

How Perennial helps ...

those working in or retired
from horticulture



Perennial provides free, confidential advice, support and financial assistance to people of all ages working in or retired from horticulture and their spouses, partners and children.

These include: employed and self-employed gardeners, nursery staff, parks and grounds care staff, landscapers, tree surgeons and people working in intensive production horticulture.

The needs of our clients generally relate to disability, sickness, poverty, financial hardship and old age – although increasingly Perennial's support and advice is sought by people below retirement age. Financial support is provided by assessment of needs with greater financial assistance being provided to those with the least available income.

Our work depends entirely on voluntary donations from the horticultural industry and the garden-loving public.

How do we help?

When a problem occurs, we respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the individual concerned – at whatever time of life that need arises.

There is no standard answer to a problem and our approach is one of identifying the best methods of support and getting them into place as soon as possible.



John Foley
BBC Young Gardener of the Year 2012

Perennial helped my family when my Dad became ill and all the family went through a difficult time. Not being able to work on the nursery was hard for Dad and caused financial problems for us all. Perennial assisted in numerous ways, the Caseworker visited regularly and helped us get through a challenging and lengthy period.

But, for me personally they paid for school trips so I didn't miss out and more importantly they paid for my driving lessons. Living in a very rural area Dad not driving was a problem, learning how to drive allowed me to not only have a life with my friends but more importantly I could drive the van so we could still do the flower shows and make some money. Perennial also helped me access funding so I could go to Askham Bryan Horticultural College to study Landscape and Garden Management. Without their help it would have been very tough for me to go and complete my studies.

Now I have a wonderful future – I have the nursery and have exciting plans to improve it further. I won the BBC Young Gardener of the Year 2012 and we won a gold medal at Tatton. Life is good for me and my partner Kate and we are achieving our goals in life. Please contact Perennial if you need any help, you'll be surprised what they can do.

Perennial can help in the following ways:

Home visits by experienced staff

Professionally trained, our Caseworkers have knowledge and skills that can provide solutions to a wide range of life's unforeseen challenges.

Welfare Benefits and Tax Credits

Our Caseworkers are benefit experts. Whether you want to check what you are entitled to or have a problem with your claim, from form completion through to representation at social security appeals tribunals – we are happy to help.

Grants

We can provide financial support in the form of a grant from Perennial's own funds; we can also offer advice on a range of statutory and charitable funds.

Children and families in crisis

Financial help is available for the children of horticulturists where one or both parents have died or for those children who are disadvantaged by their circumstances in other ways – in particular, help with educational costs. Youngsters and their parents/guardians also have full access to a dedicated Caseworker – an invaluable support in times of difficulty.



A young landscaper's story

In 2008 Macmillan contacted Perennial for help concerning a young man with terminal cancer. The landscape gardener was married with a one-year old child and an expectant wife. One of our Caseworkers visited Matt the following week, when he revealed they were struggling financially and needed essential items for their son and the baby. Perennial immediately awarded a grant to help with these costs.*

Sadly, Matt died two weeks later. Our Caseworker visited Sarah and made applications for all the benefits she was entitled to, including help to pay the funeral cost. Her son and new baby, after she was born, were awarded on-going benefits from our Children's Fund. This regular quarterly payment has enabled Sarah to give the children an occasional treat as well as pay for essentials.*

Perennial's Caseworker continues to work with Sarah; we have helped her transfer to a home closer to her parents and will continue to provide advice and support for as long as she needs us.

** Names have been changed to protect identities. Photo posed by models.*



Perennial can help in the following ways:

Social Care

If you are dealing with the challenges of ageing or long term illness and disability our Caseworkers can help to ensure that you receive the state help that you are entitled to. Where needs fall outside of state help, grants may be considered to bridge the gap in provision.

Housing problems

Help available ranges from assisting with applications for social housing and advice on housing rights to making sure that your home is maintained to a decent standard and where required adapted for independent living.

Major life events

Helping both retired and working age people, we can advise on key events in life such as major illness, redundancy, retirement and bereavement.

The Lironi Training Fund

Perennial's Lironi Training Fund was established in 2009 to allow the charity to make a long-term contribution to the horticultural sector through the funding of various training initiatives. Among these initiatives is the awarding of bursaries to selected horticultural students who meet the necessary criteria for acceptance.



