

horticap

Growing Together



**FREE
SEED
GIVEAWAY**

Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Spring Issue
2021

Our nursery is still open for customers...

...and we welcome you to visit, however with the ongoing uncertainties and restrictions looking to be in place for some time, Horticap is once again planning to offer an online ordering and delivery service for plants and compost for those who are unable to access the nursery.

We intend to open for online orders at the end of March, with deliveries starting in late April. Please keep an eye on our website and social media pages for further updates.



We will have a range of boxes available for advance orders, whilst stocks last, including

Mixed Bedding Box

Tub & Trough Box

Hanging Basket Box

Tomato Plants

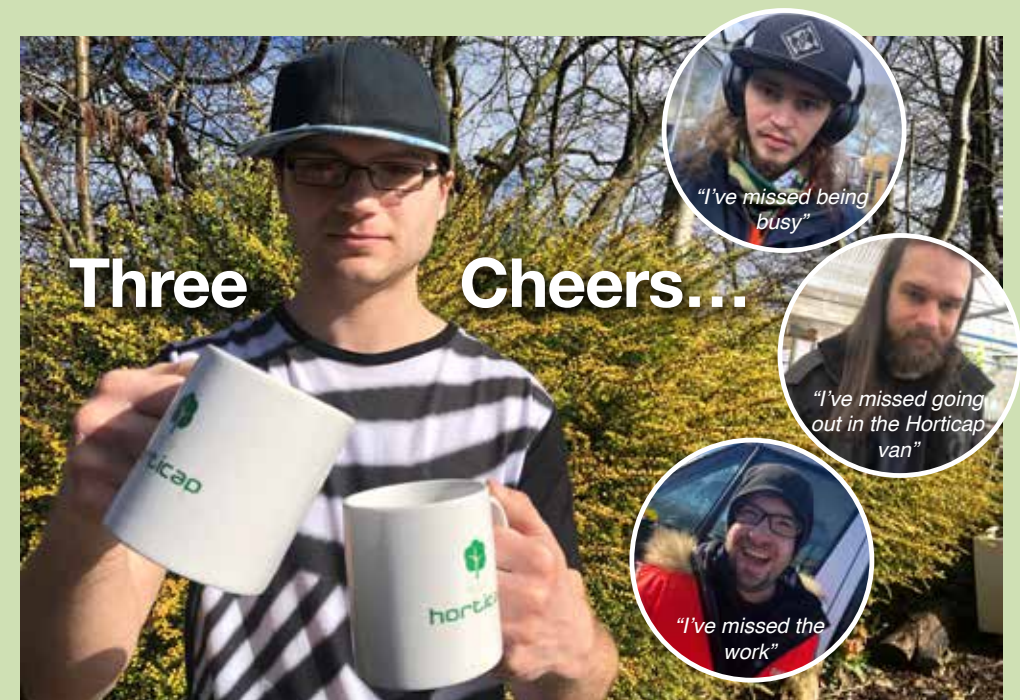
Herb & Vegetable Plant Box

Shrub Box

Perennial Box

Planted Hanging Baskets & Tubs

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..get the tea cups at the ready... it's been far too long without them, but at last, we are gradually starting to welcome the students back to Horticap. It's been a tough year for us all and it's been particularly challenging for our students, but thanks to the generous support from all of YOU we have been able to continue to do the work WE do which is so vital for their wellbeing and confidence in the future.

In this, our first edition of 2021, some of our students have been telling us what they have missed most during their time away and our three "Hannahs" have also been sharing their lockdown stories with us. We are so proud of our students and of how they have all coped this last year. We can't wait to hear their stories over a cup of tea and a few biscuits when they all return.

We hope it's not long until we can welcome our volunteers back as well, their help is invaluable and they are so much a part of the Horticap family. One of our volunteers, Sarah, explains inside what Horticap means to her and what she has missed during lockdown. She speaks for us all so get the tissues ready...

