



Impact Report 2022



A growing community for good causes



About us

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we have donated over £67 million to nursing and health charities since we were founded in 1927. In November 2022, we agreed total donations from our garden season of £3.11 million.

Originally established to raise funds for district nurses, we are now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK and our beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinson's UK, The Queen's Nursing Institute and Carers Trust.

The National Garden Scheme doesn't just open beautiful gardens for charity – we are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. We fund projects which promote gardens and gardening as therapy, and in 2017 launched our annual Gardens and Health Week to raise awareness of the topic. We also support charities doing amazing work in gardens and health, and give grants for community gardening projects.

Our funding also supports the training of gardeners and offers respite to horticultural workers who have fallen on difficult times.

This report looks at the impact of our donations throughout 2022 and how our beneficiaries use those donations to support thousands of people across the UK.

We look forward to welcoming you to our gardens in 2023.

*From stately acres and cottage gardens to allotments and community spaces, the depth, variety and horticultural interest of our gardens has a wide appeal.
Photo (left): Old Bladbean Stud, Kent © Carol Bruce*

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Front cover image:

*The open day at Paddock Allotment & Leisure Garden in South London attracts a wide-range of ages and horticultural interests
© Benjamin Mole*

Chairman's and Chief Executive's review



Chief Executive, George Plumpton and Chairman, Rupert Tyler with National Garden Scheme President, Dame Mary Berry at the fundraising event at Kew © Lucy Hooper

It is appropriate that we begin our review of 2022 by paying tribute to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by highlighting the support that Her Majesty gave to the National Garden Scheme through many decades.

The garden of Sandringham House in Norfolk was opened by King George V in the charity's first year of 1927 and has the distinction of being one of only two gardens that have opened in every year ever since. In 1948 and 1949 Queen Elizabeth II when still Princess Elizabeth, opened the garden of her first married country home, Windlesham Moor in Surrey. And Her Majesty continued the annual openings of the garden at Frogmore House in Windsor Great Park which had been started by her father King George VI in 1946. To date, Frogmore has raised more funds for the National Garden Scheme than any other single garden. In 2022 the August open day at Frogmore raised more than £18,000.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of Queen Elizabeth II and previous generations of the Royal Family and we extend our ongoing thanks to King Charles III who became the charity's Patron in 2002, succeeding his grandmother Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

2022 saw a return to normality for garden opening and visiting for the first time for three years, with gardens able to open without enforced restrictions and visitors free and confident to visit at their leisure without fear of being amongst crowds. Once again the February Snowdrop Festival got the season off to a flying start and reminded everyone how welcome access to gardens is during the weeks of late winter.

While the weather was generally an improvement on 2021, as so often in the past it proved not only decisive but as mercurial as ever, delivering an unprecedented drought and heatwave for weeks in midsummer. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our garden owners for their resilience and fortitude in the face of the challenges this raised; we know that in some areas it was so serious that it has jeopardised their prospects of opening in 2023. We look forward to welcoming them back.

Whether with the addition of more small urban gardens, community gardens or hospice gardens and allotment groups, the diversity of our gardens continues to grow. We know that over a period of time this will help lead to growing diversity in our audiences. On this front, 2022 has been a year of triumph for the National Garden Scheme's Community Garden Grants programme which we were able to relaunch in autumn 2022. From hundreds of applications appraised earlier this year, we have supported 76 projects with funding totalling £187,000. You can read more details on page 24, but there is no doubt that the Community Gardens Grants programme has become a major branch of our charitable impact, reaching as it does hundreds of different individuals in diverse communities all over the country.

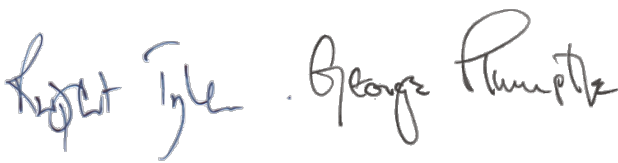
The Community Garden Grants programme is championed by Danny Clarke who was one of two new Ambassadors who joined the charity in 2022 and you can read more about them on the next page. Along with our peerless President Dame Mary Berry, our Ambassadors promote the National Garden Scheme in a variety of ways and we offer the warmest thanks to them all for their time and enthusiasm.

As we have moved away from the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic we have been faced by other significant issues to confront. The cost of living crisis has impacted on all our audiences; our volunteers, our supporters and, not least, our beneficiary charities. In many cases their fundraising mechanisms have seen a return to normality. But at the same time the pressures on those working in horticulture and in the nursing and health charities that we support have been relentless.

So we are extremely proud that the fundraising efforts of our wonderful garden owners and volunteers have enabled us to commit to donations that return to pre-Covid-19 levels and

demonstrate our continued ability to maintain donation levels in the face of adversity. In the pages that follow you will find the details of the support we give to our core nursing and health beneficiaries, to gardens and health projects and to supporting and training gardeners, and the impact we have for them all.

