

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Summer Issue
2021



How are your sunflowers growing? Don't forget we would love to see your photos and you might just win tea and cake for two in Hopkins@Horticap in our competition

Hello... and a warm welcome to our Summer Newsletter. Life at Horticap feels so different to last year as we welcome back more and more of our wonderful students who have been missed so much.

Despite restrictions on their numbers, they have worked tirelessly to keep the nursery stocked with beautiful plants, fulfilling gardening contracts in the community and as always at this time of year, creating the gorgeous hanging baskets, hayracks and planters that are so popular with our customers. They have also been very busy working on site as we continue to redevelop and improve our gardens, nature trail and pond area. We hope you will like reading about Michael and what he's enjoyed about coming back to Horticap.

The students are returning with an energy that is reflected in everything you see at Horticap and which has certainly given everyone here a much needed lift.



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We really have been overwhelmed with all the support from our customers and it has been lovely to see so many familiar faces returning to Horticap, as well as those who are discovering us for the first time. Demand for bedding plants and perennials has been amazing and as always, we are so grateful for the generosity shown by our friends, customers and supporters that we, as a charity, rely so much on.

Without doubt though, the most common question has been "when can we come back up for a cup of tea or coffee?" and we are so happy that Hopkins@Horticap, our new café, has now opened. We are delighted that Chef Chris Walsh, who has been advising us throughout, has joined the Horticap team and we are looking forward to all our customers enjoying the home-made treats on offer as we open our doors daily.

You are always assured of a warm welcome at Horticap by the students, staff and volunteers, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

The Horticap Team



A warm welcome to Dan who joins the Horticap team as an Instructor!



“Our Support Bubble”

It was so lovely to be back at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show. This year the show had been renamed “Spring Essentials” as it was smaller than usual, with all the stalls being outside to keep everyone safe. As we do every year we build a show garden. Normally we have great fun with the students, we like to bring a little fun to our garden which is always enjoyed by the visitors to the show.



But with 2020 being such a difficult year for everyone, and a lonely one for many, we at Horticap decided to build and name our garden “Our Support Bubble”. We wanted to tell a story about the families and care homes that have supported our students so well through this difficult time, as well as recognising the businesses and organisations that have continued to support us.

An important message we wanted to send out is just how nature has looked after us over the last year and how gardening has been very important in a time of insecurity and loneliness.



Our thanks go to Simon Cotton at the Fat Badger in Harrogate who lent us a pod in which to “grow” our garden, which we filled with beautiful and colourful plants from our nursery.



We wove ivy and other climbers throughout the structure to create a feeling of peace, tranquillity and safety for all within “Our Support Bubble”. The garden was completed with wooden trees that had been fantastically and creatively decorated by Bettys and Taylors, The Cone Exchange, Local Lotto, Oatlands Junior School, Belmont Grosvenor School, North Yorkshire County Council and Harrogate Borough Council. We thank them, and everyone else who has supported us through the pandemic, very much!

...the best thing of all was that we won a Premier Gold Award, the highest award you can win! We also raised over £400 in donations from visitors to the show who braved the heavy rain, plus prize money on top which was wonderful!

Having the garden shows back is such good news and we are already looking forward to the next one.

See you there!



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Hopkins@Horticap

We were delighted to have finally reached Monday 14th June, the opening day of Hopkins@Horticap, our new café.

The café has been named Hopkins@Horticap after Peter Hopkins who was a student here for many years. The legacy from Peter and his mother Marjorie, along with other generous donations, enabled us to build and add a second floor and lift to our beautiful new building.

Chris Walsh, our chef says *"Everything in Hopkins@Horticap will be produced on site, or has been sourced from local Yorkshire suppliers. Our mission is to keep it fresh and local and to build the reputation of Hopkins@Horticap within the community"*.



Our students cannot wait to be involved in Hopkins@Horticap.

"Giving the students the chance to become part of this venture is amazing as they are a big part of the future of Hopkins@Horticap. Students will gain experience of working with customers as well as preparing and serving food"
Chris continues.

There is so much more to come from Hopkins@Horticap. Soon there will be a thriving little food and grocers shop on site. As we move to add these exciting developments, everyone at Horticap are thrilled to be currently serving a great range of beverages and home baking.

Stop Press

From Monday 2nd August the shop and Hopkins@Horticap will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and Sundays 10am to 4pm



The students, staff and volunteers at Horticap look forward to welcoming you to Hopkins@Horticap.





Michael's Story...

Many of you will recognise Michael who has been at Horticap since 1990. He gets involved in all the various jobs around the site and enjoys sharing his knowledge and experience with newer students! He has missed being with his friends through the week and is very pleased to be back doing what he loves! This is what he wanted to share with everyone.

Michael, is it good to be back at Horticap and what have you missed doing? *It is, I've missed the wood splitting in the workshop, it's good to be back doing it. I have missed working with Tom 'cause he's my favourite Instructor.*



How do you do the wood splitting? *I put my gloves on and make sure all the nails in the wood have been removed, then I get the chisel and I look for the grain in the wood. Then I hit the chisel with the mallet and split it! The wood goes in a bag to sell in the shop.*

What did you do when you couldn't come to Horticap? *I stayed at home as I didn't want to get the virus. I'm happy that I could come back safely. I'm pleased to be back!*



Charities rely hugely on donations, legacies and fundraising in order to survive, and Horticap is no different as our aim is always to give our students an increasing range of training and activities.

Many of you will remember reading about the fabulous fundraising achievements of Caroline Campbell who has raised a fantastic £2,500 for the benefit of our students by completing a gruelling 360-mile 'virtual' cycle ride. Not only that but Caroline held a plant sale too, which brought in a further £1055 for Horticap. We are so thrilled that Caroline continues to support us in this wonderful way and we look forward to her next venture!



Our Chair of Trustees, Steve Scarre, is once again embarking on the 26 mile Nidderdale Walk in September. He is looking for sponsorship as he would like to beat the amazing £750 he raised for us last time. If you would like to sponsor him, please follow the JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/horticapsteveswalk or if you would like to join him on the walk and help support Horticap, just drop him a line via info@horticap.org. **You would be very welcome!**

We are always interested to hear of your fundraising events and most particularly the story behind why you want to support Horticap. Do tell us so that we can offer our support in any way we can!

Did you know that Horticap can benefit more by Gift Aiding your donation? Please ask in the shop to find out how.

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Things to keep an eye out for!

The opening
of the newly
redeveloped
nature trail

Visiting our
garden and stand
at the Great
Yorkshire Show
13 -16 July

The reopening of
our wonderful,
and newly
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gardens

Our show garden
and plant stand
at the Harrogate
Autumn Flower
show from 17-19
September at
Newby Hall

Events at Horticap
supporting
the Harrogate
District Climate
Action Festival in
October



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