

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nursery

www.horticap.org

Spring Issue 2017



"I feel happy at Horticap and I like all the people here"

Our Students... Caroline

Caroline's smile is infectious and she is always cheerful no matter what she is doing. She's been at Horticap since 2009 and loves working with her friends.

Caroline loves to dance, to clean her flat and to cook chicken.

On her three days working at Horticap, she enjoys working in the art room with Carol, especially when they are painting the silk scarves which are sold in our shop, and she also loves to help volunteer Verity in the tea room, serving and meeting our customers.

Caroline's favourite area at Horticap is the bird hide where she loves to watch and listen to the birds and put food out in the bird feeders. It's a very busy place!



Hello and welcome to our first edition of 2017. We hope that you like our revised newsletter layout, it's compact, perfect for posting and we have plenty of room for our news and even more photographs!

It seems a long time ago but Christmas was a special time at Horticap. We had our Christmas party at the Masonic Hall in Harrogate during which the students not only received their City and Guilds certificates for their hard work, but they also received a gift from Santa. Our thanks go to the staff for a wonderful afternoon.

It was also the first time we were able to sell our Christmas trees from inside the new glasshouse... and what a transformation it has been. The space will be a fantastic asset to Horticap, not only for our plant sales, but a great area for the students to work in. We are very proud of it and extremely thankful for all the support and donations that have made it possible. Come and take a look!

We are now looking forward to our plans for 2017. We'll be back at Harrogate Spring Flower Show in April with a show garden which includes a very friendly pink cow...that's a clue! And save the date... on the evening of Friday 28th July we will be having a Summer Garden Party... more to follow about this exciting evening.

To save postage and paper you can now sign up to our newsletter on email. Just get in contact at info@horticap.org and you'll get a copy hot off the press.

The days are longer and lighter so plan for your gardening year ahead and take a visit!

The Horticap Team



We are now taking orders for summer hanging baskets so please call in to place your orders!



The GLASSHOUSE is operational!

It's taken months of site clearing, digging out, cleaning bricks, laying the new block paving, filling in holes, painting the benches, getting the irrigation in position... but it's been worth all that effort. The huge frame and glass arrived and it wasn't too long before it really started to take shape. We now have a fantastic space for our plant sales and the environment is light and bright. The plants are now being potted up, labelled and displayed for sale and we have a great choice for your summer borders. We're excited to be adding a special mosaic created by the students at the entrance, and an area has been cleared alongside the glasshouse for new car parking facilities.

So whether you want plants, compost, bark, hanging baskets, pots... come and visit!



Jackie Green

One of our long-standing volunteers, received a 'Highly Commended' award at the recent Harrogate Volunteering Oscars. Jackie had been nominated for her 32 years of volunteering at Horticap, which is a fantastic achievement. Well deserved Jackie.



SAVE THE DATE... on the 28th July we are celebrating the opening of the glasshouse with a Summer Garden Party. It will be an evening event with music and refreshments. If you are interested in attending or sponsoring the event please contact us at info@horticap.org



We were delighted to have **Police Community Support Officer** trainees Sarah and Rebecca join us as part of their community placement initiative with North Yorkshire police in December.

Sarah and Rebecca worked with the students, Instructors and volunteers and got stuck in with the digging and clearing and they helped to tidy, weed and re-pot our potted plants in the tunnels. The students were delighted to be able to show them what we get up to at Horticap.

It's a three day attachment to a community organisation and in the words of one of the organisers...

“ This is an invaluable experience for the student and often their first exposure to the tremendous work that you do and the challenges of those that you support. ”



Tuesday 11 - Thursday 13 July 2017

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The Great Yorkshire Show raises funds for the Yorkshire Agricultural Society to help support farming and the countryside.

