

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Issue 1 2022

Welcome to the first edition of the Horticap newsletter of 2022. We hope that your Christmas and New Year celebrations were both safe and enjoyable. For Horticap the festive season was, thankfully, far more normal than the one we experienced last year. Significantly, our students were back at work and we were delighted that they were able to enjoy a special Christmas celebration in our new building, which you can read about in this newsletter. Our Christmas tree sales were happily once again in the greenhouse and our wonderful student made wreaths were as popular and in demand as ever.

Thank you to each and every one of you that supported us during the Christmas season, and throughout 2021. We really appreciate it!



We were happy to display a tree as part of the Christmas Tree Festival in St. Peter's Church in the centre of Harrogate, with our students making all the decorations.



Horticap was proud to be represented at the Harrogate Christmas Fair in November. It was great to meet so many people we know, as well as to continue spreading the word about Horticap and its recent developments to people who have yet to have the pleasure of visiting us!

Our students have risen impressively to the regulations that have been in place at Horticap to keep everyone safe. Under normal circumstances, they would be engaging with our customers in the greenhouses, shop and in Hopkins@Horticap, but current restrictions prevent them from doing so. We continue to follow the regulations implemented by North Yorkshire County Council and hope that it won't be too long before we can see our students buzzing around and helping visitors as they love to do!



But of course Horticap is not just for Christmas, and the students have also been hard at work catching up with lots of maintenance jobs around the site. The greenhouses are getting a good clean, tidy and thorough weeding in preparation for the spring planting season, the summer bedding and our fabulous hanging baskets. Don't forget to place your orders for hanging baskets, troughs and hayracks early as they always prove very popular!



Our students have also been busy making improvements around Horticap and work in the garden has continued. The middle pages of this newsletter show the hard work that has gone into transforming the garden by the students and instructors.

Our wonderful building has been admired by everyone who has visited and we have hosted some lovely events. Private bookings, with chef Chris and his team providing delicious refreshments, are now being taken, and our friend Caroline Campbell hosted a fund raising flower arrangement event for Horticap, which proved highly successful. Read more about it later in this newsletter.

We are all looking forward to continuing our hard work here throughout the year and hope you can all visit us for your plants, gifts and hospitality as well as enjoying all the new garden developments at Horticap. And don't forget to look out for us at the shows (dates are on the back cover)! Everyone is assured of a warm welcome wherever they bump into us!

The Horticap Team



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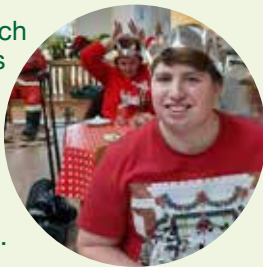
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A highlight of the Horticap year is our Christmas party which enables all the students, staff, trustees, volunteers and friends to come together and celebrate. With Covid-19 making arranging anything difficult, and our plans having to be altered several times, we decided that the best idea would be to host it ourselves! With limited numbers allowed on site at any one time, we were only able to invite our students but we sincerely hope that next year we can all be together again.



Logistically it was difficult to organise so that we would comply with the strict regulations, but there are some very resourceful people here at Horticap who managed to pull it all together impressively. Chris and his team in Hopkins@ Horticap provided the perfect Christmas dinner over two sittings, Phil provided some very amusing entertainment and the staff became waiters for the day!



Our two groups of students were able to join together for Christmas Carols outside when we also had a surprise visit from a very special guest!



It was a brilliant day!
Please enjoy some of our happy memories from the day.

The **Horticap Garden** is a wonderful environment for our students to work in, our bees to live in, for our customers to visit and as a haven for wildlife. Visitors over the years will have become familiar with seeing groups of students working alongside instructors and volunteers to maintain and improve the gardens.



“We aim to help students extend their knowledge and skills, through structured training using professionally qualified staff and volunteers”

With a brand new building offering better facilities, a decision was made to sympathetically redesign the garden. The aim was to retain the character of the garden we all know and love, but to open up the garden space more.

< Do you remember the garden when it looked like this?



There is still much to do to the garden. It has been such a difficult time to embark on such a huge project, but with the dedication, application and determination of everyone, we are confident that our lovely Horticap garden will once again be a place of positivity, creativity, productivity, reflection and a welcome sanctuary for everyone. **A really special addition to the garden is featured on the next page!**



We have been very fortunate to have had the services of Jason and Tracey from Living Stone, who have built a stunning dry stone wall around our new patio. Tracey and Jason quickly became part of the Horticap family as they worked, and their progress was keenly watched by our students.

It has been a privilege for us all to watch the skills that they have and the wall take shape to become so naturally a part of our garden.



Horticap friends David Griffiths and Simon Lumb created the beautiful stone work you can see here. It just adds that finishing touch!

Regular readers of the newsletter will know of the contribution that Caroline Campbell has made to Horticap with her fundraising activities.

Caroline and friends offered to continue these efforts having already raised over £3,500 over the last couple of years. All of these proceeds go to benefitting our students.

The latest venture was to organise a Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration with 2 sessions throughout the day.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Hopkins@ Horticap and Horticap received the magnificent sum of £3,000



We were honoured that Sandra Harder, the Chair of Yorkshire Flower Club, ran the demonstration. Sandra is well known as a florist and highly respected as a floral arranger.



We are grateful for the efforts of everyone and for the generosity of all those who gave prizes for the raffle. Thanks to all those who came and here are some memories we would like to share.



Guests to both sessions were able to browse in the shop to do some welcome, and easy, Christmas shopping! This was our very first big event in our new building and we were delighted it went so well. Please speak to Chris if you are interested in booking a private function.





Our students love this time of year when there is the promise of spring around the corner. Our greenhouse is full to bursting with a huge variety of perennials to create colourful displays all year round, so come and be tempted...



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We are all very sad to announce that Instructor Tom Dickinson is moving on to pastures new.

We asked Phil to write a few words...

"Tom started at Horticap in April 2011. He was 18 and dragged up to Horticap by his mother, he was wearing a lovely suit and he wanted some work!"

We took a punt and he started in the shop as an assistant. However, we knew very early on that his talents were suited elsewhere. So, he changed career and became an Instructor and after nearly 11 years he's now in charge of all the woodwork and the wonderful hanging baskets. His caring nature works well with the students.

He will be missed by everyone and we wish him well for the future. He will always be part of the Horticap family and will be welcomed back anytime".



We are also very sorry to be saying goodbye to Penny, who joined us in June 2021. Penny quickly became a familiar face at Horticap and popular with both students and customers. We would like to thank her and wish her well in her next venture.

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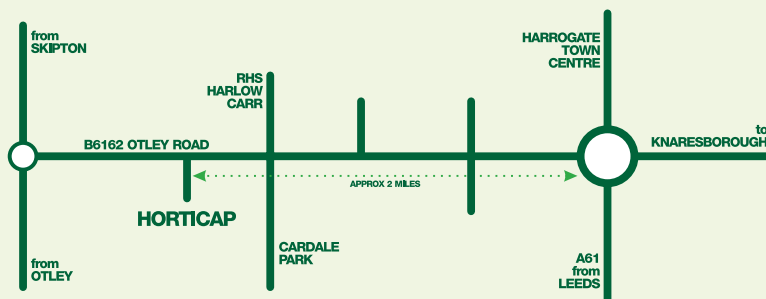
April 21st - 24th
Harrogate Spring Flower Show

July 12th - 15th
Great Yorkshire Show

July 31st
Weeton Show

September 16th - 18th
Autumn Flower Show at Newby Hall

August Art Exhibition of Horticap students work



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