

# Perennial News

ISSUE 40 | SPRING 2021



Helping people  
in horticulture  
**Perennial**



How we are  
Helping  
Gardens  
Reopen

© Wendy Preston

# A Warm Welcome



The last year has been challenging for everyone, not least those working in horticulture across the UK and the true financial impact is yet to be realised.

Uncertainty caused by the pandemic led to unexpected loss of income, often hitting those who were already financially strained and increasing pressure on people's physical and mental wellbeing. With lockdown easing there are signs of hope for the year ahead, but the debts that people have built up as a result of the pandemic will need to be managed and the number of people needing our help will continue to grow.

In 2020 we helped 27% more people than the previous year, our service teams were busier than any year previous. We are committed and prepared to continue our vital work, encouraged by the positive feedback from those we have supported.

I would like to thank you for sharing our messages and encouraging those who need us to get in touch. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked throughout lockdown and to everyone who fundraised and donated to Perennial, without you we couldn't provide all of our support services.

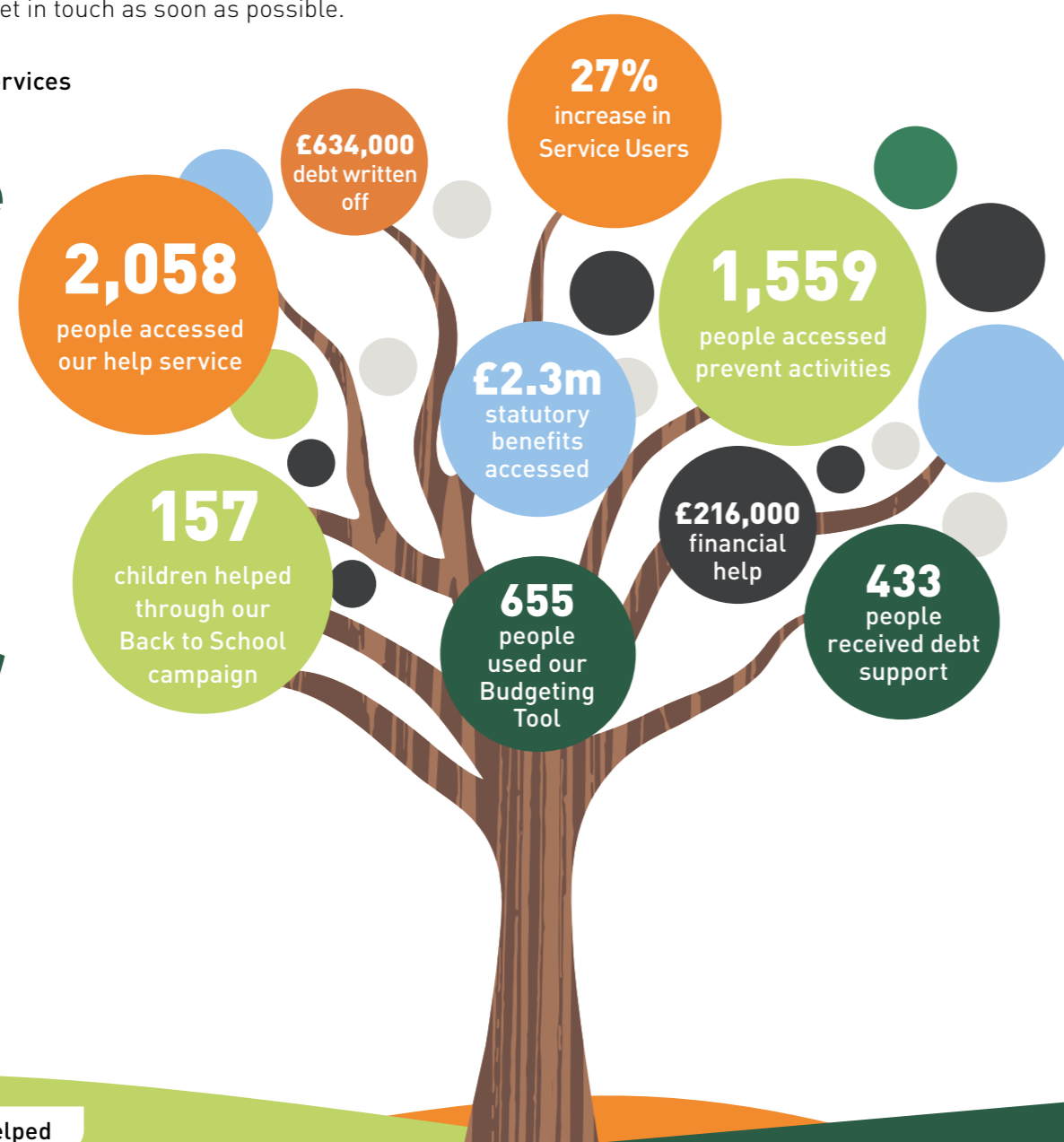
We are ready to help everyone who works with trees, plants, flowers and grass, and we encourage those who need advice and information to get in touch as soon as possible.

