

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Summer Issue 2018



Our Local Hero!

Craig has been volunteering at Horticap for 2 years, and as a retired police inspector he is no stranger to helping others. He shares his knowledge of growing produce with the students and looks after the vegetable plot. He was contacted out of the blue by local radio station Stray FM and was informed that he



had been nominated for their Local Heroes Awards

in the Volunteer of the Year category. Not only had he been nominated, but he had also been shortlisted in the top 3 and was invited to attend the award ceremony at Rudding Park! Stray FM spent an afternoon at Horticap interviewing Craig and chatting to students Carl and Charlotte, and then in May Craig attended the glittering awards ceremony. Although Craig didn't win in his category, he spent a wonderful evening with the other nominees and as he explains "It's been a wonderfully humbling experience. I was nominated, however I was happy to represent all the fantastic volunteers who give their time to continue to make Horticap such a special place to be. This nomination was for them all. I know that this publicity helps to raise awareness of the charity, where we are and what we do."



New Beginnings...

In March we said good luck and goodbye to Brenda. She has worked at Horticap for 13 years as an Instructor, and she has created hundreds of amazing hanging baskets, planters and floral arrangements, as well as running workshops, demonstrations, giving talks to local groups and making it all look so easy with her talent!

We made sure we gave her a big send off and held a party as a thank you for all her good work.

We wish her well in her new adventures travelling around Europe and we can't wait to see the photographs.

TUESDAY 10 - THURSDAY 12 JULY 2018

160th
GREAT
YORKSHIRE
SHOW
2018

GREATYORKSHIRESHOW.CO.UK

01423 541222 MON - FRI 9AM - 5PM (NOT BANK HOLIDAYS)



Hello, and welcome to light nights and warmer days, at last it is Summer!

We have been celebrating since our Gold win at Harrogate Flower Show (more details inside), but we haven't been able to sit still for long because we are excited to announce that we have now started work on the extension to the mess room. Construction started at the end of May and the first stage is the installation of the foundation slabs. This will create a much larger space for the students' mess area, offering improved eating and kitchen facilities and we are all excited to watch the build.

Photographs to follow of the final result!

Meanwhile don't forget that we still have plenty of bedding plants for sale, as well as a fantastic selection of perennial plants for longer lasting colour. Our Horticap gardens are now at their peak so do come and visit, and be sure to enjoy our nature trail which offers plenty of space for the kids to run, play and explore. Have a fantastic summer!

The Horticap Team





“
*I cannot think of
 anywhere better
 than Horticap
 to come for
 your plants, well
 grown, reasonably
 priced absolutely
 beautiful...
 Horticap is my
 first port of call in
 Yorkshire*
 ”

Alan Titchmarsh



Our Glasshouse is Officially Open



It was a sunny April day, and we were delighted to welcome our Patron who popped in for a visit and to officially open our new glasshouse. He met students, volunteers, trustees, staff and a few of our many supporters, as well as some very surprised customers who really hadn't expected to see Alan Titchmarsh in Harrogate!

He was introduced to his paper mache lookalike, complete with flat cap and gloves, and he was very interested to hear of our plans for the Harrogate Spring Flower Show where his lookalike was making his 'appearance'!

The students were so excited, we had an afternoon of nibbles, drinks and the pizza oven was fired up.



Alan spent time talking to the students, having lots of photographs taken and was then given a guided tour of the site. He was amazed at the changes since his last visit, and was positive and excited about the ambitious future plans for Horticap.

He spoke about the therapeutic qualities of gardening and how we can all benefit from spending time outside. He explained how gardening simply makes you feel better and can make a difference to everyone's lives which was why he is so proud to support Horticap.

He was then handed a pair of shears to cut the ribbon and the glasshouse was officially opened to cheers of delight!

The students were thrilled to have their work recognised and to meet Alan personally to say thank you.



A Busy Calendar

MARCH... We had a wonderful day with the lovely people of the 6th Regiment RLC at Dishforth Army base. We planted the tyres, which were then used as part of the Freedom Parade in Boroughbridge in May. The regiment was awarded the prestigious status on behalf of the town council, and were recognised for the active role that the regiment plays in the life of the community.



APRIL... and it was time to get our glad rags on to meet HRH The Duke Of York at The Community Initiative Award Ceremony. Trustee Peter, instructor Tom, volunteer Craig and student Mark attended this prestigious event at Sheffield Cathedral.

"It was a very busy and exciting afternoon" explained Mark. "There were lots of different charities and we were all dressed up. HRH The Duke of York greeted the charities and Tom accepted our award. I was so proud".



MAY... The team were out in the Horticap garden building new raised beds. These are now ready to be planted and look brilliant. Fantastic work!



We encourage and support our students in all their activities and we love to hear about their interests outside Horticap. Carl has been an avid football supporter of Harrogate Town since he was 11 years old, so he was delighted when they secured promotion into the National League in May. He was at the play off final, along with a sell out crowd of 3,000, to watch the 3-0 victory against Brackley Town FC. Carl plays in the annual 5 a side disability football tournament for Harrogate Gateway FC and says that the exercise and being part of a team is very important to him. We agree Carl!



A THOUGHT...

'A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.'
Gertrude Jekyll 1843-1932



Our Favourite Plants...

