



# Impact Report 2021



A year of continuity and commitment  
over £3 million donated



# About us

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, 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 £63 million to nursing and health charities since we were founded in 1927. And in 2021, despite the continuing challenges we all faced from the COVID-19 pandemic, we made total donations of £3,030,272.

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 and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

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 made in 2021 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 2022.

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Photo (left): Summerdale House, Cumbria © Val Corbett

**Front cover image:**  
Elaine and Julia at Ashbourne Road and District Allotments, Derbyshire, delighted to be back in their allotment gardens that open for the National Garden Scheme, and which proved invaluable for the wider community during the pandemic  
© Amanda McConnell

# Chairman's and Chief Executive's review



Chairman, Rupert Tyler and Chief Executive, George Plumptre  
© Julie Skelton

2021 was set in motion for the National Garden Scheme in an upliftingly optimistic manner. In the face of the prolonged crisis and extensive restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our garden owners registered to open in 2021 in the numbers of a normal year. We knew by their registrations that they were giving us the opportunity to succeed in 2021 so long as other factors allowed, and for that we owe them all a huge vote of thanks.

Restrictions and uncertainty continued through the early months of 2021, severely curtailing our garden opening activities. At the same time we were acutely aware of the challenges that most of our beneficiary charities were still facing – and indeed these have continued through much of the year and we can only salute the manner in which they have responded.

In this light, it was an important milestone for us all in January when we published the report, *Health Charities and the NHS; a Partnership in Peril?* The report was researched and written for us by two distinguished public health and nursing academics, Tony Hockley of the LSE (which published the report) and Alison Leary of London South Bank University. All of our major nursing and health beneficiaries contributed and the authors set out the report's message in their introduction:

*"Health charities need to be at the table in planning how the NHS faces the future. The pandemic of 2020 accelerated the onset of the*

*health and social care systems' biggest challenges. It was a wake-up call about coping with rising daily deaths. It should also remind policymakers of how much health and care relies upon health charities. We have heard inspirational stories of agility to keep services going through the pandemic. They have done this despite facing a fundraising crisis, infection controls and weak partnership planning in health policy. Given what lies ahead, a much stronger partnership between the NHS and these charities is imperative."*

The report highlighted the collective activities and contributions of our beneficiaries, and supporting that collective endeavour has driven the fundraising efforts of the National Garden Scheme through 2021. Once restrictions began to be lifted by the Government in April, we saw immediately how important visiting gardens was going to be for people and within a few weeks our gardens were recording levels of income that matched our record year in 2019. Through the summer the weather intervened and dampened both open days and our results, nonetheless our gardens have once again provided the funding for the donations that we are proud to announce for 2021.

The enormous contribution by our garden owners and volunteers was added to by other fundraising activities. Some, such as our series of online talks which raised £40,000 in ticket sales, were born out of the restrictions of the pandemic; they have introduced us to new audiences at home and abroad with whom we look forward to staying in touch. Graham and Mia Wrigley were generous hosts for a special fundraising event in August on a gorgeous summer evening in their garden at Chilworth Manor in Surrey. And in September we hosted our second Great British Garden Party, giving the opportunity for anyone – whether they open their garden or not – to have an event with friends or family and raise funds for the National Garden Scheme.

These were just some of the highlights amongst our fundraising activities through the year. Despite the challenges of the continuing pandemic and the weather we are very proud that we have been able to continue

our support for our beneficiaries without break and without any significant reduction in the amounts we are donating this year. And we are equally proud that, adding the funds donated in June and November together, we have been able to donate a total of nearly 90% of funds raised at our gardens in 2021.

We know that the long-term continuity of our funding from year to year is very unusual and, especially at a time when so many other sources of their funding either disappeared or declined, our beneficiaries have emphasised that this is the key quality in the support we are able to give to them. Nothing emphasised this more than the milestone we marked in 2021 of supporting three of our main beneficiaries - Carers Trust, Hospice UK and Marie Curie - for 25 years without break.

We look ahead to 2022 with optimism and with the prospect of exciting expansion as, for the first time ever, we will be welcoming gardens opening for us in Northern Ireland and Guernsey. We will do our utmost to increase the support we are able to give our beneficiary charities and we are sure that reading this report will bring home to everyone how important this will be for us all. We look forward to welcoming you to our gardens in 2022.

Rupert Tyler, Chairman

George Plumptre, Chief Executive

## Who's who

### Patron

HRH The 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 Plumptre



The National Garden Scheme was delighted to welcome garden designer, writer and presenter on BBC Two's *Gardeners' World*, Arit Anderson (pictured) to its Board of Trustees in 2021. Her appointment was approved by the board on Wednesday 17th March.

