

Perennial News

ISSUE 47 | AUTUMN - WINTER 2024



Garden volunteers
at The Laskett



Helping people
in horticulture
Perennial

What's inside for you?



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A warm welcome

It has been an incredibly busy time for Perennial, as we have seen an unprecedented demand for our services. This year alone, demand has grown by 15%, reflecting the immense challenges faced by those in horticulture and their families. Many are feeling the full force of the cost-of-living crisis, with some making the heart-breaking choice between heating their homes and putting food on the table.

Perennial exist to ensure that horticulturists don't face these challenges alone and your support can provide a lifeline. Our winter fundraising campaign is vital to ensure we can reach everyone who needs our help. Please consider donating today. Your generosity will make a real difference to those who dedicate their lives to nurturing the green spaces we all treasure.

Horticulturists are facing an uphill battle every day. Rising fuel and equipment costs, razor-thin profit margins, and relentless economic pressures are only part of their struggle. The toll goes far beyond finances. The physical and emotional demands of their work are significant, leaving many feeling exhausted and isolated. Further, NHS delays mean that even those who seek help often find themselves waiting, battling health issues alone. These are the people who bring beauty and life to our gardens, parks, and green spaces, yet many are struggling in silence.

Thank you for being such an important part of our community and for your ongoing support of our work.

Jamie Gault, Chief Executive



Looking for advice, information, or support?

Helpline: 0800 093 8543 | perennial.org.uk/contact-form

Ways we can help: perennial.org.uk/help

Something else?

General enquiries: 0800 093 8510 | info@perennial.org.uk

Perennial Partners: pswainston@perennial.org.uk | kcooney@perennial.org.uk

Fundraising & events: events@perennial.org.uk

Volunteering: volunteer@perennial.org.uk | **Press:** marketing@perennial.org.uk
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perennial.org.uk

Cover image ©Abigail Sillence

News

Perennial is here to build better futures for the horticultural community and seek new ways to improve how we share news, stories and services. With 98% of the UK now online, we're embracing digital communication to keep horticulturists informed. Stay up to date by simply visiting perennial.org.uk or follow us on our social channels for our latest news.

As part of this shift, we are reducing the print circulation of Perennial News, to focus resources where they're needed most. The magazine will still be available to our valued donors, Friends and supporters as it adapts to better serve our community. By delivering our news stories in different ways, we're confident we can reach a wider audience. While we appreciate the value of holding a physical magazine, this transition will enable us to share news, more efficiently.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make a real difference in the horticultural sector.

A massive thank you

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has donated and raised funds for Perennial this year. Your generosity has made a real difference to those in horticulture, enabling us to provide vital support to individuals and families in need. Every contribution, big or small, is truly appreciated and keeps our vital work going. Here are some of the incredible people who have gone above and beyond this year:



Sarah Hennem from Global Stone skydived for Perennial with her son, Aidan to support the charity that has helped people she knows personally.



A Place in the Garden opened the West Sussex garden for Perennial, twice this summer, raising over £3,000.



Jo Huffener and Peter Hill have been rescuing plants from their local nursery, since 2020 and hosting plant sales at their local village shop.

Kingston Landscape Group

raised an incredible £1,350 by collectively walking 30 miles throughout May. They took on this challenge as it was accessible for the whole department to join in and the 30 miles represented their 30 years.

Charlotte Howard, Garden Designer

raised over £280 with a birthday fundraiser to celebrate turning 50 this year by asking for donations from friends and family.

Increase the impact of your donations

With Gift Aid, your donations are worth 25p more for every £1, at no extra cost to you. If you haven't made a Gift Aid declaration yet, you can help us claim Gift Aid on your donations from the past 4 years by completing the form on perennial.org.uk/gift-aid

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Julia Rausing Trust

Perennial is delighted to receive funding from the Julia Rausing Trust. Over the next three years, this funding will help us improve health literacy across the industry, promoting mental health awareness and healthy behaviours. Thank you for backing this new initiative.

Check out our digital toolbox

Thanks to everyone who supports us, we are able to offer free online tools packed with advice and information to help all those working in horticulture take control of their day-to-day lives.



 Head to our website today to find out more perennial.org.uk

All online tools are offered in partnership with specialist providers.

Money and debt advice

Our free advice service can help you manage your debts and gain the support you need. During an advice session we'll ask about you and your budget and understand if there is anything that might make it more difficult to deal with your finances. Based on what you tell us, we'll offer ways to manage your budget and any debts.

