

A 'Proper' Winter...

Horticap, like everyone else, enjoyed (if that's the right word!) the snowy weather, with the lowest temperature recorded being minus 21 degrees before the thermometer gave up! (It was minus 27 taking into account the wind chill factor and we had 28 cms of snow). We had a burst pipe, resulting in a bit of a flood but apart from that, suffered no serious damage, although our drive is now in a poor state along with most of the roads in the country. There was only one day when no students managed to get in, but the instructors, to their credit, managed to make it every day. Chores revolved mostly around clearing snow, checking for freezing pipes, trying to keep greenhouses reasonably warm and of course, building a snowman. A lot of people thought it was a "proper" winter!



The other tasks in early spring are to prepare the shop for opening and make the site tidy ready for our first customers. 1st March is the opening date and all our shop staff, students and volunteers are looking forward to seeing old friends and hopefully making new ones as more people come to buy their spring bedding plants.



Now we are busy refurbishing the sales tunnel with new tables and a new watering system. We have been helped by soldiers from the Army Foundation College who set to and dug almost to Australia in preparation for the new flooring. The tables have all been delivered but need painting and the watering system is on order. All of this has been made possible by a very generous donation from a supporter in memory of his father. The area will not only look smarter, but keeping the plants fresh and watered will be much easier and the tables will all be moveable, making the area easily adaptable for other uses.

Bird Hide...

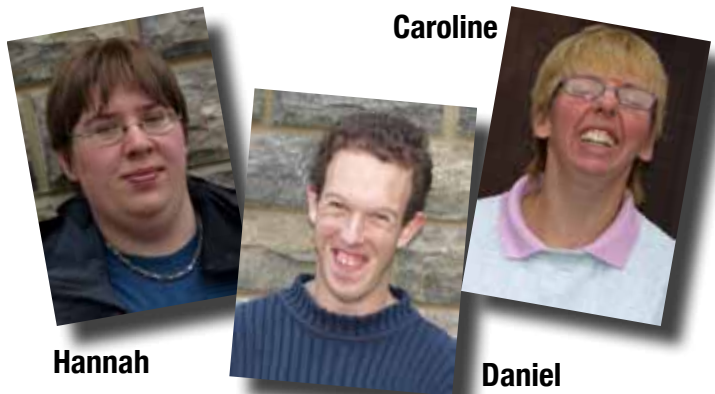
We have another project to complete too, and that is the bird hide. This is nearly ready and will be another point of interest for visitors. When our patron, Alan Titchmarsh was with us in November, he had no sooner entered the hide than a jay landed right in front of it and he wondered if we had trained the bird to perform for him!

So, Horticap will be ready for you on 1st March. We hope you will be ready to visit us.

One of our winter visitors to the garden

We have had 3 new students start since the last newsletter and all have settled in very well. You may have met Daniel who spent a lot of time carrying Christmas trees to cars and helping to load them. Hannah loves potting up the plants and played her guitar for us at the Christmas party and Caroline, known as Little Miss Sunshine, is Brenda's new right hand girl.

HANGING BASKET WORKSHOP



Hannah

Caroline

Daniel

Talking of Brenda, we are holding 2 hanging basket workshops on site on Saturday, 22nd May. The first will run from 10.30am – 12.30pm and the second will start at 1.30pm and finish at 3.30pm. Refreshments and all materials will be provided, as will expert tuition from Brenda. You will take home your own basket.

Numbers will be strictly limited so that Brenda can give individual help to all and places cost £35.00. Book with Pauline Shorter at Horticap. Please note that should you have to cancel your place and we are unable to fill it, your payment will not be refunded.

THE NIDDERDALE WALK as seen by Brenda Andrews

“The 2009 Nidderdale Walk was my fifth and during the past years I have walked with family, friends, Horticap students and one year I even pushed a wheelbarrow along the 15 mile route!

The Yorkshire weather has given us sun, wind, rain and hail, and on one occasion, all on the same day! But it did not deter our spirits and we all made the finishing post to gain much needed sponsorship money for Horticap.

The memories of the occasional blister and aching limbs soon fade away and are replaced by the sense of achievement, the wonderful encouragement and humour from the much welcomed refreshment stops and, of course, the beautiful Yorkshire countryside which I find more fascinating and wonderful each year.

Working with the students, as I do on a daily basis, watching their determination and the way they overcome daily obstacles in their lives, continues to give me the inspiration to walk many more miles in the future for Horticap”.



Brenda will be leading ‘Team Horticap’ in this year’s Nidderdale Walk on Sunday, 16th May. All sponsorship will be most gratefully received. For a Team sponsorship form, contact Pauline at Horticap. For those who wish to sponsor online, ask Pauline for details.

UNIT4 solutions help customers all around the world to embrace change. We're delighted to support Horticap.

UNIT4
BUSINESS SOFTWARE

Harrogate Office: Cardale Park, Beckwith Head Road, Harrogate, HG3 1RY
Tel: 01423 509999 • Email: info.uk@unit4.com • Web: www.unit4software.co.uk

CODA becomes UNIT4 – Harrogate's global software developer

Unknown to many local residents, for the last 20 years Harrogate has been the centre for global software development that has rivalled Silicon Valley and attracted some of the world's largest and best-known companies.

CODA has been in Harrogate for 20 years, after outgrowing its Leeds offices and buying land at Cardale Park (just up the road from Horticap). The company built its office there in 1990 and was one of the first in the business park. The Harrogate site has been a development centre ever since, producing award winning accounting software that is used around the world to run companies like IKEA, Avon Cosmetics, Next, HSBC Bank, P&O Ferries, Channel 5 and Avis Europe.