Throughout its 90-plus year history the National Garden Scheme has always been proud of its accessibility and affordability. In our first years during the 1920s it meant that for the first time ever members of the general public could visit privately-owned gardens whoever they were, for the modest price of one shilling for charity. Today those qualities are as vital and relevant as ever, enshrined in our current Strategic Plan 2021-25 and its commitment to everyone having access to gardens and widening our public reach. We must thank all our garden owners and volunteers for all the hard work and commitment which sustain our offering to visitors and underpin our charitable donations and impact.



Rupert Tyler
Chairman

George Plumtre
Chief Executive

Who's who

Patron

The former Prince of Wales

President

Dame Mary Berry

Chairman

Rupert Tyler

Deputy Chairman

Sue Phipps

Hon Treasurer

Andrew Ratcliffe

Trustees

Arit Anderson

Atty Beor-Roberts

Richard Barley

Peter Clay

Susan Copeland

Maureen Kesteven

Susan Paynton

Mark Porter

Vernon Sanderson

Sir Richard Thompson KCVO

Alison Wright

Chief Executive

George Plumtre

We welcomed two new Ambassadors in 2022

The National Garden Scheme was delighted to welcome two new Ambassadors in 2022. Danny Clarke, garden designer, landscaper, TV presenter and self-confessed 'friend of the earth' aka The Black Gardener, and Jo Whiley one of the country's best-known pop music journalists and DJs. Both are passionate about gardens and gardening and the associated health and wellbeing benefits they bring to individuals and communities. We look forward to their support for our work and to widening awareness of the National Garden Scheme in the years ahead.



2022 in numbers...

£3.11 million
Donated to our
beneficiary charities



1,900
Inpatients supported by the Y Bwthyn
NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative
Care Unit in Wales since opening



370
Soldiers and veterans helped
through horticultural therapy



23,871
Hours of community nursing
care supported through
Marie Curie



7,000
Patients currently benefit
from support of a Parkinson's
Nurse funded by us



1,700
Queen's Nurses now
supported by our funding





456,089

Unpaid carers supported
across the UK through
Carers Trust



911

NHS and Social Care staff
accessed individual counselling
support through Hospice UK



9,500

Patients supported across four
Horatio's gardens in 2022



7,000

People affected by cancer
reached by Maggie's in
Oxford



20,000

People being supported by Perennial
caseworkers and prevent teams
thanks to our funding



Our donation of £3.11 million was generated from the opening of 3,629 gardens, supported by 616 National Garden Scheme volunteers during the 2022 season. These are just some of the incredible things that the money raised has supported.



Our donations in 2022

Originally set up in 1927 to support district nurses, the National Garden Scheme now raises millions for nursing and health charities each year. We also support charities doing amazing work in gardens and health, grant bursaries to help community gardening projects and support gardeners at the start of their careers.

Throughout 2022 we worked with our main beneficiaries to help promote our partnerships, the importance of gardens to health, and to generate increased interest and support for the work of the National Garden Scheme and its portfolio of gardens. This report looks at how our donations made in November 2021 were spent throughout the year.

In November 2022, we committed to donate a total of £3.11m from garden openings this year, these include:

Main beneficiaries:

Marie Curie	£450,000
Macmillan Cancer Support	£450,000
Hospice UK	£450,000
The Queen's Nursing Institute	£400,000
Carers Trust	£350,000
Parkinson's UK	£350,000

Gardens and health:

Maggie's	£100,000
Horatio's Garden	£90,000
ABF The Soldiers' Charity	£80,000
Greenfingers Charity	£50,000

Support for gardeners:

English Heritage*	£125,000
Perennial	£100,000
Working for Gardeners Association	£65,000
National Botanic Garden of Wales	£20,000
Professional Gardeners' Trust	£20,000
Garden Museum	£10,000

*For the first time in our history, we are going to support English Heritage's outstanding Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme with a commitment over three years, funding seven trainees per year.

Community gardening projects:

Our Community Garden Grants, that were suspended because of Covid restrictions in 2021, resumed in 2022. Seventy six grants totalling £187,000 were awarded across 33 counties. You can read the full story on page 24.

The funding supports community allotments and gardens, rehabilitation and regeneration projects, as well as gardens designed to support mental health and wellbeing, and training and development for young people. With applications launched for 2023 grants in October 2022, we're looking forward to supporting a fabulous new tranche of community gardens in the year ahead.

For more information on National Garden Scheme bursaries and Community Garden Grants visit our website at: ngs.org.uk

Photo left: Detail from Horatio's Garden in Salisbury, part funded by the National Garden Scheme © Horatio's Garden

Additional fundraising activities

The National Garden Scheme's principle source of income has always been its garden openings, from admissions and the sale of teas and plants. However, we continue to develop additional income streams raising funds through special events and regional workshops, online lectures and talks, annual community fundraisers and the development of long-term corporate partnerships. In 2022 these additional fundraising activities raised over £150,000.

