



GROWING TOGETHER

Horticap's newsletter from Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

Issue no.14 Summer 2010

## Bird Hide - OPEN

The bird hide was declared officially open on 16th June by Janet Anderson. Staff and students have been working hard on the project, which was slightly delayed because of the snow, but for the opening ceremony, it looked splendid and although there were many people around, the birds were also present and the air was filled with the sound of birdsong.

The hide has been funded by the Rotary Club of Harrogate Brigantes who wished

to make a charitable donation in memory of Wilfred Anderson. Janet decided the money should go to Horticap where Wilf served on the board and was Chairman. Current chairman, Joy Allan, said "although Wilfred was on the board for a comparatively short time, he brought such energy and enthusiasm, along with his wisdom and leadership that his influence is still with us and will be for a long time to come."

Before cutting the ceremonial ribbon, Janet said "Wilf would have been chuffed with the idea of a bird hide. He loved being involved here at Horticap and believed strongly in everything that you are doing. On behalf of myself and Wilf's family, I should like to thank the Rotary Club of Harrogate Brigantes, the students and everyone here at Horticap"

After the ceremony the guests inspected the hide and were shown round the garden by students before enjoying a cup of tea.



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## Sculpture Exhibition

One of sculptor Steve Blaylock's best know pieces is probably of the iconic Blue Peter ship, but his huge spade at Harlow Carr and the beautiful bulrushes and dragonfly he generously donated to Horticap for auction last autumn also make his portfolio as diverse as it is captivating.

Steve has agreed to stage an exhibition in Horticap's garden in September. He will be placing the sculptures in the garden from Wednesday, 22nd September and the complete exhibition will last for a week from Saturday, 25th.

There will be an array of different items around the garden, some may be looking as if they are growing there and some perhaps nibbling at the plants! You will have to look carefully to find them all.



A Steve Blaylock Chelsea Bug, first shown at The Chelsea Flower Show

Entry is free and the sculptures will be for sale.

**Harrogate and District Allotment Federation 50th Annual Show**

The Harrogate and District Allotment Federation Annual Show will be held on Sunday 22nd August at the Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens, Harrogate and it is the 50th anniversary this year.

The Allotment Show has always collected donations for local charities and has raised thousands of pounds over the last few years. This year the Allotment Show is delighted to be collecting for Horticap.

There are a number of classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, jams and cakes and children's classes with hundreds of entries in the Sun Pavilion. The cups and certificates are awarded about 3.30 pm. Outside the Sun Pavilion there are a number of stalls and displays, cake stalls, books, honey, plants and produce, tombola, raffle, cards, jewellery, willow weaving, children's activities and some environmental groups such as the Pinewoods Conservation Group and Harrogate in Bloom. There will be the J B Big Band in the bandstand between 1.45 pm and 3.45 pm.

The vegetables and produce etc arrives in the morning and is judged by 12 o'clock, the Mayor opens the show and then the doors open for people to gaze at them. The outside stalls will be open at 11 o'clock. As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations the Harrogate Allotment Federation and Harrogate Borough Council have created an allotment in the Valley Gardens to help provide publicity for the allotment show but

also as an education area as more and more people are growing their own produce.

This allotment hopes to show the difference in growing styles and techniques in the last 50 years and the different crops that are grown by having one side in the style of 1960's and the other side as 2010. As the project is limited until Oct/Nov 2010 we have chosen vegetables that will crop during the summer season and will be ornamental as well.



*From the Staff Room*

**Thoughts of a newcomer**

I have been an Instructor at Horticap about 6 months now and would like to share some thoughts and observations made during my time here.

The students' hard work and commitment in all areas, from the little jobs to the more demanding ones, is total and I am very impressed with the work ethic shown by staff in the tasks given to them. The sense of value and achievement the students experience is immense and they have made it easy for me to settle in because of their support and kindness.

The staff and all the volunteers are fully committed to the students' wellbeing and development, with a holistic approach evident in their support and care. They are very dedicated to Horticap and its ethos which all lends itself to a safe and happy working environment and high standards of support and training.

Customers of Horticap also fully support our students and they engage with them significantly, both on site and when we go out to work in the local community.

Paul Lunn - Instructor.

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## ROTARY PAINTERS???

You will have heard of rotary mowers, rotary irons, rotary watches and possibly even rotary engines, but ROTARY PAINTERS? Well, we have them at Horticap.

On a sunny May day, members of the Rotary Club of Harrogate came up to Horticap to paint some of the outside buildings. The wooden storage shed was one of the first buildings on site and has been repainted a number of times over the years. Some time after it was erected, a second building, now the mess room, was built and shortly after that, the



gap between the two was covered in to make a tool store. These buildings require a new coat of paint fairly regularly to preserve the wood from the weather and members of Rotary kindly took on the task for us this year. President Graham Archer along with fellow members took to the ladders and were ably assisted by some of the students. The job was done in no time at all. Another maintenance task to strike off the list.

## Business News

The results for the financial year ended 31st March are now finalised and we have been busy scrutinising them and preparing a budget for the current year. We actually finished the year in a much better position than we had feared and this was due to some very hard work and some very good fortune.

Our regular supporting organisations are kept informed of our position and one of these decided to increase their support to help us through the difficulties of recession and 'credit crunch'. This is much appreciated and we assured our supporters that we are all working hard to raise funds from other sources as well.