**Warmest wishes**  
Julia Hayne, Director of Services

## How we helped in 2020



Who we helped



## Head gardener and father of two, Martin,

and his wife have always worked hard to provide for their two young children, but were finding it difficult to make ends meet and life got even harder following a close family bereavement.

'It was a tough time for us. Sarah's father passed away at the start of the year and with her working nightshifts it meant that we hardly saw each other. Money was tight which added to the pressure.

On top of that my mum was seriously unwell and I was feeling increasingly anxious and overwhelmed. When I came across the Perennial advert promoting support for families, I never expected that we would be eligible for help because of my senior role, but to our relief we were!'

The family were assigned a caseworker who took time to understand the challenges they were facing and developed a



personalised plan for them. "We were blown away by the support we received from Perennial - the charity has been our lifeline. They made sure we were getting the right benefits, gave us advice on how to deal with our debt and helped create a budget so we could take control of our money and work towards a more stable future."

"Our experience with Perennial has been life-changing. Two years ago, we felt helpless and unsupported. Today, even just knowing we can speak to someone at Perennial if anything happens, makes all the difference. The pressure has been lifted and that's an amazing feeling for me and my family."

## Help Support Our Work

Your donation can help provide life-changing help and support to everyone and their families that work in horticulture

Here is my donation of:  
☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50

Or my preferred amount of:  
 £

### How would you like to hear from us?

For details on how we process your data please visit [perennial.org.uk/privacy](https://perennial.org.uk/privacy). You can update your contact preferences at any time by contacting us at the address below or email [info@perennial.org.uk](mailto:info@perennial.org.uk) or call 0800 093 8510.

I would like an acknowledgement letter ☐  
 I would like to receive emails from you ☐

We do not sell your information to any third parties, it is kept in strict accordance with our Privacy Policy, available at [perennial.org.uk](https://perennial.org.uk). If you would like to change the way we communicate with you please call 0800 093 8510, email [info@perennial.org.uk](mailto:info@perennial.org.uk) or write to us at the address below.

### 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.

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 the difference.

### Payment Details:

Title   
 Forename   
 Surname   
 Address   
  
  
 Postcode   
 Tel   
 Email

☐ I enclose my cheque/postal order payable to Perennial  
 All major credit cards are accepted, except American Express.

Card No   
  
 Expiry date     Security No.

Please return this form to the address below:  
 Perennial, 115-117 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7SU

# Spring has Arrived

Our newly relaunched **Speaker Panel** is a hit. We can now offer you speakers via Zoom, so wherever you are, you can have them beamed straight to you! The wonderful Kerry Austen from Rochford Roses and Lou Nicholls the Head Gardener at Ulting Wick have just joined our line up and we are adding new faces every month.