An evening in the World's Greatest Glasshouse

This year's gala fundraising event was held in the iconic Temperate House in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This special evening, hosted by our President, Dame Mary Berry raised over £48,000 from the sale of tickets, the exclusive auction and raffle and other donations.

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who attended, to our sponsors Knight Frank, to all those who gave an auction prize, to our Trustee and Director of Horticulture for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Richard Barley and Dame Amelia Fawcett, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew - pictured right speaking at the event.



Griffin Glasshouses

Griffin Glasshouses is our longest standing corporate sponsor donating over £101,000 to the National Garden Scheme since 2013. They donate 5% from sales of their stunning collection of eight National Garden Scheme inspired Victorian Glasshouses and in 2022 this resulted in a record donation of over £20,000.

The cheque presentation was made to our new Ambassador, Jo Whiley, on the Griffin Glasshouses stand at RHS Chelsea in May.



Photo left to right: Directors of Griffin Glasshouses Paul Smith and Peter Griffin, Griffin Glasshouses Managing Director, Linda Lane, National Garden Scheme Ambassador Jo Whiley and our CEO, George Plumptre



Supporting the National Garden Scheme this year - left to right: Arit Anderson (Trustee), Jo Whiley and Rachel de Thame (Ambassadors) and Dame Mary Berry (President) Photo © Lucy Hooper

The Great British Garden Party

Run in partnership with Talking Tables, the Great British Garden Party community fundraiser, inspired people up and down the country to sign up and host their own fundraising event this summer to raise money for the National Garden Scheme and the vital nursing and health charities we support. Once again supporters enjoyed gathering with friends and family and showed their creativity and commitment by hosting plant sales, afternoon teas, picnics in the park and evening events.

The fundraiser, supported by the National Garden Scheme Ambassadors and launched by its President Dame Mary Berry raised almost £30,000 this year. Partners Talking Tables donated 5% sales of their beautiful Truly Scrumptious range of tableware and party accessories throughout the summer, as well as hosting a number of their own Great British Garden Parties with staff and friends. In October they announced their donation of £12,000.

Commenting on the year's activities, Chief Executive, George Plumptre said: "Bringing together one's outside space with friends, family and fabulous teas, suppers or barbecues has once again proved to be an appealing additional fundraiser for us this year. We're hugely grateful to everyone who took part, including our new Ambassador Jo Whiley who shared her perfect party playlist, and to Talking Tables whose continuing financial and creative support has helped us promote the event far and wide."

Crystal Oldman, CEO of The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) showed her support again this year by hosting her own afternoon tea party saying: "This is such an important fundraiser for the National Garden Scheme - the amazing charity that supports community nursing and health charities every year. The QNI could not do our work without them and I'd encourage everyone to hold a Great British Garden Party to ensure the continuation of all the vital work they support."

Nursing and health beneficiaries

Macmillan Cancer Support

The National Garden Scheme is Macmillan Cancer Support's longest standing partner having donated over £18.5 million since our partnership began 38 years ago. In November 2022 we made a donation of £450,000.

This year's donation is the fifth instalment for the newly built Y Bwthyn NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Unit in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Wales. The National Garden Scheme committed £2.5 million in total to help build and support this purpose-designed unit providing inpatient care, specialist day centre care and palliative medicine outpatient services. The new unit, which opened to patients in September 2019, enables people living with cancer to receive the right care and support in one place.

"The donation you kindly gave us enabled us to extend our reach in South Wales through Y Bwthyn. Without this donation this fantastic facility would not exist."

In its three years of operation the unit has been used in innovative ways to support outpatients

during the pandemic and more than 1,900 people have been cared for since it opened in 2019.

Previous donations continue to support thousands at the NGS Macmillan Unit at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and the NGS Wellbeing Centre at Southmead Hospital, Bristol.

In 2022 in Chesterfield, over 7,940 were given some form of cancer related support and 4,610 received anti-cancer treatment. While at the Centre in Bristol 3,928 people were supported either by phone or face-to-face.

National Garden Scheme donations have also now funded 150 Macmillan Nurses and other Macmillan professionals.

Service-user groups and staff from Macmillan also visited National Garden Scheme gardens in 2022 as part of our Gardens and Health programme and as venues for staff away days. A participant described the event as an 'idyllic spot' for the team that helped with 'creativity' and cementing the partnership.



Visiting the Y Bwthyn NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Unit in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Wales in November 2022 to mark three years of opening, National Garden Scheme's Susan Paynton, Trustee and Regional Chair for Wales; Rosamund Davies, County Organiser for Glamorgan; George Plumptre, Chief Executive and Richard Pugh, Head of Partnerships at Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales
© Macmillan Cancer Support / Jon Snedden

Marie Curie



Marie Curie nurse for 19 years, Caty Hollis works at Bradford hospice and contributed to our Gardens and Health case studies in 2022
© Marie Curie

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting Marie Curie since 1996, donating over £10.8 million in that time and making us the single largest funder of their work.