# 2021 in numbers...

**£3 million**  
Donated to our  
beneficiary charities

**1,200**  
Inpatients supported by the Y Bwthyn  
NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative  
Care Unit in Wales since opening

**1,000,000**

Items of PPE being  
distributed every week to  
UK hospices by Hospice UK

**652**

NHS and Social Care staff accessed  
individual counselling support  
thanks to Hospice UK

**8,500**

Patients supported across  
three Horatio's gardens in 2021

**69,000**

People helped by our  
support for Marie Curie

**750**

People living with  
Parkinson's supported

**72,000**

People accessed bereavement  
support through hospices in  
the UK

**1,420**

Queen's Nurses now  
supported by our funding

**2,300**

People affected by cancer  
reached by the Maggie's  
centres we support

**12,478**

Unpaid carers supported  
through funding for  
Carers Trust

Our donation of £3,030,272 was generated from the opening of 3,499 gardens, supported by 567 National Garden Scheme volunteers during the 2021 season. These are just some of the incredible things that the money raised has supported.



# Our donations in 2021

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.

In 2021 we donated a total of £3,030,272 and 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.

## Main beneficiaries:

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Marie Curie                   | £525,000 |
| Macmillan Cancer Support      | £500,000 |
| Hospice UK                    | £500,000 |
| Carers Trust                  | £425,000 |
| The Queen's Nursing Institute | £395,000 |
| Parkinson's UK                | £212,500 |

## Gardens and health:

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Maggie's                  | £100,000 |
| ABF The Soldiers' Charity | £60,000  |
| Horatio's Garden          | £75,000  |

## Support for gardeners:

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Perennial                        | £115,000 |
| WFGA                             | £65,000  |
| National Botanic Garden of Wales | £20,000  |
| Professional Gardeners' Trust    | £20,000  |
| Garden Museum                    | £10,000  |

## Community gardening projects:

Due to lockdown restrictions and the difficulty of accessing sites and supplies, the Community Gardens Award grants were suspended in 2021 allowing grantees time to complete the work on the 44 projects we funded in 2020. The final £7,772 of these grants was paid in 2021. Applications for Community Gardens Award grants, that will receive funding in spring 2022, were relaunched in November 2021.

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.

For more information on National Garden Scheme bursaries and Community Gardens Award visit our website at: [ngs.org.uk](https://ngs.org.uk)

*Photo left: The garden at Maggie's Southampton designed by Sarah Price and part funded by the National Garden Scheme  
© Maggie's / Alex Maguire*

# Additional fundraising activities

The National Garden Scheme relies primarily on the income generated at its gardens but, in 2021, we continued to run additional fundraising activities to support the charity's ongoing donations to our nursing and health beneficiaries. The fundraising events and partnerships described here added over £100,000 to the 2021 total.

## Planting Positivity

In 2021 the David Austin 'Planting Positivity' programme – which supports charities – included donations to the National Garden Scheme through the sale of three of its roses including the newly launched *Nye Bevan* and our very own *The Generous Gardener* - a rose that was created to mark the 75th anniversary of the National Garden Scheme in 2002. The support from David Austin means that we will receive a share of the £2.50 donation from the sale of each rose. With the programme running until the end of November 2021, the final donation was not confirmed by the time this Impact Report went to print. We would like to say a huge thank you for their support.

## Griffin Glasshouses

Continuing support from Griffin Glasshouses, who have designed a stunning collection of National Garden Scheme inspired modern, and Victorian greenhouses, generously donates 5% to the National Garden Scheme for each one sold. In 2021, this generated a donation of nearly £10,000.

## An Evening at Chilworth Manor

This year's annual summer fundraising evening in August was a wonderful celebration of a great garden for great causes. The generosity of our hosts, garden owners Mia and Graham Wrigley, and the tranquil beauty of the historic setting in Surrey made *An Evening at Chilworth Manor* truly memorable.

The evening raised £27,700, with these funds helping to make up the shortfall in funding following the closure of our gardens during the pandemic.

Piloting new technology with SumUp also enabled us to take card payments for raffle ticket sales equating to almost £4,000.

We would like to express our huge appreciation to Mia and Graham Wrigley and to event sponsor, Candide for helping to create such a successful evening in one of the National Garden Scheme's most treasured gardens.

*Below: An Evening at Chilworth Manor © Julie Skelton*



Photo © Sussie Bell / Selina Lake



## The Great British Garden Party

Now in its second year, people up and down the country, and as far away as Houston, USA, hosted Great British Garden Parties. From afternoon tea to paella parties, plant sales to street parties, cake stalls to wonderful evenings with music and dancing, there were a multitude of creative interpretations of what a Great British Garden Party can be.

Commenting on this year's activities Chief Executive, George Plumpton said: "It's been a wonderfully creative and exciting Great British Garden Party season. Along with some great themes and fundraising activities – from guess the name of the calf to raffles and bring and buy sales – we've been supported by young helpers, staunch supporters and lots of new friends, and raised

over £37,000 so far, including £10,000 donated from our event partner Talking Tables. The event is helping to expand our audiences, supporter base and our fundraising streams.

"What's really exciting is that the Great British Garden Party is becoming part of our additional fundraising activities that everyone – whatever their garden is like – can get involved with at any time of the year."

