

# horticap

*Growing Together*



Supporting and educating  
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

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

Spring Issue 2018

## Our Students...Hannah



*"Horticap is a very important part of my life, in fact Horticap is my family"*

Hannah started with us at Horticap in 2009 having already gained some previous horticultural skills training at Hollybush Farm Leeds.

Hannah said that her favourite tasks at Horticap are potting up plants, preparing kindling wood for sale and working in our shop. Hannah enjoys the social life at Horticap and has lots of friends here. Hannah stated that her friends at Horticap are very important to her.

Hannah enjoys the humour at Horticap and enjoys laughing with Brenda, Phil, Carol and in fact all the instructors!

Hannah also said that in 2017 she had medical treatment which she found difficult but talking to doctors and nurses about her work at Horticap, and looking forward to coming back again, really helped her recovery.

This year Hannah is particularly looking forward to Spring, helping to produce our new hanging baskets and she is especially looking forward to meeting customers both old and new.

In her spare time Hannah enjoys rock music, recording music, watching tv, visiting her local pub and shopping. You could say that she is a bit of a rock chic!



**H**ello, January may be the start of the year, but for gardeners, spring is when the excitement starts. It's the beginning of the floral displays and fills us with anticipation for another gardening year. All that planning and bulb planting starts to reap rewards – snowdrops and crocus are quickly followed by daffodils, hyacinths and tulips. If you didn't manage to get your bulbs planted then pop over to Horticap and get some instant colour for your garden gaps or your windowsill.

You can also start planning your summer borders and choose from our selection of wonderful perennials. We have hanging baskets and pots ready to go, they are so easy! Don't forget about the wildlife either...birds will be looking for places to nest and we have recycled bird boxes which are perfect and so easy to put up.

And, after all that gardening, take a look at our new website - [www.horticap.org](http://www.horticap.org) It's been given a makeover and tells you all about the work we do. There's student and volunteer information and links to our FB page for regular updates.



Our cover photo for this issue is Stephen who celebrates 30 years at Horticap, he helps to create the hanging baskets and is always hardworking and helpful, with a wonderful sense of humour! Congratulations Stephen on a fantastic achievement.

Thank you for all your kindness and donations in 2017... it means that we can keep supporting students like Stephen for many years to come.

*The Horticap Team*

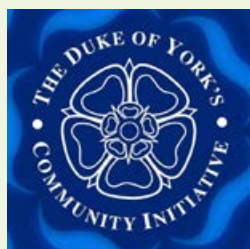
## The Royal Seal of Approval

*"Some years ago I visited a housing estate in York, and saw what a real difference could be achieved by the community working together, identifying their own needs, and deciding for themselves the actions needed to find the answers to such needs.*

*Today the Community Initiative which bears my name is a great success story throughout the whole of Yorkshire with over 200 first class community schemes having received my Award.*

*They have been encouraged informally to act as mentors and examples of best practice to other communities, spreading far and wide the message that often the remedy for short comings can be generated at community level"*

HRH The Duke of York



Horticap is proud to be reaccruited with the Duke of York's Community Initiative. It's a Royal Award presented annually to a small number of community projects based in Yorkshire, recognising schemes that are of real value to the community, well run and which are an inspiration to others. To receive a royal recognition of excellence is a massive boost for everyone involved with our organisation and we are delighted.

## New Starters...



Oliver



Sommer



Matthew



Jake



Sam



Adam



Arron



Liv

## Plans Unveiled for 2018

"There are some exciting developments happening at Horticap this year. Firstly, we are extending the students' mess room to approximately double its existing size. The plans have been passed by the Council planning department and we have received quotes from builders. We are currently looking at these, with a view to involve the students as much as we can, taking into account health and safety requirements. We feel that student involvement enhances their time at Horticap, giving them fulfilling and varied opportunities, particularly as this is their mess room. This development will include improved kitchen facilities and a disabled toilet. We are hoping to complete the work in 2018.

The second development is to demolish the existing 'lean-to' tearoom and shop, and erect a more substantial, two-storey building with a café and kitchen. This will enable us to serve light meals, which will increase footfall in the café, shop and plant sales area. This is an ambitious plan. The architect has produced some artist's impressions, which, when revised, will be made available for people to view. We will be applying for planning permission in the next few weeks and will engage a quantity surveyor to give us a rough cost. With regard to the new café, it will need to be professionally managed and staffed. We are currently discussing whether we should involve appropriate students in some way to give them work experience in catering. We are taking our time over the development plans to ensure the end result is both aesthetically pleasing, and will help us achieve our objectives, as stated in our strategic five-year plan.

Thirdly, we have plans to further improve the outside area this spring and summer. This will make the pathways more accessible. Again, we will involve students, staff and volunteers where feasible. At the appropriate time we will hold a party to celebrate our achievements, and we will invite our patron, Alan Titchmarsh, to officially open the new buildings."