If you feel that you could do with some support, you can call our Helpline on **0800 093 8543** or use our contact form at perennial.org.uk/contact-form

Some debts like credit cards, loans and car finance are known as consumer credit. Our advice on consumer credit and mortgage debt is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

People we've helped

Perennial hears calls for help like these every day. No-one should ever face hard times and challenges alone, particularly at this time of year. That's why we're here. We are the only charity for everyone who works with plants, trees, flowers or grass. You can make a difference too.

Together, we can improve lives, and help grow a stronger future.
Go to perennial.org.uk/donate and donate today.

“My energy supplier stopped trading and I had to switch. The bills were higher which I'd not budgeted for and I was left struggling to keep up the payments. I have a long term medical condition and the stress of it all was having a real impact on my work and mental health. I couldn't sort it on my own.”

Simone, Garden Centre Employee



“With no money coming in, and no savings I was distraught and terrified of not being able to pay rent or provide food for my three children. I felt like I'd failed in my mission as a parent. I was unaware of the benefits available, but the Perennial team helped me to understand what we were entitled to and supported me to make the applications.”

Robert, self-employed Gardener

Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality and photos are posed by a model.

Support us Donate this winter

It's tough out there for people in horticulture. The industry is dealing with numerous challenges and Perennial is well placed to best understand and respond to these.

There has been a significant increase in demand for our services. In 2023 the increase was a staggering 17%. Currently in 2024 we are experiencing a further 15% increase.

Economic pressures, rising fuel and equipment costs and narrow profit margins are just part of the problem. The physical and emotional demands of horticulture, are leaving many feeling isolated, overwhelmed and struggling with their health.

Working long hours, sometimes in isolation, can lead to feelings of loneliness. Unlike office jobs, those in horticulture may not have the support networks that many rely on.

The unpredictability of the industry, driven by everything from weather to market conditions, adds a layer of stress that is hard to escape.

The good news is that Perennial is here for people in horticulture and we have been since the reign of Queen Victoria. People accessing our personal support feel listened to, confident in moving forward and value the tailored information we provide.

To continue delivering these life-changing services, we need your help. **By donating as little as £2 per month you can make a real difference.**



Donate to make a difference

 **Donate today at perennial.org.uk/donate**

Celebrating our donors

Thank you to the National Garden Scheme (NGS) and Scotland's Garden Scheme (SGS) for their generous annual donations to Perennial.

The NGS has been supporting us since 1986 and remains our largest funder. We regularly open two of our gardens – Fullers Mill and The Laskett – in support of the NGS.

Dedicated Perennial supporters David and Cheryl Chalk, open their stunning woodland garden for the NGS in Hertfordshire. David explains, *"I know the NGS helps fund Perennial's vital work, and by opening our garden, we raise awareness and funds for both causes we care about. It's incredibly rewarding to share my love for horticulture with visitors."*

Keen horticulturist Sasha York also opened her magnificent garden at Hutton Wandesley for the NGS and Perennial this year. The exclusive garden tour in July was a great success. Sasha said, *"I love sharing my passion for the garden I've created and am thrilled to support Perennial's important work."*

We extend our gratitude to the NGS, the SGS, all the garden owners who open their spaces, and to supporters like David, Cheryl, and Sasha.



**Scotland's
GARDENS
Scheme**
OPEN FOR CHARITY

Thank you to The MacRobert Trust who for the seventh consecutive year, opened the fabulous gardens of Douneside House as part of the SGS, raising just under £1,500.



Exclusive Garden Tours 2025

Enjoy a delightful day out and support Perennial by treating yourself or someone you know to one of our Exclusive Garden Tours in 2025.

Our new programme features a range of private tours, visits to prestigious new venues and some beloved favourites.



Woolton House

Experience Woolton House's stunning garden, a masterpiece by Pascal Cribier, complemented by a gourmet lunch made from garden produce.

27 June, £149



Theobalds Farmhouse Garden

A blend of organic principles with Arts and Crafts-inspired design, offering year-round beauty. Tour, floristry demonstration and lunch.

1 July, £99



Ichi-Coo Park

Ichi-Coo is truly unique, offering parkland and gardens, with diverse botanical gardens and themed areas. Followed by lunch.