"It's been simply marvellous seeing the wonderful variety and creativity of those supporting the Great British Garden Party this year," added National Garden Scheme President, Mary Berry. "Thank you so much to everyone who has hosted a party and those who plan to host one in 2022."

# Celebrating 25 years of partnership



In 2021 the National Garden Scheme marked 25 years of partnership with three of its key beneficiaries: Marie Curie, Hospice UK and Carers Trust. In that time, we have donated over £20 million in support of their work.

In August, representatives of the three beneficiary charities joined the National Garden Scheme at Stonor Park bringing together the key ingredients that mark the National Garden Scheme's success: great gardens, great cakes and great causes. Our ability to combine with the three charities to mark the event also showed the strength of both our individual and collective commitments.

Unpaid carers, palliative care doctors and physiotherapists shared the afternoon with charity volunteers and chief executives, enjoying the beautiful gardens at Stonor Park along with afternoon tea.

Twenty-five years ago in 1996 National Garden Scheme donations went to support district nurses and Macmillan nurses. The addition of these three charities extended donations to palliative care nurses, hospice care and carers, thereby making a significant expansion to our charitable impact.

Since then, the combined total of more than £20 million that the National Garden Scheme has given to these three great organisations has made

us the most significant cumulative funder of each. Commenting on this milestone, National Garden Scheme Chief Executive, George Plumtre said: "The total, and our ability to provide long-term funding commitments to these nursing and health charities, is something that we are immensely proud of and keen to celebrate."

## What the funding means

Marie Curie has received almost £10 million in funding since 1996 making the National Garden Scheme one of their highest-value partners.

"The long-term support of the National Garden Scheme has been fundamental to our operations over the last 25 years, and we're proud to have a partner like them by our side throughout the changing landscape for over two decades," said Marie Curie CEO, Matthew Reed. "The partnership has enabled us to continue the essential provision of our national end of life community nursing service including funding crucial career progression costs for nurses, to support our nine hospices, our Information and Support service and Helpline. Not only that, but opening up our own gardens for the National Garden Scheme has been a welcome way to invite the public into our hospices, which we've loved participating in."



"It's a perfect partnership"  
Tracey Bleakley  
CEO, Hospice UK



Guests gather at Stonor Park near Henley-on-Thames to celebrate 25 years of partnership  
Photos © Lucy Hooper

"The National Garden Scheme is, and continues to be one of our longest standing, and most valued partners, and we're delighted to be continuing to work with them as we look to transform end of life care across the UK, together."

In addition to the funding received, like Marie Curie, Hospice UK encourages its own hospice gardens to open for the National Garden Scheme providing an open door to local communities and helping to raise awareness and funds for their important work.

"Inviting the public to visit our hospice gardens is a wonderful way to share our work with a wider audience and to share the benefits of these beautiful spaces with others," says Hospice UK CEO, Tracey Bleakley. "It's a perfect partnership. The money we've received from the National Garden Scheme and the long-term commitment has underpinned the support we've been able to provide to the whole hospice sector. Funding from the National Garden Scheme has also supported a bursary programme for hospices, and our annual awards ceremony which celebrates the achievements of our hospice staff and volunteers. In addition, National Garden Scheme gardens provide a wonderful space for our beneficiaries, staff and supporters to relax, learn and unwind."

Access to National Garden Scheme gardens has also been important to Carers Trust which supports around 438,000 unpaid carers every year in the UK. "The National Garden Scheme was an early supporter of unpaid carers and its continuous funding for 25 years has made a dramatic impact on what we have been able to do during that time," said Svetlana Kirov, Director of Fundraising at Carers Trust. "We're hugely grateful for this long-term commitment from the National Garden Scheme. The £5 million has transformed the lives of unpaid carers across the UK, not least because it has meant we have been able to provide them with respite from, and more support with, their caring role. In recent years the programme of free group carer visits to National Garden Scheme gardens has also been a real gift for carers, giving them the precious opportunity to enjoy the company and laughter of their fellow carers in the most beautiful surroundings imaginable."

"We fully understand the powerful health and wellbeing benefits of a garden visit and are keen to share that with as wide an audience as possible. And the opportunity for people to visit hospice gardens and see for themselves the huge benefits they bring is an extension of this," says George Plumtre. "Our aim is to not only to provide funding for these important charities but to build a relationship with all our beneficiaries, where our gardens provide so much more to all involved."

# Nursing and health beneficiaries

## Macmillan Cancer Support

The National Garden Scheme is Macmillan Cancer Support's longest standing partner having donated over £17 million since our partnership began 37 years ago. In 2021 we made donations totalling £500,000.

This year's donation is the fourth instalment of five earmarked for the new Y Bwthyn NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Unit in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Wales. The National Garden Scheme has committed £2.5million in total between 2018 and 2022 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.

In its two years of operation the unit has been used in innovative ways to support outpatients during the pandemic with more than 1,200 people being cared for since it opened in 2019.