We may have been quieter at Horticap last year, but work has never stopped on site and we've got a lot to share with you. There's the new gift shop, the tea room, the gardens, the nature trail...plus the nursery is always full of beautiful plants for sale. These changes have been as a result of generous donations and an incredible legacy left by one of our students - Peter Hopkins - without whom we would not have our new building. These contributions ensure we can continue to finish the building and that we can continue to be here for our students. So here's a little thank you from us to each of you - we've enclosed a packet of sunflower seeds to brighten up your garden and bring a few smiles. We hope you enjoy watching them grow!

The Horticap Team

Here Come The Girls



It's been a challenging year for all our students but we'd like to introduce you to the three Hannahs who would love to share their lockdown tales with you...

So here's Hannah E and despite all the restrictions she's been very busy. Back in the early months of the pandemic, she was busy sowing seeds and planting out, and helping her Mum, Dad and sister in the garden getting ready for summer. She planted vegetables and flowers and of course the Horticap sunflowers. Hannah spent lots of time outside in the garden, but when the weather wasn't too good, she was inside baking.

Hannah also started colouring and sending her pictures to the patients and nurses in hospital to brighten up the wards and she's also discovered walking. As a family they have walked miles and whilst reluctant at first, she now enjoys the long walks and they are an opportunity to take photographs for her photography group which is run by Outside The Box. They are another local charity supporting adults and young people with learning disabilities and they offer a venue for community events and activities. Hannah has been having regular zoom meetings with the group and each week there is a different theme for "homework" where they share and talk about the photographs they have taken during the session.



As well as the photography she also joins in with their cookery classes - making dishes from around the world which include Spanish Paella, American pancakes, English Tea Loaf. And then there's the "wake and shine" exercise class which means an early start, but each week they have built up a list of exercises with the "Hokey Cokey" being Hannah's favourite.

The zoom meetings have enabled Hannah to keep in touch with her friends and to talk about all sorts of topics - when asked to list their attributes, Hannah gave hers as "friendly, chatty, thoughtful and happy" - we agree - what a great set of attributes and she has all the qualities we love and promote here at Horticap.



Our next Hannah is Hannah B and she has spent most of lockdown in Tenby, and because it's right on the coast, she has been able to go for long beach walks, often 'padding' the whole distance.

During the summer months Hannah spent her time in the garden, taking cuttings and potting up. She made up a hanging basket (a job she loves at Horticap), mainly out of plants from the garden, and took responsibility for keeping the pots well-watered.

Hannah spent her time indoors practising her guitar, baking and playing computer games. As a keen supporter of Welsh rugby internationals, Hannah has also enjoyed watching Six Nations, shouting in support of her team and in condemnation of referees and opposing players.



There have been countless zoom calls and phone conversations, keeping up with friends and family. Most of all Hannah says she misses her friends at Horticap and talking to customers in the shop and she's looking forward to working in the greenhouse again...we can't wait either!

And here's the other lovely Hannah B... she has been shielding during lockdown, so it's been difficult for her not being able to go out. But the staff at Integracare have helped to keep her busy, making buns, doing jigsaws and having girly days nail painting.



She has also been spending her weekends at her Mum's house, helping look after owls, meerkats, guinea pigs and rabbits, and her two dogs Humphrey and Sprocket have been on plenty of walks. Hannah really misses all the staff and her friends at Horticap and she says she particularly misses winding Phil up. No wonder she's called 'Trouble' (affectionately of course!)



We were delighted to see the new building completed in 2020 and to be able to welcome our customers back into the gift shop. The next stage is to get the tearoom up and running, and, fingers crossed, this could be a reality soon. We'll keep you updated and as soon as our kettles are back on, we will let you know. Meanwhile we have been food tasting...purely for research purposes! Chris Walsh was introduced to Horticap a few years ago and asked if he would advise on the new kitchen & tearoom.

He has been a chef for over 30 years, working in some of Yorkshire's largest hotels and outside catering venues. More recently, he has also been teaching the next generation of chefs in colleges and schools. He has always had a passion for food and cooking and loves the buzz of busy kitchens and teaching students.

During the first lockdown Chris was itching for something to do, so he got involved with Horticap on a practical level. On his first day he turned up with a bucket and some scrubbing brushes and cleaned all the kitchen equipment. He started thinking about how he could help and decided to offer his assistance setting up the new tearoom, organising supplies, creating food samples, writing menus and planning health and safety. He trialled cakes and biscuits for the team including chocolate brownies, lemon drizzle and cookies which have gone down a treat.