In November 2022, the National Garden Scheme donated £450,000 to help Marie Curie continue to provide their nationwide community nursing service, 24-hour care for people with terminal illness in nine Marie Curie hospices across the UK, and their expert information and support services including their support line and online resources.

While the funding is unrestricted, to give an idea of the impact of the donation it equates to 23,871 hours of community nursing care. That's 2,652 night shifts where a Marie Curie Nurse has arrived at the front door of a family whose loved one is terminally ill and provided expert care and emotional support. They have allowed family members to be just family for a night, and not a full-time carer. They have provided pain relief so a person's final moments can be as peaceful as possible, and guided families through one of

the worst times imaginable. It also equates to 1,243 days of round-the-clock care in one of nine hospices, where people receive the expert care they need in a specialised environment.

The donation also funded the NGS Nightingale Challenge. The first intake graduated in February 2022 and saw all 17 participants share their learnings from the programme. This bespoke programme of leadership and development training for Marie Curie Nurses and allied health professionals means that partnering with the National Garden Scheme, Marie Curie can help to address the challenges of nurse retention and invest in the future of UK nursing.

"We are so proud of our partnership with the National Garden Scheme and all we have achieved during our 26 years of partnership. Throughout a very challenging time for charities and people with a terminal illness, we have greatly appreciated the ongoing support of the National Garden Scheme, their colleagues, trustees, volunteers and supporters."

Nursing and health beneficiaries

Hospice UK



Rebekah Franklyn, Senior Physiotherapist, starred in a special video looking at the importance of gardens to hospice patients, staff and volunteers
© Royal Trinity Hospice, Clapham

The National Garden Scheme has supported Hospice UK since 1996 donating over £6.9 million in that time. In November 2022 the National Garden Scheme donated £450,000 to Hospice UK which will enable them to continue supporting over 200 hospices in the UK that provide care for people facing terminal and life shortening illnesses, and their families.

In 2022 our funding enabled Hospice UK to:

- Work with national governments and the NHS to transform hospice care.
- Secure and distribute more than 85 million free items of PPE to hospices over the past two years, ensuring all hospice staff receive the vital equipment they need to keep safe.
- Invest £60,000 to fund their Information and Enquiry Service for 2022, giving thousands of patients, families and healthcare professionals access to the right tools and information.
- Invest £150,000 to help break down the stigma around death and dying and engage and encourage thousands of people to have important conversations about death and bereavement.

- Invest £40,000 to help local health and social care providers to plan for the future of end-of-life care.
- Invest £25,000 to support 30,000+ employees through their Compassionate Employers hub.
- Invest £125,000 to make sure that everybody, regardless of who they are, gets the quality end-of-life care that they need.

“Thanks to the generous donation from the National Garden Scheme, more than 300,000 adults and children – along with their loved ones and carers – are supported across the hospice network each year.”

The funding supports work to ensure that everyone, no matter who they are, where they are or why they are ill, receives the best possible end-of-life care.

Fifteen hospices in the network also opened their gardens as part of the National Garden Scheme in 2022, inviting the local community to enjoy these special places and to engage with hospice staff and volunteers to better understand the role of hospices.

Carers Trust

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting Carers Trust since 1996, having donated over £5.5 million in that time to help the charity raise the profile of carers' issues, and enabling them to further their reach and support to even more unpaid carers. In November 2022, the National Garden Scheme donated £350,000 to Carers Trust.

During the year the majority of our funding - £325,000 - supported Carers Trust's core work, including policy and public affairs, research, campaigns, communications and supporting their network of local carer's services to continue to deliver top quality support for unpaid carers.

£20,000 also contributed to grants for essential items, group activities and garden visits and £25,000 supported the Respite Fund, providing valuable respite to unpaid carers.

Remaining funds were allocated to individual carers, focusing on breaks and outdoor and garden-related activities, enabling them to access respite from stressful and demanding caring roles.

National Garden Scheme funding for the Carers Fund programme, which aims to address some of the financial barriers faced by individual carers,

meant that support was given to 91 individual applications for adult carers including:

- 49 grants for respite breaks and outdoor activities.
- 28 grants towards the cost of essential household items including washing machines, cookers, fridge freezers and beds.
- 7 grants towards the cost of courses, skills and personal development.
- 7 grants toward the cost of transport related to a caring role.

"The National Garden Scheme's donation makes a real difference to carers who are struggling to cope financially, particularly with the current cost of living crisis which is already having a huge impact on the carers we support."

Garden visits to National Garden Scheme gardens for unpaid carers remain an important element of the partnership. In 2022, thanks to our partnership with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) we were also able to arrange a special trip for young carers, aged 9-11, to the London Wetland Centre.