The unit's two year anniversary was celebrated in July 2021 with a visit from HRH The Prince of Wales, the Patron of both Macmillan Cancer Support and the National Garden Scheme. His Royal Highness met Macmillan's Chief Executive Lynda Thomas and the National Garden Scheme's Chairman Rupert Tyler during the visit.

Designed by architects that specialise in palliative care to create a calm, welcoming, and comfortable environment for people with incurable illnesses and their loved ones, each patient bedroom has been designed so a patient's bed can be taken outside onto a screened terrace if they wish to go outdoors.

Previous National Garden Scheme donations continue to support thousands at the NGS Macmillan Unit in Chesterfield and the NGS Wellbeing Centre in Bristol. In Chesterfield, over 12,000 people have been supported since it opened in 2017. While at the Centre in Bristol 2,174 people have been supported either by phone or face-to-face in the last year.



HRH The Prince of Wales talks to staff at the Y Bwthyn NGS Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Unit in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Wales as part of the unit's second anniversary celebrations in July 2021 © Macmillan Cancer Support

## Marie Curie



Marie Curie nurse Jaqueline Nyabenda (HCA) and Paula Grufferty (HCA) © Marie Curie / Layton Thompson

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting Marie Curie since 1996, raising almost £10 million in that time and making us the single largest funder of their work.

In 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £525,000 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.

The National Garden Scheme donation enables Marie Curie to continue providing vital services and to be there, caring for people on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the funding is unrestricted, to give an idea of the impact of the donation it equates to 25,000 hours of overnight care from a Marie Curie Nurse

which is equivalent to 2,777 night shifts, or 31,250 hours of hospice care equal to 1,302 days of 24-hour care. Funding also helped support Marie Curie's bereavement service which supported 220 individuals, along with 15,625 people who were helped by their support line.

This year's donation also includes a one-off extra payment of £25,000 to help launch the NGS Nightingale Challenge, a bespoke programme of leadership and development training for Marie Curie Nurses and Allied Health Professionals. Nurses leaving the profession within the first five years of their career is a significant symptom of the challenges being faced in nursing and which have been accelerated by the pandemic. Partnering with the National Garden Scheme, Marie Curie aim to address these challenges and invest in the future of UK nursing with the launch of the new programme in 2022.

# Nursing and health beneficiaries

## Hospice UK



Hospice doctor, Emma © Wirral Hospice St Johns

The National Garden Scheme has supported Hospice UK since 1996, donating over £6 million in that time. In 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £500,000 enabling Hospice UK to continue supporting over 200 hospices in the UK that have been at the forefront of the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing pressure on the NHS by dealing with thousands of additional patients, whilst continuing to care for people facing terminal and life shortening illnesses, and their families.

Impacts from our 2021 funding include:

- Supporting Hospice UK's frontline teams to deal with the COVID-19 crisis through collaborative working and evidence-based research.
- The ongoing supply of PPE (personal protective equipment) for hospice staff. This involves managing weekly ordering systems and liaising with national distributors. Hospice UK are currently distributing one million items of PPE each week to UK hospices.
- Addressing inequality of access to hospice and palliative care.

- Improving mental wellbeing related to death, dying and bereavement through resilience and bereavement training for frontline staff and delivery of bereavement and trauma support for NHS, hospice and frontline staff.
- Creating sustainable, lasting change at all levels to ensure everyone's end of life care needs are met.

This funding remains crucial at a time when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospice and the end of life sector has been, and continues to be, profound. The role of Hospice UK is to help drive structural, system-wide and cultural change, through funding innovative projects to promote equality of access and disseminating the learnings from them.

Thanks to the generous donation from the National Garden Scheme, Hospice UK have been able to significantly improve mental wellbeing across end of life care; helping to foster a culture in which dealing with death and dying is normalised and where those doing so are given all the physical and emotional support they need.

## Carers Trust

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting Carers Trust since 1996, having donated £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 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £425,000 to Carers Trust which includes a special one-off payment of £25,000 to contribute to The Princess Royal Respite Fund for Carers which was launched in May.

The majority of the donation supported Carers Trust's core work, including policy, research and campaigns, communications and supporting their network of local carers services to continue to deliver top quality support for unpaid carers.

Highlights include: Young Carers Action Day - the annual campaign to raise awareness of young carers and to inspire action; building policy work to champion carers rights; continuing to strengthen their brand and website, and grants to support garden visits, carers getting together, and carers in dire need.

In total, National Garden Scheme funding has supported 73 carers and their families through group grants, enabled 52 carers and 21 people in

receipt of care, to visit a National Garden Scheme garden, provided 20 grants enabling groups of carers aged 16 and over - 428 carers in total - to get together and have a break from their caring role, and supported 50 carers and their families in dire need, with critical financial support.

The value of the carer visits to National Garden Scheme gardens in 2021, after long periods in lockdown, were hugely impactful.

For Aisha, who cares for her husband who has complex health issues, she felt like she was on holiday, saying: "I loved being outside after so many months of being inside. I really enjoyed the peace and quiet, the trees and plants were so beautiful."

