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**PRESS RELEASE**
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**NEW GARDENS FOR 2021 SEASON REIGNITE PASSION FOR GARDENS AND GARDEN VISITING**

The 2021 season launch of new and returning gardens to the National Garden Scheme portfolio signals hope for a much-missed summer of garden visiting.

National Garden Scheme Ambassador, Rachel de Thame said: “Gardens, gardening and being in a garden helps us get through some of the most challenging of life’s experiences. With 3,600 gardens registered to open in 2021 (subject to Covid restrictions\*) the National Garden Scheme is once again at the heart of providing wonderful garden experiences for thousands of people.”

Picking out some of the season’s highlights Chief Executive George Plumptre said: “We were delighted that our gardens registered to open in 2021 in their usual numbers so have a total comparable to recent years. Even though the first few weeks are going to be challenging we look forward to welcoming visitors to the gardens later in the year. We have a particularly exciting portfolio of new gardens opening for the very first time, some 650 in all as well as more than 350 gardens returning to open after a gap of many years. These gardens illustrate the range and diversity that is now such a hallmark of the National Garden Scheme which we are focused on expanding in the coming years.”

The selection of new and returning gardens includes: [Add all or a selection of your county’s new gardens and links to the web listings here – for example: [152a Victoria Rise, London](https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/42403) – a space of just 21 by 8 metres which contains lush green foliage, vegetables and espalier fruit, and an arbour seat behind a copper beech hedge. The garden has been created from a rubbish-strewn site in just five years. You can group them under themes for example: Family Friendly, Allotments, Small Gardens, Rolling Acres etc]

The National Garden Scheme also launched the headline summary of its new Strategic Plan 2021-25, which can be found [here](https://ngs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FINAL-Strategy_ext_SPREADS.pdf)

The Garden Visitor’s Handbook 2021, which lists all the gardens opening across England and Wales will be published in early February and is available for pre-order online at: [Pre-order the Garden Visitor's Handbook 2021 - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/shop/books/pre-order-the-garden-visitors-handbook-2021/)

**Images of the gardens mentioned** – along with other new openers for the National Garden Scheme can be downloaded here: Add your image link here.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**\*All garden openings are subject to the coronavirus restrictions in place at the time and in most instances pre-booking of timed entry slots will be in place. Visitors are advised to check the details of the gardens they want to visit and to book online on the National Garden Scheme website before travelling** [**www.ngs.org.uk**](http://www.ngs.org.uk)

**2021 at a glance**

Total Gardens due to open: 3,602, 0f these 1,121 are opening as part of a group

New gardens 657 - of these 195 are opening as part of a group – 358 are resurrected gardens

There are 1,110 gardens opening by arrangement, of these some 800 also have a specific open day

There are: 5 allotment groups, 14 community gardens, 21 hospice gardens, 13 school gardens due to open

2,819 gardens are due to offer teas or other refreshments

2,050 offer plants for sale

1,705 welcome dogs

**About the National Garden Scheme**

The National Garden Scheme was founded in 1927 by The Queen’s Nursing Institute to raise money for district nurses. Ever since then it has given annual donations to nursing and health charities totalling over £60 million. It gives visitors unique, affordable access to over 3,600 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales and raises impressive amounts through admission charges and the sale of tea and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we are now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK. As well as the Queen’s Nursing Institute, our beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and Parkinson’s UK.

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 2016 commissioned The Kings Fund report [*Gardens and Health*](https://ngs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Kings-Fund-Report-1.pdf)*.* Our [*Gardens and Coronavirus 2020: The importance of gardens and outdoor spaces during lockdown*](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fngs.org.uk%2Fnew-report-gardens-and-coronavirus-2020%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cgplumptre%40ngs.org.uk%7C31eee0f2573e407e0bb808d8a35d7625%7Cbe12e590cc5c453d972278ca578468a0%7C0%7C0%7C637438969096349197%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=3AnWGSUNUgDeORTj4ROZsGnR6uDNcDYfQxXiOuThW2c%3D&reserved=0) report was published in September 2020.

For further enquiries please contact:

YOUR NAME AND CONTACTS OR EFOOTER