With it being our 25th anniversary year, there were a number of fund raising events held throughout the year, the highlights being the Nidderdale walk and the lunch with Alan Titchmarsh. These two alone raised in excess of £13,000 and with Trevor Nicholson's talk about the Himalayan Garden at Harewood, the summer garden party and all the other smaller events, the total raised was around £20,000. All these events take an amazing amount of time and effort to organise and thanks are due to the board members and volunteers who put such energy into doing this.

We also had some good fortune and you may have read in the paper that Horticap was left a legacy in November. We are enormously grateful to the lady who thought about us when making her will, as her thought and generosity are helping us through a very difficult time and ensuring that we keep up the standards of care and training for which we are known.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. We shall not have a 25th anniversary again this year and it is unlikely that we shall be left a substantial legacy. The new government is committed to reducing the national deficit and there will be cuts to services throughout the country. At present, our forecast income is approximately £20,000 less than our running costs per year and we have already been warned by North Yorkshire Country Council that the service will be reviewed before March 2011. We therefore have to keep at our work of raising funds and awareness elsewhere.

Please do consider our Gift Aid scheme for regular giving and for those of you who love your computers, you can now donate online by visiting

[www.virginmoneygiving.com](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com)

## Hanging Basket Workshop

A hanging basket workshop was held at Horticap on 22nd May and enthusiasts were shown by Horticap instructor, Brenda Andrews, how to construct an attractive and lasting hanging basket. As with many skills, this is not quite as easy as it looks but Brenda is used to training people to do it and the "students" thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They took home their finished products to take pride of place in their gardens.



Wendy & Pam proudly show off their efforts

Sponsorship also received from The George A Moore Foundation

## Dates for your Diary

We need a whole page for diary dates this time – there is so much going on throughout the summer!

On Saturday, 26th June, Horticap volunteer Linda and her husband, David are opening their lovely garden in Denton for a coffee morning and sale of cakes, hanging baskets, green roofs for sheds, handicrafts, paintings, plants and much more. Refreshments will be served. The address is Pear Tree Cottage, Denton, Ilkley, LS29 0HE and to get there, you take the Otley to Ilkley road through Askwith. One and half miles from Askwith, turn right to Denton only and Pear Tree Cottage is exactly half a mile up the road on the left hand side. There will be 'Open House' from 10.00am until 2.00pm and we hope to see you there.



Also on Saturday 26th June, in the magnificently restored Royal Hall, the Harrogate Symphony Orchestra present 'Film Night 2 ... The Sequel!' This Summer Concert is a musical romp through half a century of your favourite film themes, including Gladiator, Jurassic Park, The Dam Busters, Star Wars and many more. The Orchestra is kindly donating proceeds to Horticap and Shelter Box and this should be a great night.

From 13th – 15th July, the Great Yorkshire Show takes place at the show ground and plans are going on apace to prepare our stand. Once again, our good friend, Les Packham is painting a backdrop for us and the theme will be "The Mad Hatters' Tea Party". Each day a GI NORMOUS cup or saucer appears in the shop, made by yet another of our talented volunteers and so we are expecting another spectacular stand. All the students are keen that we win gold again this year.

On 8th August, our valued supporters in the MG Car Owners Club are holding their Silver Anniversary Show at Bewerley Park, Pateley Bridge. Horticap will have a stand there as will many other organisations. There will be the largest display of MG Cars in the north of England and various events will take place in the arena. There's an aerobatic display, folk dancing, children's entertainment, refreshments and fun for all the family.

Saturday, 21st August sees another garden being opened in aid of Horticap. Mary Hyde and her daughter Elizabeth Hill are kindly opening at 5 Burn Bridge Road between 2-4pm Horticap will have a stand there and tea and biscuits will be served. The garden has a plant packed front drive area, and this leads through to the back garden with large formal lawn, herbaceous borders and vegetable patch. There are mature trees, and lots of roses, rhododendrons and azaleas to name but a few! Woodchip and manure for the garden has been supplied by Horticap, and many of the plants have been bought at Horticap.



26th June	Open Garden at Denton	10.00am – 2.00pm. Entry fee £2.00
26th June	Harrogate Symphony Orchestra Concert at the Royal Hall.	7.30pm. Tickets £12/£10, under 18s half price and under 11s free, from HIC Box Office 0845 130 8840
13th – 15th July	Great Yorkshire Show	7.30am, last admission 5.00pm Entry prices vary. Tickets can be bought on the day.
8th August	MG Car Club Rally	Bewerley Park, Pateley Bridge. From 11.30am. Admission – adults £5, accompanied children free.
21st August	Open Garden at 5 Burn Bridge Road	2pm – 4pm. Entry £1.50 donation to Horticap, includes refreshments
22nd August	Harrogate & District Allotment Federation Show	Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens, opens 11.00am (See separate article). Admission free.
25th September - 3rd October	Steve Blaylock Metal Sculpture Exhibition	Horticap, Bluecoat Wood Nurseries, 10.00 – 4.00 every day (see separate article). Admission free
17th – 19th September	Harrogate Autumn Flower Show	The Showground, Wetherby Road, 9.30 – 5.30 each day Entry prices vary
4th & 5th December	Christmas Open Days at Horticap	Trees, decorations, gifts AND seasonal refreshments. Don't miss it!

