

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Spring Issue 2020

A Message from Horticap



With the coronavirus situation becoming more serious, Horticap is continuing to implement government advice in order to keep Students, Volunteers and Staff who work at the nursery safe and healthy.

All of our students are now at home and we have reduced our staffing to only 4 or 5 each day who are coming in to ensure our plants remain healthy, keep up with maintenance and feed the chickens. With only a few staff on site, social distancing is not difficult with each person having their own work area.

As is sadly inevitable, our nursery, shop and tea room are closed until further notice which will result in a significant loss of income, as will the cancellation of the Spring Flower Show and Great Yorkshire Show both of which were important fundraising events for Horticap. Also, our new building project which had been going so well has had to be suspended. That will of course result in a delay in completion which is very unfortunate.

This situation has had a huge impact on the way we work but our overriding aim must be to ensure that Horticap is in the best possible position to continue to help our Students when the crisis subsides.

Everyone at Horticap is immensely grateful for the many messages of support received over recent days and we will continue to keep you updated as best we can on all things Horticap. We will do this through regular messages and updates on our website www.horticap.org - and through our Social Media activity.

This is a vital time of the year for Horticap when our outgoings are high, with all stock purchased and growing on for the coming year. We hope to be able to re-open later in April to supply plants and other gardening supplies to our customers but of course that is not certain.

As a contingency, we are developing plans to establish an online and telephone ordering service with regular deliveries across the Harrogate district. This will include the delivery of hanging basket orders already made. Please bear with us as we develop those plans and we will announce further details in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, many of you have asked how you can continue to support us through these difficult times and the simplest way to do this, but only if you are able, is by making a donation.

You can do this in a number of ways including:

- Sending a cheque, made payable to Horticap, directly to us at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries, Otley Road, Harrogate, HG3 1QL.
- Online through the secure Horticap Just Giving page which can be found at www.justgiving.com/horticap
- By calling us on 01423 522876 to arrange to make a credit card donation or set up a regular donation via your bank. Please note that we may have to call you back to make a credit card donation.

And remember, UK tax payers can use Gift Aid to boost any donations without any cost to themselves.

Your continued support for Horticap is very much appreciated and any donations will be used to benefit our Students and to ensure that Horticap remains at the centre of the community for many years to come as it has done for the last 35 years.

Thank you from everyone at *Horticap*



Deliveries from Horticap are now available; please see our website for details:

www.horticap.org/buy-online

or call

01423 522876 ext 2

Our Volunteers... Pauline

We have around 35 volunteers providing invaluable help and support to our students in the tea room, the gift shop, the gardens, greenhouse, crafts, woodwork, as well as off and on site grounds and maintenance. They also support the rest of the Horticap team and bring skills, life experience and they are passionate about sharing these, helping our students to live independently and with confidence.



Pauline is one of our longest serving volunteers and explains what volunteering means to her...

"I have been very privileged to be a volunteer at Horticap for nearly 20 years.

After retiring from teaching in a high school in Leeds, and having more free time, I studied for the RHS certificate in Horticulture and looked to gain some practical experience.

And what an experience! At Horticap I found amazing students, wonderful staff, and lots of banter and laughter.



I've seen lots of changes around the site as we've grown steadily and have enjoyed being on a fundraising team for the building projects. However, several of our staff and students have been here much longer than me and each one contributes to that special feeling of "family".

At first, I worked in the poly tunnels or greenhouses with a group of students, planting out or potting on and doing general gardening jobs around the site. Now I work in the craft room, with a small group of students making items to sell in our shop. We specialise in recycling greetings cards, but we have also made mosaic coasters, silk scarves, decorated plant pots and china mugs to name just a few. At Christmas we turn our skills to small gifts and tree decorations.

Our students cope cheerfully with lots of disabilities and during each session we try to find a job that will help each one to achieve success and satisfaction.

However, it's not all work...there is chatter, fun and singing along to the music too!

Although I've got my own grown up family and seven wonderful grandchildren, spending Mondays at Horticap and being a member of the Horticap family is a very special part of my life".



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It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing away of Anne Moore, one of the founder members of Horticap.

General Manager Ian Bradbury met Anne over 32 years ago and says that “without Anne and a small group of dedicated individuals there is no doubt that there would not be a Horticap. Their determination and fortitude in not giving up when so many people were pessimistic about succeeding, eventually paid off and I am sure that much of this success was due to Anne’s tenacity and drive. Once she had made her mind up to achieve something, she would see it through to the end”.



Despite securing the Bluecoat Wood site, and some basic facilities Anne was never happy to sit back and became determined to keep going. She invested much of those early years raising funds, writing letters, selling plants from the back of a van at fetes and car boot sales, running plant stalls at flower shows, cake stalls, art exhibitions and much more. And it wasn’t just fundraising. Anne continued to be an active member of the Horticap board of trustees and served as the company secretary for over 20 years, making sure things ran smoothly and chasing people to ensure tasks were completed.