Our Friends...The Cone Exchange

It's Harrogate's unique community scrap store and home to Captain Rummage, also known as Chris Powel. Every year the Cone Exchange works with 200 Yorkshire schools, community groups, social enterprises and charities to transform trash into treasure and encourage young people to become environmentally aware. The Cone Exchange is a Bettys & Taylors of Harrogate community project and they exchange, re-use and sell the waste materials they receive. If you enjoy crafting it's well worth a visit with buttons, garden twine, ribbon and fabric off cuts.

All proceeds from the shop sales are donated to local social enterprises, including Horticap and Jenny Ruth Workshops as well as Bettys & Taylors Trees for Life project - supporting tree planting and tree preservation in Yorkshire and in tea and coffee growing countries celebrating their passion for the planet.

Chris tells us 'Bettys & Taylors have been passionate supporters of Horticap for a number of years now. As a small independent social enterprise it's great to be involved where a little help can go a long way!'

www.coneexchange.org

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Four years ago the Rotary Club of Harrogate, as part of its environment activities, implemented a project to recycle Christmas trees and raise much needed funds to support local charities at the same time.

They target two housing areas in Harrogate, and between Christmas and the New Year they carry out a leaflet drop to the houses in both catchment areas.

The Rotary Club invite householders to let them pick up their discarded Christmas trees on a specified date for a minimum donation of £3.

On the first Saturday of the New Year, two teams of Rotary volunteers then walk around the selected areas collecting the trees. With the help of the Horticap truck and trailer they are then transported back to our nursery for recycling.

To date the Rotary Club have raised £3,110 through this initiative, of which £1,260 has been donated to Horticap. Thanks go to them for all for their hard work, it's wonderful that we can work together on this project and we hope we can continue for many more Christmases to come.



We built one INSECT HOUSE

and now we have two... the first is situated in our Nature Trail. It was such a success that we built another one in our show garden at Harrogate Autumn Flower Show. We won a Gold Award and Best In Show and this one also came back to live at Horticap.

The insect house was so popular that we were asked to build one for Hookstone Chase Primary School in Starbeck. Andy and his team of students set off to deliver and set up the house. They also created a 'music machine' using lots of items from the scrapheap for percussion, and built two pallet planters ready for the children to fill with compost and plant up. Our students have enjoyed making and painting these items and the children came out to thank them. Their order is by no means complete and we still have to construct a Wendy house, a stage and a painting easel – all good projects for rainy days in the workshop!



BEDS and BORDERS

This year we have big plans for the Horticap garden area, and Tom is looking forward to working with the students, volunteers and colleagues to enhance the garden pathways and borders and to make them an even more attractive and dynamic space for our customers and friends.

Some of our perennials have spread quickly so these will be divided and the maturing trees and shrubs are casting more shade so there will be plenty to keep the team busy. They have recently trimmed a large conifer hedge and started pruning works and are excited by the prospect of revitalising the area with some fresh planting making it a wonderful experience as you walk through and continuing to give year round interest.

We are looking forward to seeing the new changes and will be potting up and dividing the plants that have been lifted. Some of these may go back into the garden area and some may go for resale. Either way, we don't waste anything at Horticap.





New Starters...

PHILIPPA and IZZY

...are the latest students to join our team. They are both looking forward to getting involved with the activities at Horticap, learning new skills and making lots of new friends.



Exclusively Inclusive...

are a voluntary community group based in Sutton in Craven and we were pleased to welcome two of their newsletter reporters to Horticap. Liam and Chris work on the Craven Gazette and they came to interview our students for their next edition. Liam is responsible for photography and reporting, whilst Chris uses a dictaphone to conduct interviews and he types up the reports.

Our students were happy to be involved and we managed to turn the tables and ask a few questions ourselves. Liam loves the opportunity to speak to people and enjoys bodybuilding; his ambition is to train as a wrestler. Chris has been involved with the Gazette since it started in 2007 and he works for North Yorkshire County Council.

