the garden centre only and offer
is for one transaction only.*

*Offer is not valid to use in Elm Tree Restaurant
or for the purchase of gift vouchers*

Offer valid until 30th September 2022

Present this coupon to redeem your offer!



The Elm Tree Restaurant

2 Medium Elm Breakfasts

for only £10.00!

(SAVE £5.98!)

Vegetarian option available

Excluding drinks and extras

Offer is for Mon-Fri, 9-11am only

Offer valid until 30th September 2022

Present this coupon to redeem your offer



Restaurant and Pondside Café

Free hot drink

with any cake bought after 3pm!

Offer is for Mon-Fri Only

*This coupon is for up to 2 people and is valid until
30th September 2022*

Present this coupon to redeem your offer



**MONKTON
ELM**

Garden Centre | Pet Centre | Farm Shop

*Celebrating
Family, Home and Garden
at the
Taunton Flower Show 2022*

THE BELLMANS

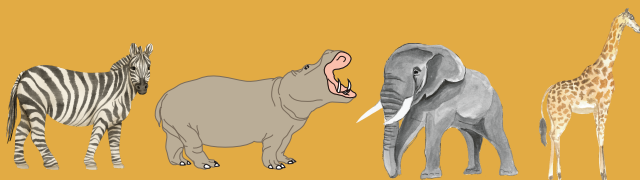
A horticultural journey



From the UK to Africa and back, Monkton Elm Garden Centre has been in development for decades!

The Early Years

David was born in 1934 and moved to Kenya with his parents in 1946. Luella was born in 1930. David met Luella whilst she was working in Nairobi. On their first date, rather than bringing her flowers, he gave her a lettuce he had grown! They married in 1960 in Nairobi Cathedral and Luella joined David at Two Rivers Farm in the house he built himself. David and Luella had three children, Caroline, William, and Heather.



Farm life in Africa

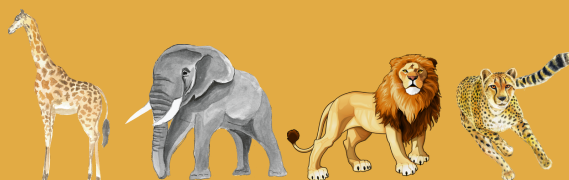
David studied agriculture at Eggerton Agricultural College, Nairobi. In 1957 he bought his first farm "Two Rivers" in Makuyu which was 3,000 acres in size.

Also grown under irrigation was a 30-acre coffee plantation and extensive horticultural crops. The crops were irrigated by one of David's 'special' machines – a converted combine engine and old army lorry chassis!

David produced tens of thousands of coffee seedlings from seed which he sold to other coffee producers. He also cultivated maize, tomatoes and aubergines which he sold in Nairobi. These were a great success although periodically demolished by hippos! He was particularly pleased with his crop of small red-hot chilli peppers!

Masongaloni Estate

In 1963, Luella and David bought "Haruma Farm" in Kitale, 250 miles north of Nairobi near the border with Uganda. In 1976, David was invited to run the Masongaloni Estate at Kibwezi, a 52,000-acre horticultural enterprise growing predominantly chrysanthemums and *Asparagus plumosus* for export to the European markets. From this one massive nursery they supplied a staggering 80% of the UK Chrysanthemum cuttings market! The Estate was sited deep in the African bush half-way between Nairobi and Mombasa.



Monkton Elm Garden Centre

**In 1978 on return to England, it was obvious
the Bellman's horticultural journey
was not over yet!**

Luella and David bought Monkton Elm, a commercial tomato nursery dating back to 1910. Monkton Elm used to supply Covent Garden with produce including chrysanthemums and cut flowers. In 1980, Luella and David applied for planning permission for a garden shop. They started with the bottom half of the smaller greenhouse.

A plant area was built alongside, selling simple bedding plants, hardy ornamentals and a small array of key garden sundries. As the shop grew, the greenhouse area shrunk and the tomato business slowly disappeared.

The Four Seasons Restaurant

In the mid-1980's, Luella started a small café serving light meals. A few years later the top of the site was further developed to expand the retail area, re-housing the Four Seasons Restaurant which had become synonymous with good quality, healthy home cooked meals.

Life at Monkton Elm

One of the key successes of Monkton Elm has been the loyalty and knowledge of its staff. Stephen Searle started working here straight out of school in 1982, as part of a government youth training scheme on the meagre salary of £40 per week! 40 years later Steve is now Store Manager at the Centre, and still loves the excitement of a varied and interesting job.

By the mid 1990's the concept of the out-of-town garden centre had really captured the public's attention.

We embarked on further development of the site, including the revamping of our plant area which has always been at the core of our business. Andrew Pitman, Store Manager, has been with us for 38 years. He is instrumental in sourcing and offering the very best plant selection in the region. What Andrew doesn't know about plants isn't worth knowing!

The Present

Monkton Elm is an award winning business proudly based in Taunton and pleased to have supported the Taunton Flower Show for over 30 years. It is also proud to have been awarded the Garden Centre Association's Destination Garden Centre of Wales and West award twice, Best Restaurant of Wales and West and Family Business of the Year.

The Future

As a second generation business, Luella and David's children are actively involved, together with Mike Lind, Heather's husband, who runs the business as Managing Director, continuing the family ethos and vision.

As we continue our evolution we are targeting keys areas for growth and sustainability, improving our environmental policies and creating new opportunities for talented staff to find their feet here at Monkton Elm

