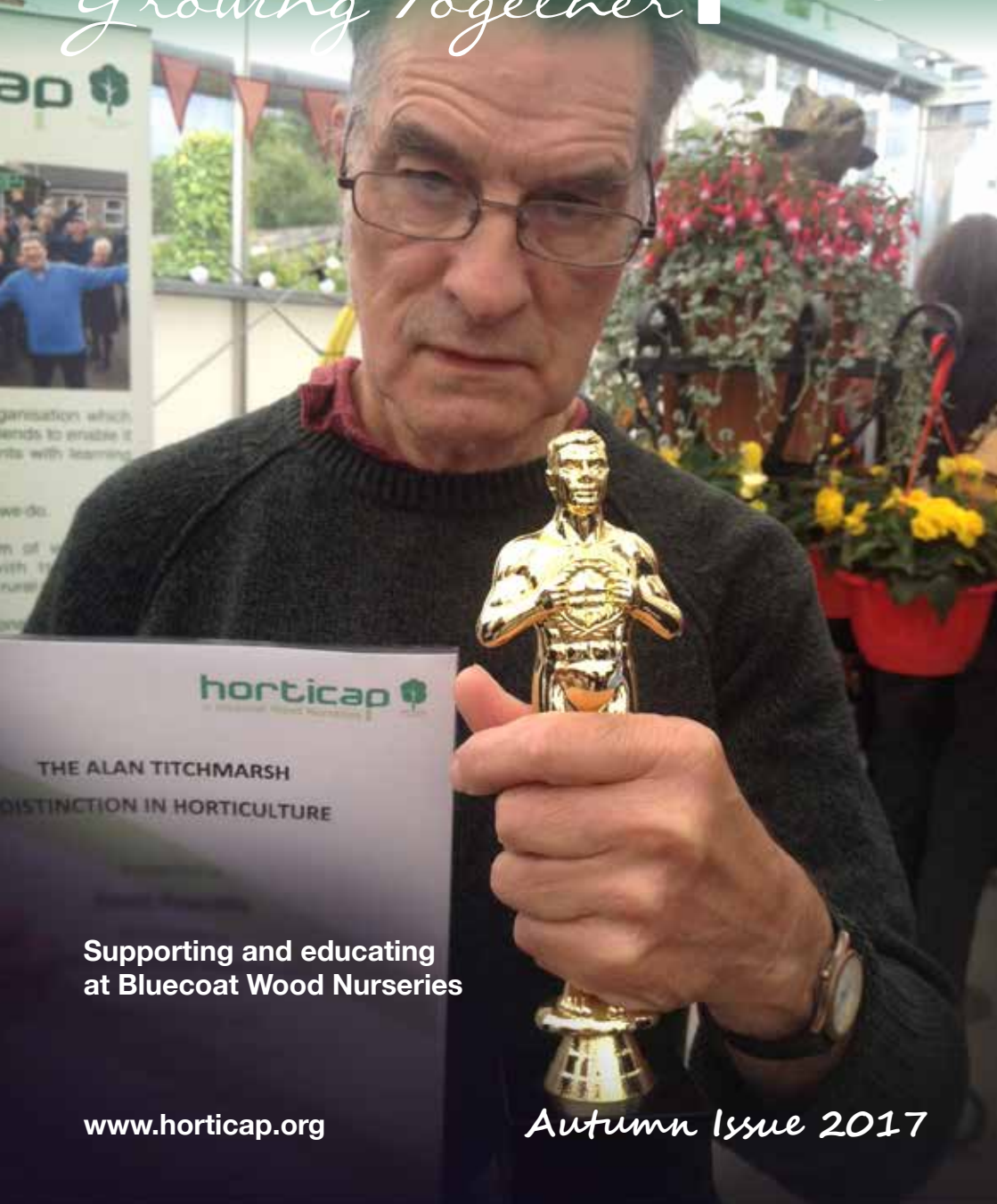


horticap

Growing Together



horticap 

THE ALAN TITCHMARSH
DISTINCTION IN HORTICULTURE

Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Autumn Issue 2017

Danke Sehr!

