

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Spring Issue 2019



2019 promises to be a very busy year...

Hello, and welcome to Spring and to the return of colour and energy to our gardens! It's also the start of the busiest season at Horticap and we are ready to go...we have show gardens to organise, hanging baskets to create, some fantastic bedding and perennial plants to pot on for our sales area and a new mess room. It's also our first time at Springtime Live. It takes place on Saturday 13th April at the Yorkshire Showground and is organised by the charity The Yorkshire Agricultural Society. A fun family event with a focus on farming, food and the countryside, there will be plenty to make, see and do. We will be running a children's activity area, inviting children to decorate a pot and plant it up with cress and sunflowers. Come and visit, grab a pot and some glue and get planting!

We're also delighted to be back at Harrogate Spring Flower Show - see inside for an update - and we are hoping our show garden will be another show stopper. There's also an opportunity to fill your shopping basket with fabulous plants from our stand and if you can't make the shows we would love to welcome you at Horticap HQ. Our nature trail is perfect for the children at Easter and we've got a flower-filled summer in mind for you with our extensive plant selection.

And exciting news...as you may have heard there are plans to substantially upgrade our shop and tearoom facilities. We are just waiting for planning approval, which we are told is imminent and we are hoping for a June 2019 start. Once we obtain approval and have a firm contract with our chosen building contractors we will send out a detailed bulletin giving much more detail, particularly about how we are planning to keep open for business during the building phase.

Told you it was going to be busy!

The Horticap Team



THANK YOU to all our customers and hard working students over the festive period. We sold over 350 Christmas wreaths and hundreds of Christmas trees which will make a massive difference in ensuring we continue to deliver our crucial services.

This Christmas we also tried to make sure that we encouraged recycling as much as possible, and so we were delighted to be included on the local and national BBC news promoting our tree return service.

The response was incredible, and we had over 100 trees brought back to Horticap which were then shredded into woodchip by our friends at New Park Trees and Landscapes in Harrogate. The result? We've stopped Christmas trees going to waste, and we have lots of woodchip for our customers to purchase!



A few extras from 2018...



The new mess room is nearly complete, and now that the building has been constructed, the students are able to help inside - painting the walls, hanging the doors and helping with the finishing touches. As well as the main mess area there is also a 'quiet room' where students will be able to take time out, and there's a new kitchen area which will be used for cooking classes. It will make a huge difference at Horticap, so it's a big thank you to our supporters.

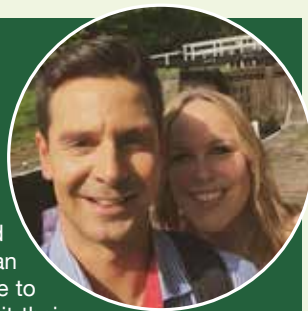


Arriving on a cold wet morning in December and kitted out in their finest wet weather gear, a team from Worldpay volunteered to help us out as part of their community involvement called 'One of Many'. As Caroline from the Sales Support Helpdesk explains "Splitting off into two small groups we had one team working on holly wreath making and another team on Christmas tree netting and selling, a full greenhouse to car service! I think there may have been some excellent selling that day as the trees were flying out of the door. A short break for a hot drink and we were back to work with gusto. The beautiful holly wreaths were really coming together. We were so pleased with them that we bought one between us and it has pride of place in our Christmas display!" Thank you Worldpay for all your help...same time next year?

Our supporters help us in so many ways...

Take Stuart and Katie Bleasdale for example. They are giving up chocolate for a year and donating £1 to Horticap for every day they manage to avoid the sweet stuff. The Bleasdale family has supported us in many ways over the years and with these donations we can help to ensure that our students are given the skills and confidence to lead more independent lives. To follow Stuart and Katie's story visit their JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stuart-bleasdale

There are so many easy and free ways to help. Here are just a few...



Our Friends...

The transition from teenage years to adulthood raises many new challenges and opportunities for all young people. For young people with special educational needs and disabilities, the transition can take longer and needs more preparation.

A personalised learning pathway (PLP) supports a young person in their development, based on how they learn best. It focuses on strategies to help them achieve their goals concerning work, skill development, functional skills and independence. The programme is delivered in partnership by local providers, to ensure young people remain within their community and with families and friends.

Linda works for North Yorkshire County Council and comes to Horticap 3 days a week where she supports a number of our students.

"PLP enables young people to think about what they would like to achieve and for them to experience work, study and integration into the community in a safe and secure way" explains Linda.

"I get so much satisfaction watching the students gain confidence and broaden their horizons. This provides them with the skills to make their own choices and to achieve their goals. It's a privilege to be a part of their journey and to see them reach their own, very individual, destination."



