

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Issue 2 2022

Spring has definitely sprung at Horticap and that brings with it the promise of an exciting new year of gardening! The spring bulbs are giving way to perennials that respond to the longer days and warmer sunshine, and the bedding plants are beginning to flourish. It is with these positive thoughts that we welcome you to our second newsletter of 2022.

We have all had a busy time around Horticap, continuing with developing the gardens and the huge seasonal task of bringing on the bedding plants. We have had a wonderful amount of orders for our hanging baskets and planters, which showcases the care that our students exhibit in creating top quality displays!



Stuart had the privilege of giving our new garden lawn its first ever cut, and what a fantastic job he did!

Our raised beds have been moved and improved and we are eagerly waiting to see the seeds grow, with the produce being used in the Hopkins kitchen.

It's exciting watching the garden take shape!



Hopkins and our shop continue to go from strength to strength, with our Patron Alan Titchmarsh visiting to officially open the new building. Hopkins is honoured to be nominated for several prestigious awards in the Harrogate Hospitality & Tourism Awards. Chris and his team have worked incredibly hard to achieve this and we look forward to the Award Ceremony in June...with fingers firmly crossed!

The focus at Horticap is always about the students and they rise to every challenge presented to them. They are, quite rightly, proud of the variety of work they do and their achievements.

The spring has brought both colour and life to Horticap. Simon worked hard to plant these bulbs in the autumn and we have all been rewarded with this amazing show of cheery daffodils.



Having the chance to have some quiet time has become ever more important to us, which gave Sam the idea of creating a student "quiet space" for his fellow students. He worked hard to clear a cluttered area and transform it into an attractive space with seating. It has been planted with some lovely plants, and has bird feeders to encourage wildlife to visit.



Our Arts and Crafts Workshop is proving a popular and creative place to work in, with a range of activities being enjoyed by our students.

Pat enjoys making cards to sell in the shop. They are very popular!



Work continues offsite with our contract work and it is great to see some of our student made wooden planters in customers' gardens, as well as enhancing the local environment. Thankfully, there's always time for a brew though, quite right too!

As you can see, we are embracing the new season with joy in our hearts and a spring in our step! We all love to see customers enjoying a visit with us, and appreciate the support that comes with it. **Don't forget to visit our wonderful greenhouse which is literally packed with all sorts of fabulous plants for your garden, you won't be disappointed!**

The Horticap Team



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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It's Showtime!

We were delighted to be back at the Harrogate flower show this year. After the show's cancellation in 2020, for obvious reasons, we decided to unleash the design intended for that show on the public! The theme...

"THE THREE LITTLE PIGS"

We had a blown straw house with fruit plants in the garden, a wooden house with trees all around it and the stone house, surrounded by a country garden.

A Horticap show garden is not complete unless it features our papier-mache characters, and visitors this year just loved the little pigs and the fearsome wolf models.

Thank you to volunteer Helen who made them for us.

A big thank you too, to Living Wall Dry Stone Wallers Jason and Tracey for spending many a weekend and two days at the flower show making this wonderful house.



Did you visit the show?

Let us know your favourite bit!

For a bit of fun we decided to sell the stone house/folly at the show with the aim of raising valuable funds for Horticap.

Our friends at Lister Haigh estate agents not only put the folly online but they put it on Rightmove too which widened the publicity for the sale.

Everyone donated their time to enable us to maximise the amount we could raise.



So what do we do for next show...you'll just have to wait and see!

The public loved our show garden and our students were very proud to be part of it again!



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From Small Beginnings - the lifecycle of a Horticap bedding plant!

Our bedding plants are well known for their beauty and consistently high quality, so we thought we would take you behind the scenes and show our students at work, along with the skills involved.



Erica and her teams work over many weeks to manage this mammoth task!

The plants arrive as tiny, fragile plug plants that need precise conditions to grow and thrive. They need careful handling when potting them on into the trays or pots that they are then sold in. These plants are also used in our fabulous hanging baskets and arrangements.



At least 1,750 hours are dedicated to caring for our bedding plants!



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

Well over 51,000 bedding plants are cared for by our students!



Over 16,000 litres of compost are used, just for the bedding plants!



Our plants will never go on sale until they are strong enough. Our students pride themselves on nurturing the plants in order to have strong and healthy plants to sell. This keeps our customers coming back year after year!

A very special visitor!



Wednesday 23rd February proved to be a particularly significant day at Horticap when a much delayed official opening of our new building took place by Alan Titchmarch, our Patron.

It was the perfect opportunity for him to catch up with all the changes since his last visit, and to learn about our plans for the future. It was clear he was impressed!