"Thank you so much" that's the message from students Josh, Mark, Daniel and Tony after their trip to Germany which was organised by the Lions Club.

They had a fantastic time making new friends, as well as experiencing a new country and being involved in all sorts of new activities, sharing their culture and learning about a different one.

One of the highlights of the trip was the "Barefoot Walk" which involved walking through various materials including mud and water, seeds, gravel and ants. As Instructor, Paul explains "This activity is perfect for experiencing different sensory feelings and for balancing, and it's proven to be really therapeutic. Plus, it's great to get mud in between your toes. The students loved it, and of course we cleaned our toes at the end!" They also had the opportunity to go swimming, have a day horse riding and they were interviewed live on German Radio. Oh, and not to mention meeting the local polizei...thankfully only for educational purposes...

It was an action packed trip and another highlight was meeting the "Cherry Queen". Bad Sooden-Allendorf is an important cherry growing area in Germany and every year there is a Cherry Fair during which a Queen is chosen. Our students were delighted to be introduced to German 'royalty' and can't wait to return the favour when their new friends pop over to Horticap.



Hello there's still plenty of energy left in the garden as we move into Autumn, but here at Horticap we are celebrating bulbs. They may not look like much now, but by spring they will look spectacular. Use them in pots for a moveable feast, for scent, wildlife and for creating drama and colour - all you have to do is find them the right place, add water and boom. Gardening can be so easy!

The hardest part will be deciding which of our bulbs to buy, we have so much choice, but they don't cost the earth so perhaps you can afford to experiment...?!

Green balloons in a field? What a crazy, fun afternoon we had, standing in a field with our green balloons held high, trying to keep the shape of a letter "H" as a glider flew past taking photographs! The results can be seen in our new calendar "Yorkshire from the Air" which is on sale in our gift shop (£4.95) or posted via eBay for £7 (includes P&P).

Dare I say it would make a lovely Christmas present...

www.ebay.co.uk/itm/Horticap-Calendar-/352170634842

The new newsletter format has been a great success and we'd like to thank those of you who have asked to receive your copy by e-mail. All you have to do is email info@horticap.org for all future editions. It's so easy! We are also getting very excited about our new look website which we will be launching soon - we'll keep you updated. Meanwhile we have lots to share with you in this issue, it's been another busy year with awards, events and so many changes in our garden...we never stand still at Horticap!

So enjoy the last rays of summer and remember that we are open throughout the winter.

The Horticap Team





HORTICAP AWARDS 2017

It's an event which everyone looks forward to, and it's an opportunity to get together to celebrate and applaud the students' achievements. Hosted in the Horticap glasshouse, it was a packed evening. Among our special guests was The Mayor of Harrogate Borough, Councillor Anne Jones who, along with our long standing friend, Phil Gomersall, presented City and Guilds certificates in Practical Horticulture Skills to seven of our students

(below). Training and assessment was carried out by Rachael Neild of Craven College and she was delighted to see the students being recognized for their hard work.

We were also thrilled to welcome Betty Maiden who presented Paul with the Joe Maiden Award for Vegetable Growing (top left). Timothy was awarded the Roger Sharp Award (right) and the prestigious Alan Titchmarsh Distinction in Horticulture was awarded to David (below right).



Other awards were given for Excellence in Hanging Basket Craftsmanship, Excellence in Woodwork, Labelling and Off Site Contracts...Distinctions in Art, Excellence in Mowing, Potting and Propagation, Weeding, Excellence in Ride on Mower, in Retail Work, in On-Site Maintenance, Excellence in Wreath Making, General Garden Maintenance.

At Horticap we commend our students for going above and beyond and the evening reminds us why it's so important we continue to provide an environment where we can all thrive.

New Starters...

Charlotte came to Horticap in June and works on a Tuesday and Friday. She was awarded a Horticap Distinction in Art at our Awards ceremony, and is very creative in our craft room, but she has also been learning new practical skills in the garden and is a natural with a lawn mower! Charlotte often goes out in the van helping with the gardening contracts and taking deliveries to our customers. She enjoys the social atmosphere at Horticap, and with her cheerful nature and enthusiasm she is always happy to help other students. Charlotte is looking forward to her first Christmas at Horticap and we are sure that with her zest for learning there will be more awards to follow!