5 August, £129

May

All England Lawn Tennis Club, 15 May, £149
The Holt, 16 May, £99

June


Sandringham Estate, 3 June, £149
Belcombe Court, 5 June, £119
Fonthill Estate, 10 June, £149
Brockhampton Cottage and The Laskett, 13 June, £129
Canterbury Cathedral, 24 June, £99
Long Barn Gardens, 25 June, £99

July

Goldsborough Hall, 2 July, £129
Mount St John, 3 July, £119

September

Corsley House, 9 September, £149
Brightling Down Farm, 18 September, £99

 All events include a private tour and lunch. Book now at perennial.org.uk/garden-tours

Cherished memories and leaving a lasting legacy to Perennial

At Perennial, we are profoundly grateful to those who have chosen to leave a gift in their will to support our work. Over the past year, these thoughtful legacies have provided vital funding for about a third of the services we offer to people working in horticulture. Every gift, regardless of size, has a meaningful impact – whatever the amount your contribution helps us continue our mission to support horticulturists and their families.

Remembering Perennial in your will is not only a way to make a difference but also ensures that your passion for gardening and the wellbeing of those who work in the industry lives on. Your legacy can provide the reassurance that you're helping to build a better future for everyone in horticulture.

In the first six months of this year, Perennial have delivered services to 1,367 people, an increase of 15% from last year. We have assisted people in claiming £61,066 in financial benefits and managing £131,000 of debt. This vital work wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our supporters.

Honouring Roland A family's love of horticulture lives on

Colette Carus, Perennial's Legacy Manager, recently spoke with Ben Williamson, who shared a moving story of his late mother, Sasithon Williamson's decision to leave a legacy in memory of his brother, Roland, known as Rolie, a passionate gardener.



Roland studied horticulture and worked as a gardener before tragically passing away in 1987. His mother made annual donations to Perennial in his memory for over 30 years, supporting our work and keeping his legacy alive.

Ben connected with Perennial at an event at Fullers Mill, a garden left to Perennial as a legacy from the Tickner family. Since then, Ben has developed his own love of gardening and continues to attend events with our charity, finding joy in learning more about plants and feeling connected to his family. *"Spending time in the gardens makes me feel close to my mother."*

Meeting Ben was a moving experience for Colette: *"Hearing Ben speak so lovingly about his family was truly special. It reminded me of the deep connections people have with gardens. These connections, even after a loved one has passed away, live on through our work."*



A gift in your will supports horticulturists in the future

Leaving a legacy to Perennial ensures that your contribution to the wellbeing of those in horticulture continues into the future. These gifts are crucial to expanding the services we provide.

We are deeply moved when people like Ben's mother choose to pledge a gift in their will to Perennial. It is a powerful testimony that the work we do is valued. Stories like these inspire us and reinforce our commitment to supporting those in horticulture.

If you'd like to leave a gift in your will, your solicitor just needs our charity name and registered number: Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, Registered in England & Wales: Charity No: 1155156. Registered in Scotland: Charity No: SC040180.

To discuss leaving a gift in your will, email legacy@perennial.org.uk or call **01372 373962**

Grateful thanks to our Fellows

As we reflect on the past year at Perennial, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering generosity of our Fellowship members. Your support has been essential to Perennial's ability to continue providing vital services amidst a 15% rise in demand. This significant increase highlights the importance of your contributions. We are particularly thankful to the 40% of Fellows who have increased their donations during this critical time. Your generosity ensures we can support the wellbeing of those in the horticulture industry.

It was a pleasure to meet many of you at our garden events throughout the year. These gatherings, in inspiring settings, allowed us to share our progress and celebrate your incredible impact.

One highlight was the **Hever Castle Rose Pruning Day**, where Head Gardener Neil Miller's expertise made the experience invaluable. Thank you to him for looking after us so well. Amanda, who is very 'hands on' in her own garden said, *"With Neil's friendly and expert advice the task of pruning the 'Twice in a Blue Moon' hybrid tea rose was an unmissable experience, and I am now more confident at tackling the roses in my own garden."*



Looking ahead to 2025, we have exciting events planned, including

- Exclusive behind-the-scenes visits to the private Walled Garden at Petworth House.
- Fellowship Lunch at New College Oxford followed by garden tour with Emeritus Fellow Robin Lane Fox.
- Buckingham Palace Garden tour with Head Gardener Claire Midgley-Adam.
- Exclusive out of hours exploration at East Ruston Old Vicarage.