Two years ago the company was bought by a Dutch software company and now the whole company has rebranded its operations in 19 countries worldwide under the name 'UNIT4'. So the CODA company name has gone (though the product is still known as CODA), but the office in Harrogate still remains a major centre for the group.

The company has always tried to be a responsible employer and contribute positively to the local economy and environment.

The Harrogate office is a major economic contributor to the area. It employs around 170 people but is also used by many 'location independent' staff when they are not

travelling around the country to customer sites. Staff from other parts of the group around the world visit the office for training or to collaborate with local colleagues on projects. Customers and prospects also come to Harrogate for software demonstrations, workshops or training, bringing revenue to the town's hotels and restaurants.

We have worked closely with local charities, including Horticap and St Michael's Hospice, to support their vital work. Our environmental programmes have seen us dramatically increase our recycling activities – and not just of day-to-day waste. We have recycled computers, laptops and office furniture through local charities and even sent a container of computers and furniture to a remote school in Tanzania recently.

Under its new name, UNIT4 Business Software will continue to run such schemes and try to play an important part in the local community. We are delighted to keep supporting Horticap.

(CODA recently donated some tables and chairs to furnish Horticap's re-decorated mess room and has donated many other items over the years as well as sponsoring the newsletter)



MG CAR CLUB

Our friends at the MG Car Club have again come up trumps for us and we were invited visit Jennyruth Workshop in November to receive a cheque from them. The Club holds events and meetings throughout the year and raises money at many of these. At the end of the year, this money is distributed to local charities and this is not the first time that Horticap has benefited.

We are always grateful for the money and also to know that we have the support of this group and of others in the local community.

TAX IS GOOD?

Well yes, it can be, especially when it is re-claimed through Gift Aid. Horticap actually claimed over £3,000 for the year and as you can imagine, that means a lot of jobs can be done, items replaced or new ones bought and new projects started.

Everyone can help us in this way, just by signing a Gift Aid form with your next donation. This states that you wish the tax on the amount of the donation to be re-claimed by Horticap now and in the future. You have only to fill in the form once and we can keep on

reclaiming tax until you stop the agreement. It costs you nothing and as you can see, it means a huge amount to us.

Gift Aid can be applied to Regular Giving Donations and we are always most grateful for these. Any amount over £10 can be donated on a monthly or annual basis and these donations help us plan our cash flow.

Forms are available from Pauline at the office and many thanks to all of you who donate in this way.

Sponsorship also received from The George A Moore Foundation



From the Staff Room

Which is your favourite season of the year at Horticap? Maybe spring bedding time when the greenhouses are packed with plants, grown by our students, and when the shop is busy, busy selling trays of pansies and violas to smiley customers; or summer time when our garden is just amazing and we have fabulous colourful baskets hanging everywhere . . . then, of course, there is Christmas!!

We all know that Horticap has a long history of magical, bustling, happy (exhausting) 'Christmas Open Days' when excited families collect their Christmas trees, holly wreaths and decorations. Customers search the shop for

interesting and handcrafted Christmas gifts. Some stay to have a sip or two of Sue's festive punch.

The 2009 preparation of the shop for Christmas became a very special team effort. Staff, students, incredibly talented volunteers (where did we find them?), even members of the Board worked together to fill the shelves with Christmas gifts and to help behind the counter. The till was kept very busy all through December and that surely is good news.

Now we have a new Horticap Year. The shop will open on 1st March and it will soon be spring bedding time, my favourite season.

Margaret Gibson
Shop Assistant

CUTTINGS (OF INTEREST)

It was in 1910 (can that really be 100 years ago?) when thoughts were first mooted within the North of England Horticultural Society of having annual flower shows here in Harrogate. Plans were held up dramatically by the First World War but it is doubtful that anyone involved in the decision making then could have envisaged Shows of the magnitude we have, a century later. And certainly, no one could have anticipated the butterfly effect that their vision in 1910 would have had on the development of a tiny, embryo charity starting out in the 1980s. The late Alan Ravenscroft was a founder board member and Horticap's Horticultural Adviser as well as Show Director of the North of England Horticultural Society. In 1986 Horticap exhibited for the first time at the Spring Flower Show and is grateful for the continued and unswerving support from the Horticultural Society throughout the years.

Dates for your Diary

In the last newsletter you will have read Jackie Hall's description of her visit to the Himalayan Garden at Harewood and the impression it made on her. Now there is the opportunity for you to make a similar visit and be shown round the garden by Head Gardner, Trevor Nicholson. Places are limited to make the visit enjoyable for everyone, so apply as soon as you can. Afternoon tea is included and has been booked in the Courtyard Restaurant from 4.00 and then Trevor will take us on the tour. The garden is lovely at any time, but at the height of summer, we should see the fabulous Himalayan poppies and everything else in full splendor. Tickets are available through the office at Horticap.

22nd – 25th April	Harrogate Spring Flower Show	We shall have a stand at the Show and look forward to seeing you there.
16th May	Nidderdale Walk	Please sponsor TEAM HORTICAP!
22nd May	Hanging Basket Workshop	Create your own hanging basket under the expert guidance of instructor, Brenda Andrews. (see separate item)
10th June	A Guided Tour of the Himalayan Garden at Harewood House from 4.00pm	Afternoon tea followed by an exclusive tour of the garden with Head Gardener, Trevor Nicholson, as your guide. Limited numbers. Tickets £20 per head. (see above)
13th – 15th July	Great Yorkshire Show	What can we pull out of the bag for this year's stand?