Find out more at [perennial.org.uk/speakerpanel](https://perennial.org.uk/speakerpanel) or email [jburns@perennial.org.uk](mailto:jburns@perennial.org.uk)

## Special Events

The majority of our Special Events, Garden Tours have sold out but we still have a few remaining tickets for tours of Malverleys, Holme Pierrepont Hall and Wormsley. Visit [perennial.org.uk/events](https://perennial.org.uk/events) or call **0800 093 8792** for more information and to book.

## Sign Up to keep in touch

Please ensure you sign up to our emails and check our website to get all the latest news, visit [perennial.org.uk](https://perennial.org.uk) for more information.

We are expanding our Helpline Services, two new members have joined our team and they are available to take your call Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Call us now on **0800 093 8543**

Thank you to all our Perennial Partners, your support helps those most in need and ensures that our messages of help and support get to your staff and the wider horticultural community. Find out more by visiting [perennial.org.uk/getinvolved](https://perennial.org.uk/getinvolved) or contact Kate Cooney **01372 235 433** | [kcooney@perennial.org.uk](mailto:kcooney@perennial.org.uk) or Phil Swainston **07534 617 582** | [pswainston@perennial.org.uk](mailto:pswainston@perennial.org.uk).

If you need help call **0800 093 8543** or visit [perennial.org.uk](https://perennial.org.uk)

## Festival Dinner

This year our annual Festival Dinner is being hosted by the wonderful Craig Revel Horwood on the 14th October at One Whitehall Place, London. It promises to be a glittering evening of fun, friendship and fundraising to help people in horticulture.

For more information and to book visit [perennial.org.uk/events](https://perennial.org.uk/events) or call **01372 384 045**



## Thank You

to everyone who thought of us through your In Memory Donations and Legacies, these gifts are vital to help us plan our long term services.



## Thank you

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who help support the charity in so many ways. To our wonderful garden volunteers who have helped to get the gardens, gift shops and cafes ready to reopen in April. To our amazing warehouse volunteers who helped to wrap and post all our Christmas orders, it was our busiest year ever, they did an amazing job sending parcels the length and breadth of the country.

We are so thankful for all your support.

## Our Fantastic Fundraisers

**Julian's 2,000km 3 Peaks, Bike Packing Mountain Challenge.** Julian is climbing the 3 peaks – with his bike – and he will be cycling between them all. To support him and find out more about his epic adventure visit [justgiving.com/perennial](https://justgiving.com/perennial).

A big thank you to Jules, Martin and Alison, to name a few, who are all joining our **Snowdon by Night Challenge** on the 21st August. They will climb Snowdon by moonlight and watch the sunrise from the summit, it's going to be an unforgettable experience.

If you would like to take on the challenge visit [perennial.org.uk/events](https://perennial.org.uk/events) to find out more.

**Andrew's Going Dry** – Andrew gave up alcohol during lockdown and has raised £1,000, not long to go now Andrew!

If this has inspired you visit [perennial.org.uk/getinvolved](https://perennial.org.uk/getinvolved) for help and advice about fundraising.



Find out more, get involved or donate at [perennial.org.uk](https://perennial.org.uk)



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# Perennial's Helpline


## There are many ways that Perennial can help


Perennial's Helpline is a confidential and safe space where our experienced helpline team can listen and support you to explore and answer your questions.


"Everyone has different needs and the calls we get to the helpline reflect that. We might hear from a landscape gardener concerned about their housing situation, a tree surgeon recovering from an injury or greenkeeper looking for employment and training advice. There are so many ways that we can help make a positive change to people's futures which makes me so proud of our dedicated team. I encourage anyone working in horticulture to get in touch with us – no matter how small the information and advice you need. I see first-hand that when people come to us for help early, the real difference our advice can make."


**Paul, Perennial's Helpline Manager.**

The last twelve months have shown us all that life can be uncertain and challenging. We've seen the impact with more people than ever contacting the Perennial helpline.

