

horticap

Growing Together



Supporting and educating
at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries

www.horticap.org

Issue 2 2023

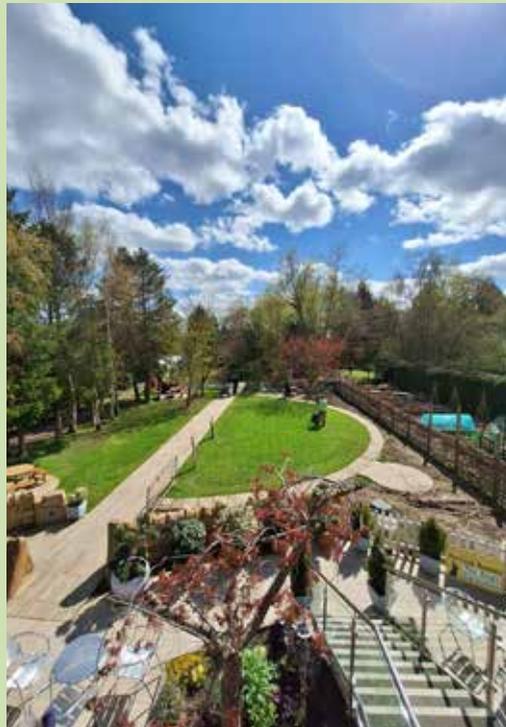


Hello, and welcome to our 2nd Horticap newsletter of 2023. Despite a very wet, cold spring and a slow start to our growing season, we have all been very busy. Along with all the usual jobs, many hours have been spent on getting our bedding plants ready for our famous hanging baskets, and for sale. It is worth remembering that there are over 51,000 plug plants that are potted on by the students with more than 1,750 hours dedicated to the task over many weeks!



The show season is upon us and it has, again, been lovely to get creating and showing again, as well as meeting visitors to the shows. We have a fantastic garden planned for the Great Yorkshire Show, so make sure you visit us, you will not be disappointed! Our ability to participate in these shows relies heavily on our volunteers, and we thank them very much!

Our own garden continues to develop and is now planted up. We are enjoying seeing visitors of all ages exploring both the garden and our fabulous nature trail.



We have been delighted with the demand for our perennials too, which are filling our greenhouses with colour and scent. Our students care for them by potting on the plants when necessary and ensuring they are watered regularly. Watering is a mammoth task at this time of year with most of the water we use coming from our huge rain water collection tanks.

We were thrilled to be part of the filming for BBCs 'Morning Live' programme with Mark Lane. The theme was biodiversity and we helped to build a bug house and plant wildflowers. The day, and whole experience was brilliant!



We have had a great start to 2023 and are proud to celebrate all the achievements of our brilliant students. One of the most wonderful things here is the fun, friendship, support and sense of community that just seems to happen naturally at Horticap.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. We would love it if our news and happy faces spreads further afield. Do take a newsletter and pass it on, or sign up to get it on email. Just contact us at info@horticap.org and you'll get a copy hot off the press!

The Horticap Team

King Charles Coronation was celebrated in style, including a magnificent crown display in the shop made by the students, and student Lewis arriving complete with crown!

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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If you are a regular visitor to Horticap, you will have noticed our students working in the shop. They take part in all aspects of the various jobs we encounter on a day to day level. One of our main responsibilities is the checking off, pricing and displaying of stock.



Here is student Hannah working through the different tasks involved.



Our students are incredibly proud of the work they do in the shop. They love working with the shop staff, welcoming customers to Horticap and serving them politely and efficiently. The proceeds from the sale of plants, gifts, cards, pots, wood items and many other goods are a valuable source of income to Horticap to support us to continue the wonderful work that goes on here.



Everyone at Horticap was devastated to hear of the untimely passing of our friend and colleague, Christine Oddy. Christine started as a volunteer at Horticap, supporting our students on her day off from Booths in Ilkley (and bringing an endless supply of biscuits!) But it became very clear to those of us who spent time with her that she was destined to join the staff team as soon as a vacancy became available.

Christine joined the shop staff team when the new building was completed and her influence was obvious from the start. Always keen to celebrate national occasions and festivities, Christine spent hours creating gifts, bunting and decorations to enhance the shop. She knitted the most wonderful treat filled Christmas stockings and wellies with care and love, all in her own time, which brought pleasure to those who bought them.

