

# horticap

*Growing Together*



Supporting and educating  
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

[www.horticap.org](http://www.horticap.org)

*Summer Issue 2017*





**H**ello Summer has arrived and it's time to put the woolies away and get the sun cream on. It's also time to say thank you to our supporters and the visitors to the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. We were proud to be awarded a Silver Award with our latest show garden called "A Little Bit of Magic". Helen and the students certainly worked their magic and the papier mache characters were fantastic. The 'big bench' on our garden was also very popular with the crowds of people who visited the show, and it proved to be a perfect spot for taking photographs as you can see in the photo above!

We've been very busy, as the season has warmed up. The plants are growing at speed so we have a lot of work to do in the garden, and we are out in the Horticap van looking after our customers' gardens in and around Harrogate.

The summer hanging baskets have been delivered and we also had a lovely visit from Nick Brown, the Mayor of Harrogate for 2016/17, who was given a master class.

So get busy in your own gardens, enjoy your summer and don't forget to visit if you need colour and inspiration!

*The Horticap Team*

## It's time to Celebrate

Can it really be 2 years since Horticaps last summer Garden Party?

Friday 28th July is the date set for the 2017 event. We will be celebrating the completion of our new glasshouse. We hope lots of our friends and supporters will be able to join us for the party.

The evening will commence at 7pm with a glass of wine or Pimms. Enjoy a musical treat from acoustic guitar player and singers Shaun and Amanda Mockett. Close up magician Bob McBratney will amaze us all with his slight of hand.

After a delicious cold buffet we will be auctioning 2 sculptures generously donated by local sculptors Steve Blaylock and Christine Moss.

The bunting will be up and a sunny evening has been ordered so book your tickets £22.50 each by telephoning Horticap 01423 522876 or calling into the Horticap shop.

**Tickets are limited so book as soon as possible.**







## Gifts and Tea

Our gift shop is full of ideas for presents and treats...we have a great selection of gift cards, seeds, bird accessories and scarves and bags made by our students. It's a welcoming space for you to come and browse. You can also join us in the tearoom where you'll be served tea, coffee, and a selection of cakes and biscuits.

Our staff and volunteers work hard from 10am until 4pm in the shop and our students often help out during the week so pop in to say hello.



## Packing Our Bags



Last year Horticap instructor Paul and students Jack and Stuart made the trip to Germany on an exchange visit organised by Harrogate Lions Club.

The Disabled Youth Exchange is now in its 46th year and it gives disabled youths the chance of a holiday which most of them have never had before.

It's a fantastic opportunity for adults with learning difficulties and their carers to travel and experience other countries and to make new friendships which can last a lifetime.

The students from the Bad Sooden-Allendorf area of Germany then came to visit Horticap and we had a fantastic day showing them around and having a BBQ and football match. They also visited York Railway Museum, Bolton Abbey, Brimham Rocks and the Royal Armouries.

This year Paul is returning to Germany and it's the turn of students Josh, Mark, Daniel and Tony. They'll be travelling in July and the German students have all sorts of activities planned so the passports are being organised and we cannot wait to hear all about it when they return.





## Our Students... Josh

He might not be keen on weeding, but Josh really likes to help with lifting, digging and keeping the site safe and tidy. He comes to Horticap three days a week and started in August 2015 and he's a hard working member of the team who cheers us all up with his amazing collection of baseball caps and trilbies.

He loves to play darts and to watch rugby and he's joining Instructor Paul and students Mark, Daniel and Tony on the Horticap student exchange trip to Germany this year. He cannot wait, and is looking forward to experiencing another country and meeting a whole new group of friends and tasting different foods and drink! I think that we may even see a new hat when he returns...

*"Horticap keeps me busy and I love working here, we all work together but we have a lot of fun as well"*

## Our Plant Favourites



The pond in our nature trail is teeming with wildlife at the moment. We have frogs, toads, newts, birds and mammals, as well as all manner of insects including dragonflies, bees, snails and spiders (all very friendly!). They love the habitat and the planting provides shelter and food and makes an excellent covered breeding ground for them.

Michael and Caroline have been looking at which plants would suit the boggy area, which is next to the bird hide. It's a fantastic wildlife look-out spot! Michael likes the astilbe with its lovely plume like white flowers, and Caroline likes the hostas with their beautiful leaves. Both are ideal for the damp conditions and they are more than happy in the shade, so we are planting as many as we can and giving them plenty of mulch to keep the soil moist.

We've also tidied up the area around the bird hide and the students regularly leave out bird food in the feeders so we attract lots of visitors..blackbirds, robins, thrushes, finches...come and see!



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## FRUITY

Earlier this spring the job of erecting the newly donated fruit cage was undertaken by that trusted trio - volunteers Craig and William and student Paul. Just like the new vegetable greenhouse, there were lots of pieces and no instructions. So with some well-judged estimations (and some guesswork!) the structure gradually took shape and a three stage fruit bed was constructed with the addition of 26 barrowfuls of rotted compost. Student Jonathan helped with this back-breaking task.

The fruit cage has been planted with summer and autumn raspberries, strawberries and a couple of blackcurrant bushes. Hopefully we will be able to make our own jam later in the year and sadly for the blackbirds they will only be able to watch with envy!



Here at **Horticap** we are often asked to give talks and demonstrations at various events like WI meetings, Garden Clubs and church and community events.