Thank you once again for your generous support. Together, we are making a lasting difference to the lives of many and we look forward to expanding our reach and impact in the years ahead.



To join the Fellowship, please contact us at fellowship@perennial.org.uk or **01372 373962**.

Art in bloom Creativity at our award-winning gardens

Our gardens offer more than just stunning scenery, souvenirs, refreshments and plant sales; they offer opportunities to see nature through a new lens with photography and painting workshops, as well as Artist in Residence exhibitions. These events showcase the work of local artists who share our love for the gardens.

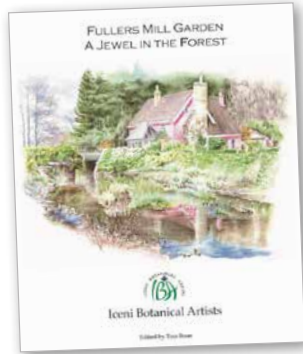


Ukrainian artist Andriy Nekrasov, living in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, recently returned to Fullers Mill for his second residency. His exquisite paintings encapsulate the garden’s tranquillity. Garden Manager Gary Bean said, “Andriy’s paintings perfectly capture the essence of Fullers Mill. We hope visitors enjoy both the art and the garden while supporting Andriy and horticulture.”

We welcomed Clair Hodgson back to The Laskett for her second year as Artist in Residence during Hereford Art Week (h.Art). Clair, who also volunteers at The Laskett, said, “The Laskett reminds me of the story ‘The Secret Garden’. Every corner offers a new vista, theatrical entrance, or hidden path waiting to be discovered.” A range of Clair’s greeting and Christmas cards are available from The Laskett’s shop and online at perennial.org.uk/shop

Recently at York Gate, we hosted our annual exhibition by the Redbrick Artists from West Yorkshire. The artists spent time sketching the Grade II Heritage gardens creating over 30 paintings. Sumi Cannon, a Redbrick Artist and York Gate volunteer, commented, “This project has been fascinating, with artists drawing inspiration from the garden in unique styles.” Proceeds from sales support Perennial’s growing demand for its services.

Looking ahead to 2025, we’re supporting the Icen Botanical Artists for the launch of their stunning book, *A Jewel in the Forest*, featuring paintings of Fullers Mill plants, favourites of the garden’s creator, Bernard Tickner. The book will be available from 6 June 2025 at Fullers Mill and online at perennial.org.uk/shop



East Ruston Old Vicarage

Golden Sundial Award

Congratulations to Graham Robeson OBE and Alan Gray at East Ruston Old Vicarage, a future Perennial garden. who were honoured this summer with the National Garden Scheme’s prestigious golden sundial. This award recognises 30 years of opening their magnificent garden for the scheme, of which Perennial is one of the beneficiaries.

Featured on Gardeners’ World

In September, Arit Anderson and Adam Frost hosted a special episode of *Gardeners’ World* from East Ruston Old Vicarage. Episode 24 explored the creation of this stunning garden, lovingly developed by its owners over the past 50 years. It also highlighted the important role played by volunteers.



Mona’s Garden

An urban oasis & future Perennial legacy

Mona Abboud’s North London garden has welcomed over 300 visitors between May and September. Over the past 24 years, Mona has carefully cultivated her award-winning garden, home to the National Collection of *Corokia* and other rare New Zealand plants. The new garden extension is flourishing, with the Prairie area looking lush and the Exotic section coming into its own.

Mona’s book, *Branching Out*, details the transformation of a large scrubland at the end of her garden into a sustainable garden extension. As the first town garden to be inherited by Perennial, it will serve as an inspiring example of a domestic plot, turned collector’s garden, through a love of gardening. Purchase *Branching Out* as a Christmas gift at perennial.org.uk/shop



Recognition of our Gardens

We are proud to share the recent accolades recognising our gardens’ beauty, quality and team dedication, from prestigious awards at garden shows to national recognition for visitor satisfaction.

Fullers Mill is delighted to have once again received the Visit England Quality Assured Visitor Attraction accreditation, recognising our commitment to high standards and visitor satisfaction.



In May, we proudly showcased a small section of The Laskett at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. We were thrilled to receive a Silver Gilt and the People’s Choice Awards.

York Gate is thrilled to have received a Tripadvisor® Travellers’ Choice® Award for 2024, marking our place among the top 10% of listings worldwide.



