

Funding and Donations Statement

The National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme raises funds at privately owned gardens which open to the public for one or more days a year, charging for admission and selling tea and cake, and plants. The funds are distributed in annual donations to beneficiary charities. Having been founded in 1927 to fund district nurses, nursing and health charities continue to be the primary beneficiaries. Funds are raised and distributed within the same calendar year.

In the main, the National Garden Scheme distributes monies from garden openings to its beneficiaries. In 2025 a total of £3.875 million was distributed to National Garden Scheme beneficiary charities, raised at some 3,500 gardens during that year.

In addition to this, 2025 has been the first of a five-year programme wherein our Community Garden Grants are being funded by a donation from the Julia Rausing Trust.

The Funding and Donations Policy is reviewed triennially by the National Garden Scheme's Board of Trustees. It is next due for review in 2028.

MAIN BENEFICIARIES

The National Garden Scheme has six main nursing and health beneficiaries, all of which it has supported annually for many years. These are: The Queen's Institute of Community Nursing (which (as the Queens Nursing Institute) founded the Scheme), Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson's UK.

Application process to become a main beneficiary: The National Garden Scheme is not currently looking to expand its group of main beneficiaries.

GARDENS AND HEALTH BENEFICIARIES

The charities funded as part of the National Garden Scheme's Gardens and Health programme create gardens with health benefits and promote gardens and gardening as therapy. The current beneficiaries are: Maggie's, Horatio's Garden, The Army Benevolent Fund, and The Country Trust.

Application process to become a Gardens and Health beneficiary: Gardens and Health grants are made on a one-off basis or more regularly. Trustees review applications annually at their September meeting. An application must be for a garden with a clear health and/or wellbeing purpose, or from a charity to develop a programme of gardening therapy. Eligibility must be established before an application can be made; all enquiries should be sent by email to the Chief Executive (richard@ngs.org.uk).

SUPPORT FOR GARDENERS

The National Garden Scheme recognises that many gardens, and the horticultural industry as a whole, relies on the expertise of professional gardeners. As well as helping gardeners and others working in horticulture through annual donations to Perennial, the National Garden Scheme also funds a variety of training and apprentice schemes. These are currently: Perennial, the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the Professional Gardeners' Trust, the Garden Museum, and English Heritage's Historic and Botanic Garden Training Programme (HBGTP).

Application process for support for gardener grants: Our funding of programmes to support or train gardeners is usually committed for a minimum of three years and reviewed as part of the Trustee's triennial review of the Funding and Donations Policy. Currently there is no availability for new funding until 2028 but charities can submit an expression of interest to be held until then. All submissions should be sent via email to the Chief Executive (richard@ngs.org.uk).

COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANTS

The National Garden Scheme funds community garden projects that help support regeneration, social cohesion and the health and wellbeing of communities. Grants are for a maximum of £5,000 and are awarded through an application process that is open annually for a set period of weeks in October and November. Application process for Community Garden Grants: For details see: <https://ngs.org.uk/who-we-are/community-garden-grants/>

Richard Claxton

12th January 2026