Nicky, an older carer who has cared for her husband since he had a stroke seven years ago said: "The garden was beautiful, I was able to temporarily put my caring role aside and be with like-minded people. The whole experience left me feeling calm and peaceful and has done wonders for my mental health."

In total, during 2021, it is estimated that National Garden Scheme funding has helped support almost 12,500 unpaid carers.

Pictured below; carers enjoy a National Garden Scheme visit to The Old Rectory, Farnborough © Carers Trust / Micheala Greene



# Nursing and health beneficiaries

## Parkinson's UK

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting Parkinson's UK since 2012, donating over £1 million in that time to help drive better care, treatments and quality of life for those living with Parkinson's. In 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £212,500 to Parkinson's UK.

The donation helped fund a new nurse post in Hambledon, Richmond and Whitby which was a priority area. This will ensure around 300 people living with Parkinson's will have access to a Parkinson's Nurse to support them. It also helped recruit a succession planning post in South Wales to ensure that when the current post holder retires at the end of two years there is a seamless transition for patients and no gap in service. Part of the funding will also be used to create a resource and tool kit for the training and support that is needed for this type of post. Succession planning is a vital part of Parkinson's UK's work as they prepare for nurses who are likely to retire within the next five years.

In addition, the funding helped support two vital conferences for people living with Parkinson's. Par-Con, a free online conference about Parkinson's research and living with Parkinson's, is open to everyone in the Parkinson's community including healthcare professionals and people living with the condition. This three day conference engaged 2,000 people in 2021.

Funding also supported the Excellence Network Conference and Awards, showcasing the best in clinical practice and rewarding the teams who have worked so hard in the last year. In 2021, the inaugural Excellence Award was sponsored by the National Garden Scheme and was presented to a single, outstanding entry across all the awards categories.

In total, National Garden Scheme funding now helps dedicated Parkinson's nurses support around 750 people living with Parkinson's, along with their families and carers.



Photo © Parkinson's UK

## The Queen's Nursing Institute



QNI nurse Kendra Schneller at work in the community © Kate Stanworth

The National Garden Scheme was founded by The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) in 1927, when £8,191 was raised by opening 609 gardens at one shilling a head. We became independent of the QNI in 1980 and the charity has remained a valued partner – with the National Garden Scheme raising over £4.4 million over the charities' 94 years together. In 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £395,000 to the QNI which includes a special one-off payment of £25,000 to help launch the new NGS Elsie Wagg Scholarship.

The National Garden Scheme donation is the sole source of support for the Queen's Nurse (QN) network, a national network of nurses working in the community in England, Wales and Northern Ireland now numbering over 1,400.

Funding also allows the QNI to produce some of their most important reports, for example the annual District Nurse Education report.

The information presented in this report is absolutely vital to inform the policy and campaign activity of the QNI around nurse education, for universities and service planners, and provides useful intelligence for healthcare media and policy makers. The donation also gave a restricted grant for the development of a third cohort of Executive QN Leaders, covering the cost of the programme in full.

An additional one-off payment of £25,000 helped launch the NGS Elsie Wagg (Innovation) Scholarship in 2021. Open to all nurses working in the community, the scholarship will be awarded to nurses submitting the best applications for projects that promote the health benefits of gardening and garden visiting among a group of people. It is proposed to award five scholarships per year, building a group of 25 NGS Elsie Wagg Scholars by the National Garden Scheme centenary year in 2027.

# Gardens and health beneficiaries



## Horatio's Garden

Horatio's Garden is one of the National Garden Scheme's gardens and health charities receiving funding for work which promotes the physical and mental health benefits of gardens and gardening.

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 all eleven gardens across the country.

In 2021, the donation of £75,000 is being allocated for the creation of Horatio's Garden, Wales. Designed by Sarah Price it will be located in the Welsh Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centre at University Hospital Llandough, Cardiff. The centre will have 26 beds (with another 24 beds in the neighbouring neurological wards whose patients will have access to a small, enclosed part of the garden). It is estimated that 100 inpatients and 900 outpatients will visit the spinal centre each year, all of whom will benefit from having access to the garden and its activities.

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.

This is the first of two donations to the Sarah Price garden with the National Garden Scheme pledging a total of £150,000 towards it.

The National Garden Scheme has now made grants to four Horatio's Gardens; Stoke Mandeville, Midlands, London & South East, and Wales. Across the three gardens that are open, nearly 8,500 patients are being supported, as well as their visitors and the staff in the centres.

With restrictions enforced in healthcare settings by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2021, each of these gardens have been vital havens for patients, visitors and staff, providing a welcome escape away from the hospital wards.



Patients enjoying horticultural therapy with Horatio's Garden staff at Stoke Mandeville © Lucy Shergold (left) and above at London & South East © Russell Sach

# Gardens and health beneficiaries

## ABF The Soldiers' Charity



Andy and Jane in the greenhouse planting pansies © Highground / Charlie Hopkinson

In 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £60,000 to ABF The Soldiers' Charity to support the provision of horticultural-related assistance to soldiers, veterans and their immediate families and thereby improving their health and wellbeing.