 Call **0800 093 8543** | Monday to Friday 9am-5pm  
answerphone available at busy times


 If you're not quite ready to have a conversation  
you can find out more at **perennial.org.uk**


 "Perennial have been a wonderful safety net and helped provide the support for my employee and his family to get a grip back on their life"

**Employer** 



Paul, Helpline Manager

 "I didn't know who to ring, I'm glad you are there, and I got to speak to someone quickly"



## The pandemic has devastated the lives of so many,

including Colin who runs an award-winning fuchsia nursery in North Wales, 2020 was like no other.



"Overnight our family business for over 40 years was decimated. I had spent a lot of money growing the plants over the winter and with all the major flower shows such as Chelsea abandoned, we were left with no regular income and bills to pay. I didn't know how I was going to get out of it and with a young family to support I knew I needed help."


The team at Perennial stepped in immediately and then spent time with Colin to find out about the difficulties he and his family were facing. His case worker helped him to access financial grants and review his money, understanding the options available to him to repay his rising bills and manage his costs.

"Getting help and receiving the crisis support from Perennial was an absolute godsend. It took the pressure off when I was feeling overwhelmed. They asked me lots of questions to get to know my situation and gave me advice on how to improve things for me and my family. It really helps just knowing that there is always someone at the end of the phone to talk things over. My Perennial caseworker, Simon, has been a great mentor."

## Support for Families

Perennial are committed to supporting the whole family and this year we are again helping families access support that will help them with the costs of keeping children in and returning to school. Our Back to School campaign has helped nearly 250 children since it launched and this year we want to ensure that we help even more.



 You can find out more about how we can help by visiting **perennial.org.uk/backtoschool** or call our helpline now on **0800 093 8543**, the earlier you contact us the more we can help.

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for your help towards the children going back to school, I am so grateful for the help you have given, this is a massive help and the kids are so happy that they are able to choose their own shoes, bags, lunch boxes and coats."

Garden Centre Worker

Advice on Debt | Benefits | Housing | Budgeting | Accessing Financial Support  
Ill Health & Disability | Physical and Mental Wellbeing | Legal Helpline | Training & Careers  
Call 0800 093 8543

Gardeners | Landscapers | Grounds Maintenance | Arborists | Nurseries & Growers  
Florists | Gardens Centre Employees | Garden Designers | Foresters | Greenkeepers  
Find out more at **perennial.org.uk**



**And then there were three...** Our gardens, including The Laskett are reopening in April and we can't wait to welcome you back. The garden teams have been working hard over the winter and they are ready to share some of the most beautiful gardens in the UK with you. There are many special Friends events and workshops for you to join us on this year and our cafes and gift shops are restocked and ready to welcome visitors. Booking is now essential for the gardens and you can find out how to book and all our opening times by visiting [perennial.org.uk/gardens](https://perennial.org.uk/gardens).



**York Gate is a masterpiece.**  
A Grade II national heritage garden inspired by the Arts & Crafts movement. The garden was first created by the Spencer family in 1951, with a wish for it to bring learning and pleasure to others. There is a wonderful new café, gift shop and plant nursery for you to enjoy.  
[yorkgate.org.uk](https://yorkgate.org.uk) | Adel, Leeds | 0113 267 8240



**Fullers Mill is enchanting.**  
In 1958 it was created by the late Bernard Tickner, MBE from rough scrub and woodland, into a surprising yet quiet waterside oasis which won the 2020 Tripadvisor Travellers Choice Award.  
[fullersmillgarden.org.uk](https://fullersmillgarden.org.uk) | West Stow, Suffolk | 01284 728888




**The Laskett celebrates the arts.**  
Uniquely autobiographical, this remarkable garden has been created over the last 47 years by Sir Roy Strong CH and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman CBE. There is much to see and inspire, and you'll love the exclusive gift shop too! Group bookings are available from April please contact us to find out more.  
[thelaskett.org.uk](https://thelaskett.org.uk) | Much Birch, Herefordshire | 01372 384045

## Become a Friend of Perennial

and get unlimited access to all of our gardens

Becoming a Friend of Perennial allows you and a friend unlimited access to all our gardens and our wonderful Friends only exclusive events at the gardens.