*Steve Scarre, Chairman*



Last October we lost a very special lady at Horticap. Caroline had been a student with us for 8 years and was the brightest ray of sunshine with a smile for everyone. She had such enthusiasm for gardening, as well as helping in the tearoom on a Tuesday where she made everyone welcome and was a friend to all. Caroline's smile lit up our mess room and we will always remember her.



## What's on Offer

The benches in the greenhouses are filling up as we sow, pot and bring on the perennial and bedding plants in preparation for the year ahead. Perennial plants provide flowers year after year, and we make sure that all our plug perennials are potted on in fresh compost to promote healthy strong roots and shoots. Once established, perennial plants are easy to look after and they can provide colour throughout the year. At Horticap we have a variety to choose from and our reliable favourites include *Astrantias*, *Geraniums*, *Dianthus*, *Heucheras* and *Penstemon*...but we have plenty more, and we are always happy to help you make the right choice. Annual plants, often known as bedding, complete their growing cycle (growing from seed, flowering and producing seed) in the course of a single growing season. One of the best things about annuals is their incredible diversity and versatility and using them allows you to compose really exciting combinations of colour, form and texture that will last all season long. They are perfect for containers, hanging baskets and filling in the gaps in the perennial border. Choose from *Begonias*, *Petunias*, *Marigolds* and *Lobelia*...whatever your budget pay us a visit and get lots of useful and creative ideas for your outdoor space.



We'd like to thank the **Freemasons** for their generosity. The Harrogate & Claro Lodge No 1001 presented Horticap with a specialist vehicle trailer. The funds were provided by the West Yorkshire Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund and the trailer will enable a second team of Horticap students to transport our mowers and other gardening equipment to carry out horticultural work in the local area.

The trailer was handed over to us by Joe Cocker, the Worshipful Master of Harrogate and Claro Lodge No 1001 who explained "This particular charity is the sort we are looking to support within the Harrogate area as they provide vital support, training and guidance to vulnerable adults."

We are delighted and extremely grateful that the Freemasons support the work we do at Horticap.



Our fantastic supporters work so hard. The Mazars Group held a charity event in Leeds and raised over £3000 which is incredible. They had also helped last year donating funds to buy materials for our Wisteria Walkway which they helped to build.



## Fundraising and Tractors

We love to have an opportunity to get out and about, so the students were excited to be able to visit the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate Convention Centre in January. The exhibition covers everything from irrigation systems, fertilisers, mowers and artificial turf. It was an educational visit with the students keen to learn about new products and technology... tractors in particular!



## Time for Take Off

Every year Harrogate Flower Show and The Great Yorkshire Show are in the Horticap diary. The whole team looks forward to these exciting events and Helen, one of our volunteers, creates the fantastic paper mache characters which steal the show! She works with the students at Horticap to create unbelievable masterpieces which have ranged from Ermintrude and Wallace and Gromit to snails, fish, flowers, bees and worms.

We can't give too much away at the moment, but Helen and her team will be unveiling their latest creations on the Horticap show garden at Harrogate Spring Flower Show in April. It promises to be even better than before and the characters planned for 2018 are really NOT to be missed.



TUESDAY 10 - THURSDAY 12 JULY 2018

160<sup>th</sup>  
GREAT  
YORKSHIRE  
SHOW  
2018

GREATYORKSHIRESHOW.CO.UK

01423 541222

MON - FRI 9AM - 5PM (NOT BANK HOLIDAYS)



## A Simple Act makes a Great Impact

Plastic... it's everywhere and we must all do our bit to recycle as much as we can. In Britain we throw away about 513,000 tonnes of plastic bottles every year - that is around 8 billion bottles!

Many of these end up in landfill where they take up lots of space. They also end up in oceans and our natural environments, so we need to look at alternatives.

We've been using our plastic milk cartons to keep the birds away from the vegetable patch and we've also been making bird feeders from plastic bottles. Plastic drink bottles can also be used to make flowers which we think will brighten up any space - far better than sitting in landfill and an opportunity to be creative with our waste!

Although we use plastic flower pots for our perennials, any used pots are cleaned in buckets, removing the old labels and sorted into size so we can store and reuse them. This is a great task for the winter months and is well worth the effort when spring comes back around and we are busy potting up new plants.



It's also really simple and easy to make your own eco-friendly paper pots for sowing, using newspaper, which is completely biodegradable.

These paper pots are a great alternative for seedlings, and once the plant is growing strongly the whole pot can be planted into the ground and it will decompose as the plant grows.

You could also use cardboard egg boxes for shallow rooting crops like salad leaves and courgettes and you can use toilet roll tubes for sowing deeper rooted seeds like sweet peas and beans.



Horticap is proud to produce our own **GREEN ENERGY**. In May 2009, as a result of a generous donation by GW Bulmer Charitable Trust, we were able to start generating our electricity with our own wind turbine. Electricity produced by the turbine is used firstly on site and any surplus is sold back to the grid. We also capture rain in our four large water tanks. Take a look at our website to learn all about our commitment to helping the environment...

