

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Issue 4 2022



Welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for 2022. It has been wonderful to welcome regular and new customers to Horticap, particularly through the challenges of coping with the extreme heat of this year's summer. As always, our students rose to the occasion and kept plants well cared for and in tip top condition! We were all very relieved when the temperatures became more bearable, and we know many of our visitors were too!

Autumn saw the students embarking on a huge variety of tasks around the site. Improvements to the garden and the success of our new fruit and veg plot are clear to see but there has been a lot going on behind the scenes too. Our workshop team has been building new benches for the students to use as well as making planters, signs, bird boxes and all kinds of other things to sell. The autumn/winter bedding plants have taken up weeks of care by the students, and our range of perennial plants that our students have filled the greenhouses with is, as always, second to none!



As we move towards the festive season, much of our work revolves around wreath making. It is a huge task and we start haying the frames and wiring the decorations from the beginning of October, ready for assembly. The centre pages of this newsletter focus on the intricate work that is needed and the care that our students take in all aspects of the work. Christmas always sees high demand for our top quality Christmas Trees and Wonderful Wreaths. We are all preparing for a very busy December... and can't wait!

Our students have been working in the veg and fruit plots and learning new skills from sowing seeds right through to harvesting. We have had some tasting sessions in the mess room as well as selling some of our organic produce through the shop. We all agreed that the sweetcorn was so tender and absolutely delicious!

Horticap would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff and volunteers for making this year so productive and successful, and of course to you, our customers and supporters, who are always so generous!

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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What a team!

When Wayne suggested that he would like to make a planter that he could garden in, the Horticap family leapt into life to make it happen!

As a wheelchair user, it was essential the planter would be the perfect height for Wayne, and that he would be able to access all the planting area.



His first visit was to the workshop so that he could discuss the requirements with Simon, who suggested putting the planter on wheels. Wayne was thrilled!



Working together in the workshop, Jack was happy to help Wayne build the planter to his specifications and Wayne enjoyed using the electric sander to make the sides smooth. Wayne had a great time in the workshop and showing other students what he was doing before moving onto the greenhouse to paint it.

Our planters are very popular. We make and sell them in three sizes, which can be seen in the sales greenhouse. We are also able to make them to customised sizes as well as other items, depending on other demands for the workshop.



Wayne spent several weeks painting his planter, before lining and filling it with compost. And then the best bit... choosing a lovely range of plants and bulbs to create a stunning display!



Wayne made a tool box with his name on to store his trowel and hand fork in.

This was a wonderful collaboration of work skills that enabled Wayne to be supported to design and build his own planter giving him access to an activity that so many of us might take for granted. We can't wait to see how it looks in the spring when the bulbs come through!


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



It's all hands on deck in Santa's workshop to make sure we have all the wreaths we need for our customers. It's hard work but there's always time for some fun too!



Introducing Horticap grown fruit and veg

Our students are very excited to let you know about our new Veg and Fruit Alley, located in our plant nursery here at Horticap.

We have taken delivery of some wonderful high quality fruit trees and bushes which Fiona and her team have been busy repotting and putting out for sale.



We plan to start growing our veg plants in the early spring so that they will be available at the perfect time for you to take home and grow in your own gardens and allotments. There will be an amazing selection of tomatoes, with some unusual varieties along with the good old classics!

Our own veg plot will be bursting with all the delicious Horticap grown organic vegetables that proved so popular with both students and our customers this year.

All grown from seed at Horticap by our amazing students!



Our fantastic selection of patio fruit trees is available to buy now including Apple, Pear, Cherry, Kiwi and even Peach and Nectarine! As a new venture at Horticap, this has extended our students already impressive skills and disciplines in their work environment and as always, they are rising to the challenge!



Pumpkin fun!



Our pumpkin patch has been very productive this year and our students couldn't wait to get stuck in. What a very creative bunch we have, even Gollum got into the Halloween spirit!



Our students have had a very successful first year of growing produce in our new raised beds and greenhouse, with 2022 being an opportunity to learn from trial and error. The extreme sun and heat this year helped some crops and hindered others and a lot was learned to prepare us for a great and, hopefully, an even more productive 2023!



Horticap is a special place for many reasons, one of which is that students can spend many years here. David joined Horticap in November 1991 and probably knows Horticap better than most. His ability to adjust to the jobs that need doing through the year is admirable and his friendship to everyone is what Horticap is all about. David welcomes new staff with a "New Job" card, gently supports other students and is the ultimate gentleman!



Taken some time ago, David (front right) is seen with lots of familiar faces still attending Horticap. We're sure you will recognise a few!



...and finally!

Victoria has loved working in the greenhouse with Steve, attending to our lovely new perennial plants. Our range of plants is increasing all the time, with plants to brighten any garden!



Victoria would also like to remind you that summer hanging basket orders can be placed in the shop from the beginning of 2023!



We are delighted to welcome another new student to the Horticap family. Dominic (above right) joined us in October and has already settled in well, as can be seen in this photo of him working in the greenhouse with Ross.



Behind the scenes we have extended the spaces we have for workbenches to allow for all the wonderful plant work that our students do. The same day the concrete arrived for hard flooring, we had a donation of two settees which we are very grateful for! The students didn't need any prompting to try the settees out, get comfy and watch all the hard work involved with moving wet concrete!

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We're lawyers you'll like

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Dates for your diary

Horticap will be closed on Thursday 22nd December for our Annual Student Christmas Party

Christmas Opening Times at Horticap

Our shop and nursey will be open until 3pm on Christmas Eve

Hopkins will close for Christmas at 5pm on 21st December please note that only cakes and hot drinks will be available on the 21st

Horticap opening times in January and February 2023

Monday to Saturday -

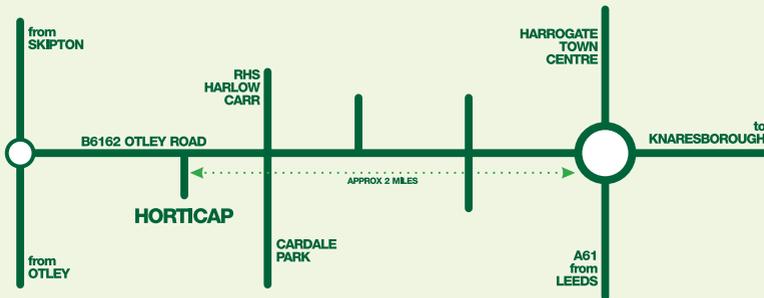
Shop & Nursery 9am to 4.30pm

Hopkins 9.30am to 4.30pm

Sunday - Shop, Nursery & Hopkins 10am to 4pm



Any changes will be posted in the shop and on Social Media



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