- Benefits include:**
- Unlimited entry to Perennial's gardens, York Gate, Fullers Mill and The Laskett for you and a friend on public open days.
  - Priority booking for Perennial's Special Events garden tours and holidays.
  - Our Perennial Newsletter, Regular e-newsletters (optional) and a Perennial pin badge.

 Annual membership costs £30. Sign up now at [perennial.org.uk/friends](https://perennial.org.uk/friends) or call 0800 093 8792

## A little help this Spring from our Head Gardeners

During April everything is beginning to grow helped by the Spring showers and sunnier days and cuttings can be taken of herbaceous perennials and dahlias. Start by cleanly cutting pieces of new growth about 8 cm long from the base of the plant, put into a pot of free draining soil, water and put in a warm place with a plastic bag secured over the top and wait for the cutting to root, and of course make sure that it is labelled! You not only increase your plant stock but I love to give them as gifts to friends. **Annie at Fullers Mill**

### THE GARDEN AWAKES

Spring is under way its a very exciting month of the year. Time to get cracking...

Sowing annual flower seeds is best when you wait for the slightly longer days and warm weather of April. My top 5 annuals for sowing this year; Cleome spinosa 'White Queen', Cosmos 'Purity', Calendula 'Indian Summer', Scabiosa atropurpurea 'Black Knight' and the wonderful annual climber Ipomoea lobata (Spanish Flag). Keep on top of the weeds by making sure they don't flower and you'll have less to do every year. Try to not turn the soil too much, as it will bring more weed seeds to the surface, loosen gently with a trowel and pull out by hand. Looking after the lawn now will give it a kick start for the growing season – scarify, aerate, feed and seed! Enjoy your gardens and the good weather. **Ben at York Gate**



Ben Preston

## Volunteer with us

Perennial are building volunteer groups all around the country and you will be key to helping us share our message, that Perennial is here for everyone in horticulture when they need our advice, help and support.



- There are many ways you could help spread the word and raise funds for Perennial in your community.
- Join one of our community groups in Leeds, Suffolk, Herefordshire, West Sussex, Southport, Malvern, Derby and Surrey, or help start up a new one in your area.
  - Our gardens often need extra volunteers, this is a lovely way to join the Perennial family if you live locally.
  - The NGS and SGS members open their gardens every year and donate to Perennial. Could you help at a garden?
- Volunteering for Perennial is a fantastic way to meet people, get involved with the work of the charity and give something back.

 Find out more | [perennial.org.uk/volunteering](https://perennial.org.uk/volunteering) | 07946 055 848 | [volunteer@perennial.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@perennial.org.uk)





Find out more, get involved or donate at [perennial.org.uk](https://perennial.org.uk)



# Join the Perennial Fellowship

The Perennial Fellowship is a union of like-minded individuals committed to helping people in horticulture live and build better lives. Our Fellowship members can be confident that their annual donation will make a significant impact on the lives of people who need it most.

## Your membership includes:

-  Exclusive Fellowship events
-  Priority booking for Special Events
-  Perennial newsletters
-  Complimentary access to our gardens, York Gate, Fullers Mill and The Laskett, for two people

To find out more visit  
**[perennial.org.uk](http://perennial.org.uk)**  
call **01372 373 962** or  
email **[dlewis@perennial.org.uk](mailto:dlewis@perennial.org.uk)**

## Our 2021 Events Include



### Chelsea Flower Show – September 2021

Our personalised tours at RHS Chelsea Flower Show are back.

We will introduce you to the designers and visit the gardens in various categories including the Main Avenue.



### Stanley Gardens South, Notting Hill – Summer 2021

A chance to explore one of the historic Ladbroke Estate's private gardens. The gardens committee of Stanley Gardens South and Perennial are hosting an evening of live music including a champagne picnic dinner.



### Rosy and Wine – Autumn 2021

A tour of the award winning Coates and Seely English sparkling wine vineyards and Hardy's Cottage Plants. Rosy Hardy will be on hand to give us a tour of the multi RHS gold medal winning nursery.