Perennial News

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Helping people in horticulture
Perennial

Exclusive Garden Tour Programme 2027

Our carefully curated programme offers a rare opportunity to visit some of the UK's most beautiful gardens including our showstopper event at Windsor Castle in July.

Hosted by the owners or head gardeners themselves, each intimate tour gives you unrivalled access, fascinating insights, delicious refreshments and/or lunch, and a day to remember. A great gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself.

For event details and to book your place **perennial.org.uk/garden-tours**

Aberglasney Gardens ©Nigel McCall

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Perennial News.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on our free and confidential Helpline for anyone in horticulture navigating challenges such as financial hardship, bereavement or physical illness. With more employers encouraging staff to reach out early, demand for our services continues to rise. Last year, donor generosity enabled us to deliver over 19,000 activities that gave people the information they needed to support themselves, and provided direct support to 2,445 people in need. Behind every statistic is a horticulturist who has needed a helping hand.

We simply cannot keep pace with this growing need without your help. Please consider supporting our Helpline Appeal; your donation ensures nobody in our industry has to face life's challenges alone.

As you turn these pages, I hope you feel proud of the incredible difference your support makes to people across our industry. From

helping apprentices lay solid foundations to guiding self-employed horticulturists through financial uncertainty, our goal is always to be a safety net for people and to build long-term resilience.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our community and for helping us be there when people need us most.

With thanks,

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: 01372 373962 | info@perennial.org.uk

Fundraising: fundraise@perennial.org.uk

Press: media@perennial.org.uk

Perennial, 115-117 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SU

perennial.org.uk

Pensions – planning for your financial future

Without regular contributions to top up your state pension, such as an employer scheme or private pension, you may find yourself in financial difficulty when you stop working.

In our recent survey with people in the industry, **37% said they were scared to look into their pensions,** either because they have not paid in to a pension at all or have only done so when they can afford it.

We know pensions can be confusing and overwhelming at times but it's important to know where you stand when it comes to your retirement.

We're working with the government's Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) to ensure everyone in the industry can easily access their free, specialist guidance, with three bespoke webinars and downloadable fact sheet and jargon-buster.

1. **Watch our tailored webinars for self-employed, those close to retirement and those starting out in the industry.**
2. **A free consultation with Pension Wise for horticulturists aged 50+.**
3. **Access to MaPS Pensions Guidance helpline for those under 50.**
4. **Download our fact sheet and jargon-buster.**

perennial.org.uk/pensions

Recent highlights

The first six months of 2026 have seen unprecedented engagement across all our services. Demand for our confidential Helpline has grown by 36% from January to the end of July.

Beyond emergency intervention, our focus remains firmly on being a safety net for the industry and building long term resilience. Through workshops, focus groups, and speaking at trade conferences, our overall industry reach has expanded by 80%. We've also welcomed 23 new Perennial Partners with dedicated service inductions, reaching thousands of horticulturists in person across the UK.

So far in 2026:

69%
increase in engagement with our digital career and learning resources

35%
growth in interest in our financial wellbeing tools

46
people have accessed dedicated career coaching

11
training grants have been awarded to support essential qualifications including RHS Level 2, chainsaw certificates, garden design, floral installations, and therapeutic horticulture

Whether helping self-employed horticulturists plan for their financial future through pension guidance or supporting individuals who work in isolation, our support continues to grow where it is needed most.

Career confidence and financial security are fundamental to personal wellbeing.

Explore our resources, webinars and tools at **perennial.org.uk/ways-we-help**

Lester's Story

Working in horticulture can bring real challenges, from seasonal work and illness to isolation and financial hardship. When Lester faced several of these at once, he turned to Perennial for support.

Lester has always loved gardening. After leaving the military, he worked in a variety of jobs while building his horticultural knowledge.

In 2020, Lester's partner Lin had to stop working due to ill health. Around the same time, they relocated to the Cotswolds, where Lester began caring for large, mature gardens. His own health worries became clearer when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2024, after symptoms including tremors, stumbling and memory issues had begun a couple of years earlier.

He called Perennial's helpline and was connected to a case worker, who has helped him access relevant local services and consider options for the future. Lester is looking to diversify into less physical work, possibly media or public speaking, drawing on past radio and TV experiences.

