

horticap

Growing Together

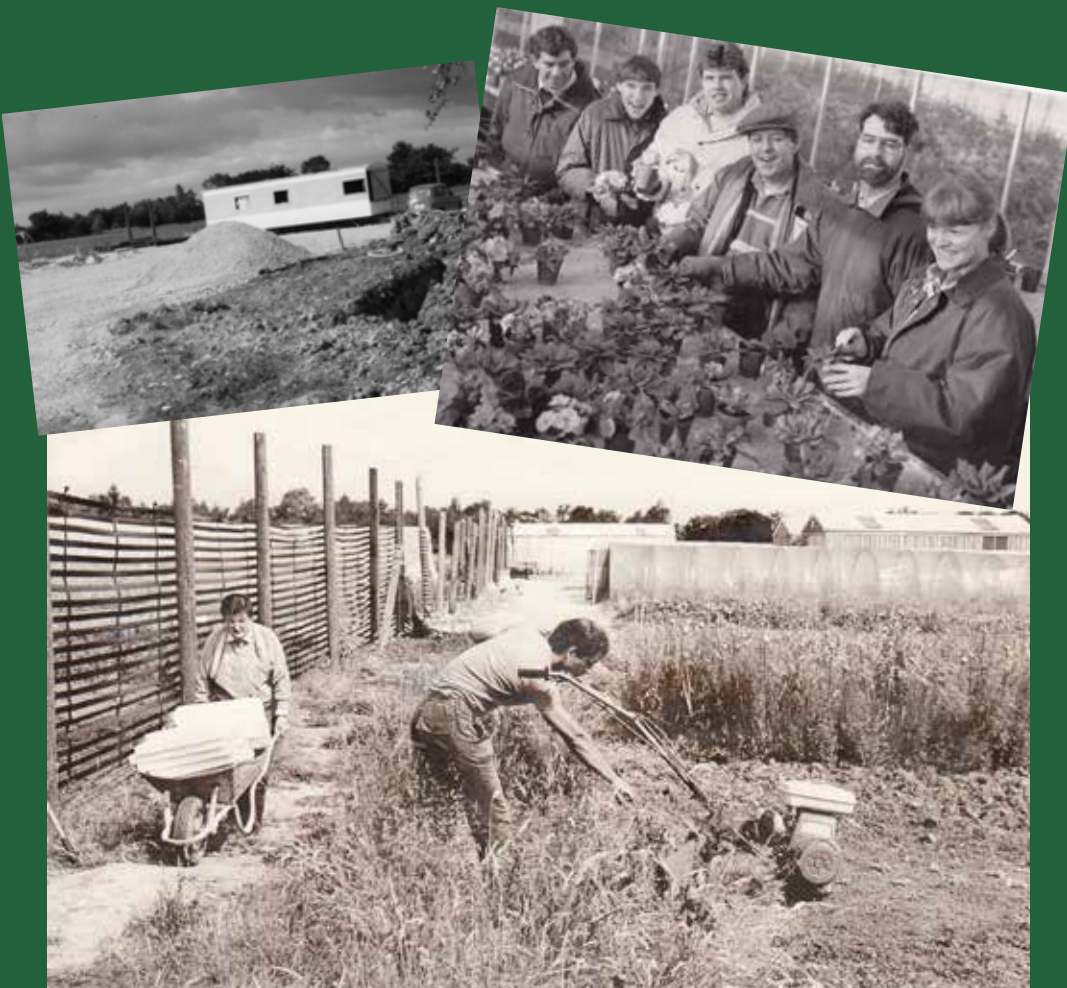


Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org



Summer Issue 2019



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

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

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1984...the year of giant shoulder pads, Ghost Busters, the release of the Apple Mac and a time when Wham! dominated the pop charts. It was also the year that Horticap was founded which makes 2019 a very special year.

35 years ago we had a green caravan, a muddy field and five students.

Fast forward, and we are now proud to provide a place of work to over sixty students, all adults with learning disabilities, training in, and learning about horticulture.

We have an office, glasshouses, mess room, workshop, and exciting plans for a new tea room and shop, but our aim is still the same - to provide our students with a supportive and friendly working environment, in which they can develop their social and communication abilities and where they enjoy themselves in the process.

And in 2019 our work continues to extend into the community. Students are not only involved in gardening contracts, but we are so proud of their involvement in all our events and projects. So much so that we have an awards evening planned in October to celebrate their individual achievements and we cannot wait.