Spring opening

Fullers Mill

Wednesdays and Fridays 11am–3pm
5–28 February*

The Laskett

Saturday and Sunday 10:30am or 2:30pm
15–16 & 22–23 February.* Booking essential

York Gate

Friends of Perennial Thursday to
Sunday 10am–3pm 13–16 February*

General Public Wednesday to Sunday
10am–3pm 19–23 February*

*All information correct at time of going to print

Dates are nature-dependent, please check the website before you visit perennial.org.uk/gardens

It's here! Shop now



'Baring' all for a good cause with Perennial's 2025 Naked Gardeners Calendar

The much-loved Perennial Naked Gardeners Calendar is back for 2025! As a supporter of Perennial, you know our dedication to helping the horticultural community. Now, we invite

you to continue supporting our vital work by purchasing this fun and cheeky calendar.

Featuring the Grubby Gardeners – landscapers, head gardeners, and award-winning garden designers – the calendar brings joy, while raising crucial funds. These brave volunteers have been baring (almost) all since 2014 to support Perennial.

By purchasing the calendar for just £12, you directly help Perennial deliver essential services.

Ed Charles, our Head of Fundraising, says, "The calendar is a vital fundraiser. It helps keep our services running, reaching even more people. Every purchase makes a big difference."

Get your **2025 Naked Gardeners Calendar** at perennial.org.uk/shop or call the order line **0800 093 8792** and help us continue supporting those in the horticulture industry.

Join our volunteer team

Our volunteers are the backbone of Perennial, helping our gardens run smoothly. Whether raking leaves, weeding, or sharing plant knowledge, garden volunteers make a big difference. We also need help in our offices, shops, and tea rooms.

If you have customer service experience and a few hours to spare each week, we'd love you to join our team. The most important thing is a willingness to get involved and help out.

You can also volunteer by joining our team at flower shows or organising fundraising activities, such as cake sales, raffles, or garden openings.

By volunteering, you're helping to change the lives of those in the horticulture community. Start your journey by completing the registration form at perennial.org.uk/volunteer



Seasonal shopping

We have the perfect festive gifts for all your family and friends this Christmas. Our online shop has everything from Christmas cards to pampering products, and a wide range of gifts for the gardener in your life. Order online by visiting perennial.org.uk/shop or call us on **0800 093 8792**.

Pack of 10 cards with envelopes. Cards measure 140 x 140mm and the message inside reads 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year' unless stated otherwise.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| 001 Wheelbarrow and Robins £4.25 | 002 Winter in the Garden £4.25 | 003 Snowy Allotment £4.25 | 004 Fork Handles by Shed £4.25 | 005 Robin and Snowdrops £4.25 |
| 006 12 Days of Gardening £4.25 | 007 Berry Christmas £4.25 | 008 Moonlit Tree and Bunnies £4.25 | 009 Bethlehem Brights £4.25 | 010 Snowdrop Serenity Blank inside £4.25 |
| 011 Hedgehog and Watering Can 4.25 | 012 Birdboxes 4.25 | 013 Christmas Thyme 4.25 | 014 Ruby Wreath 4.25 | 015 Gardeners' Christmas 4.25 |

Our Umbrellifer range by Stephen Lennon is designed and printed in Yorkshire. Each card is blank inside and measures 140 x 140mm.

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 020 Single Christmas Card - Great Tit £2.75 | 021 Single Christmas Card - Robin £2.75 | 025 Single Christmas Card - Christmas Tree £2.75 | 026 Single Christmas Card - Christmas Friends £2.75 | 027 Single Christmas Card - Christmas View £2.75 |
|--|--|---|--|---|

Give the gift of support **this** **festive season**

With Christmas approaching, we're reaching out for your support. This year, more people than ever have sought our help, and the demand is expected to grow through the winter months.

We receive daily inquiries from individuals seeking assistance for themselves, loved ones or colleagues, often due to bereavement, accidents, health issues or family breakdowns. Many also access our free advice and online tools on health & wellbeing and money management, available on our website.

**Your donation could make a real difference.
If you can, please donate. Thank you.**

perennial.org.uk/donate



**Donate
to make a
difference**



Join us

Become a Perennial
Partner, Fellow or Friend.



Volunteer

Work at one of our
gardens or events.



Events

Book an Exclusive Garden
Tour or hold a fundraiser.

perennial.org.uk/support-us

Follow us     

Helpline

0800 093 8543



Helping people
in horticulture
Perennial