We've had a lot of help this year! A group from EnviroVent visited Horticap to help to rebuild the polytunnels. It was part of their "In It Together" community project and they did a brilliant job. Mazars, an accountancy firm in Morley, gave us a very generous donation, which we used to buy wooden posts and cement. A group from the company then came to help build our new Wisteria Walkway. Lloyds Banking Group also came back to help us and they got stuck into the garden and wildlife area. What fantastic teams and what a difference they have made at Horticap, a big thank you.

The YORKSHIRE VET

Countryside Live

5

countryside.co.uk

Twitter Facebook Instagram

**Saturday 21
& Sunday 22
October 2017**

Great Yorkshire Showground

Our Friends...Johnsons of Whixley



Johnsons of Whixley was founded by WWI veteran Eric Johnson in 1921 and is now one of the longest established and largest - commercial trade only - nursery businesses in Europe. It's now run by three generations of the Richardson family with 12 family members working in different roles within the business. Horticap students were invited to a guided tour of the site and gained a first hand insight into the operations by the chairman John Richardson. He celebrates his 80th birthday in September and still plays an active role in the running of the business.

After a visit to the board room - which included a treat of hot chocolate - the students were excited to see inside the huge trucks, ready to be despatched and loaded with plants. They watched the plants being selected for the orders and watched them being labeled up. They were all very keen to pick up production ideas for Horticap! As John explained "I always enjoy talking to visitors, particularly when they are young and motivated by growing plants, and the delight and surprise on the faces of these youngsters as they saw the volumes and variety of large scale production, was wonderful to see. Horticap is a truly admirable organisation, and they need, and truly deserve, the support of all our horticultural friends." Not only did the students have a fantastic day, they were then delighted to meet Katie from the TV programme "Love your Garden" on their way out! Thank you to the Johnsons of Whixley team who have also kindly offered to donate plants to Horticap to use at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show.



JOHNSONS OF WHIXLEY

WHOLESALE XPRESS

IDEAL FOR LANDSCAPE GARDENERS, GARDEN DESIGNERS, TREE SURGEONS, ESTATES, CARAVAN PARKS AND UNIVERSITIES

THE TRADE ONLY CASH & CARRY ARM OF JOHNSONS OF WHIXLEY IN THE HEART OF YORKSHIRE

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On the evening of 28th July we held a SUMMER GARDEN PARTY to celebrate the completion of the new glasshouse.

We were delighted to welcome more than 60 guests with wine, Pimms and homemade pizza freshly made in the oven by volunteer Craig. It may have been raining outside, but inside the glasshouse we were entertained with music from the talented Shaun and Amanda Mockett, and magician Bob McBratney wowed us with his magic tricks. The auction prompted a bidding war of the very best kind, and both sculptures were sold! Thanks to Steve Blaylock and Christine Moss for their wonderful creations. The evening raised an incredible £1360 which will go towards building improvements. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the staff and volunteers who helped to make the occasion one to be remembered.

After 9 years of service as trustees at Horticap

both Sue Donnelly and Derrick Nicholson resigned this summer, making way for new trustees Nicky Harris and Peter Hornby.

Sue, who looked after the Tea room and organised special events at Horticap and Derrick, who looked after Horticap's finances have given considerable amounts of their time over the past 9 years and have been instrumental in the development of Horticap.

Students, volunteers and staff have all benefited from their work and they will both be missed.



Our Plant Favourites...

The colours in the garden borders have been spectacular this year, and we have been busy digging up and dividing some of the bigger clumps of perennials so that they continue to perform. At Horticap we love to bring the outside inside, so Hannah picked some of her favourites in late August which we displayed in the student mess room so that everyone could appreciate them.

She chose the last of the sweet peas, which smelt delicious, the huge dramatic pretty pink heads of the hydrangea and the cheerful late flowering yellow helianthus which runs riot in the Horticap borders. Fantastic choice Hannah!



