

Perennial News

Keeping you in touch with Perennial



Princess Alexandra joins forces with Alan Titchmarsh at our 175th celebrations

- See page 2

How grubby can gardeners get?

- See page 3



Clients receive £1.45 million in direct financial aid

Perennial provided more help than ever before in 2013. Our clients received over £1.45 million in direct financial help as a result of the work of our Services team.

Whether through increasing statutory benefits, financial help from Perennial, or funds raised from other sources, over 1,200 clients got the support they needed. Sheila Thomson, Director of Services at Perennial, commented: *"Whilst we are proud that our help is making a difference to a growing number, we'd like to increase that number even more this year. In order to safeguard our services for those who need them, we are looking for support to help us raise an additional £175,000 during our 175th anniversary year."*

Key Highlights:

- 17% increase in the number of clients last year
- Perennial gave £583,000 of financial help
- We helped our clients with statutory benefits totalling £728,000
- 86% of new clients were below retirement age
- Greenkeepers, groundsmen and grounds maintenance staff comprised 23% of new clients

Follow Us!

Show your support and stay in touch by following us on twitter (@perennialgrbs) or like us on Facebook (Perennial - Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society).



How we help

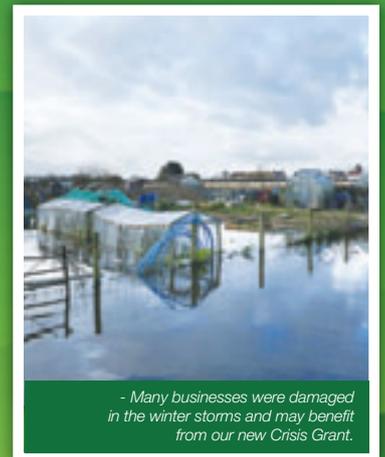
Every year since Perennial was founded as the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Institution by a small group of wealthy nurserymen in 1839, we have been there to provide a helping hand.

Initially benefits consisted of a small pension for three retired gardeners, now we help working horticulturists and their families across the country and we support the whole dependent family as well.

In the past year alone the number of clients we've helped has risen by 17%. Due to the work of our Services Team those clients received over £1.45m in direct financial help; consisting of a combination of grants from Perennial, additional statutory benefits and funds raised by the team from other sources. Perennial also supports in other ways, from debt advice to liaising with social services to organising home care.

This past Christmas we launched the Gifts that Transform Lives campaign, and are so grateful for the generosity of our supporters who gave £2,345 in virtual gifts. We can't thank you enough.

This spring we have established a Crisis Grant to help those whose lives and businesses have been damaged by the floods and storms. Please contact us on **0800 093 8546** for more details if you need help.



- Many businesses were damaged in the winter storms and may benefit from our new Crisis Grant.



Our new website launched on April 2.

Visit www.perennial.org.uk

Now that summer is nearly here it is hard to remember the joy and excitement we experienced at the wonderful 175th anniversary celebration in January.

The energy from that evening was truly extraordinary, and shows no sign of slowing down. We were overwhelmed by the level of pledges, commitment and support shown to Perennial.

We have already seen our annual HortAid campaign launched in great style by our Grubby Gardeners (see opposite). But there's a very good reason why we have such a determination to raise £175,000 in our anniversary year.

This year we have responded to the desperate needs of those businesses affected by the harsh winter storms.

We have introduced a Crisis Grant to help those who need it. This is one of five brand new Virtual Gifts we are delighted to introduce in our Summer Catalogue, which also contains some extremely exciting new products.

Your support makes a massive difference. As you've seen, we're helping more people than ever before, and changing lives for the better.

We couldn't do any of this without you. On behalf of everyone at Perennial, a huge thank you.

And don't forget to say hello to us if you're going to the Chelsea Flower Show, Hampton Court Flower Show, or Harrogate Autumn Show this year!



Richard Capewell,
Chief Executive

Sodexo sticks to its Pledge



Directors and senior managers from Sodexo Horticultural Services, spent the day in Dunorlan Park in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on Wednesday 19 March, planting 175 trees to mark the 175th anniversary of horticulture charity Perennial.

The trees cost £20 each and are being sold via the Perennial website with 100% of the price being donated to the charity to help horticulturists in need. All trees, materials and planting labour have been donated by Sodexo. Nigel Payne, Operations Director for Sodexo Horticultural Services, said,

"We are all proud to be supporting the work of a unique UK charity by giving something back to the community in Tunbridge Wells. Perennial plays an important role in supporting those who look after the UK's green municipal spaces, as well as all those working in or retired from horticulture, so it seems fitting that we should enhance this wonderful park with a new Woodland Garden for visitors to enjoy for years to come."