Horticap has come a long way since the eighties...and we still have a long way to go... so here's to the next 35 years!

The Horticap Team



It was April and we headed off to **Fodder** in Harrogate with students Hannah B, Hannah E and Simon where we held a children's activity afternoon. The team helped to decorate and plant up pots with seeds, and we also organised an Easter Hunt. Congratulations go to Lilly (below) who followed the clues to spell out the Easter inspired word 'Spring'. We hope you enjoy the winning voucher for tea and cake at Horticap, and thank you to Fodder and everyone who came to join us.



Horticap...



Next stop was the **Springtime Live Show** at the Great Yorkshire Showground. The van was packed up once again and this time students Mark and Hannah B (above) were on hand to help. The Show encourages children to experience food, farming and the countryside and it was a very busy day. Everyone got stuck in painting, gluing, and sticking shapes on plant pots and these were then filled with compost and planted with sunflower and cress seeds to take home. Thanks go the show team for inviting us to be a part of another fantastic event, and of course thank you to all the families who came and got messy!



...On Tour

Our patron, Alan Titchmarsh opened the Flower Show at **RHS Garden Harlow Carr** in June, and we were thrilled to be a part of their 70th year garden celebrations. It was a three day extravaganza with a spectacular giant flower cake created by celebrity florist Jonathan Moseley (above with Hannah B). Our plant stand was inspired by the RHS Seven Tea (70) theme, and our herbs and perennial plants proved to be very popular. Our students were delighted to be involved and for the opportunity to meet our customers and supporters during this wonderful event. Thank you to the RHS for the party invitation and to the fantastic volunteers at Horticap who make these events possible.



The Great Yorkshire Show...

...is always on the Horticap calendar, and this year it was a very special occasion as we created a giant birthday cake to celebrate 35 years. Kindly donated by the RHS, (and recycled from their 70th event) the cake took centre stage on the stand, and was covered in plants, bunting and a paper mache '35' topper. The presents were wrapped, party poppers had been popped and our paper mache characters Sid and Nancy were ready to party. A Silver Gilt award was the icing on our cake!



Great Yorkshire Showground

19 & 20 October 2019

Countryside Live

countryside.co.uk

This show raises funds for the Yorkshire Agricultural Society to help support farming and the countryside. Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Company Reg No 1666751. Registered Charity No 513238

The President's Choice...



We were delighted to receive two honours at this year's Harrogate Spring Flower Show. It was Gold for our Tolkien-inspired garden, The Shire, and we were selected for The President's Choice award (best show display), which now takes pride of place at Horticap HQ.

The show attracted thousands of visitors and the response to the stone hobbit house and to Gollum and Frodo, our paper mache characters, was fantastic.

Our involvement didn't stop at the show garden either...this year's theme for the Show was #kerbcouture, exploring how plants and flowers can make every street beautiful. Horticap was invited to transform an 'abandoned' car, and of course we met the challenge head on...the vehicle was decorated with ivy, shrubs and flowers, as the students proved that urban spaces can very quickly become full of colour!

All this, plus we were selling our plants on the Horticap stand.

It was all go, and we can never thank people enough for their time and talents...but thank you from the team at Horticap!

Potting On...

We love our sandwiches here at Horticap, so we were thrilled to be named "British Sandwich Week" winners by Bingham's Foods Ltd who are based in Sheffield.

They have been making spreads and potted meats for over 100 years and Jaz explained that not only had we been nominated as a worthy local cause, but we had won a great British 'Bingham's Lunch'. The students were then treated to an array of Yorkshire inspired goodies, which included Seabrook crisps, Fox's biscuits and the obligatory cups of Yorkshire Tea.

Thank you to Bingham's for their wonderful sandwiches - no plates or spoons were required - so there was no washing up either! www.binghamfoods.co.uk



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 Students...



It's a busy week for Ross...

It starts with Monday at Horticap, where his favourite job involves sorting out the wood kindling in the workshop. He removes the nails from the donated pallets, and he bags up the wood ready for our customers to buy. Ross has been at Horticap since 2003 and is also very keen on landscaping, so he's often out and about in the van with the gardening team. "I love the fresh air and learning new skills and I have made so many friends here" Ross explains. He spends Monday evening at "Happy Mondays" a weekly social group. Then it's another active day on Tuesday when he goes to Open Country, a Harrogate-based charity which enables anyone with a learning disability to access the countryside and where Ross gets involved in activities like walking, litter picking, and clearing pathways.