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

Also take a visit to our Nature trail where we have been highlighting the effect of the overuse of plastic and its impact. Volunteer Joan has used containers filled with the types of plastic that end up in our oceans. Large pieces can entangle animals whilst tiny pieces cause harm by entering the food chain. Joan's exhibit also includes a life size whale to raise awareness and highlight how even a creature as large as a whale can succumb to pollution.

**FACT** - between 5 million and 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into the world's oceans every year. That's more than the combined weight of every single blue whale on Earth.



Our recycling doesn't just happen in the green houses and the garden.

We use reclaimed pallets in our workshop to create all sorts of items for sale which include birdhouses, benches, log stores and raised beds. We also repair old garden furniture, replacing the wood and giving a fresh coat of varnish leaving them looking as good as new.

We can all do it...just a few simple steps and thinking about the materials we use everyday can make a difference.





## A Celebration Shared

...Birthdays are a wonderful celebration and one of our friends, Simon Bleasdale, decided that this year (his 45th) would be different. He pledged to forgo his birthday presents and cards in order for his friends and family to donate to Horticap instead. This has all been done through the new DONATE button on our Facebook page.

As he explains, "Horticap is based in my hometown of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. They provide adults with learning disabilities training in horticulture, allied crafts and rural skills. My family has a long association with them, and I am really excited to see how much this small sacrifice can raise". What a wonderful gesture and a huge thank you to Simon, his family and his friends. He raised £380 and his employer Marsh Global contributed another £300 – a grand total of £680 which will make such a difference to Horticap.



## Meet our New Trustees!

As a charity, Horticap currently has 7 Trustees who come from a wide range of backgrounds (Volunteering, Medical, Administration, Legal, Finance) and who use their skills and experience to support the work we do. They are responsible for helping Horticap achieve its aims, ensuring that the charity is going in the right direction for the benefit of our students, that we have proper controls over our finances and that we fulfil all our legal obligations. The Trustees are all volunteers, serving an agreed length of service, and in 2017 two of our Trustees Sue and Derrick handed over the reins to Peter Hornby and Nicky Harris.



Nicky was a volunteer at Horticap for 18 months before being asked to become a Trustee. Her background was as an administrator in several schools and she was delighted to be given the opportunity to become more involved with such a worthwhile organisation. She works with the students offering creative and instructional support - she involves the students in art activities, giving them the chance to express themselves and to gain confidence and self-worth. Nicky believes that "having people with different experiences, ages and backgrounds at Trustee level can really improve the impact charities have. It's just as important to have life skills, the ability to get on with others and to encourage teamwork. We are keen to bring volunteers and Trustees together on a more regular basis as this allows the sharing of ideas to improve what we have to offer the students. There is so much to look forward to at Horticap at the moment, there are exciting plans in the pipeline which will enable us to continue to improve the provision for our students."

Peter is an accountant and worked for many years in the public and private sectors. He was also a Trustee and Deputy Chair of Yorkshire Cancer Research between 2010 and 2015. When Derrick Nicholson retired last year after many years valiant support to Horticap, Peter was invited over to meet the team. Peter says "from the first moment on site (with Karl showing me where to park!) I was bowled over by this group of people who were totally focussed on improving the lives of the students. What I've enjoyed most is getting to meet and work with our staff, students and volunteers and seeing how they've developed. The highlight this year for me was the Awards evening - everyone gets an award, but for five students to get national achievement awards is a testament to the hard work put in by staff and volunteers as well as the students themselves. It's an exciting time for Horticap, there are some exciting developments on the horizon and I'll be delighted to contribute what I can to making Horticap the best it can be for our current and future students".

# NO IFS, NO BUTS. LAW, FAIR + SQUARE.

Contact Tim Axe on 01423 502 211 or email [tim.axe@lcf.co.uk](mailto:tim.axe@lcf.co.uk)

**LCF** LAW<sup>TM</sup>  
BARBER  
TITLES

[LCF.CO.UK](http://LCF.CO.UK)

**26th April - 29th April Harrogate Spring Flower Show**  
9.30am- 5.30pm (4.30pm Sunday) at the Great Yorkshire Showground.  
Horticap has a large show garden and a stand selling our plants.  
[www.flowershow.org.uk/show-info](http://www.flowershow.org.uk/show-info)

## Diary Dates

### Art Exhibitions at Horticap:

**Harrogate U3A Photography Group** - A photographic exhibition "Plants and Birds" Sunday 29th April - Thursday 31st May with an opening event on Saturday 28th April 12-2pm (All Welcome).

**TCL Art Collective** - 5 Leeds based artists will be showing a small selection of their individual eclectic work; photography, printmaking, fine art from Sunday 10th June - 8th July with opening event Saturday 9th June 12 - 1pm (All Welcome).

[www.facebook.com/tclartcollective](http://www.facebook.com/tclartcollective)

[twitter.com/TCLcollective](https://twitter.com/TCLcollective)

[www.instagram.com/tcl\\_artcollective](http://www.instagram.com/tcl_artcollective)

### 10th July - 12th July Great Yorkshire Show

The Horticap team will be there and it's a great day out for the family so come and say hello.  
[www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk](http://www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk)



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