Even after stepping down from the Board, Anne was not about to take a back seat. She became a very busy volunteer, helping with office tasks and continuing to help on the stands at the flower shows and events and making floral Christmas decorations. Wherever help was needed, Anne was as dedicated as ever and hardly a week went by that she did not pop into the nursery to catch up with what was happening.

Anne has left a lasting legacy at Horticap and she will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her.



Anne, third from the left, with our Patron, Alan Titchmarsh and inset above, receiving an award at the Harrogate Oscar Awards



2019 Harrogate and District Volunteer Oscar Awards...

are a celebration of the fantastic work being carried out by volunteers of all ages across a diverse range of activities, recognising those who have gone the extra mile and to encourage others to volunteer.

Organised by John Fox, in partnership with HARCVS (Harrogate and Ripon Centres for Voluntary Service), Harrogate Advertiser and Stray FM, the celebrations are now in their 12th year and were held at the Old Swan Hotel.

We were delighted to learn that David Hayes – one of our longest serving Trustees and Vice Chairman – was awarded Trustee of the Year (above middle). David retired from Horticap last year, but is still involved as a Horticap Ambassador and we are proud of his many achievements.

And it proved to be a double celebration...a recent innovation at the Volunteer Oscars was to highlight voluntary organisations who are celebrating a special anniversary, a category kindly sponsored by John Nelson from the Coach and Horses pub on West Park. This year 11 organisations received recognition for their impressive years of service and Horticap was thrilled to be included as we marked our special 35th anniversary. Horticap Operations Manager Phil was delighted to receive the award from John Fox (inset above).

Pastures New... Our heartfelt thanks go to Andy who is leaving Horticap after 32 years of service. He has inspired everyone with his commitment and dedication, and he has played a huge part in assuring our success in the future.

He will certainly be missed by the whole team and all the students and we wish him all the best in his new adventures.

"After much thought, I have decided to step back from regular work at Horticap at the end of April. I feel it is time to make way for some younger staff with new ideas. You won't quite see the last of me as I hope to come back to cover when regular staff are away on holiday.

The years have flown by since I first started in 1988. Horticap has developed enormously over the years, with all the hard work that has been put in behind the scenes by dedicated trustees and the generosity of the local community. It has given me much satisfaction and fulfilment to see how the students have grown in their skills, confidence and fitness. Working together we have achieved so much, and I am indebted to them for their friendship and sheer hard work. The work has also had its challenges, and I have been grateful for much support; the friendship and good humour of my colleagues, the volunteers and the irrepressible joy of life of the students to lift one's spirits.

A sincere thank you to you all. Long may Horticap continue to prosper"

Andy Lawrence



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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It was an exciting start to the year as we said goodbye to the Tea Room and Gift Shop and hello to the start of the new building.

Everyone has been hard at work on site... the builders quickly demolishing the old structure, and laying the new foundations, with General Manager Ian and the Horticap team building a temporary shop.

We've all been eagerly watching the space transform and the contractors working on both the new shop and café - as well as the Student mess room - have interacted incredibly with our students.

A big thank you to everyone who has been working hard to make this happen including Struct-Sure and Castle House. You've all been incredible!

Sadly, work has had to be suspended due to the coronavirus situation, but we remain hopeful that the new café and shop will still be ready later in the year.

Please keep checking for updates on our Facebook page and the Horticap blog, which is on our website:

www.horticap.org



Horticap Brings Colour for Mother's Day

Following the fantastic fundraising efforts by Oatlands Junior School in raising £400 for Horticap at Christmas, the School Council worked with Horticap to organise a special Mother's Day treat.

Horticap delivered 360 primulas to the school which were purchased by pupils to give as gifts on Mother's Day.

Horticap students added ribbons and stickers and wrapped each primula in individual gift bags and these were delivered to the school on the Thursday before Mother's Day.

Pupils made a donation of £2 for each plant and they raised a fantastic £720 for Horticap, a truly brilliant effort!

Pictured above are some of the pupils with the plants after they were delivered to the school and the Horticap students hard at work preparing the bags.

Horticap also managed to bring some colour to St John's and St Luke's churches in Bilton, Harrogate. The Reverend Simon Dowson explains "Mothering Sunday this year was like no other - no church service, and so no chance to get together to express our love and thanks to our mums or indeed all those who have helped 'mother us'.

And yet we had lots of wonderful primulas, supplied by Horticap, ready to give away.

So what to do - well, it was the day before the full lockdown was announced, so we invited people to come and collect from outside church (observing social distancing!), we took some round to people staying at home, and we gave some away to passing strangers - and it was a real privilege to do so, as many of the passers-by in particular were delighted to be blessed in this way, and one woman was even moved to tears by this simple act of kindness - so thank you, Horticap, for the beautiful flowering plants."

Thank you for supporting Horticap.



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Please keep safe and we look forward to welcoming you back to Horticap



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