The newsletter team meets on a regular basis and are excited at the launch of their new look first edition. The group are also involved in activities that include a community allotment and a monthly Come Dine With Us event. We look forward to their next edition!

www.facebook.com/cravengazette



The Horticap VEGETABLE PATCH...

A large Hartley cottage greenhouse was kindly donated to Horticap, and in October 2016 volunteers Craig and William, along with student Paul O'Brien, set about erecting the new structure.

There were over a thousand pieces and no instructions, so the power of Google came to the fore and William researched how to put it together.

Over several Tuesdays the greenhouse came to life, although there were a few problems along the way! Glass not fitting, not enough seals and spare parts left over, however the completed greenhouse now sits within the vegetable plot and Craig is looking forward to filling it this year with cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes.

"It's a tremendous addition to the veg plot and I'm very excited about what we will be able to grow. Thanks go to Paul who was waiting every Tuesday for us to arrive. We were very proud of what he achieved, turning his hand to almost everything during the construction. With the new greenhouse and the raised bed, this year will be very productive and new recipes will be on the student mess room menu - rabbits, pigeons and caterpillars permitting!"

Watch this space for updates and photographs from Craig and his team...they are planning a fruit cage and hope to plant a grapevine in the greenhouse so it will be a very busy time over the coming months.



Our Plant Favourites...

The spring flowering bulbs have been looking stunning. They are a favourite for student Pat and she enjoyed decorating the tables in our tearoom with these stunning blooms. If you didn't get around to planting your bulbs last year (between September and November), then don't worry. We have a selection of the finished potted result for you to choose from – crocus, daffodils, and tulips... they will brighten up any space and add instant colour to your borders or pots.



Top Dog!

The students made new friends when we had a visit from Penny and Edie, her highly trained working guide dog. Edie is a German Shepard cross and has been with Penny for two years. She explained to the students how important it is that owners are matched with their potential guide dog, taking into account a person's needs – walking speed, height and lifestyle and that one of the Guide Dog Mobility Instructors spends up to five weeks training the guide dog owner and the dog together. The guide dogs need to be calm and confident in all situations and Edie was certainly a perfect example. Once Penny had removed Edie's harness, the students were able to give Edie lots of pats and ask Penny questions. Does Edie like treats? Yes, most definitely, but Penny has to ensure that Edie doesn't get fat or get a poorly tummy! Does she bark? Yes, but not very often! How many Guide dogs are there? There are over 4,950 guide dog owners in the UK. We also learnt that as well as providing help through their dogs, the charity campaigns for the rights of those with visual impairments and it invests in eye disease research.

We had a fantastic informative afternoon so a big thank you to Penny and Edie. The Guide Dogs do remarkable work and the dogs certainly do change people's lives.

www.guidedogs.org.uk



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Seven ways to SUPPORT US IN 2017

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.

**Fundraise
for us**



**Leave a
gift in your
will**



**Buy your plants,
compost, bark and
all your gardening
needs from our
nursery**



"I can think of no gardening organisation that deserves our support more"
Our Patron, Alan Titchmarsh

**Join our
newsletter
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Diary Dates

20th April – 23rd April

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

9.30am – 5.30pm (4.30pm Sunday) at the Great Yorkshire Showground

Come and meet the team from Horticap. We'll have a show garden and a stand selling our plants.

www.flowershow.org.uk/show-info

Saturday 20th May

Refreshments at the Wesley Centre, Oxford Street, Harrogate

Horticap is hosting a refreshment day at the Wesley Centre. Homemade cakes, sandwiches and soup to be served from 10am until 4pm.

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

SAVE THE DAY.. Friday 28th July Summer Garden Party at Horticap

Evening event. More details to follow!

Art Exhibitions at Horticap

1st-28th April - Bob Laughton

Email b.laughton1@virginmedia.com

1st-28th May

Harrogate U3A Photography

<http://u3asites.org.uk/harrogate/page/52049>

3rd-30th June

Jane Carlisle Bellerby

www.janecarlisesilkart.co.uk

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