

PERENNIAL

*Fellowship*





**As a keen amateur plantsman and collector I appreciate the skill and dedication that all those who work in horticulture must demonstrate to hone their craft.**

But working in this industry can be tough and it doesn't take much of a change in someone's financial, family or personal situation to turn success into crisis. Perennial helps people and their families who, at best, face daily choices between heating and food, and at worst have been driven to take their own life to escape their situation.

I have joined the Perennial Fellowship as a founding member because I want to make a commitment to the work of the only charity dedicated to supporting all horticulturists in times of need and to help safeguard its future.

Join me as a Perennial Fellow, and help change lives for the better, forever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Donachie". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

*Stuart Donachie, Perennial Fellow*





# Making a difference to horticulturists

**The people we help describe Perennial as a 'lifeline', often turning to us at crisis point. Our team of professional, highly trained caseworkers and debt advisers work tirelessly to ensure no one is left feeling alone and unsupported.**

From gardeners, landscapers and designers, to nursery workers, arborists and grounds staff, Perennial's services are tailored to a person's specific needs and situation.

The charity was established in the Victorian era as a pension fund for head gardeners, who often lost their tied accommodation and income on retirement. Today Perennial's support and advice extends to all those working in the horticulture industry and over 70% of the people we help are of working age. As awareness of the charity's services continues to grow, this percentage is likely to rise even further.



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"Six months ago, Perennial gave me support and quick, practical financial help at a difficult time in my life.

Thanks to Perennial's help at that critical time, I now see a way forward and am re-launching my gardening business, confident about my future."

*Jenny, Gardener*



**Simon was a landscape gardener but due to ongoing debilitating mental health issues has been unable to work for many years. Last year Employment Support Allowance (ESA) assessors found him fit for work, which not only reduced his income but also required him to actively seek work. His mental health condition prevented him from attending the Jobcentre and as a result his benefits were stopped leaving him with no income.**

Simon's gas and electricity supply relies on prepaid fuel cards, and following his benefit cuts he was living without heating, lights or hot water. Due to his situation, Simon's mental health had worsened and by the time a Perennial caseworker visited him, he was unable to leave his home.

We immediately helped by awarding a crisis grant to credit Simon's fuel cards so he could put the heating on and have a hot meal. After assessing the full situation, Perennial took the ESA to tribunal and won. As a result Simon's ESA has been reinstated. We will continue to help him access mental healthcare and to assist him financially for as long as he needs us.



"Perennial needs regular, sustainable support that it can rely on every year to invest in existing services and plan new ways of helping people. I am proud to count myself among the founding members of the Perennial Fellowship and look forward to seeing the organisation grow in response to those who need it most."

*Pam Barrow*



**Every year Perennial's 17-strong team of caseworkers and debt advisers manages a caseload of nearly 1,500 people and their families. As awareness of the charity and the need for its services increases, this number is rising by almost 10% each year.**

We are planning for a future in which every one of the estimated 500,000 people who work in horticulture knows about Perennial and how to access our services. To ensure we can respond quickly

to every new request for help we need to have resources ready and available. The Perennial Fellowship will help us to do this, giving us the flexibility to reach many more horticulturists, including those in the remotest parts of the UK.

Join us on this journey to change the future of Perennial, and the horticulturists we help, by becoming a founder member of our Perennial Fellowship with an annual gift of £2,500 or more.



# A Fellowship of Friends

**The Perennial Fellowship takes its inspiration from the pioneering group of socially responsible landowners and leading social influencers who, in 1839, founded a charity to provide welfare support to horticulturists long before state-funded provision.**

It takes courage, compassion and commitment to blaze a trail. We have established the Perennial Fellowship as a union of like-minded individuals committed to making an impact on the future of horticulturists in need of Perennial's modern and responsive welfare services.

Our Fellowship members can be confident that their annual donation will make a significant impact on the lives of people who need it most.



*Reproduced by kind permission of Wentworth Castle*

# 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.**

A dangerous build-up of pressure in his head forced doctors to remove part of Marek's skull. The surgery saved his life, but left him with lifelong brain damage, regular seizures and the inability to work again.

Marek's partner Ann Marie was left to look after their young family alone. She had never heard of Perennial, but luckily a friend referred their case to the charity and a caseworker visited her at home within a week of the accident. Perennial helped with financial arrangements, including assisting Ann Marie in accessing Marek's bank account, as well as being there as emotional support.

Marek still suffers regular seizures and requires frequent visits to hospital. With Perennial's help Ann Marie cares for Marek at home and ensures their growing family is safe and provided for.

You can watch a short film of Marek and Ann Marie talking about how Perennial helped them rebuild their lives on the Perennial website at [perennial.org.uk/films](http://perennial.org.uk/films)



"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 Perennial is in the background there, so if I ever feel that I need some guidance, I've got them there as support."

*Ann Marie, Marek's partner*



# Your gift could change lives for the better, forever

**A suggested annual contribution of £2,500 or more will help to make a real difference to horticulturists in desperate need. The contribution also includes the opportunity to access benefits for twelve months following receipt of your donation.**

Your gift can be paid as a one-off donation, by regular Direct Debit or Standing Order. We will honour this support by providing a unique range of benefits. These include:

- **Invitations to exclusive Fellowship events for two people**
- **Complimentary access to our York Gate and Fullers Mill gardens for two people (April to September)**

- **Priority booking for our annual programme of special garden tours and events (For up to four people per event)**
- **Our bi-annual Perennial Fellowship newsletter and additional regular tailored communications about how your gift is changing lives**
- **Acknowledgement in our Annual Report (if desired)**

Our work is ongoing and continuing support is crucial. We hope you will renew your membership each year to continue to enjoy the benefits of the Perennial Fellowship and making a difference to thousands of people's lives across the UK.





## Making your donation go further

If you are a **UK Taxpayer**, and have paid at least as much **Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax** as the amount of **Gift Aid** which is claimed on any donations you give, **Perennial** can claim **Gift Aid\*** on all of your donation except for the **'Donor Benefit'** amount, as outlined below.

\*The Government's Gift Aid scheme allows Perennial to claim the basic rate of tax back on your donation, which equals 25p for every £1 you donate. If you are a higher rate tax payer you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and the basic rate Perennial claims on your donation. Please contact HMRC for further details if this applies to you.

A minimum payment of £500 secures all fellowship benefits, and you may purchase these benefits separately without making any further donation. The balance of £2,000 is a suggested donation.





"It wasn't just advice for work, it was advice on how to survive, financially.

I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for Perennial, not a chance."

*Anthony, Landscaper*

"Our world depends on the generosity of others. We see the results of this kindness every day in our work with clients. Quite simply we are a lifeline, a friend to turn to when there is no one else.

Our professional, highly trained team is ready to respond to all requests for assistance and our promise to you is that your support through the Perennial Fellowship will always be invested in the people who need our help."

*Sheila Thomson, Director of Services at Perennial*







**The horticulture industry is at the heart of making our nation beautiful. The Perennial Fellowship will help us to look after it for generations to come.**

**To join the Perennial Fellowship, contact us today.**



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[www.perennial.org.uk/fellowship](http://www.perennial.org.uk/fellowship)

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