It's a fantastic opportunity for us to share what we do and to invite people to come and meet us at Horticap. We also have gardening contracts and our students work supervised in and around Harrogate weeding, clearing gardens and planting.



## Our Friends... Anthea

Anthea became a volunteer at Horticap soon after she retired as a Speech and Language Therapist. She had always had a keen interest in gardening and her interest in Horticap stemmed from the fact that she already knew many of the students, some from a very early age at local schools and some as teenagers and young adults.

Anthea loves the variety of jobs she is involved in each week. The satisfaction of seeing the different stages of the planting; from the sown seedlings to their final place in the sales tunnel. She also loves watching the changes in the garden throughout the year as we weed, plant, cut back and battle with the dreaded ground elder! The festive atmosphere at Horticap is a special time and Anthea always looks forward

to the wreath making, the arrival of the trees and gifts in the shop and our Christmas Party.



Most of all though, it's the happy atmosphere at Horticap, the friendship, support and comradeship between the students, staff and volunteers which makes it such an enjoyable role. Anthea says that seeing the new students relax and become more confident, learning new skills and raising their self esteem as they become 'one of the gang', are all reasons why her role is so special. She says that it has been fascinating to see Horticap develop over the years with the new buildings, shop and tea room, and the patio area for the customers to sit and enjoy the garden. The bird hide and nature trail, and the new glasshouse and car parking have all made such a difference and the plant displays are looking their best.

Anthea looks forward to her day at Horticap with the students, the staff and the customers and we couldn't manage without her and the other volunteers, they make all the difference.



## BE INSPIRED

We have a large selection of plants for sale in our new glasshouse at Horticap. As well as the summer bedding Instructor Steve and the team have been busy making sure all our perennials are potted and ready to go. We have so much to choose from... Delphiniums, Heucheras, Echinaceas, Geraniums, Lobelia, Hardy Fuschias. We also have planted hanging baskets and planted containers as well as compost and mulch. Everything you need for a bright colourful summer!



**BIG THANKS** go to William one of our volunteers who has been raising money to fund a defibrillator at Horticap. Having one on site means that life saving treatment can be given immediately, improving survival rates for the casualty.

The idea started when Williams' sister in law cleared her garage and he decided to take the items to a car boot. He realised that this would be a great way to raise funds for the defibrillator so he started to look around at what he else he could recycle. He'd noticed that Horticap had quite a few rusty old garden tools that were taking up space but were perfect for recycling. He spent time cleaning, sanding, polishing, painting and repairing as many items as he could and they were then taken to the next car boot. The items were so popular they sold straight away. William needed more stock, so he started to look in the skip and at any items on the site that could not be used. As well as tools, there were old pots and containers so they were all loaded up! People loved his stall and as well as handing out our leaflets William was keen to promote the work Horticap do. During the first weekend in June William managed to do 3 car boots in one weekend - York, Ripley and Ripon - and says that getting up at 5am in the morning was tiring, but that he thoroughly enjoyed it. He's delighted that he's hit his target and raised more than the £1600 required and that the money can be put to such good use. Thank you for this amazing achievement and thank you to everyone who supported him at the car boot sales. Time for a well deserved lie in William!



**Horticap** is a charitable organisation which depends on sponsors and friends to enable it to keep helping adult students with learning disabilities.

**They are at the heart of what we do.**

## Volunteering Days

From time to time we welcome groups of volunteers from local organisations to work at Horticap for the day.

Here's a picture of the Envirovent UK team who visited us last year and helped us in the wild life area.

We're looking forward to seeing them again when they come for another volunteering day in June.



We will also be welcoming back a group from Lloyds Banking Group this month. This is the team from Lloyds (bottom left), who, under the watchful eyes of Simon and Hannah, helped us with the rhubarb triangle back in 2015. And in May we were visited by volunteers from RAF Menwith who helped Tom in our garden (bottom right). It's fantastic for the students and volunteers to work together on projects like these, everyone has a great time and we make a whole new set of friends!



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## Tea and Cakes

Horticap hosted a refreshment day at the Wesley Centre in Harrogate on Saturday 20th May and raised £240.

Homemade cakes and sandwiches were served and the volunteers were kept very busy. Thank you to all who helped and all those who came to eat, drink and to support us! The left overs were taken into Horticap on Monday morning where they didn't last long.



## Diary Dates

### 11th July – 13th July Great Yorkshire Show

There's something for everyone and it's a brilliant day out. Horticap will be there again so come and say hello...More details to follow! [www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk](http://www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk)

### Friday 28th July Summer Garden Party at Horticap

A special celebratory evening event which starts at 7pm. Tickets £22.50. Please contact Horticap.

### 19th August – Sunday 3rd September Student Art Exhibition

This is to coincide with the NiddArt Trail which runs from 18th August until 28th August. Horticap is on the trail map. [niddart.org.uk](http://niddart.org.uk)

### 15th September – 17th September Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

9.30am – 5.30pm (4.30pm Sunday)  
It's the UK's premier autumn gardening event at the Great Yorkshire Showground. Come and join us for a brilliant day. [www.flowershow.org.uk/show-info](http://www.flowershow.org.uk/show-info)

### 21st July – 31st October

Christine Moss Wire Sculpture Exhibition at Horticap.



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