Chateauneuf Du Horticap

The new greenhouse was ready and there were three grape vines waiting to be planted, so volunteer Craig took to Google to work out how to grow them...the Horticap wine quest was underway!

They were given plenty of room, light and good drainage and the team were delighted when the vines started to race up the new trellises. Despite the experts warning that we would be unlikely to see grapes in the first year, the early signs looked promising with several small bunches forming. The nurturing continued throughout the summer and by September the fruit of the first crop were ready to be harvested. Unfortunately, the four (small) bunches of grapes were hardly enough for Craig to take his socks off to tread the grapes and the sweet offerings were duly devoured in the student mess room. It's going to be a long process, but we are hoping that 2018 will be our vintage year...



We set sail at the Harrogate Autumn Show with our "Journey Of Discovery" border garden and we found the Gold treasure. Yes, we were awarded a Gold and we were over the moon. The garden was inspired by Horticap's journey as a charity over the last 33 years, capturing the spirit of adventure and determination to overcome challenges just like the intrepid plant hunters.

The papier mache fish were made by the students and volunteer Helen, and swam in the waves of grass at the front whilst a spectacular puffa fish was bobbing at the back. The ship was built in the Horticap workshop by Tom and Bruce and their team and it was planted with Clematis, Hosta, Anemone: all with origins from afar, but which are now a familiar sight in our gardens and at Horticap's nursery. Dried flowers and seeds reflected Horticap's early beginnings and the start of the journey. It was another massive team effort and a huge thank you to everyone at the show. We always meet such supportive people, visitors and exhibitors and it's a fantastic sense of achievement for our students.



Show Time...



Here at Horticap we always enjoy being part of local shows. It gives us an opportunity to meet our friends and supporters, explain what we do and to be part of the community.

We were delighted to be invited to Weeton Show again this year. Every year the profits from the show go to a local charity, and this year they chose to support Horticap. It's a fantastic, action packed show and the characters from our Magic Roundabout display proved to be very popular and our plant sale went well. The Great Yorkshire Show is always in our diary, and this year was no exception. Dougal and his friends were loaded onto the van again for another big day out. In August Instructor Steve was out and about taking the van to the Harrogate MG Club event in Pateley Bridge. It's their 32nd show and it was a busy day with our plants selling out. Thank you to all who bought plants and donated and please give us a wave if you see us on our travels.



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Our Very Own Olympian

The Special Olympics Great Britain chose Sheffield to host its 10th National Games in August. It was the largest sports event to take place for people with learning disabilities and attracted 2,600 athletes.

Our very own Ross Chapman was a member of the football team and won a bronze medal in the football tournament. Thousands cheered on the athletes and Tony Hadley headlined the opening ceremony and Ross was lucky enough to meet the Spandau Ballet singer.

We are so proud of Ross and his incredible achievement...he's a real winner!



**Better
Physical
Health**



Woodwork skills

**Aquiring
New
Skills**



Cooking skills

**A bit of what
we do and why
we value your
support**



**Connecting
With
Others**

Craft skills

**Improved
Mental
Health**



Horticultural skills

“ The spirit and enterprise of Horticap never ceases to amaze and delight me. I am proud to be their patron and urge everyone who knows the therapeutic qualities of gardening to support the sterling work they do. Using gardening as a means of enriching lives is something I have valued all my life; Horticap is living proof that it can transform lives.”

Our Patron, Alan Titchmarsh MBE



Diary Dates

6th November onwards

Howard & Catherine Carlisle Exhibition at Horticap

An exhibition over the Christmas period during which you will be able to purchase their amazing artwork

Christmas Wreaths

Get to Horticap early and place your order by Sunday 3rd December

Christmas Trees

Our popular trees will be available from 24th November

Christmas Cards

Available at Horticap and at the Harrogate Charity Christmas Shop at St Peter's Church, Cambridge Road, Harrogate from Monday 23rd October until Saturday 16th December - Monday to Saturday 9.30am until 4.30pm

25th and 26th November

2nd and 3rd December

Horticap Christmas Open Days

10am - 4pm

Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies whilst you choose your Christmas trees and browse our selection of gifts and cards



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