If you would like to purchase a tree and to have your name added to the commemorative plaque in Dunorlan Park in support of Perennial, go to <http://shop.perennial.org.uk/> and follow the link to Ways to Help Us.

Future Promises

175 years to the day that Perennial was founded, another extraordinary gathering brought the horticulture industry together in support of its very own charity.

With guest of honour, Princess Alexandra cutting the celebratory cake, our President Alan Titchmarsh inspired everyone with his passionate support, and led the way with pledges that have already been put into practice...



President Alan Titchmarsh and Kensington Roof Gardens' Head Gardener David Lewis hung their pledges for 175 on the tree lent by Provender Nurseries for the evening.

Dirty Dozen Mud Run for Perennial

Gardening expert and TV presenter Michael Perry pledged at our 175th anniversary party to get a team of #GrubbyGardeners together for the Dirty Dozen Races in Kent on 5 April.

Little did he - or we - know how enthusiastically the team would take to fundraising for the 12km, 20 obstacle course, with lashings of deep mud thrown in. So far they've raised over £5,500, and got our annual HortAid campaign off to a flying start! While Andrew Lane finished 22nd overall...

There's some big plans being formed for something even more spectacular later in the year.

You can still sponsor them at:

www.justgiving.com/teams/grubby-gardeners.



Team photo: Back row; Michael Perry, Andrew Wain, Benji Harrison, Marcelo Serafim, Darran Jaques, Marie Pollitt, Tom Frost; Front row; David Lewis, Ian Tennant, (lying) Andrew Lane, Ben Jones, Duncan McLean and Gerald Abrahams. Missing; Jamie Hill and Duana Pearson.

We are looking for fit runners!

BRITISH 10K LONDON RUN - SUNDAY 13TH JULY

For details contact: PAULA SARGEANT Tel: 01372 384049
psargeant@perennial.org.uk

Perennial provides Harrogate showstopper



Our show garden, 'Essence of York Gate', took top honours at this year's Harrogate Spring Flower Show. It won Premier Gold, the Newby Hall Cup for planting, and Best in Show!

The vision of designer Shanet Alexander, Gardener at York Gate, it boasted some stunning curved beech hedging, yew topiary, and a steel water feature.

Shanet said, "I am delighted and so proud of the team."

Our trade stand and Plant and Product Crèches raised more money and awareness than ever before during the show.

Our Volunteer Support Officer, Laura Garnett said "I'm in awe of what our volunteers can do for Perennial. We were thrilled to be the show charity and can't wait to be back in September for the autumn show!"



CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

Thank you to all who volunteered to sell Christmas Cards at the CFGC shops throughout the UK.

We rely on the regular sales through these shops so if you were one of the team we would love to hear your feedback. If you would like to be involved in 2014 then please call Laura Garnett on **01372 373 962**.

Chelsea Flower Show

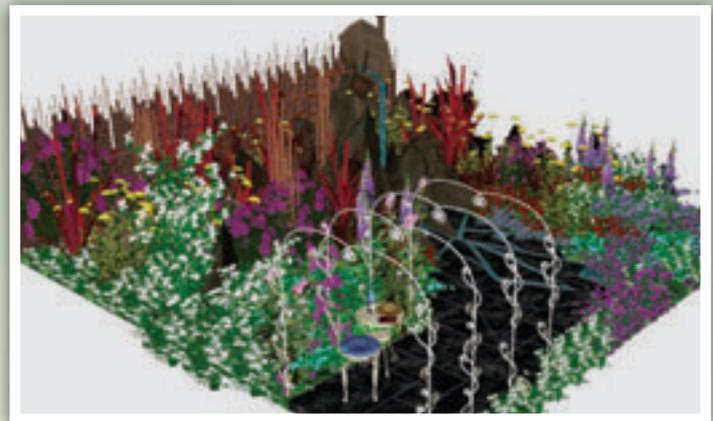
This year we are celebrating our 175th with a wonderful floral exhibit. Designed by award-winning Jo Thompson, it draws inspiration from our gardens at York Gate and Fullers Mill Garden, representing our metamorphosis from a pension-granting body to a contemporary, personal 'lifeline' for all those working in horticulture.

Our trade stand also contained some of our exciting new products, such as the Rainwater Terrace, a finalist in this year's Chelsea Product of the Year competition.

Thanks to Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Coblands Nurseries, Majestic Trees, CED Natural Stone and Jim Buttress for their support of the exhibit.



Gardening Scotland



We're delighted to announce that we'll have a show garden at this year's Gardening Scotland.

