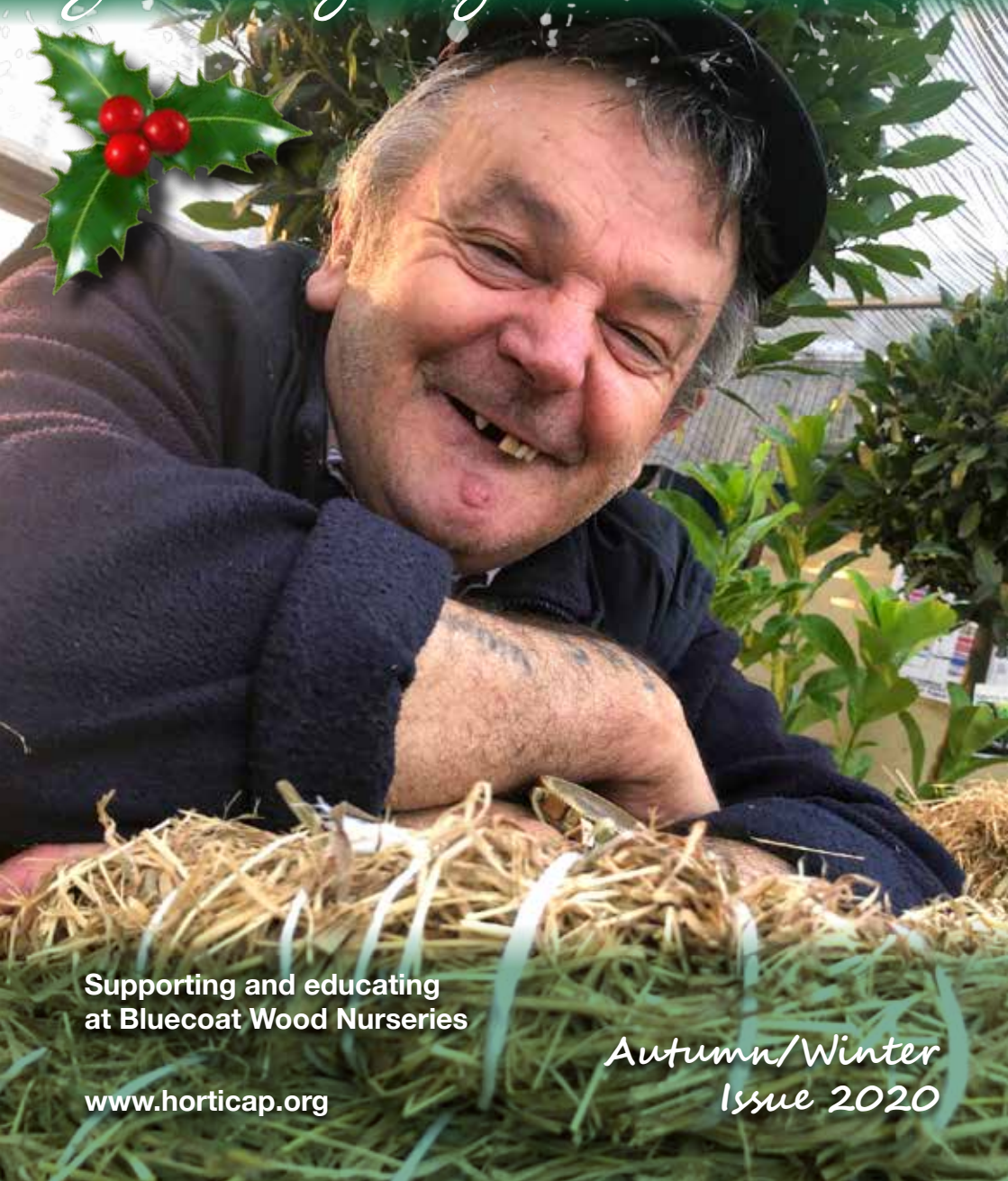


horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

*Autumn/Winter
Issue 2020*

Check us out...



Get your shopping basket filled up and head to the check out with our fantastic selection of plants. They will provide colourful winter interest from now until spring and they are ideal for pots, hanging baskets and the garden. The months may be getting colder, but there's no need to let your garden space go bare - keep it covered with a bit of colour from Horticap.



STOP PRESS

Our New Season Roses are now available for immediate planting or for that special Christmas gift.