The National Garden Scheme has been supporting the charity since 2010, with donations in 2010 and 2011, then annual donations from 2017, totalling £590,000.

In 2021, our donations were used to support the following:

- Sixteen grants to individuals to provide education, training and employment opportunities in horticulture/gardening, each supporting the recovery, health and wellbeing of individuals and enabling them to have a better quality of life.
- Grants to four delivery charities for horticultural/health projects, including the provision of mobility grants enabling garden access for veterans as well as garden adaptations and improvements.

The breakdown of what this funding supported includes:

- The provision of gardening classes for veterans who struggle with their mental health, encouraging them to engage with the outdoors and support a better quality of life.
- Assisting beneficiaries from the Army family to undertake therapeutic and enjoyable gardening activities.
- Supporting the building of the ABFTSC Community Centre in the RBLI Centenary Village, providing the community with access to horticultural and gardening activities.
- Funding a Horticultural Therapy programme at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) for veterans.

The horticultural therapy supported through National Garden Scheme funding contributes to the care and recovery of some of the charity's most vulnerable veterans.

## Maggie's

Maggie's centres are a network of drop-in centres across the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, which aim to help anyone who has been affected by cancer. They are not intended as a replacement for conventional cancer therapy, but as a caring environment that can provide support, information and practical advice. For each centre, architects and interior and landscape designers work closely together to create a strong connection between the outside and inside space to make a friendly, welcoming environment.

The National Garden Scheme's 2021 donation of £100,000 will go towards supporting gardens at Maggie's Oxford and Maggie's Cheltenham with building planned to start in Cheltenham before Christmas. During the year, despite the difficulties in supply and access caused throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, work funded by the National Garden Scheme in 2020 also came to fruition.

The charity was delighted to open Maggie's Southampton at the end of 2020 to reach anyone affected by cancer on the south coast of England.

The team has been settling into their environment and raising awareness in the community while the architects and landscaper, Sarah Price, worked together to create a project where the inside and outside share the spotlight to create a place of tranquility at a busy hospital site to improve the mental health and wellbeing of visitors.

In Newcastle, the team experienced severe delays because of the pandemic and as of November 2021 were waiting for a start date from their main contractors to begin work on the planned extension. The existing garden, however, hosted a National Garden Scheme open day in the summer in conjunction with The Shilling House garden owned by David Wallace, one of Maggie's board members.

The gardens at Maggie's, like other gardens funded by the National Garden Scheme in healthcare settings, have open days supporting the Scheme and were able to open in Newcastle, Manchester, Leeds, Oldham and the Royal Marsden in 2021. They look forward to opening more of the gardens to visitors in 2022.



The garden at Maggie's Southampton designed by Sarah Price © Maggie's / Alex Maguire

# Gardens and health beneficiaries



Amelia and her class mates grew an abundance of fruit and vegetables in the summer to sell to staff and parents as part of their class mini-enterprise. They also enjoyed eating their produce too!  
Photo © Treloar's

## Treloar's ... project complete



Alan Titchmarsh cuts the ribbon for the new Outdoor Learning Centre with students Harry and Joe © Treloar's

It's always rewarding to see where our donations go, the amazing projects they support, and their lasting legacy. In 2018, Treloar School and College, Hampshire - that provides education for disabled young people - received a Gardens and Health donation of £85,000 to help fund a new Outdoor Learning Centre.

Originally due for completion in 2020, the pandemic delayed the new facility designed to serve all 165 disabled children and young people who attend the school.

In July 2021 the new centre was finally opened by Treloar's Patron, Alan Titchmarsh who said, "It was such an honour to be there and to be part of it. Outdoor learning is vital for our health as individuals and as a community, and Treloar's are a wonderful example of how that connection with nature can be achieved and how it benefits us all."

National Garden Scheme Chief Executive, George Plumptre also attended the opening ceremony and said afterwards, "The new Outdoor Learning Centre for Treloar's is precisely the kind of Gardens and Health project that the National Garden Scheme is proud to support. Beautifully

conceived for its particular audience, the centre will make an immediate and lasting impact on the lives of young people and make a substantial contribution to their education."

The new Centre includes a Sensory Garden, fully accessible changing facility and the greenhouse refurbishment and has been in full use from the spring 2021 term. It has transformed Treloar's outdoor provision and provides a sanctuary for students to explore and learn, reinforcing the fact that learning does not always have to take place in the classroom.

The overall area and greenhouse has been well used since opening, and in the summer months was home to fruit and vegetables that students grew for their own enjoyment and to sell to staff and visitors through class enterprises. The wonderful Sensory Garden also provides numerous opportunities for learning or just enjoying quiet time. Large outdoor mirrors have been used by students studying self portrait, extending the learning that has taken place in class that day out into the garden. Overall, growing, planting, exploring and getting their hands dirty are among the students favourite activities.