We were able to invite those who have supported Horticap over the last couple of years as well as our wonderful volunteers. We are looking forward to working fully with them again, they have been missed so much!



Alan kindly presented to Andy, one of our Instructors who retired at the beginning of the Covid lockdown, a beautiful painting by student Hannah. Alan himself was also presented with a painting that Hannah had done for him. Hannah paints with thought and passion, which was not lost on either Alan or Andy.

We all hope Alan can come back soon!



Alan's visit enabled Steve Scarre, our Chair of Trustees, to outline our ambitious plans for the future of Horticap.

We are delighted that he has shared these in this newsletter. As can be seen from Steve's letter, we are constantly assessing the needs of Horticap, our students and our visitors which helps to support our continued future success.

"Following a difficult period over the past two years, we are delighted to see most students back at Horticap. They've been such a big help in transforming the garden and nature trail, as well as everything else they do, such as getting the plants ready for sale and keeping the site tidy. We look forward to them being able to help in the café soon.

Volunteers are also starting to return providing invaluable help to the students and instructors. We can't wait until they're all able to come back.

Hopkins is continuing to flourish and has been shortlisted for two Harrogate Hospitality & Tourism Awards 2022: Newcomer of the Year and Best Achievement of the Year.

At a recent Trustee meeting, it was agreed that we should continue to develop the site, as stated in our five-year strategic plan. We currently have some urgent, short term projects which we need to commence as soon as possible. These include extending the car parking facility, as the increased footfall visiting Hopkins has created a car parking issue, upgrading the old mess room, and increasing the display area of plants for sale. Hopefully, we can complete these three projects in the next 12 months. Staff and appropriate stakeholders will be consulted prior to commencement of all the above projects and concerted fundraising efforts will commence soon to provide the finances for these.

Let's hope for a good spring and summer to enable our visitors to enjoy all we have to offer."

Steve Scarre

Victoria cannot wait to be back in the shop!



It seems so long since our students were able to work in the shop and tearoom and Victoria has missed it very much. She is well known to our customers for her warm welcome and enthusiasm in promoting all things Horticap!



Victoria loves animals and goes horse-riding on her days off. She loves the chickens and is always delighted when customers bring their dogs to Horticap.

Just a reminder that we welcome dogs to Horticap, on leads, in the glasshouses, gardens and patio area. **Only assistance dogs are permitted in the shop and café.**

Victoria attends Horticap four days a week and there is nothing she won't tackle when she is here! From pom-poms to planters, Victoria is always there with a big smile!



Welcome to Horticap

We are delighted to introduce some new members of staff to Horticap. Simon has joined as an Instructor, working with our students and is seen here with David, who presented him with a lovely "New Job" card! Simon joins us with a wealth of experience.

"At University I started helping in a Mencap Gateway club for adults and I ended up running it. We had great times and it shaped my future work choices. I have worked with charities for most of my career. Horticap is a great place for students to learn, work and enjoy the day. Staff and students have been so welcoming to me. We are making lots of hanging baskets at the moment which look great!"



...and joining Hopkins we welcome **Tori and Joy**

who very quickly have become part of the Horticap family.

They join at an exciting time for both Horticap and Hopkins and are looking forward to working alongside our students.

Tori also attends Harrogate College studying Professional Cookery and is Hopkins Bakery Assistant, working alongside Chef Chris.

Hopefully it won't be too long before we can have students working in Hopkins!



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Dates for your diary

July 12th – 15th
Great Yorkshire Show

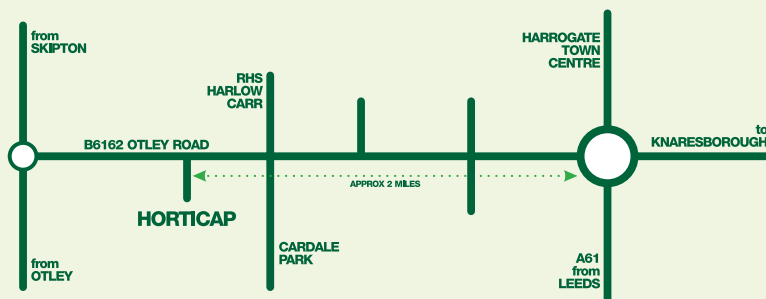
July 31st
Weeton Show

September 16th – 18th
Autumn Flower Show
Newby Hall, Ripon

August 21st
HDAF Allotment Show
Valley Gardens

July and August
Summer Art Exhibition of student's work at Horticap

**Come and
say hello
when you
visit!**



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