WE WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU TO ADVISE ON SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS AND PROCESSES, MINIMISING WASTE THROUGH INNOVATION FROM THE INKS AND PAPERS WE SOURCE TO THE WAY WE MANUFACTURE AND DELIVER. TEAM HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PRINT.
GREEN IS GOOD

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BY
TEAM

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*"Never
Throw
in the
Trowel"*

*"As patron I'm
incredibly proud to
be associated with
Horticap and of all
the incredible work
this year. I know these
times are going to be
difficult but we will
come through this...
here's to next year"*
Alan Titchmarsh

Hello, and what a year it has been...a year with challenges for us all, but a year which has really brought home the importance of looking after each other.

The team at Horticap would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has looked after our students, and to our wonderful volunteers, customers and supporters who have looked after our charity and bought plants from us at a time when we weren't quite sure how we would sell them. But thankfully look after us you did, and you ordered online until our doors were able to reopen. And happily they are still open. Even better news is that our opening hours are now getting longer, read the update from Carol and her team inside. They have been busy filling the new gift shop shelves with some fabulous gifts just in time for Christmas, and in the nursery we've got an extensive range of late flowering perennials, winter bedding, planted bulbs and pots so you can still enjoy your garden and get that much needed fresh air.

And we have more exciting news... the online ordering service is up and running and we have now taken delivery of the Christmas trees, so you can either visit the nursery or you can get a fantastic tree delivered to your door. Our Christmas wreaths will also be for sale in the nursery - so please continue to support us and make us your first stop.

2020 will be the first year we haven't had our wonderful students helping over the festive season with the trees and wreaths. Some of our students have been working for over 30 years, like our front cover student, Paul who hays up our wreaths every year. We will miss their smiles and the fun that they bring to Horticap at Christmas. The bad singing and silly Christmas hats will continue, but it won't be the same without them.

We never throw in the trowel here at Horticap, and all the staff and volunteers are working hard to make sure that we can give our students the biggest Christmas Party ever next year. They certainly deserve it.

And as we near the end of
2020 we'd like to wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

The Horticap Team



It's Feeding Time...

We've been so busy over the last few months with the new building, but at last the shop is open. As well as our gifts and cards, we are also thinking about all the delicious cakes and teas we hope to be serving our customers and we can't wait to welcome everyone back in the spring. But it's not just our customers we want to feed. It's also time to start thinking about the wildlife in our gardens, especially the birds. Winter can be a tough time for them and it's always fascinating to watch them on the search for food, but once they have finished eating the seeds, berries and insects, the birds will be on the lookout for food to keep them going over winter.



Help them out, grab a few pine cones and enjoy this wonderful and easy activity which is a favourite with our students.

Ingredients

- Pine cones (dried out)
- Bird seed, sunflowers
- Suet or lard
- A mixing bowl
- String, wire (eyelets help with hanging)



Make your bird mix

1. Allow the lard to warm up to room temperature, cut it up into small pieces and put it into a mixing bowl.
2. Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix them all together until the fat holds everything together.
3. Add an eyelet to the cone and loop the string around the top or just use string or wire. As long as you can hang the cone up afterwards!
4. Pack the sticky bird mix around the cones with your hands, creating a ball shape.
5. Put your cones in the fridge to set for an hour or so. After that they'll be ready to hang up.
6. Then it's time to sit back and wait for the birds to arrive which shouldn't be too long.

Find 18 Mini Beast words...

The Horticap Wordsearch

...and then why don't you try to find them in the garden...they could be under stones, in the hedges, on the plants...

L	A	D	Y	B	I	R	D	C	N	S	C	A	S	C
D	P	I	E	X	Z	I	A	H	G	P	J	Y	U	P
H	H	E	V	W	S	E	D	E	P	I	L	L	I	M
O	I	W	M	K	Q	J	D	G	T	D	L	J	W	U
T	D	S	Q	T	C	Y	Y	O	D	T	E	U	O	N
L	F	I	U	H	V	Y	L	F	V	E	R	B	O	Z
E	W	R	M	T	S	M	O	T	H	K	E	U	D	B
S	S	T	T	A	D	R	N	D	T	E	G	T	L	V
W	N	Q	N	B	A	D	G	W	T	V	V	T	O	A
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	U	E	U	X
N	I	W	O	R	M	P	E	T	M	S	O	R	S	T
X	L	T	P	F	G	C	G	A	A	B	P	F	E	Q
M	P	R	E	D	I	P	S	L	U	G	E	L	B	T
U	D	P	O	Z	Q	S	W	E	P	I	R	Y	E	I
Y	D	E	N	B	Y	R	S	L	O	W	W	O	R	M

Ant	Snail	Caterpillar	Butterfly	Beetle	Aphid
Worm	Woodlouse	Slowworm	Moth	Bee	Ladybird
Fly	Daddy Long Legs	Spider	Wasp	Millipede	Slug



Message from Our Chairman...