Keeping Parkinson's at bay is his biggest challenge. Symptoms in his hands and feet can make long days mowing and pruning difficult. Lester is staying positive though and has found a new passion for indoor rowing that helps to keep his mind focused. Perennial's ongoing support is helping him and Lin face their current health challenges and develop plans for the future.

Read Lester's full story perennial.org.uk/lester

25 years of innovation in our services

Established in 1839 as The Gardeners' Benevolent Institution, we originally supported retired gardeners and nurserymen through quarterly charitable grants.

In 2000 we supported 400 people in this way and our trustees recognised that as the challenges facing people in horticulture had evolved we needed to do more.

Over the last 25 years our services have developed significantly and now support everyone working in horticulture. Our latest impact figures show 2,445 people received 1:1 holistic support and 19,753 preventative activities and informative programmes were delivered.

Today, we provide tailored support through our helpline and network of caseworkers, money and debt advice as well as information and guidance on a wide range of health, financial, career and life challenges. We are there for everyone in horticulture when people need us.

> *It has been an incredible journey over the last 25 years. I am very proud of how closely we work with the industry to ensure our services are proactive and relevant to current needs and to be responsible for the ongoing development of these services.*
>
> **Helen Waddington**, Director of Services

View our **interactive timeline at perennial.org.uk/innovation-services**

Support our Helpline Appeal

When life takes an unexpected turn Perennial is here to support everyone working in horticulture. We aim to prevent issues becoming more complex with early access to expert information and advice through our website and digital tools. Sometimes more tailored support is needed though and our helpline team support people with more complex problems, such as the impact of ill health, financial challenges or worries about housing or relationships.

For many, this first conversation is the start of a journey towards greater stability and wellbeing, connecting people with specialist caseworkers, support with money management, legal guidance, training opportunities and health and wellbeing support. Support from people like you, our donors, makes this possible.

The impact can be life-changing.

In recent years, people supported through Perennial's services have gained confidence, improved their wellbeing and felt less alone, as well as challenged significant personal debts and received practical assistance during difficult times.

Increasingly horticulture employers are saying they feel better equipped to recognise when someone needs support, especially our Partner organisations who are well informed about how our services can support their staff.

Helpline

Our helpline continues to be a vital entry point for support, with people contacting us for a range of issues:

36%

increase in calls to our helpline from January until the end of July in 2026.

87%

of people were more motivated to gain support or self-manage their physical/mental wellbeing.

93%

had improved knowledge of where to access information.

"Extremely helpful at a very challenging time and supported me through a difficult period"

Donate to our Helpline Appeal

Each and every donation we receive this autumn helps us ensure that when someone in horticulture picks up the phone, we are there ready to listen and provide the support they need to build a better future for them and their family. Your donation will enable this vital helpline to be there when people need it most.

Our Perennial Ambassadors

As the charity for everyone in horticulture, raising awareness of Perennial in different industry sectors is vital. Last year Mark Gregory, award-winning landscaper, garden designer and Managing Director of Landform Consultants, was the first person to take on the role of Perennial Ambassador, representing the charity at events across the country and through his professional networks.

This summer we were delighted to add two more leaders in their professional fields to our Ambassador programme – Angela Oliver and Steve Harper. Their combined knowledge, passion and industry connections will be invaluable in raising awareness of Perennial and increasing engagement with the charity's services and fundraising activities.

Angela is Chief Executive of the British Florist Association (BFA) and an RHS award-winning nursery owner.

Angela says;

"Florists are incredibly dedicated professionals, often working long hours under significant pressures. I am looking forward to raising awareness of the support Perennial can provide to florists, ensuring that individuals and businesses are aware of the charity's confidential advice and wellbeing services, so no one feels they have to face challenges alone."

Steve is Managing Director of Grass Gains and will play a key role in connecting professionals working at all levels of the garden retail supply chain with Perennial.

Steve says;

"Garden retail can be a fast-paced sector and behind every successful business are individuals who may at times need support. I'm looking forward to helping share Perennial's message and ensuring more people in our sector understand how the charity can help employers and individuals."

Alan Titchmarsh, Perennial's President, says;

"I am delighted that Angela Oliver and Steve Harper are coming on board as new Ambassadors for the charity, alongside Mark Gregory. Ambassadors help to raise awareness of how the charity's services can support everyone working with plants, trees, flowers or grass. This in turn helps Perennial to raise vital funds so they can continue to be available for people when they are needed."