He's now looking forward to the opening of the new tearoom and seeing the development of Horticap as we move into this exciting new phase. "Helping out and giving back" were the reasons Chris wanted to get involved and we'd like to say a huge thank you to him for his time and talents and for his support in ensuring we deliver the best menu (and treats!) to our customers.

Inside... & Out



BANKS Community Fund
development with care

So that's our plans for inside, but what about outside? Well, to start with we are revamping our nature trail with the help of a £5,000 grant from property and energy firm The Banks Group's Banks Community Fund. We have wanted to improve the trail for some time but we are now able to do this thanks to the Banks Group.

And another thank you goes to local landscaping contractor Nick Fryer, a long-term supporter of Horticap, who has been appointed to carry out the required work, with some of our students assisting him - as and when it's safe for them to be on site.

We are aiming to finish work as soon as possible, with a view to being able to welcome visitors back later in the year as the pandemic restrictions begin to ease. And we are also hoping to use the new facilities as a way of extending the role it plays in the wider community. We would love to see the public and community groups making use of what we have to offer, once the warmer weather arrives and we're able to fully open our doors again. So far we have built a natural woodland shelter and a woodland seating area with a fire pit.

As Lewis Stokes, community relations manager at The Banks Group, explains "Horticap has a positive community impact that extends far beyond simply providing somewhere nice to spend some time in the open air, and it's great for us to be part of a project that will be shared with so many local people in the years to come. We look forward to everyone visiting the trail soon".



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It's Competition Time...

They are easy to grow, bright and colourful in the garden border, food for birds, the insects love them and we are giving away a packet of sunflower seeds so that you can plant your own. What could be better...

Well, it's a competition as well! If you send us your Sunflower Selfies you could win tea and cake for two in our tea shop.

So get your seeds planted in the garden or a pot, water them, talk to them, take your photo and send them in to us...

...And don't worry if you receive the newsletter online - you can pop into Horticap and collect a packet - just be quick, we only have a limited amount!



Sunflower Selfie!

Please Choose Us

The Co-op Local Community Fund supports projects and communities across the UK and every time their members buy selected Co-op branded products and services, they give local causes a helping hand. If you join the Co-op and become a member, you can select Horticap as your chosen charity and not only do you get rewarded, but we do too.

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On Your Bike...

...the pandemic has had a huge impact on the way we work and reduces the options for fundraising yet further, so we are relying on our supporters and friends in the community more than ever.

We love to hear about the activities our fundraisers take part in and we are so grateful for their efforts, so we were delighted to hear that the restrictions didn't stop Caroline's journey!

Like many people, Caroline was really missing her children, so she decided that she would go and see them...virtually! After being inspired by a 9-year-old boy called Tom who cycled 300 miles for a local charity, she decided to take up the challenge herself and set off to travel a total of 360 miles on her exercise bike.

Starting on 1st February her journey took her from Harrogate to London and then to Brighton cycling every day in all weathers

to visit her children!

Horticap is very close to Caroline's heart - her mother Anne Moore was a founder of Horticap and so she was determined to help ensure Horticap is in the best possible position to provide for the needs of the students when the crisis subsides.

Her goal was to raise £1000 but at the time of going to press she has raised an incredible £1615 - that's a lot of pedalling and a lot of thanks we are sending to her and her family. Her challenge may be over but you can still donate to her 'Go Fund Me' page, and of course you can always get on your own bike. gofund.me/d856b643



"I've missed the chickens and the fish"

LIMITED EDITION...

We have teamed up with our friends at Tailors Gin and they have infused the wonderful rhubarb growing at Horticap with their gorgeous gin to create a first - Horticap Yorkshire Rhubarb Gin. The great news is that we raise money on every bottle sold and the even better news is that it's available for sale online at www.TailorsGin.com/shop

We are hoping that it will be sold in our shop in the near future, but meanwhile get your order in, get your glass filled up and enjoy a Horticap Gin. Cheers!