“ Well, what a year it has been for our students, staff, volunteers, customers, and the trustees of Horticap (as it has been for the rest of the world)! Our year began with the demolition of our shop and tearoom, followed by the start of our new building, the planning and consultation of which took some time to ensure it would further enhance the warm, friendly atmosphere of our organisation. Then along came the pandemic, and although building work stopped for over two months, we now have a fantastic structure to look forward to using, and shortly we will have a beautiful garden, which we are to name “Peter’s Garden”, in memory of our student, who sadly passed away and left us a legacy that helped to make all this possible.

Our students left us in March, and they’ve not yet been able to return. Hopefully, that will happen soon, so we can resume “normal activities”. It’s certainly been strange without the students, but we haven’t stood still. In early spring, we decided to provide a delivery service for our plants, which had been growing in our glass houses. We received over 700 orders which, through the enormous effort of our staff and volunteers, we managed to fulfil. Thank you to everybody involved in this monumental achievement. This meant that none of our plants were wasted, and we managed to maintain a steady income stream

during those difficult months. We also closed our doors to customers in March, but re-opened in July, recognising the need for social distancing and other government guidelines regarding Covid-19.

We’re now planning a delivery service for the Christmas trees. We understand that people like picking their own special tree, but because we usually sell in excess of 1,000 trees in early December, it won’t be possible to accommodate the vast number of people to come to us. We hope our loyal customers will understand the situation and continue to support us.

Looking forward, we are currently reviewing our five-year Strategic Plan, as we’re excited about what we can do with our new facilities. The two-storey building, with a veranda at the rear, will enable us to do things a bit differently. There will be a proper kitchen to enable us to turn our modest tearoom into a full café early in 2021, plus we’ll have a fully stocked shop and meeting room/venue facilities.

Why are we doing all this? We want to continue to enhance the supportive and friendly environment we have at Horticap and to continue to transform care for our students. And we want to extend their knowledge and skills through structured training in horticulture and life skills, using professionally qualified staff and volunteers.

Have a super Christmas everyone. It may be different this year, but let’s hope we can still enjoy the festivities in a safe manner and may 2021 bring us back to some sort of normality.”

Steve Scarne





It's Been All Hands On Deck...

"It's been a challenging year for us at Horticap and non more so than for the team in the shop. The year started well, with the move to our temporary structure in the greenhouse whilst the build of our new shop and café took place. Everything was going well and then Covid-19 struck! Sadly, we had to temporarily close and we shifted to online plant sales which saw us all changing our roles slightly, mucking in and making sure that the summer bedding was delivered in and around the local area.

The response was overwhelming and thankfully a great success. Opening our doors to the public for the first time after lock down, was a great milestone, and a fantastic highpoint of the year for us all. With social distancing measures in place, we were seeing all our regular supporters - along with people who had just discovered us - embracing the new one-way system and getting onboard with the 'new normal'. It was very uplifting.

It's been testing times in the greenhouse, with the temperature extremes, but happily we are now in our new building, beaver away and getting things in place for the short period we have for Christmas selling. There will be the usual goodies to be had, as well as crafty items made and donated by, our supporters.

I've worked at Horticap for around 10 years and experienced many positive changes. The new building is, by far, one of the largest and significant chapters in Horticap's history. The shop team and I are working hard to blend the old with the new, and to keep the Horticap 'character' we all know and love. One of the many positive changes is that we have also extended our opening hours.

We are very aware of how much everyone is missing our tearoom and we are missing the buzz of activity and the sense of community it brings. We are working through ways of offering refreshments as before, so please keep checking the website and social media for details. The move to a more café orientated concern; selling snacks and hot foods, will hopefully be available in early 2021.



