

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 our assistance is sought by younger people in current employment. 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. Dad not being able to work on the nursery was hard for him 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 have just won the BBC Young Gardener of the Year 2012 and we won a gold medal at Tatton last year. 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 & 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 horticulturalists 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.



Case study

*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 benefit 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.



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 the 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.



Case study

*Mr Mason** came to Perennial's attention when he had separated from his wife; he had just been made redundant for the second time and ended up in temporary accommodation, bed and breakfast. He was claiming benefits whilst looking for work and a new home. Most of Mr Mason's money went on bus fares and take away food, as there were no cooking facilities at the B&B. He was very depressed as he did not have contact with his children as he had nowhere to take them to and no money to take them anywhere.*

The Caseworker immediately purchased a microwave so he could save money and cook for himself. Next, the case worker negotiated with letting agents, found a flat, gave a grant to cover the deposit and a month's rent in advance for Mr Mason, and assisted Mr Mason with claiming Housing and Council Tax Benefit. Having a home enabled Mr Mason to have overnight contact with his young children, which improved Mr Mason's state of mind wonderfully. Perennial raised funds to purchase beds and bedding for the children to make their visits with their dad more comfortable. Mr Mason is now settled and continues to look for work.



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.

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 of 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.

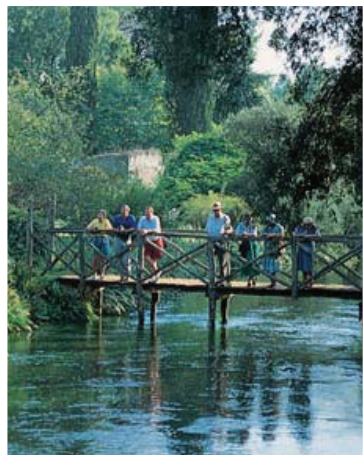
Representation at repossession or eviction hearings

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



How you can get involved

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



Gardens of Ninfa, Italy



York Gate Garden, Leeds

Volunteering

There are many ways to give your time to support Perennial, from helping at flower shows to organising fundraising events.

Using your Will power!

Many of our supporters would like to do more but family and other commitments do not allow them to do this. By leaving a gift in your will you can provide real support, but it won't cost you a penny now.

Show Awards

Perennial supplies attractive Show Award certificates which add a traditional and well-respected feel to your competitions.

Visit York Gate Garden

This one-acre garden is situated in the village of Adel, close to Leeds and is recognised as one of the most innovative small gardens of its period.

Enjoy our special events and holidays

Each year gardens often hidden away from the public are opened especially to raise money for Perennial. Additionally you could enjoy a high quality garden tour holiday selected in conjunction with Brightwater Holidays. To uncover these hidden delights visit our website for details.

Case studies



*Mr & Mrs Forrester** are a couple in their 30's with three young children, Mrs Forrester does not work as she looks after the children, Mr Forrester is in part time employment as a groundsman as his employer cannot provide more hours. When Perennials' Caseworker visited the couple, she found that not only had they rent arrears and were at risk of eviction, they had council tax arrears, again with the threat of action. They also had numerous loans with doorstep lenders, credit cards and a well-known weekly payment furnishing store. After going through their financial situation Perennial's Caseworker immediately awarded them a grant to help with their winter fuel costs.*

Perennial's Debt Adviser has negotiated with their creditors, stopped all further interest being added and they are now paying just £1 per month to each non-priority creditor until they are financially more secure. The Debt Adviser made a grant to cover the Council Tax arrears and a small amount of utility arrears and worked with the couple to negotiate rent arrears repayment, so they are safe from eviction proceedings. The Debt Adviser is also looking to see if it might be possible to provide a grant to pay off a conditional sale agreement they have entered into for essential household items.

Perennial will continue to work with the couple, helping them to get their debt under control and providing budgeting advice and support until they are back on their feet.



I lost my dear husband in July 2008 and I cannot describe to you the terrible loss. I do not know what I would have done without my wonderful friend (the Caseworker). I was able to contact her at any time; I was completely at a loss and could not function properly but she got me through it and I am now able to live a quiet but sad life without him. My Caseworker is always at the end of a phone for me..."



***Names have been changed to protect the privacy of our clients. Image posed by models*

Findoutmore

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 & Advisory Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wills & Legacies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lironi Training Fund	<input type="checkbox"/>	Give In Memory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular Giving	<input type="checkbox"/>	Show Awards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gift Catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	York Gate	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like to help with a donation of: £

Or telephone us with your credit/debit card details on **0845 676 0640**

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: First name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Home Tel:

Mobile: Date of birth:

Personal email:

I would like Perennial to treat as Gift Aid all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I can confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCS) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given on or after 6 April 2008.

SIGNATURE

DATE

DATA PROTECTION

We would like to send you our gift catalogues, produced by our trading company GRBS (Enterprises) Ltd, and other relevant information about Perennial. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive these by mail by email

PERENNIAL DONATIONS
Perennial
115-117 Kingston Road
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 7SU



...we respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the individual concerned."

Cards & Gifts

Purchase your cards and gifts from Perennial and all the profits will go to the charity.



Visit www.perennial.org.uk or call

General Helpline | **0800 210 0547**

Debt Advice Line | **0800 294 4244**

Enquiry Number | **0845 230 1839**

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



Please scan
code to visit our
website

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

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