Wednesday is soon here and it's time to start work at RHS Harlow Carr in Harrogate, sorting out the deliveries, stocking up the shelves and tidying up the sales areas. "It's a very busy day and it's great to help the customers find what they are looking for, I love it". There's no rest on Thursday, when Ross heads to Paperworks, a social enterprise in Harrogate supporting work skills and where Ross can get involved in document shredding, envelope filling and computer work. "I like the different type of work we do at Paperworks, and the day goes so fast". It may be the end of the week but it's back to Open Country on Friday and the weekend is spent shopping and having lunch with his mum.

Ross says 2019 is his "*happy year*" and we reckon it will not only be a happy year, but a very busy one!

Open All Hours...

We are delighted to confirm that planning permission has been granted and we are going ahead with our new shop and tea room development. We had hoped to start this year, but we now anticipate that the build will start early in 2020. Plans will be made to re site the existing tea and shop facilities and business will be open as usual throughout the renovation for both students and customers.

This development has only been possible because of a dear person called Peter. He was a much-loved student who attended Horticap for over 20 years. Sadly in 2014 he passed away, but he left us a legacy, which means we can make a start on the refurbishment.



A new shop and café will allow us to enhance the experience our students receive at Horticap, but we continue to need your help to finish this exciting project. So please support us anyway you can and together we can continue to help people grow.



And The Award Goes To...

In recognition of his outstanding service to the community, Harrogate Lions Club presented our very own Operations Manager, Phil Airey, with a Centennial Certificate of Appreciation, which is signed by HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO - the Patron of the Lions Clubs of the British Isles.

Phil has helped the club in their efforts to serve the local community and the Horticap team has supported Harrogate Lions Club for a number of years. We hold barbeques and fun days at Horticap for visiting German youngsters, and our students are invited over to Germany as part of the student exchange, which is one of the events the Lions organise.

Congratulations to Phil and more to follow on the latest Horticap German adventure...

Our Team...Tom



“I have been with Horticap as a part time instructor for nearly five years after starting as a volunteer in 2014. I love working with our students, helping them to succeed in making our customers happy. I trained as a gardener and tree worker in my younger days, and its nice to be back on the tools again after a career managing parks and open spaces.

Outside Horticap, I keep busy with my wife, Ruth, helping as a Working Friend at Scargill House in The Dales. Ruth also helps me Riverfly Monitoring on the River Wharfe in Otley and we are part of a large team looking at insect life in our rivers, checking water quality and also checking for any signs of pollution. In addition we are involved with National Plant Monitoring in Wharfedale counting wild flowers for Plantlife UK. I like to fly fish, coarse fish and I am a member of a few angling clubs and the Wild Trout Trust which also looks after our rivers and the environment.

Life is busy both inside and outside Horticap, and it's great fun doing lots of interesting things. I am currently thrilled with our giant pumpkins, started by the students from seed and growing bigger by the day. They'll be on display in our glasshouse this Autumn...slugs permitting!”

Our volunteers make a fantastic contribution to Horticap and their skills and knowledge are invaluable to our team.

We love our bees at Horticap (aka Hortibeeps) and volunteers Neil and Sue recently visited Pannal Primary School and spent the day with Year 6 and Early Learning pupils discussing these amazing creatures. Activities included a talk from Sue about the different types of bees, where they live and the important role they play in the ecosystem. The pupils had the opportunity to engage in lots of different activities from identifying pollinating plants, bee research, drawing and making model bees and large printed displays, to testing different types of honey. It was a brilliant day and we are delighted that they have 'bee'n invited back next year!



Diary Dates

13th September - 15th September Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

Come and join us for this premier gardening event at the Great Yorkshire Showground
www.flowershow.org.uk

Thursday 10th October Student Awards Evening at Horticap

An opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements. From 5pm onwards.
Please contact the office for details on
info@horticap.org

16th August - 20th September 'Hessian & Stitch' Student Art Exhibition at Horticap

This is to coincide with the Niddart Trail 2019 which runs from 16th August until 26th August.
Horticap is on the trail map.niddart.org.uk

****Just to Note****

UCI Road World Cycling Championships Saturday 21st September - Sunday 29th September

The world's best cyclists are coming to Yorkshire. A range of men and women's races, across age groups from junior to elite, will start in different town and cities throughout Yorkshire and each will finish in the main competition town of Harrogate.
Please check www.worlds.yorkshire.com for road updates



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