To say that Christine has left a hole in the fabric of Horticap is a huge understatement. She was loved and respected by everyone and was never happier than when she had students around her in the shop. Her kindness and friendship will be sorely missed, as will her wicked sense of humour!

Everyone at Horticap sends their love and condolences to all those who knew Christine.



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

...and we are very lucky that our Patron Alan Titchmarsh supports us in this aim, and paid us a visit on a lovely sunny May day to check up on us!

Here’s a little snapshot of the day.



Come and see us again soon Alan!

Photographs courtesy of Tim Cook, Harrogate News.



The Veg Patch Diaries

Finally, after a very cold, wet and windy start to the Spring, the sun made an appearance, warmed the ground and allowed us to get planting on our veg patch. But the work sowing the seeds was already underway!

In February the students started to sow tomato and chilli seeds in trays. The first early potatoes were 'chitting' in boxes under the greenhouse benches and trays were being filled with compost in preparation for pricking out the seedlings.

We were all eagerly watching and waiting to see the first of the tomatoes germinate, which were keeping warm in the mess room in seed trays. Our students then started the intricate work of pricking the hundreds of seedlings out for potting on, labelling and getting them ready to move into the sales greenhouse.



This was just the start of our vegetable production line! The brassicas, onions and leeks were followed by courgettes, squash, pumpkins, sweetcorn and salad leaves. From seed trays to pots to either planting in our raised beds or taking their position on the sales benches, all were ready for growing and then later in the year, the best bit...eating delicious home grown veg!



From the very first days of winter rotavating and digging, positioning the raised beds, mulching the paths, fencing and rabbit proofing the plot sowing, pot filling and labelling, to now planting and nurturing the vegetables, the students have worked incredibly hard.

This has been such an exciting time for us all and we can't wait for the next few months to enjoy, quite literally, the fruits and veg of our labour! Our students will be making some delicious dishes with the fruit and veg they have grown, to share in the mess room, satisfying our 'seed to table' ethos. But keep a look out in the café as our produce will also be for sale in the coming months.



We would love to hear from you if you are growing produce you have bought from us, so drop us a line and a photo, telling us how your harvest is going. **Happy gardening!**



Roses, an instantly recognisable and utterly beautiful companion in any garden!

We have a wonderful range of roses for sale at Horticap and for any occasion. Roses are often given as gifts for special anniversaries that can be cherished and loved for years with a little care and attention.

With a fabulous range of colours and scents, roses can be upright, rambling, climbing and miniature, ensuring that there is a rose for every garden situation. Some can be planted in pots; others thrive when planted in the garden and all our roses are labelled so you can be sure of choosing the right one.

A QUICK GUIDE TO ROSES

- Roses can flower all summer
- They are long lasting plants
- They are sun loving
- Prune them annually
- Deadhead regularly
- Plant in rich, well-drained soil

Please search on our tablet for more details about growing roses, you'll find it in the shop!



Our roses can be found through the perennial house and there are lots to choose from. Alex is showing the way to them!



Not that we're biased but...we do love a white rose! Well, we are in Yorkshire



Carl has been at Horticap since September 2018 and attends every day. He gets involved in everything from contract work in gardens to maintaining our own gardens, from emptying the bins each day to being, quite simply, a great fella! Carl never complains, he just gets on with whatever he has been asked to do with his customary saying "won't take long".



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Dates for your diary

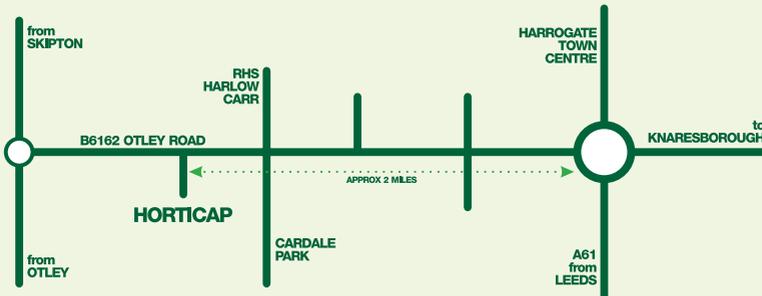
We just have the one event to mention, but it's a good one!

The Great Yorkshire Show

Tuesday 11th July to Friday
14th July 2023

We are displaying a fantastic
show garden!

Come and visit us and have
your photo taken with our
new 'Horticap' characters.



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