Easy to grow, longer lived, hundreds of plant shapes and flower colours, wildlife friendly...these are just a few of the reasons we love perennial plants here at Horticap. Reappearing year after year, they are the backbone of the flower garden and perfect for spring and summer planting. We always have a fantastic selection and at the moment Hannah loves our dianthus or 'pinks' as they are often known. Grown as a perennial or hardy annual, the flowers can be single, semi-double or double and they are now at their best enjoying the full sun and gloriously colourful. But it's their fragrance that Hannah enjoys the most "you cannot go past the plants without wanting to stop and enjoy the scent, it's so lovely and fills the greenhouse".

All Characters Great and Small

Jack and Dan creating the Yorkshire Rose mosaic



It was wet at times and there was a lot of cloud, but the sun shone brightly when we were awarded a GOLD medal at Harrogate Spring Flower Show.

The garden was inspired by iconic Yorkshire landmarks and characters which included Olympic gold medallist boxer, Nicola Adams, cricket commentator, Geoffrey Boycott and our very own Patron Alan Titchmarsh. Nora Batty and Compo took centre stage and they were surrounded by plants which were a combination of perennials, shrubs and trees which were kindly donated by our friends at Johnsons of Whixley. The turf and meadow grass was supplied by David Harper and was perfect ground cover. Neil Beasley, John Hulbert and the team from Otley and Yorkshire Dales Dry Stone Walling Association created the incredible dry stone wall at the front of the garden, and we had a fantastic Yorkshire Rose mosaic made by Nicky Tudor and the students.



Nicola Adams

Horticap volunteer Helen and her team had once again created the amazing paper mache characters, and Steve Blaylock made a 10ft spade sculpture which attracted a lot of attention at the front of the garden.

It was our largest show garden to date (8m x 8m) and we had a fantastic few days. We sold nearly all the plants we had taken for our plant stand and it was a massive effort to get everything prepared, set up and manned over the four days.

Our thanks go to everyone – we couldn't do it without a lot of help. It's always a big team effort and it is an opportunity to showcase the work of our talented students.

As a charity, it would not be possible without donations and support so THANK YOU!



Alan Titchmarsh



Alan Bennett



CONGRATULATIONS...

David is a keen horse rider and has recently been awarded a Riding Certificate from Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group for an attendance record of over 20 years.

Well deserved David.



It's with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Rosemary. A dear student who attended Horticap for over 15 years, she was a close friend of David's and was loved by us all. She enjoyed working in the greenhouse potting up and always had a smile.

The Horticap family will miss her.



Hard At Work!

Not only do our students work in the gardens on site at Horticap, but they often have the opportunity to work off site as well. We undertake regular garden maintenance work and "one-off" work in and around Harrogate. We work in the community, often with local businesses, and this service is always in demand. It keeps the students busy throughout the growing season. The gardening teams work with Instructors, undertaking tasks like hedge cutting, lawn mowing and weeding. Some students receive training to operate certain garden machinery including rotary and ride-on lawn mowers and they are all gaining real work skills and confidence, as well as building social skills and making improvements physically. Hard work but so rewarding!



Our Students... Jamie



Jamie has seen a lot of changes at Horticap since he joined in 1996. It looked a lot different he explains, but the biggest change for him has been the new glasshouse. 'We never thought that we'd be fortunate enough to get a glass house, and it's been so exciting to watch it being built and to be able to work in there. This year we are hoping to have a new student mess area and I'd like to help with this if I can.'

When Jamie first came to Horticap he says that he didn't have very much confidence, but his skills quickly grew and before long he was planting, potting on and learning about all the different plants. It's also given him the opportunity to meet people and build friendships and he now uses his gardening skills to help at the Walled Garden in Ripon on a Tuesday.

As well as his involvement with horticulture, Jamie attends The Gift People at Knaresborough which runs creative workshops. 'I'm working in the computer group on a project about super yachts at the moment, but I love cars as well. Every week I get Auto Express and I write down any new registrations, the car models and makes. My car would be a Bentley Continental.'

Jamie says that he really enjoys the variety at Horticap. 'One day we will be planting in the green house and then we are working in the army barracks memorial garden, or making bench for a garden'.



"There are always new ideas, exciting challenges and new buildings at Horticap!"

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Contact Tim Axe on **01423 502 211** or email tim.axe@lcf.co.uk

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Off they go... the plants not the students...we have been busy preparing hanging baskets and planters and the greenhouses have been bursting with orders. They are gradually disappearing as they are collected and delivered to our many customers. We still have a selection of made up baskets and pots so come and visit and take your pick!

10th - 12th July - Great Yorkshire Show

A fantastic day out for everyone and it's a special one... the show is celebrating its 160th edition spanning the decades since 1838.

We will be joining the fun to mark this special occasion
www.greatyorkshireshow.co.uk

**Diary
Dates**

Sunday 29th July - Weeton Show

A fun filled day of family entertainment and competitions www.weetonshow.co.uk

4th - 31st August - 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

1st - 30th September - Bob Laughton Art Exhibition

14th September - 16th September - Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

We will be returning to the Great Yorkshire Showground for the UK's premier gardening event. Come and join us www.flowershow.org.uk

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