Pictured; young carers enjoy a visit to the WWT London Wetland Centre, Barnes thanks to the partnership with the National Garden Scheme



Nursing and health beneficiaries

Parkinson's UK

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting Parkinson's UK since 2012, donating a total of over £1.7 million to bring better care, treatments and quality of life for those living with Parkinson's. In November 2022, the National Garden Scheme donated £350,000 to Parkinson's UK and celebrated 10 years of partnership.

The donations help fund Parkinson's nurses, this year pump-prime funding a part time band seven nursing post in Southport and Ormskirk for the next two years. This was the last priority area where people did not have access to a dedicated Parkinson's nurse and will support around 200 patients living with Parkinson's each year. By supporting this post the National Garden Scheme has helped ensure that everyone across the UK should have access to and be able to reach a dedicated nurse for support as required.

The donation also helped fund Service Improvement Grants. These benefit the wider UK Parkinson's Excellence Network and disseminate best practice. In 2022 a Service Improvement Grant for a

Clinical and Research Fellowship was awarded to an applicant who wanted to undertake a PhD and gain training and experience in Parkinson's.

"We now estimate that around 7,000 patients currently benefit from support from the nurse posts that have been funded by the National Garden Scheme."

To mark the 10th Anniversary of our partnership four visits to National Garden Scheme gardens for Parkinson's groups were arranged across the country. There was also an event in London attended by Parkinson's nurses and VIPs including our President Dame Mary Berry, Ambassador Rachel de Thame, Trustee Arit Anderson, Parkinson's UK President Jane Asher, and Rory Cellan-Jones. Three anniversary videos were produced, one featuring National Garden Scheme volunteer and garden owner Brian Bailey who uses gardening to help manage his Parkinson's, another followed a local Parkinson's group visit to The Down House in Hampshire and the third was a thank you from Jane Asher for our support.



Photo © Parkinson's UK

The Queen's Nursing Institute



QNI nurse Sandra working in the homeless health service in South London © Kate Stanworth

The National Garden Scheme was founded by The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) in 1927, when 609 gardens opened at one shilling a head. We became independent of the QNI in 1980 and the charity has remained a valued partner ever since with the National Garden Scheme donating more than £5.8 million over the charities' 95 years together. In November 2022 we made a donation of £400,000.

Our donation is the sole source of support for the Queen's Nurse network, a national network of nurses working in the community in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. There are now almost 1,700 Queen's Nurses, up from 1,400 in 2021. There are anticipated to be 2,000 by the end of 2022 in all community specialisms.

Funding also allows the QNI to produce some of their most important reports, for example the annual District Nurse Education Report, which gathers and publishes data about the number of students undertaking specialist District Nursing degrees across the UK. The report supports policy

and campaign activity of the QNI and provides an independent and trusted source of information for universities, policy makers and service planners.

The donation also supports the QNI's Queen's Nurse Executive Leadership Programme and enabled the launch of the NGS Elsie Wagg (Innovation) Scholarship which opened for applications in autumn 2021 for projects beginning in spring 2022 which are currently running. The first cohort of projects, all focused on gardens and health, has enjoyed great success and in the autumn the QNI opened applications for a second cohort to start in spring 2023. These practical projects each benefit from up to £5,000 in direct funding as well as a year-long programme of individual and group support from the QNI.

QNI nurses were instrumental in helping gardens open for the National Garden Scheme in the Channel Islands for the first time in 2022. And, the largest gathering of Queen's nurses since the pandemic came together at the opening of the garden at Frogmore House in Windsor this summer to mark our 95 years of partnership.

Gardens and health beneficiaries



Our Gardens and Health Programme raises awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of gardens and gardening for everyone. Celebrated in May each year with a dedicated Gardens and Health Week we work to promote gardens and health throughout the year, linking service users from our beneficiaries with free garden visits and funding gardens and health projects.

The charities we fund create gardens with health benefits and promote gardens and gardening as therapy. We also give grants for community gardening projects that support the wellbeing of local communities and groups. Our annual digital publication *The Little Yellow Book of Gardens and Health* (pictured) shines a spotlight on the importance of gardens to everyone's health and wellbeing and links us to our beneficiaries and the important work they do in this field.

The following pages report on the impact of our gardens and health funding.



Maggie's

Maggie's centres offer the best possible support free to anyone with cancer and their families who walk through their doors. For each centre, architects and interior and landscape designers work closely together to create a strong connection between the outside and inside space.

During 2022, our donation of £100,000 went towards supporting gardens at Maggie's Oxford and the extensions at Maggie's Cheltenham and Newcastle.

At Maggie's Oxford the area beneath and surrounding the building had been untouched with the garden left while opening the building was prioritised for cancer patients. Designer Pip Morrison created a new landscape to provide seasonal interest. National Garden Scheme funding in 2022 helped to maximise the usable space and draw people out into the garden which has been transformed into a peaceful haven. The official opening is planned for spring 2023.

The extensions at Maggie's Newcastle and Cheltenham remain priorities despite unavoidable

delays created by Brexit and Covid. They have broken ground at Newcastle and aim to start on site in Cheltenham in 2023.