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Every year, we are blown away by the incredible determination and generosity of our corporate partners and individual supporters. Whether they are taking on extreme physical challenges, donating auction prizes or lacing up their running shoes, their dedication ensures Perennial can continue providing vital support to everyone working in horticulture. Here are just a few of the fantastic teams going above and beyond for us this year.

James Coles & Sons (Nurseries) Ltd

Five brave staff members at Coles Nurseries in Leicestershire, known as the fantastic five, have set themselves the ambitious target to raise £10,000 to be split between the chosen charities **Perennial** and **The Matt Hampson Foundation**.

Various activities are being undertaken throughout the year including a charity tree sale, a 24 hour 90 Mile Run and a Charity Golf Day, culminating on 4 November in a gruelling **six-day trek through the Sahara Desert**. This challenge will test their endurance and push the team both mentally and physically but they are ready to conquer the dunes!

Eljays takes on the Royal Parks Half Marathon

A huge thank you to the team at Eljays, who are taking on the Royal Parks Half Marathon in October. The team will be lacing up their running shoes and fundraising for Perennial's work.

Nina explained why the team chose to support Perennial:

"We've seen time and time again just how passionate and supportive this industry is. Running the half marathon for Perennial is our way of giving something back to a charity that supports those who dedicate their lives to creating and caring for green spaces. Every donation will help Perennial continue its invaluable work."

We wish the team every success and are incredibly grateful for their commitment to supporting our work. Good luck, all.

London Lawn Turf - Royal Parks Half Marathon

A team from London Lawn Turf Company are taking on the Royal Parks Half Marathon in support of Perennial. Taking on the 13.1-mile route through some of London's most iconic green spaces will be Managing Director, Joe Hayward, Nicola Hayward, Luke Burden, George Davies and James Craggs. This event is part of a year of fundraising activity from our long standing Perennial Partner that started in May at Perennial's Kick for a Cause Tournament and at June's Perennial Golf Day at which they won the team prize.

STIHL

The STIHL plant sale will be returning as part of their charity of the year activities. This is an internal event where colleagues grow and donate plants to sell and also run a mini gardening raffle.

They will also be supporting Perennial on the stand at the Royal Three Counties Show with their cookie carvings, where they'll be asking customers to make a donation in exchange for a carving.

Thank you for this ongoing support.

Ichi-Coo Park

Partner Ichi-Coo Park held their annual ClipFest event in June raising a fantastic £2,478 for Perennial from donations. And Rebecca from Ichi-Coo recently completed the Manchester Marathon where she raised around £500.

"I ran (and walked rather a lot of) the Manchester Marathon in April to help raise funds for Perennial, and how hard can 26 miles actually be?! I wanted to do something to say thank you and to help Perennial provide support to others who work in horticulture (and 26 miles is quite hard)."

If you are inspired to take that extra step for people working in horticulture, please visit **perennial.org.uk/challenge-events** to find out how you can support our charity.

Growing Partnerships, growing support

During the summer we launched a series of regional networking events to highlight the benefits of being a Perennial Partner to employees, whilst also supporting Perennial's work so we can continue to be a safety net for everyone in horticulture.

These were generously hosted by our gardens, Fullers Mill in Suffolk and York Gate in Leeds, and two of our Partners, Wright Landscapes in Cheshire and The Glasshouse Collective in Surrey.

These informal afternoons brought together existing Partners and prospective supporters and businesses from across landscaping, arboriculture and other areas of horticulture. We know that successful industries thrive on collaboration, and there is no better advocate for Perennial than one of our own Partners. Hearing first-hand why businesses choose to support Perennial, and how that complements their employee wellbeing programmes and community engagement, is far more powerful than anything we could say ourselves.

Every new Partner helps us reach more people. Every introduction raises awareness of our free, confidential services. Every conversation has the potential to ensure someone facing financial hardship, ill health or mental health challenges knows where to turn.

To everyone who has hosted, attended or shared their experiences, thank you. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected industry, one that supports its people as well as its businesses. The more Partners we have, the more people we can help.

To find out more about becoming a Perennial Partner, visit: **perennial.org.uk/partners**

Pie & Pint Quiz Night

Perennial's Partners' Pie and Pint Quiz Night is back on **Thursday 28 January 2027** once again at The Steam Wine Bar in Central London.