New Starters...

Simon and Carl are the most recent students to join the Horticap family.



A keen football supporter Simon (left) is looking forward to making lots of new friends, and Carl (right) can't wait to learn new skills, especially in the workshop.



A huge welcome to them both!

CONGRATULATIONS! In December we were delighted to celebrate Andy's 30 years of service as an Instructor at Horticap. Andy's talents and efforts have undoubtedly helped our success.

"Thirty years seem to have flown by. It has been wonderful to see so many students gaining confidence and developing their skills over that time and we have had lots of fun and adventures together over the years. I remember in the early days we used a 240 volt electric hedge trimmer and I had an extension cable stretched across the lawn. I happened to glance back over my shoulder to see a student happily snipping along the lawn edge with edging shears - and yes, they were sharp! Thankfully the circuit breaker saved the day and we only had a cable to repair! We have had some strange requests over the years. One winter's day a customer arrived at the nursery with a plea to help dig a grave in her garden. She showed us the body in the boot of her car - a gigantic Pyrenean Mountain dog. Of course we obliged and the lady assisted us by bringing out kettles of boiling water to melt the iron-hard frosted ground. It took two of us to lower the enormous dog into its final resting place. Another time we were out and about in the van when there was a request from the team to stop for the public toilets. We had been waiting there for some time for the last student to return, when I looked across and noticed an arm waving frantically on the inside of the frosted-glass window of the toilets. Needless to say, one student had managed to lock himself in! It took some athletic climbing to get over the door and release him. Horticap has been a wonderful place to work. The students have so much to give with an amazing zest for life and great sense of humour. I feel very privileged."

It's an incredible accomplishment and we'd all like to thank Andy for his hard work and commitment.



We are delighted to welcome a new supporter to the Horticap newsletter. Team (Impression) Ltd are commercial printers based in Leeds and became aware of Horticap through the recent involvement of one of their directors Sarah Crowson (left with Mark). Sarah volunteers on a Wednesday, helping students with their work within the nursery. As Managing Director Peter Crowson explains *"Having seen for myself the smiles on the students' faces, the positive feel around Horticap, and the difference it makes to the students, our family and business will offer whatever support we can."*

Team (Impression) Ltd proud to support all the fantastic work of Students, Volunteers & all others connected to such a worthy & deserving cause.



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Our plant favourites...



It's time to breathe easy... houseplants are not only good for us but they are back in vogue for 2019. They look stylish in your home, improve your mood, purify the air and they are so easy to look after. Tony has been helping with our display in the sales area which includes the most resilient of all the houseplants; the Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*). It's undemanding, enjoys bright light, it's perfect to use in summer in a hanging basket or a pot outside and they are only £1.50 at Horticap.

We also have Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*), Echeveria and Money Plants (*Crassula Ovata*). We pot them into donated pots to make them all the more attractive and if you group a few together it creates even more of an impact. Our tips to keep them happy include...

Plenty of light, water weekly in summer or whenever the soil feels dry, but take care not to overwater, feed in spring and remove dead leaves and flowers. Then sit back and enjoy them. It really is as easy as that.

House plants inject natural beauty into your home and good health is never out of style!



Tuesday 9 - Thursday 11 July 2019

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SHOW

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greatyorkshireshow.co.uk



SAVE! with advance tickets valid for any one day

The Great Yorkshire Show raises funds for the Yorkshire Agricultural Society to help support farming and the countryside. Company Reg No 1666751 | Reg Charity No 513238.



Welcome to Martin and Rob, our new trustees

Martin has lived in Yorkshire for more than 30 years and has spent most of his career within the financial services sector.

He works as a volunteer for Horticap as well as serving as a Trustee, and has been thrilled at seeing first hand how our students gain so much from being at Horticap.

"The work Horticap does is wonderful, but the challenges facing charities in these times of austerity are real. We have some fantastic, and generous, supporters but I would like to see more local individuals and businesses getting involved with, and supporting Horticap, as well as seeing for themselves the work we do and the difference we make for students.

In many respects Horticap really is a hidden gem and a fantastic asset for the community. The work we do with several local schools and other community groups is very rewarding for them and for our students. I already feel like one of the Horticap family and there is always a warm welcome for new visitors and supporters alike. This will be even more so when our site re-development is complete towards the end of 2019."

Rob was born in Manchester but moved to Harrogate, where his wife's Yorkshire roots are, nearly 5 years ago. He has 3 children, one Kerry Blue Terrier dog and loves the fantastic Yorkshire countryside with its drier weather and fabulous views.