# 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 horticultural workers that need support in tough times through our donations to Perennial, we also recognise that it is often hard for people to get started in a gardening career so we fund a variety of training and apprentice schemes too. In 2021, our donations in support of gardeners totalled £230,000. This funding supports Perennial, WFGA, the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the Professional Gardeners' Trust and the Garden Museum. These pages give a taster of our how our donations are used.

## Working for Gardeners Association (WFGA)

For the last four years, the National Garden Scheme has been funding a bursary to help improve horticultural education across the country as part of the work by the WFGA and its unique Work & Retrain as a Gardener Scheme (WRAGS). In 2021, a donation of £65,000 helped support 12 trainees work towards WRAGS certificates in ten gardens.

It's a great way for gardens, some of which might not be able to support a full-time trainee, to offer practical garden training to a WRAGS trainee for two days a week, creating a win-win situation for garden and trainee.

Lorna Hobart is one trainee who benefited from the bursary this year, enjoying a placement at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon:

"What I learned from my WRAGS training is, without doubt, a wide set of horticultural skills

across all five of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust sites (each extremely different gardens in themselves, with unique styles and histories), and a stamina for standing out in the cold! However, my chief learning over the last year has been deeper and much longer-lasting: a way to appreciate the living world, which is constantly moving, responding and evolving.

"The Shakespeare gardens are full of plants that collectively tell a rich social history, going back to the pre-industrial times of Shakespeare, and over the centuries incorporating the plant-hunters' global collections and the ongoing cultivations of their findings.

"Whatever age you are – it's not too late (nor too early) to get into gardening and join the WFGA and National Garden Scheme, to whom I am indebted for this unique learning opportunity."



The garden at Anne Hathaway's Cottage © Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

## Perennial



The National Garden Scheme is Perennial's largest single donor having donated more than £1.9 million since the partnership began in 1986. This contribution makes a huge difference to the lives of thousands of people, and their families, who are working, or have worked, in the horticulture industry and have fallen on hard times.

In 2021, the National Garden Scheme donated £115,000 to support the cornerstone of Perennial's service: their caseworkers who work with service users on a one-to-one basis. The

funding helps support two caseworkers who in turn support c.250 people, and their families, over the course of the year.

The caseworkers' help meant that those in crisis received emergency food parcels, energy payments and emergency accommodation, and domestic appliances went to families who couldn't afford to replace a vital cooker or washing machine. People facing life changing events received advice and information to access welfare benefits, specialist debt and legal advice as well as access to employment and physiotherapy services.

### CASE STUDY - Looking to a hopeful future

Lesley\* knows how it feels to hit rock bottom. When health problems forced the gardener and charity-worker to give up the job she loved, she found herself with debt and experiencing emotional and physical turmoil. Lesley found Perennial, and with support from the team to help overcome her debt crisis and explore her benefit options, she has started to take back control of her life and find happiness again.

An experienced gardener living in London, Lesley worked as a horticultural teacher, training vulnerable people in gardening. Supporting those in need was her passion and she took great pride in the work. But life can be unpredictable, and after a stroke Lesley found she wasn't able to do the physical work anymore. "Being without a job hit me hard. I was an absolute mess. After bills I had £47 a month to live on, debt I couldn't repay, and had been left with mental health problems caused by my stroke. I felt worthless and helpless."

With Lesley unable to afford to buy food or pay the electricity to heat her flat, Perennial immediately provided food and fuel. With the basics in place, her Debt Adviser then talked to Lesley about the options to resolve her debt situation. "I would never have applied for the support before, but when you have someone in your corner it's incredible. The professionalism, kindness and warmth of the team at Perennial have been a lifeline to me."

\*Name changed to protect anonymity. Library photo used.

# Community Gardens Award



The multi-award winning Wonky Garden in Halton, Cheshire (above) is a health and wellness community garden that, among other services, provides floral therapy and cut flowers for hospice patients



Antur Aelhaeam, Gwynedd (above) uses a garden to create a bridge between the generations and to lessen the stigma of living with dementia



John and Belinda Howarth (above) accept the plaque for a community allotment project in Shropshire



County Organiser for Berkshire, Heather Skinner (above) presents the National Garden Scheme Community Gardens Award plaque to the New Leaf Project - an allotment project which uses gardening to help local people with mental health



Above: Project Manna in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, an inspiring therapeutic horticultural project for people with varying needs received their National Garden Scheme Community Gardens Award plaque from Trustee and Regional Chair, Mark Porter

In addition to our annual donations to nursing and health charities, the National Garden Scheme grants awards to help community gardening projects, celebrating with the presentation of a special plaque on completion of the work.



Above: Volunteers and gardeners from Grange Farm Community Garden joined Doug and Susan Copeland (second and fourth from left) for the opening of the garden and the presentation of the commemorative plaque

It began in 2011 when the National Garden Scheme set up an award scheme in memory of Elspeth Thompson, the much-loved garden writer and journalist who died in 2010. Elspeth was a great friend and supporter of the National Garden Scheme; she also wrote an admired 'Urban Gardener' column in the Sunday Telegraph that often celebrated community gardens.