Join colleagues and friends from across the horticulture industry for a fun evening of quizzing, joking and eating! Our quizmaster will again be David Dodd who will be ready to test everyone's general knowledge and sense of humour. Competition is always fierce in the quest to retain bragging rights for an entire year!

To ensure you have the chance to be there please contact Li in Partnerships on **partnerships@perennial.org.uk**

A year of discovery awaits

As the seasons turn, Perennial's two gardens – Fullers Mill in Suffolk and York Gate in West Yorkshire – become unmissable places to pause, explore and feel inspired.

The new open season begins on **Wednesday 10 February** with our much-loved annual Snowdrop Days. Each garden showcases more than 100 varieties, creating a breathtaking early-spring display that's well worth a visit.

New for 2027 – Both gardens will remain open throughout March, giving you even more opportunities to experience them as they change through the seasons. From early spring flowers and trees bursting into life, to vibrant summer displays and the rich colours and shifting light of autumn, there's always something new to discover – and every reason to visit time and again throughout the year.

Our workshop and events programme grew throughout 2026, and there's much more to enjoy in the year ahead. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for details.

perennial.org.uk/gardens

Snowdrop Days

Both gardens will open for Snowdrop Days from Wednesday 10 February 2027. They will then remain open throughout March and continue through to the end of October.

40 years of partnership

In June Perennial marked 40 years of partnership with the National Garden Scheme at a special celebration at York Gate Garden near Leeds.

The event recognised the remarkable £2.6 million raised by the National Garden Scheme over four decades to support Perennial's work. Guests included the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Professor Adeeba Malik CBE, who presented a letter from Perennial's Patron, HRH Princess Alexandra, The Hon. Lady Ogilvy and the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Stephen Holroyd.

Visitors enjoyed a private garden tour, exhibition, tea and celebratory cake, with Dr Richard Claxton, CEO of the National Garden Scheme, presenting Perennial with a commemorative plaque to celebrate York Gate opening for the National Garden Scheme for 30 years.

Jamie Gault, Perennial's Chief Executive, said:

"The National Garden Scheme is our largest annual donor, and we are incredibly grateful for their ongoing support."

Christmas Gift Guide

Shop our full range online!

21 **£4.99**
Mini Green Fir Boxed Candle, 6cm high

22 **£3.49**
Christmas Topiary Napkins, Pack of 20

23 **£7.99**
Christmas Topiary Tea Towel

24 **£11.50**
Season's Greetings Circular Jigsaw, 500 pieces

25 **£7.99**
The Tree-Mendous Christmas Activity Book, Paperback, 64 pages, 7-10 years

26 **£9.99**
Partridge in a Pear Tree Biscuit Trio, Choc Chip / Christmas Pud / Cranberry & White Choc, 300g

27 **£7.99**
Embossed Robin Noel Tin Clotted Cream Shortbread, 150g

28 **£14.00**
In The Garden Tea-Break Hand Essentials, Mug with rhubarb & lilac hand wash/hand cream

29 **£7.00**
Flower Of Focus Hand Cream Trio, 3 x 30ml

30 **£10.00**
Flower Of Focus Soap Flowers, with rosemary, lavender & orange

31 **£14.99**
POM Mens Navy Knitted Hat, grey trim

32 **£14.99**
POM Mens Navy & Grey Checked Scarf, Super-soft viscose

33 **£7.99**
Cactus Socks, Size 4-8 or 9-12

34 **£16.99**
Gardener's Muscle Rub, 100ml

35 **£16.00**
Wheelbarrows and Wellies Jigsaw, 1000 pieces

36 **£8.00**
Niwaki Gloves, Choice of S, M, L or XL

37 **£16.00**
Niwaki Winter Gloves, Choice of M, L or XL

38 **£19.49**
Burgon & Ball Dig The Glove - Tweed, Choice of M/L or L/XL

39 **£17.99**
Burgon & Ball Love The Glove - Artisan One size (S/M)

40 **£17.99**
Burgon & Ball Love The Glove - Oak Leaf, Choice of S/M or M/L

41 **£20.00**
Niwaki Garden Snips, Carbon steel blades

42 **£8.00**
Niwaki Camellia Oil, 100ml, Protects tools from rust

43 **£11.99**
Burgon & Ball Transplanting Trowel, Stainless steel, hardwood handle

44 **£13.99**
Seed Collecting Kit, Envelopes, wooden labels & pencil in tin

45 **£4.25**
Nutscene Jute Twine Natural, 110m

Gifts that Make a Difference

Choose one of our festive charity virtual gifts and we'll send you a specially designed A6 card to share with friends or family. Perennial will use your donation to provide life-changing support to horticulturists and their families. Thank you.