He has always been active and loves the outdoors and walking. He's also been a keen garden since childhood, so when he was invited to be involved with Horticap he was absolutely delighted. For the past couple of years, Rob has enjoyed working with the Horticap team and students, and greatly admires the selfless commitment and passion of all those involved with this worthy charity. "I particularly like the festive season when the Christmas trees are sold" says Rob. "It's a time for humour and good spirits and the plants look amazing alongside the displays of Christmas cards and gifts which have been handmade by the students. It's very impressive."

Rob brings with him 30 years of construction and utilities experience and looks forward to contributing towards the further growth of Horticap in the coming years.



Volunteers build communities...

And a team from North Yorkshire County Council certainly helped us to do that. The Knaresborough Planned Care Team came in force and whilst one team positioned and filled nine large trough planters, the other team were in the greenhouse potting on the first of our summer bedding. They spent the morning working alongside the students transforming our car park area with the smart planters and ensuring that we got a head start with the bedding plants.

The final results were amazing - both inside and outside - and as student Josh explains, "we love welcoming people to Horticap and people work so hard for us, thank you!"



Wayne with the finished result



The making of a show garden

It's nearly time for Harrogate Spring Flower Show and volunteer Helen Swales (right) and her team are busy creating the characters for our 2019 show garden. Helen has been volunteering at Horticap for 9 years and she has produced some incredible work with the students. She has a degree in Fine Art from Newcastle University and a degree in Art and Design Education. Her large oil paintings have been exhibited in the Hatton gallery in Newcastle, in Settle, North Yorkshire and in private exhibits in Harrogate. As Helen explains, "I felt I could utilise my skills at Horticap, and began to help with the seasonal flower show gardens making characters of varied themes. My husband helps me with the models by engineering the armatures which I design for the characters. Once the sturdy structure is finished, it's then passed onto the 'art department' (aka Horticap mess room), where the students and I sculpt using insulation foam and/or paper mache into recognizable shapes.

These are then covered in Mod Roc, paint and varnish. There are many hours involved in sculpting, preparing and painting the models, but it is worth the effort in order to produce something which will ultimately benefit the charity.

If I had to choose my favourite character it would be Wallace and Gromit which were made for the themed garden, "A Grand Day Out". They are now on permanent loan at Wensleydale Creameries in Hawes still generating donations for our charity.

When it's my 'Horticap day' I can't wait to see the students who help to make this team such a beautiful and successful place to work".



Watch out Alex... He's behind you!

We are looking forward to being involved in the RHS Harlow Carr Flower Show in June - it's their 70th celebration, and we plan to bring some of our newest plant varieties with us. We've got a fantastic range of roses which include bush, patio and climbing varieties - one with the fabulous name of 'Boogie-Woogie'. How can we resist? And this year we have introduced Paeonias. Timothy likes "Scrumdiddleumptious" with its delicious double cream flowers flushed with rose pink and picotee edge. The flowers get up to 15cm across, it's very hardy, vigorous and fragrant so we think Timothy is right, and it's going to be very popular. We are also taking along herbs and tea inspired plants for the "Seven Tea" (70) celebrations which run over three days.



We've been busy planting new trees in the garden and around our site, and we hope that by doing this we can create more hedgerows and wildlife corridors. Tom and his team have planted a mix of over 450 whips and transplants of evergreen, deciduous and fruit trees. In the garden they chose a Sorbus 'Josephs Rock' and Malus 'John Downie' and in the surrounding areas they got busy with Holly, Scots Pine, Guelder Rose, Blackthorn, Hazel and Alder to encourage nesting and feeding.

Research shows that within minutes of being surrounded by trees and green space, your blood pressure drops, your heart rate slows and your stress levels come down. So that makes Horticap a healthy place to work and we are proud of our commitment to protecting the environment.



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

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Diary Dates

Saturday 13th April Springtime Live

Springtime Live is a family farming event, attracting thousands of visitors to the Great Yorkshire Showground every year. Horticap will be running a children's activity area with pots to decorate and the chance to plant cress and sunflowers.

25th - 28th April Harrogate Spring Flower Show

9.30am–5.30pm (4.30pm Sunday) at the Great Yorkshire Showground. Horticap has a show garden and a stand selling our plants.
www.flowershow.org.uk/show-info

Harrogate U3A Photography Group - A photographic exhibition "Urban Nature Inspired"

Running from Wednesday 8th May - Friday 31st May at Horticap. Opening event on Tuesday 7th May 12-2pm (All Welcome)

21st - 23rd June RHS Garden Harlow Carr Flower Show

10am until 5pm. Celebrating 70 years of development as a garden, Harrogate's very own RHS Garden Harlow Carr will host a summer 'SevenTea' and cake party during its three-day annual flower show. Horticap will have a pop up shop so come and say hello.

9th - 11th 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



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