Martin's story

When Martin was suddenly struck down with Guillain-Barré syndrome, a rare auto-immune disease, he was signed off work for three years. Barely able to walk, he could only watch as the family landscaping business, which he ran with his mother Morven, went under. Luckily Martin learned about Perennial.

Martin says:

"I had never been out of work, but when I became ill it never even occurred to me that I would get more than two or three days' sick pay. The Perennial Caseworker was amazing and her input made all the difference in the world. She helped sort out my Disability Living Allowance and other benefits which I was entitled to. Without her help, we would have been destitute."

Martin's story is the first in our new series of short films, made for Perennial by Dependable Productions, featuring Perennial clients talking about how the charity helped them and their family.

Watch all our client fillms at www.perennial.org.uk/films



Dedicated Debt Advice Service

Seeking out good, professional advice on tackling your debt problem is likely to be one of the best financial decisions you ever make.

Perennial's debt advice service for horticulturists is free, impartial and completely confidential, and the guidance you receive will be tailored to your individual circumstances.

Perennial's Debt Advisers are accredited by the Institute of Money Advisers. We can act on your behalf or provide you with the advice and information you need to deal with your problem yourself.

We can advise on and help you to implement a range of options for dealing with your debts including:

Preparation of financial statements

Providing up-to-date details of income and expenditure for creditors.

Negotiating with creditors

Arranging a pro rata or token offers of repayment.

Court forms

Help with responding to County Court Judgements, Charging Order Applications, Statutory Demands etc.

Bankruptcy and other statutory options for dealing with debt

Help with completing Bankruptcy Applications, Time Orders, Debt Relief Orders, Administration Orders etc.

New initiatives

Advice on the latest initiatives aimed at helping people in financial difficulties.

Budgeting advice

Living within your means and planning for the unexpected.

Income maximisation

You may be able to increase your income through welfare and/or tax benefits.

Grant and charity applications

Help may be available from other sources.

Representation at repossession or eviction hearings

Acting as your advocate, we can put forward the best possible case for you.



**Posed by model*

How you can get involved

To make a donation simply complete the attached form or go online: www.perennial.org.uk

Image © John Whitaker



York Gate Garden, Leeds

Image © Marcus Harpur



Fullers Mill Garden, Bury St Edmunds

Image © Jonathan Myles-Jain



The Laskett Gardens, Herefordshire; home of Sir Roy Strong *CH* and recently bequeathed to Perennial.

Fundraising through HortAid

Perennial doesn't receive any grants from the government, so we rely on donations to help us maintain our vital services. We organise various sponsored events. Take your pick from running, cycling, assault courses or skydives. Alternatively you could open your garden or have a cake sale. It all helps!

Become a Friend of Perennial – Individual

Our Friends of Perennial programme helps us to plan for the future through regular donations. Join us and in return receive two free tickets to one of our gardens, advance booking of our popular Special Events and a Perennial pin badge.

Become a Perennial Partner – Business

If you are engaged in horticulture as a business, you can support your trade charity through an annual donation and proudly display the Perennial Partner logo on your website and email sign off.

Volunteering with us

Volunteering for Perennial can be a great way to meet people and support the charity, by working in our gardens, supporting us at shows or creating and participating in fundraising activities for us.

Gifts in Wills and in Memoriam

Legacies are extremely important to us, and a way in which you can help horticulturists for years to come. Any gift, large or small, can make a real lasting difference to the lives of people we support.

Visit Perennial's gardens

York Gate Garden is a one-acre garden with fourteen very different 'rooms' near Leeds.

Fullers Mill Garden displays rare specimens throughout the enchanting seven-acre site near Bury St Edmunds.

Enjoy our Special Events

Every year we offer an interesting range of events which include visits to private gardens, college gardens and sporting venues. Have a great day out and support us at the same time.

How Perennial has helped ...



"It is a comfort just knowing there is someone at the end of a phone, from a charity that is long serving and active, is there to help me."



"It's helped us financially to live – if we didn't have help from Perennial where else would we go to for help? It's made our family a happier family. It is also nice that people came out to visit us at our home and were really friendly."