In the final year of the current partnership, it has been agreed that National Garden Scheme 2022 funding will be allocated to the garden at Maggie's Northampton. Planning permission is in place, and they have reached RIBA stage 4 which is the final stage before construction can start.

Past funding has enabled Maggie's to enhance the garden in Swansea and build new gardens in Yorkshire and Southampton. All of these gardens have been enjoyed by thousands of service users in 2022. In Oxford, there have been more than 7,000 visits to the centre.

In November 2022 it was confirmed that the National Garden Scheme was committing to support Maggie's for a further five years.

Gardens at four Maggie's centres also planned openings for National Garden Scheme visitors in 2022.

Gardens and health beneficiaries

ABF The Soldiers' Charity



Helping to improve veterans' mental health through outdoor-focused activities funded by the National Garden Scheme and ABF The Soldiers' Charity © Veterans Outdoors

In November 2022, the National Garden Scheme donated £80,000 to ABF The Soldiers' Charity to support the provision of horticultural-related assistance to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families and thereby improve their health and wellbeing. We have been supporting the charity since 2010, with donations in 2010 and 2011, then annual donations from 2017, totalling £670,000.

During the year, our donations were used to support grants to 10 individuals and four service delivery charities.

£10,438 in individual grants went to 10 individual beneficiaries, supporting horticultural-related activities and education, training and employment in the outdoor sector. These horticulturally focused grants support individuals with a wide range of needs, from improving mental health and wellbeing, to providing specialised skills, training and equipment for horticultural-related employment.

The 10 grants were given between May 2021 and April 2022. This included mobility grants which enabled better access for veterans to outdoor spaces, providing physical health benefits, as well as improving mental fitness, wellbeing, and quality of life.

£59,562 was given in grants to four service delivery charity partners providing horticultural related activities and health projects for both serving soldiers and veterans. These charities were: HighGround, Veterans Outdoors, Royal Star and Garter, and Care for Veterans.

This also included a capital grant to one charity partner to develop an outdoor space for activities, rehabilitation, and recreation.

In total, the grants supported approximately 372 beneficiaries in 2022.

Horatio's Garden

Horatio's Garden was founded in 2012 by doctors David and Olivia Chapple in memory of their son. The first garden was opened in 2012 in Salisbury where David Chapple is the spinal injuries consultant. We have been supporting Horatio's Garden since 2015 to help the charity create and care for beautiful, accessible gardens in NHS regional spinal injury centres. In 2019, the National Garden Scheme committed funding for the completion of gardens at all 11 spinal injuries units across the country.

In 2021 the National Garden Scheme donated £75,000 towards Horatio's Garden Wales – the first of two tranches generously pledged for this garden. The second, agreed in November 2022, was £90,000.

The funding has been used towards the following costs of the capital build project; soft landscaping, fencing and gates, greenhouse, garden benches, furniture and fixtures. Horatio's Garden were delighted to open the garden to patients and their loved ones in May 2022. And, since opening,

patients have been using the garden and garden room daily, taking part in the wide range of activities on offer.

Each garden hosts a range of activities including horticultural therapy and art sessions designed to improve patients' physical, social and psychological wellbeing and to contribute to their rehabilitation while providing the opportunity to explore new interests and bring patients together.

The National Garden Scheme has now made grants to four gardens – Stoke Mandeville, Midlands, London & Southeast, and Wales totalling almost £5 million. Across these gardens nearly 9,500 patients are being supported, as well as their visitors and the staff in the centres.

"We truly value the support we receive from the National Garden Scheme. You are a fantastic partner and one we hope to work with you for many years to come. We are committed to improving the way we promote the partnership and endeavour to do even more to support your activities and campaigns over the coming year."



Garden therapy at Horatio's Garden, Salisbury © Horatio's Garden

Support for gardeners

The National Garden Scheme raises money from opening exceptional gardens many of which are looked after by professional gardeners. As well as helping gardeners and others working in horticulture through our donations to Perennial, we also recognise that it is often hard for people to get started in a gardening career so we also fund a variety of training and apprentice schemes. In November 2022, our donations in support of gardeners totalled £340,000, going to Perennial, WFGA, the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the Professional Gardeners' Trust and the Garden Museum. Also, for the first time in our history, we are going to support English Heritage's outstanding Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme with a commitment over three years. These pages give a taster of our how our donations are used.

Working for Gardeners Association (WFGA)

For the last six years, the National Garden Scheme has been funding a bursary to help improve horticultural education across the country as part of the work by WFGA and its unique Work & Retrain as a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS). During 2022, our donations helped support nine trainees through a year's training.

Since it began the bursary has funded a total of 57 placement grants in gardens around the country offering the practical training so many gardeners and career changers need.

The National Garden Scheme bursary funded trainee wages on the unique scheme which benefits both garden owners and trainees, paying individual trainee's salary for a practical part-time years' experience in a garden.