Designed by Amber Goudy and Martin Crowley, it's already won £2,000 as one of the inaugural winners of the Artisan Garden Design Competition. Show organiser Martin Dare says: "The designs for the winning gardens are exceptional and are full of features that will delight and inspire those who see them."

Join us at the Royal Highland Centre on 30 May - 1 June. Visit www.gardeningscotland.com for more details.

Mazegarden Open Day

Guest authors: Richard Bushby and Sandra Hamilton, tell their story of how Perennial's support has been returned in spades!



"We became involved with Perennial in 2002 when Richard's father was very ill. Both of his parents had been involved in the horticultural industry all their lives, so we applied for help from Perennial. The respite care and financial support his parents received was really important for them.

After his father's death at the end of 2002, Richard and I wanted to see how we could possibly thank the charity for all their assistance. To raise funds for the charity, we decided to open our three-and-a-half acre garden, including the maze, to the public.

We were very nervous on that first open day in August 2003 but we needn't have worried. It was a lovely day and we raised £760! At that point we decided to make it an annual event.

We have now opened eleven times raising a total of £17,780. This year we hope to pass the £20,000 mark in the 175th year of the Charity." With the chance to explore the wonderful gardens, play some garden games, and take on the famous maze, this year's Open Day is sure to be a great day out for all the family. Put Sunday 3 August in your diary! More details on www.mazegarden.co.uk

Toby Buckland's Garden Festival

We were very proud to be the Show Charity for the inaugural Toby Buckland's Garden Festival, held over the May Bank Holiday weekend at Powderham Castle.

The event raised £310 for Perennial with thousands of enthusiasts flocking to see a huge range of nurseries, talks from some of horticulture's biggest names, and pick up free pumpkin seeds in preparation for Toby's PumpkinFest in the autumn!



Woburn Lights Up For Perennial

Perennial is very proud to be the official Show Charity for two of Woburn Abbey's biggest events this year!

We'll be at the Woburn Abbey Garden Show on 21-22 June, and the spectacular Luminaries Woburnesis in November. Find out more about both events, at www.woburnabbey.co.uk

Clippings

James Coles Centenary Celebrations

James Coles Nurseries celebrated their centenary in tremendous style, fundraising for Perennial to mark their anniversary. Regional Development Manager Kate O'Shea received a cheque for £1,741 from MD James Coles.

Walberton Nursery Gets On Board As New Perennial Partner

The nursery, based in West Sussex, was one of the founding members of a small co-operative that has now become The Farplants Group, the UK's leading supplier of container-grown plants to garden centres.

Interested in becoming a Perennial Partner or Supporter? Telephone Kate O'Shea or Karen Whitehorn about how your business can support the horticulture industry's own charity:

Kate: 0800 093 8487

Karen: 0800 093 8531

Walberton Nursery
Wholesale Growers est 1973

Support from the Landscape Industries

BALI, the British Association of Landscape Industries, is a staunch supporter of Perennial and what we do.

Chief Operations Officer, Wayne Grills, says, "We're delighted to support Perennial, and encourage all members to make contact with them. They are the only charity helping everyone who works in horticulture. They do a great job."

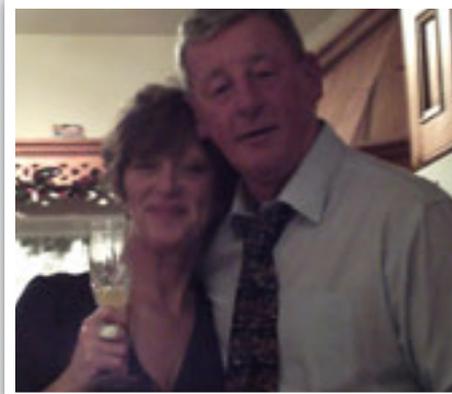


British Association
of Landscape
Industries

Beryl finds Perennial a lifeline

When landscape gardener Maurice passed away in 2012, his wife Beryl found herself with more than just his passing to deal with.

Perennial had already helped them with car repairs, so they could attend his hospital appointments, and support to help their children fulfil their dreams of going to university. A tax demand from HMRC threatened to overwhelm Beryl's financial situation. Grieving for her husband, Beryl was left with an uncertain future. Our support and advice got Beryl through the worst. "Perennial have been a lifeline to my family," she said. Thanks to Maurice's best friend, John, his memory lives on. He donated his beloved MG Midget for auction in March - and it raised an amazing £2,000! Beryl couldn't believe John's extraordinary generosity. "How wonderful was that? I hope she brings joy for the new owner."



