

Site number: GPF204
Exhibitor: Perennial

HOW PERENNIAL HELPS



Perennial is here to help everyone who professionally creates or maintain gardens, parks, sports facilities and other green spaces. If you work with plants, trees or grass, Perennial is your charity, providing support to you and your family when you need it most. We also support people who are retired from horticulture.

Perennial helps people every day who are facing overwhelming challenges, who have experienced an unexpected crisis or a life changing event.

Julia Hayne, Director of Services at Perennial, says:

"We understand the devastating impact bereavement, money worries, ill health, homelessness, redundancy and family breakdown can have on lives. Anyone can experience financial difficulties or struggle to meet daily living costs and it is in these moments of crisis that people often turn to Perennial. But we're here to help everyone in horticulture before their situation becomes a crisis and would urge anyone who feels they need a little extra support or reassurance about something, to give our team a call. We can usually advise and often proactively help."

At Perennial we see the difference the right support, delivered in the right way at the right time, can make to lives. Our aim is to create better futures for horticulturists, regardless of what happens in their lives. Our free, confidential support services can be delivered by phone, online in your home or local community. Julia continues:

"We want everyone in horticulture to see themselves as part of the Perennial family and to know that whatever happens in their lives, they can access personal support from us when they need it most. We are helping people overcome some of the complex issues families are facing today, often preventing problems developing into a crisis. At the heart of all our work is the drive to help people in horticulture make positive and lasting changes."



We work in a holistic way and by understanding your individual needs we can develop personalised support that delivers short, medium and long-term solutions. Every year we support thousands of people working in horticulture providing advice, access to expert support and in some cases financial support.

Helping Andy and his family find a way forward



Landscape gardener Andy Perry lost his leg after being bitten by a spider and developing sepsis. When he was at his lowest, suffering both financially and personally, Perennial stepped in to help Andy and his family find a way forward.

“My illness meant my business closed overnight. One day a full order book, working every day, the next I was in hospital and close to death. Perennial took the weight off my shoulders, sorted out our finances and dealt with creditors, which allowed me to focus my energy on the things I needed and it really helped.”

We helped the family apply for council tax support and successfully appealed the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), getting the amount increased and backdated. We also contacted Andy’s creditors and got all of his debts written off, except for one that was put on hold and requested the HMRC stopped pursuing the over payment of working tax credit. We also raised £5,000 from other charities and trusts to adapt the family’s garden. With the backpay from the PIP appeal, together with additional help from Perennial, Andy has purchased a workshop for his garden and was able to buy Christmas presents for his young children. Today Andy can leave the house unaided. His wife has returned to work and Andy is hoping to begin work as a carpenter from his workshop later this year.

“I can’t thank Perennial enough, they have helped get me back to work and have been absolutely incredible. My wife and I are happier than we’ve been for a long time – we are able to sleep easily and we’re no longer worried about opening the post. My children don’t even know that we were in financial trouble and that’s fantastic. They now also have a beautiful safe place to play in and I can be outside watching them play.”

Read Andy’s full story at perennial.org.uk/andy

Helping look after Leigh when he couldn’t look after himself



Leigh is a single parent with a son in college. He has been a self-employed domestic landscaper for 7 years with the bulk of his work coming from a larger landscaping firm. In November 2016, Leigh’s work load began to take its toll. Stress caused acute psoriasis of the hands and feet and although he continued to work, the pain was difficult to manage.

In March 2017 he broke down and finally admitted to his boss, and himself, that he needed help. After visiting the doctor he was advised to stop work completely until his hands and feet recovered.

“The bills didn’t stop, so I didn’t. My condition made me mentally depressed and so when Perennial stepped in they definitely helped me get better. They were taking all the stress away from my condition. They’re patient, they don’t judge. You just feel like you’re being looked after, when you can’t look after yourself.”

Read Leigh’s story and watch a short film with him at perennial.org.uk/leigh

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