Textile and interior designer Emma Clanfield, decided to turn her designers eye to gardening and signed up for the WRAG scheme. In April 2022, with just two exams left to take to complete

her RHS Level 2 diploma, she started working as a WRAG trainee at the garden at Stoke Albany House – which also opens for the National Garden Scheme. "It's a beautiful garden and I'm learning so much from head gardener Adele, who is very patient and great company. In hindsight, I think my RHS exams would have been a lot easier if I had gained more practical gardening experience first," she says.

Emma finishes at Stoke Albany at the end of April 2023 and hopes to continue gardening as a career. "I have been lucky to find myself a garden mentor and over the last year I have worked with her and the garden owner at Westbrooke House (another National Garden Scheme garden) for a few hours each week and that led to me working for a garden designer looking after her clients newly created gardens."

Not only is Emma learning and supporting other gardens but she also opens her own garden in Leicestershire for the National Garden Scheme.

Below, WRAGS trainee and garden opener for the National Garden Scheme, Emma Clanfield at Stoke Albany House



Perennial



Fitteworth House, Sussex © Julie Skelton

The National Garden Scheme is Perennial's largest single donor having donated over £2 million since the partnership began in 1986. This contribution makes a huge difference to the lives of thousands of people who are working, or have worked, in the horticulture industry in the UK and their families who find themselves facing tough times. In November 2022, the National Garden Scheme donated £100,000.

Throughout 2022 Perennial used National Garden Scheme funding to support the cornerstone of their service; their caseworkers, who work with each service user on a one-to-one basis. By way of example, £35,000 paid for a full-time debt advisor who provided debt advice and support to 316 people working in horticulture, helping to successfully dispute and write-off £584,000 of debt and helping to relieve financial stress and worry.

Other examples of how National Garden Scheme funding supported horticultural workers include:

£5,000 provided over 200 hours of digital mental health, fitness, nutrition and self-guided mindfulness learning, supporting 210 people to adopt healthy supporting behaviours.

£4,200 provided food directly to 68 people in crisis helping them to feed their families.

£3,588 paid for 83 physio appointments enabling people working in horticulture affected by injury, illness or disability restore their movement and function, reducing the risk of injury or illness in the future.

£4,888 paid for 88 people working in horticulture experiencing bereavement, relationship breakdown and redundancy to access urgent legal advice.

£5,000 paid for research to understand the health and wellbeing needs of those people working in horticulture.

£3,800 has trained 16 people working in horticulture to become mental health first aiders across their workplaces.

£15,000 provided regular financial help to 20 people diagnosed with life-changing and life-threatening conditions relieving the stress and financial pressure of everyday living costs.

In the last year our funding helped approximately 20,000 people through both the caseworker teams and the prevent services.

"We are proud to refer the National Garden Scheme as our single largest donor."

Families enjoying the allotments, learning and wildlife at the CRC project in Nottingham
© Chronicle and Echo



Community Garden Grants

In addition to our annual donations to nursing and health charities, the National Garden Scheme awards grants to help community gardening projects, celebrating with the presentation of a special plaque on completion of the work. Postponed due to Covid restrictions the grants resumed in 2022 funding 76 projects with a total of £187,000.

“We want to see this funding going to the heart of community projects, helping to invigorate the people they support and introducing new audiences to the huge benefits that gardens and gardening bring to their health, wellbeing and to the surrounding environment.”

Danny Clarke, National Garden Scheme Ambassador, gardener and TV presenter



Among those awarded grants in 2022 were; Derian House Children's Hospice, Lancashire, Future Roots and Countrymen, Dorset and The Hidden Garden, Selsey

In 2022, projects from Northumberland to Cornwall across 33 counties benefitted from a Community Garden Grant including:

Random's Retreat in Consett, County Durham, a project aimed at encouraging native wildlife back to a site that was formerly a coal mine and lumber yard. The redesigned community garden is being used to bring families closer together and to provide a safe outdoor space to meet, relax and interact.

In **Cornwall** a grant is being used to convert disused land into a community asset. The 'Jubilee Corner Extension' extends an existing community garden to serve the community of St Blazey, Par and Tywardreath. Sonia Clyne, who had the initial vision for the project, says: "It's wonderful to see the transformative effects the garden has on people, relieving anxiety, building confidence and self-esteem, and bringing such joy."

With the grant covering fencing for the area, next year the plan is to sow a mix of wildflower seeds and plant espalier fruit trees along the border, transforming the Jubilee Corner into a space for open-air events to be enjoyed by the whole community.

In **Herefordshire** a grant is helping improve access to the garden at St Michael's Hospice.

"These gardens provide a place that everyone can visit in order to reflect, find solace, relax, spend time with family and friends and simply enjoy the peace and quiet, scents and views, enhancing both

physical and mental health and wellbeing. Those attending include patients, families and friends, carers, staff and other visitors to St Michael's Hospice. The pathways have all been widened from 1m wide to 2m, the bends have been 'softened' and new gravel and resin laid, all to allow for easier and safer movement for wheelchair users and their families," says Tony Larkin, Grants and Trusts Executive at the hospice.