New Opening Hours
Mon - Sat
9am - 4.30pm
Sunday
10am - 4pm

The good thing about Horticap is that we are experts at adapting, which has been a skill we've certainly needed over the last year. We hope that 2021 turns into a year where some normality returns, and that we see our students - who are the heart of Horticap - return, and bring that much missed atmosphere of fun and banter.

In the meantime, we will continue to adapt when needed, and the shop team will always be here to welcome you warmly and to provide the Horticap experience.

Remember, all profits from sales go directly back into the charity, so do please come and visit us and experience our evergrowing nursery."

Carol Sowden, Shop Supervisor

Made To Measure...

Tom came to Horticap as a temporary shop assistant over 8 years ago and now works as an Instructor, where he gets involved in pretty much everything! After a year in the shop, he started working with Brenda and the students in the greenhouse, looking after the perennial and bedding plants and helping with the hanging basket and the Christmas wreath orders. He was also busy studying alongside work, and Horticap supported him whilst he was training and gaining qualifications in Health and Social Care and City and Guilds in Horticulture. His compassion and care for the students, and his enthusiasm for learning meant that when the opportunity of an Instructor role came up he was the natural choice. And his interest in woodwork meant that when Andy retired from Horticap, Tom was up for the challenge of getting involved in the workshop and learning more. Our students were a big part of this - helping to build bespoke wooden planters and bird boxes - and during their absence Tom has been looking at fresh ideas, like the bottle bird feeders, which will not only appeal to our customers, but are perfect for the students to help with when they return. Hedgehog houses, bird boxes, trugs, seed trays, hook racks, planters and troughs...Tom is happy to look at any woodwork orders, so please get in contact if there is anything he can help you with.



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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

...our trees are here and we have a fantastic selection again this year.

They are still available to purchase in the nursery, but this year we are also offering an on line tree delivery service.

Our usual "unwrapping, re netting and trimming" service has had to take a pause this year, and unfortunately we cannot provide the usual smiles and help from the students, but we can still bring our Horticap Christmas trees right to your door!

How Does It Work?

Orders will be delivered to your home and left for you in a convenient place like your doorstep or driveway.

To Order

Use the form on our website

www.horticap.org

Choose your tree size, quantity and delivery address*.

Head to the checkout to pay.

**At present we can only make deliveries to postcode areas HG1, HG2, HG5 & HG3 subcodes 1,2,3 & 4*

Get your order in early and help to support us!



Photographs by Gerard Binks



At This Time Of The Year the students would be wiring decorations, the greenhouse would be full of hay and holly, the Christmas music would be far too loud, and we'd all be planning our Christmas jumpers for the Horticap party. It's not quite the same this year, but the team are making sure that the wreaths are still available for sale in the nursery and although the party is postponed, the music isn't! Thanks go to everyone working so hard to get them looking good.

Thanks also go to our friends and sponsors at LCF who are helping to deliver a Christmas wreath to each and every one of our students.

They will all receive their very own "Wreath Making Kit" complete with a mini wreath, decorations, bow and string. They then need to collect foliage - and this is where family, friends and support workers can help - from their gardens or walks, you could even use bits of material.

Be as creative as you like and of course we'd love to see the results, so please, send us photographs or call in at Horticap to show them off!

Wordsearch Answers...

L	A	D	Y	B	I	R	D	C	N	S	C	A	S	C
D	P	I	E	X	Z	I	A	H	G	P	J	Y	U	P
H	H	E	V	W	S	E	D	E	P	I	L	L	I	M
O	I	W	M	K	Q	J	D	G	T	D	L	J	W	U
T	D	S	Q	T	C	Y	Y	O	D	T	E	U	O	N
L	F	I	U	H	V	Y	L	F	V	E	R	B	O	Z
E	W	R	M	T	S	M	O	T	H	K	E	U	D	B
S	S	T	T	A	D	R	N	D	T	E	G	T	L	V
W	N	Q	N	B	A	D	G	W	T	V	V	T	O	A
C	A	T	E	R	P	I	L	L	A	R	U	E	U	X
N	I	W	O	R	M	P	E	T	M	S	O	R	S	T
X	L	T	P	F	G	C	G	A	A	B	P	F	E	Q
M	P	R	E	D	I	P	S	L	U	G	E	L	B	T
U	D	P	O	Z	Q	S	W	E	P	I	R	Y	E	I
Y	D	E	N	B	Y	R	S	L	O	W	W	O	R	M

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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