Previously managed in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society, from 2019 the programme became wholly managed by the National Garden Scheme and is now administered by Essex team volunteer, Doug Copeland.

In 2020 we gave out £97,210 to 44 projects bringing the number of projects supported to-date to over 100, with a total amount donated of £217,156.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted heavily on our Community Gardens Award programme and the ability of the gardens to carry out the work that the money has been donated for. Because of this, our Trustees decided to allow the existing 2020 projects to run over into 2021 and for new applications for 2022 funding to open at the end of 2021.

Despite the restrictions, many of the community gardens have now managed to complete the work funded by the National Garden Scheme in 2020 and throughout England and Wales have been receiving commemorative plaques to acknowledge completion of their projects.

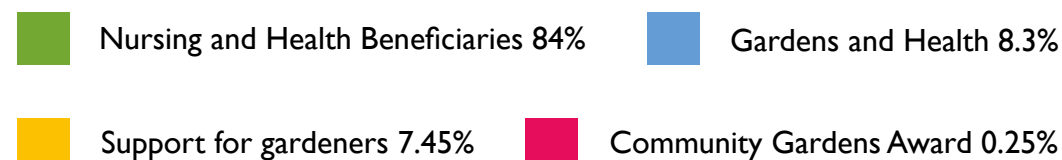
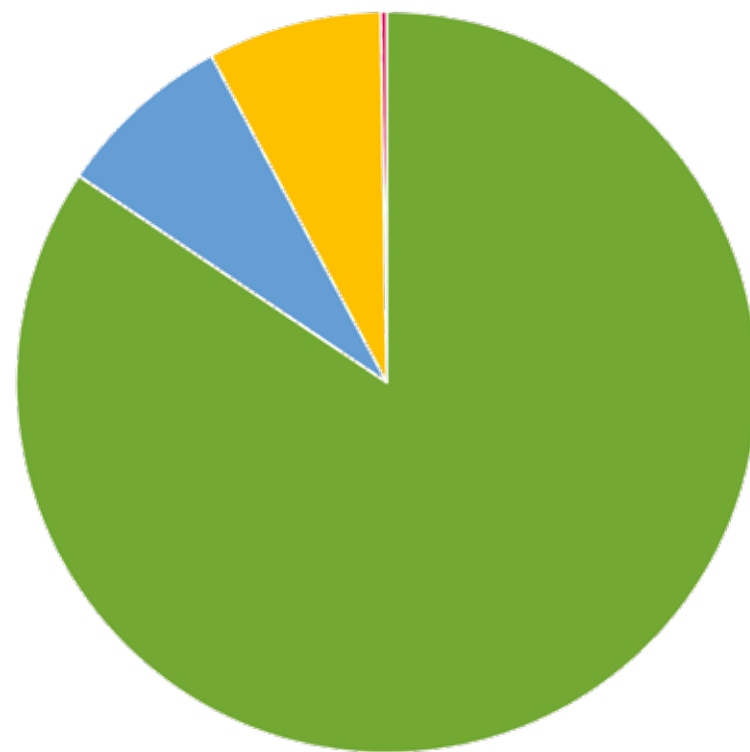
One project, run by Voluntary Action Epping Forest in Essex, received an award of £3,000 to help enhance an allotment project at Grange Farm Community Garden in Chigwell which is maintained by adults with learning disabilities. After numerous delays caused by various lockdowns and supplier difficulties, the team finally managed to install the poly tunnel that will become the heart of their growing operations. With the poly tunnel completed in early 2021, Essex County Organiser and Trustee, Susan Copeland presented the commemorative plaque this summer.

There are a number of great outcomes from this funding, not only does the garden offer supported placements for people with learning disabilities but, in 2022, it will also open as part of the National Garden Scheme so that everyone can enjoy the fruits not only of the gardeners' labours but also of National Garden Scheme funding.

# Donation summary

The donations we made in 2021, as detailed below, amounted to 90% of funds raised at our gardens in 2021.

|                                  | £                |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Nursing and Health Beneficiaries | 2,557,500        |
| Gardens and Health               | 235,000          |
| Support for gardeners            | 230,000          |
| Community Gardens Award          | 7,772            |
|                                  | <b>3,030,272</b> |



# 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 23 years and is our core sponsor.



## Our corporate partners



## Special thanks



In 2021 we would like to note our special thanks to the following: Candide for their sponsorship of our fundraising event at Chilworth Manor in August; to David Austin Roses and Talking Tables for their generosity in support of our 25 year anniversary celebrations with Marie Curie, Hospice UK and Carers Trust; to David Austin Roses for their support through their Planting Positivity campaign, and Talking Tables, for being our event partners for this year's Great British Garden Party and for donating almost £10,000 from the sales of their Truly Scrumptious range (see pages 9 and 10).





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

*Photo: Snares Hill Cottage, Essex © Suzie Gibbons*

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**We look forward to welcoming you to our gardens in 2022**