**Posed by models.*



Marek & Ann Marie's story

Marek worked as a tree surgeon and conservation manager at a golf course before his accident. He had a young family, with a baby on the way, when he fell from a tree while helping a friend at the weekend. His fall resulted in severe brain injury and a medically induced coma. In a new short film, published on the Perennial website, Marek's partner, Ann Marie, talks about how the family was supported by Perennial – a charity she had previously never heard of – helping with financial arrangements and navigating the benefits system as well as being there as emotional support.

She says of Perennial:

"They were like cuddly arms, giving you a big hug and taking away all the pressure of everything else that you have to deal with to survive. I can live this life day in day out as we are, but they're in the background there, so if I ever feel that I need some guidance, I've got them there as support."

Marek and Ann Marie are just one family out of thousands Perennial helps each year. Many people wait until they are at crisis point before contacting Perennial for help but the sooner we hear from you the sooner we can start to help.

Watch all our client films at www.perennial.org.uk/films



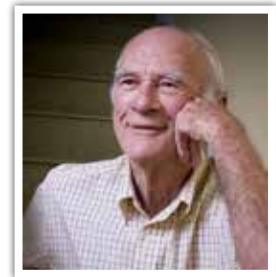
How Perennial has helped ...

“Due to my husband’s operation he was off work for at least six months but was unable to claim benefits as he was self-employed. I had to keep the house going on a very small wage and we had a lot of debts to cover as well. Everything spiralled out of control including our relationship. But Perennial came to the rescue and we are now afloat and not sinking.”



“Perennial helped me navigate the benefits system. Until Perennial stepped in the situation felt hopeless and I was scared about losing my home.”

“As I had both health and financial problems it has helped enormously to have some support and useful advice and guidance and I don’t feel so alone with my problems.”



“Life is now so much easier since Perennial has been involved and I know that if I have any other issues in the future they shall still be there to help.”

Raymond Whitwell was part of the rear guard at Dunkirk 75 years ago. Left on the beach when no boat came back for them, he made his way down through France and managed to jump on board a Dutch fishing boat back to England.

Find out more

YGLHPH

Tick this box if you need help and we'll call you within three days of receiving this form.

To find out further information about Perennial please tick the appropriate box below:

Help and Advisory Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wills and Legacies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lironi Training Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	Giving in Memory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perennial Partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Friends of Perennial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gift Catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perennial Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	Challenge Events	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like to help with a donation of: £

Or telephone us with your credit/debit card details on **0800 093 8792**.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: First name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Home Tel:

Mobile: Date of birth:

Personal email:

Are you a UK Tax Payer? Tick here and boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. 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.

SIGNATURE DATE

DATA PROTECTION: We would like to keep you in touch with the work we are doing by sending you a limited number of marketing communications. Should you change your mind in the future its very simple to opt out. We do not sell your information to any third parties and your data is kept in strict accordance with our Privacy Policy which is available on www.perennial.org.uk. If you **DO NOT** wish to receive communications from us, please tick one or all of the following boxes: mail email telephone SMS

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

Perennial and the horticultural community working in partnership with companies and organisations

We are delighted to receive increasing support from the horticultural community. As employers, suppliers and membership bodies realise the extent and scope of our services, they are keen to support and publicise our work.

The horticultural community has helped in so many ways: from helping build award-winning show gardens to participating in challenge events and signing up as Perennial Partners.

How will you support Perennial in the future? Contact us today for all the different ways you could help.



Image © Jonathan Ward/www.gingerhorticulture.co.uk

Mark Gregory – Managing Director of Landform Consultants Ltd and Perennial Partners Ambassador

Cards, Gifts & Garden Accessories

Purchase your cards and gifts from Perennial and all the profits will go to the charity. **Order online: www.perennial.org.uk/shop**



PERENNIAL
GARDENERS' ROYAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
Helping Horticulturists In Need Since 1839



Visit www.perennial.org.uk or call

General Helpline | **0800 093 8543**

Debt Advice Line | **0800 093 8546**

Enquiry Number | **0800 093 8510**



Please scan code to visit our website

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

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales company no: 8828584. Charity no: 1155156.

Registered in Scotland. Charity no: SC040180. VAT no. 991 2541 09.

Perennial's Debt Advice Service is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.