Helpline & Emergency Support

46 **£25.00**

Help with Energy Bills

47 **£50.00**

Mental Health Support

48 **£75.00**

Put Food on the Table

49 **£100.00**

How To Order

Please order before 16th December for pre-Christmas delivery.

Online: perennial.org.uk/shop

Post: Perennial, 115-117 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7SU

Phone: 0800 093 8792 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

Goods will normally be sent out within 5 working days. Returns will only be accepted within 28 days of delivery and must be in original packaging.

Number	Description	Price	Qty.	Line Total

P&P Goods up to value of £75.00	£4.25
P&P Goods value above £75.00	FREE
Donation	£
TOTAL	£

Your Details

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Phone .....

Email .....

Payment Details

By cheque **payable to Perennial**, or by card:

Card No. .....

Expiry Date ..... Security No. .....

Are you a UK tax payer? ❑ Tick here and boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate (including Gifts That Make A Difference). Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

giftaid it

I would like to Gift Aid all donations I make to Perennial in the future, or have made in the past four years, until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Seasonal shopping with Perennial

We've handpicked another fantastic range of Christmas cards and festive gifts for your family and friends. With each order, you're helping us support everyone in horticulture facing tough times, or prevent problems becoming more serious. Order online at **perennial.org.uk/shop**, by phone on **0800 093 8792** or by post using the **order form overleaf** – the choice is yours. Thank you for your support!

Pack of 10 Christmas cards. Message inside reads 'With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year' unless stated otherwise.

01 **£4.50**
Gardening Jumpers

02 **£4.50**
Potting Shed in Winter

03 **£4.50**
Garden Hedgehog

04 **£4.50**
Woodland at Night

05 **£4.50**
Robin on a Spade

06 **£4.50**
Birds and Berries

07 **£4.50**
Snowdrop Wishes
Blank inside

08 **£4.50**
Peace at Christmas

09 **£14.40**
First Class Stamps
Book of 8

10 **£7.28**
Second Class Stamps
Book of 8

Special offer! Choose any 4 packs below for £12.

11 **£3.50**
Special Post

12 **£3.50**
Three Donkeys

13 **£3.50**
12 Days of Gardening

14 **£3.50**
Bethlehem Brights

15 **£3.50**
Birdboxes

Christmas Tree Decorations

16 **£5.99**
Mini Greenhouse Tree Decoration, Glass, 6cm high

17 **£5.99**
Mini Shed Tree Decoration, Glass, 6cm high

18 **£5.99**
Red Car Bauble
Glass, 6cm high

19 **£7.49**
Robin & Wreath Decoration (single), Resin, 5cm high

20 **£4.50**
Tree Honeycomb Decoration, Paper, 10cm high

Get involved

Support Perennial in a variety of ways and help people facing challenges in horticulture. Whether you are joining a garden tour, organising a fundraising event or making a donation, every contribution makes a difference. Our fundraising pack is full of lots of ideas for individuals and organisations. Call us on **01372 373962** to discuss how we can support you.

Buy a virtual gift
Gift options from £10 - £150
perennial.org.uk/virtual-gift

Exclusive Garden Tours
Book a unique garden experience
perennial.org.uk/garden-tours

Challenge Yourself
Find a local run, walk, or cycle event
perennial.org.uk/challenge-events

Fundraise for us
Organise your own activity
perennial.org.uk/fundraise

Perennial Partnership Scheme
Sign your business up to become a partner
perennial.org.uk/partners

Gift in Will
Help protect the future of horticulture
perennial.org.uk/legacy

Donate
perennial.org.uk/donate

Visit
perennial.org.uk

Helpline
0800 093 8543+

+ Open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-4.30pm and Thursday 10am-4.30pm. Excludes bank holidays.

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Helping people in horticulture
Perennial

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