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PRICELESS... Our volunteers are invaluable and we have needed them more than ever during the pandemic which has changed our lives in ways we scarcely thought possible. One thing that has remained constant however, has been their commitment and support, even if they haven't been able to help on site. We hope that it won't be too long until we have the Horticap family back in one place again, but meanwhile here's a letter from one of our volunteers, Sarah, which says more about volunteering than we ever can...

Dear Horticap,

As I write this letter it is a bitterly cold snowy day and it is almost a year since the first 'Covid Lockdown'. Who would have thought a year on we would be in another Lockdown!

I started volunteering in June 2018, so I am still a 'newbie' - many of your volunteers have been with you for so many years - but I was made to feel so welcome. I became a member of the Wednesday team with Erica. Wednesdays became the highlight of my week and I so looked forward to it, working in the greenhouse alongside the most amazing students.

During the first lockdown I realised how much I missed my Wednesdays and it was then I realised how much Horticap meant to me and how embedded in my heart it had become. I have always said that I gain more from volunteering than Horticap gain from me, so you can imagine how thrilled I was to return and to be able to help again. Although the students weren't back, it felt good to be part of a team, keeping Horticap going and getting ready for their return. During this time, I met visiting students coming to say hello and to see the progress of the new shop/tea room. The best day though was when Mark came to visit, oh how I had missed his chatter and infectious laugh - all seemed good with the world as we sat and had a cup of tea outside.

So I can't wait to be back working with the wonderful students who make Horticap what it is. Hopefully it won't be long and we have exciting new times ahead with the shop and tea room.

May Horticap continue to be strong and serve a wonderful community and long may I continue to be part of it.

Keep safe, hope to see you all soon

Sarah xx



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" Gandhi



After six happy years at Horticap, Instructor Tom has **o-fishally** (get it!) retired from Horticap and he will be spending a lot more time on the riverbank. We will miss him so much - his humour (yes, even his bad jokes), his stories, his gardening expertise and his support and love for the students. We aren't saying 'goodbye' though, in fact, we are hoping he will put the fishing rod down occasionally to help us out... thank you Tom for being there for all of us... we will miss you.



"During the last six years, I have seen the Horticap site transformed with a new glasshouse, a fantastic student mess-room and a wonderful new building for the shop and tea room.

It has been such fun working with the students, both on site and helping customers with their gardens around Harrogate. The Horticap students are wonderful and I love them all - we have such fun and laughter, which makes a year go by speedily. I can't believe how 6 years have flown by.

However, I am hoping to help out at peak times so I haven't totally gone. I need to make sure that the students, when they are all back, continue to keep working hard!

I have enjoyed learning new skills; I didn't know that I could do woodwork. Many of the birds around Horticap now have new homes which we've made, and I can't wait to see if the Swift Nest Boxes on our new building become occupied this spring. Keep your eyes peeled for these fantastic birds (there's even a sound system installed to attract them).

I wish all my friends at Horticap a happy and bright year ahead, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon." Tom



Come to us for...

Perennials

magical plants which disappear in winter and reappear in the spring and we have a greenhouse full of them... they give seasons of colour

Gloves

we like getting our hands dirty at Horticap but a new pair of fancy fitting gloves will protect you from cuts and nasties and will replace an old pair if they look like Liam's!

Seeds

we have quite a selection - vegetables flowers herbs... get sowing and prepare to be amazed at how big, how many, and how quickly your garden will grow

Compost

get your soil in tip top condition... look after and feed it and the better your plants will be... it's true what they say... you really do get out what you put in

Bird Boxes & Bird Feed

to make sure our feathery friends are looked after and to get hours of enjoyment watching them... and our boxes are very 'cheep'

Bedding Plants

geraniums, lobelia, petunias... it's instant colour for the garden and pots and they will transform a hanging basket. The ultimate gap filler - and so much choice

A Garden Visit

it's the ultimate must have this year... and we are hoping that our garden gates will be wide open to visitors very soon

Greetings Cards

arty and jokey or you can keep it traditional, we have a card for all occasions... to say Happy Birthday, Thank You, I Love You, or blank to say whatever you like

Horticap Ltd

Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

Otley Road

Harrogate HG3 1QL

Tel: 01423 522876

info@horticap.org

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