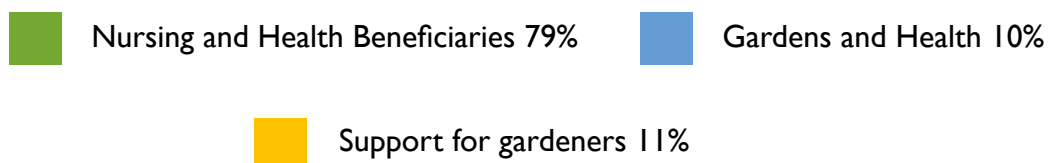
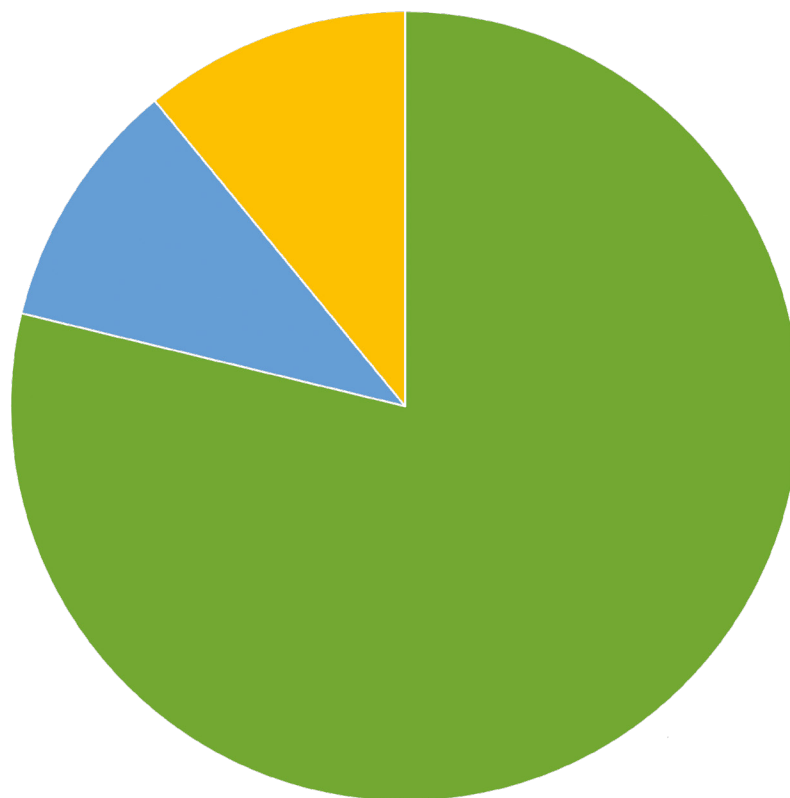
A grant to the **Home-Start Slough** women's allotment project has helped empower women through building up friendships and connecting with nature to improve their emotional and physical wellbeing. Gardening has been proven to boost mental and physical health and when a lack of local perinatal support for women living with anxiety and low mood was identified in Slough it led a midwifery team to create an allotment project to encourage pregnant and new mums to grow and cultivate vegetables.

One of the allotment mums who was referred to the project when she was pregnant said: "I love spending time outdoors but I've no nice outside space where I live. Going to Home-Start's allotment group with other pregnant women became a sanctuary for me. I love planting and it felt so good to be outside in the fresh air. Everything I put my hands on just bloomed. When I planted those very first seeds, I was isolated and depressed. As those seeds grew my depression and isolation lessened. Going to the allotment turned everything around for me. Mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially – the allotment group changed my life."

Donation summary

The beneficiary donations we made in November 2022, as detailed below, come from funds raised at our gardens during the year.

	£
Nursing and Health Beneficiaries	2,450,000
Gardens and Health	320,000
Support for gardeners	340,000
	<hr/> 3,110,000 <hr/>



Our thanks to ...

This year, and every year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the garden owners and volunteers who make everything we do - and all that we achieve - possible. Without their beautiful gardens and their vital support throughout the county network, we would be unable to make the significant contributions to our beneficiaries that are outlined in this report. Thank you.

Core sponsor

We are extremely grateful to the valuable contribution from Investec which has supported the National Garden Scheme for over 24 years and is our core sponsor.



Our corporate partners

We are generously supported by a small group of corporate sponsors who donate a percentage of net sales on a range of their products to the National Garden Scheme each year. Our thanks go to:



Special thanks



In 2022 we would like to note our special thanks to Knight Frank for their generous sponsorship of our annual fundraising event which took place in the Temperate House at Kew and to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for generously allowing us to host our event in this beautiful location, also to Babylonstoren for donating the wine.





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The National Garden Scheme is a charity registered in the UK. Charity Number 1112664

Photo: Holehird Gardens, Cumbria © Joe Wainwright

We look forward to welcoming you to our gardens in 2023