

Press Release

17 March 2016

National Gardens Scheme announces £250,000 donation to QNI

The National Gardens Scheme (NGS) has today announced that it will donate £250,000 to the QNI in 2016. The money was raised by the NGS from private gardens opening for charity during 2015. In total, the NGS raised £2.7m for nursing and caring charities during the year.

The NGS is the biggest single funder of the QNI, and enables us to carry out all of our activities, including supporting the Queen's Nurses programme.

The QNI's professional network of Queen's Nurses includes around 900 nurses working in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in a wide variety of community nursing specialties, including General Practice, Community Mental Health, Children's Nursing, Learning Disabilities, Health Visiting, as well as District Nursing.

Queen's Nurses are active garden visitors, and have a key role to play in promoting gardening and garden visiting as healthy activities among the communities that they serve. In June of this year, 70 Queen's Nurses will visit the Queen's garden at Frogmore when it opens for the NGS.

Dr Crystal Oldman, chief executive of the QNI said, 'We live in an era where increasingly, healthcare is delivered in people's homes and communities, rather than in hospital. People are living longer, often with complex, long term conditions. To enable people to live safe, comfortable and independent lives at home, they often need the support of skilled community nurses.' The support we receive from The NGS is absolutely vital to every area of our work. I would like to thank every single NGS garden owner, whose hard work helps us to improve care for so many of the most vulnerable people in society.'

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

To find out more about the National Gardens Scheme visit their website at www.ngs.org.uk

The QNI is dedicated to improving the nursing care of people in their own homes:

- through our national network of Queen's Nurses, who are committed to the highest standards of patient care, learning and leadership
- by funding practical projects led by nurses, improving the care that patients receive and advancing nursing practice
- by campaigning for excellent nursing care in the home for everyone who needs it
- by giving assistance to nurses, working and retired, who are in financial need.
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