Your legacy will change lives

When grower Ben, 45, suffered multiple organ failure and a stroke due to heart disease, his young family were left helpless. Perennial was there for them, with a wide range of ongoing help and support as Ben recovers. He's now back at home.

A gift in your Will will help us be there for Ben - and many others - for as long as it takes. It's a powerful way to show your appreciation for those who nurture and care for our beautiful gardens and green spaces. Any gift, large or small, can make a real lasting difference to the lives of people we support. Find out more by visiting www.perennial.org.uk/legacies, or telephone 0800 093 8510.



Photo posed by models

Can you help?

Your donation will enable us to reach more vulnerable people who are facing hardship – thank you!

I would like to help with a donation of:

£25

Could pay for a horticulturist's child to go on a school trip

£50

Could cover adapting a home with mobility aids for the disabled

£100

Could cover the cost of a Crisis Grant for a business affected by flooding

£

OTHER AMOUNT:

Fill in the form below or telephone us with your credit/debit card details on 01628 597793

Title: First Name: Surname:

Address:

Postcode: Home Tel: Mobile:

Date of Birth: Personal Email:

To join Friends of Perennial or become a friend of one of our gardens telephone 0800 093 8510

Please tick this box if you **WOULD** like to receive a donation acknowledgement letter.

Are you a UK tax payer? If yes, make every pound you give to Perennial worth an extra 25% by ticking this gift aid declaration.

giftaid it

I would like Perennial to treat as Gift Aid all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I can confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6th April to 5th April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given on or after the date of this declaration.

Signature:

Date:

We would like to keep you in touch with the work we're doing through our newsletter, bi-monthly email, gift catalogues and other relevant information. We do not share your information with any third party. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these by: mail email phone SMS

Please return to: Perennial, PO Box 3029, Reading RG1 9TQ

Visit our Gardens

York Gate



A delightful one-acre garden of intimacy, charm, style and craftsmanship tucked behind the ancient church in Adel, near Leeds.

Open from April 3rd / Adults £4.50 / Under 16s Free

W: www.yorkgate.org.uk / T: 0113 267 8240

York Gate, Back Church Lane, Adel, Leeds, LS16 8DW.

Fullers Mill Garden



An enchanting seven-acre creation on the banks of the River Lark. The garden combines woodland with unusual plants and shrubs.

Open from April 2nd / Adults £4.00

W: www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk / T: 01284 728888

Fullers Mill Garden, West Stow, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6HD.

A Star is Born

Perennial Trustee Jim Buttriss has been known for years as one of the best Show Judges in the business - and now the whole nation knows about him!

He's one of the stars of the Big Allotment Challenge, handing out the 'Best in Show' awards to teams of kitchen gardeners every week. Fame at last for our Jim!



Event Calendar 2014

Perennial has a full calendar of events for all sorts of interests; from a summer evening's stroll and dinner at Hever Castle in June and fabulous Open Gardens including Mazegarden in August plus Special Events to Windsor and Woburn later in the year.

If you are out and about this summer, make a point of visiting us at the stalls and show gardens we will be attending across the country, too.

Follow our website for more details: www.perennial.org.uk.

May	
21	Moss Wood Gardening Forum; hosted by Xentum
20-24	Chelsea Flower Show
29	Special Event: Grosvenor Estates, London
31-1	Gardening Scotland
June	
5-7	Royal Cornwall Show
10	Special Event: Ozleworth Park
14	Special Event Linden Lodge
18	Special Event: Buckingham Palace, London
21-22	Woburn Abbey Garden Show, Bedfordshire
24	Special Event: Twilight at Hever Castle
26	Special Event: Dougal Philip Open Garden, Scotland
26	Special Event: Sandhill Farm, Hants
July	
8-13	Hampton Court Flower Show
13	Special Event: Harris Garden Open Day, Reading
17	Special Event: Manor Farm & Ellerker House, Yorks
23	Special Event: The Manor House, Upton Grey
31	Special Event: Highnam Court, Glos
Aug	
3	Mazegarden Open Day <i>(see page 4 for more)</i>
5	Special Event: Fullers Mill Garden, Suffolk
24-25	Oxted & Edenbridge Show
Sept	
1-7	HortAid; Raising funds for Perennial
5	Special Event: Borde Hill, W Sussex
10	Special Event: The Military Knights Tale, Windsor
12-14	Harrogate Autumn Show
23-24	Landscape Trade Show
27-28	Malvern Autumn Show
Nov	
29	Luminaries Woburnensis, Woburn Abbey

For more information on Perennial and our services call 0800 093 8510
www.perennial.org.uk