

PHOTOS: ALAMY, IAN HODGSON

Help encourage the next generation of gardeners



## GET THEM GROWING!

It's time to nurture young minds with the delights of gardening, says Ian Hodgson

An annual campaign to get more young people into gardening starts this weekend.

National Children's Gardening Week 2024 runs from Saturday May 25 to Sunday June 2, with events and promotions staged in around 250 garden centres and horticultural venues across the UK.

For 2024, the movement has teamed up with The World of Beatrix Potter to encourage families to 'Grow with Peter Rabbit'. Free activity booklets are available at participating centres, packed with ideas and projects for indoors and out. Centres will

also be putting on their own activities including painting, making miniature gardens and garden wildlife watching.

The event is the brainwave of Neil Grant, managing director of Ferndale Garden Centre in Sheffield and BBC Radio Sheffield's gardening expert. It is now widely supported by the UK garden industry. Proceeds support Greenfingers, a charity providing gardens for children in hospices suffering from life-limiting illnesses. Visit [childrensgardeningweek.co.uk](http://childrensgardeningweek.co.uk) for more information.

Meanwhile, young people considering a career in

horticulture and those looking at a career change can attend a GROW Careers Day North on Friday May 24 at Harewood House in Leeds.

Staged by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (CIH) and free to enter, it will provide an opportunity to hear inspirational speakers, attend practical workshops and demonstrations, tour Harewood's historic gardens and meet employers, industry bodies and trade partners.

Clive Parker, CIH North chair said: "We have a long and

proud history of outstanding horticulture and can't wait to hear from speakers, including Matthew Wilson, Katie Rushworth and Katy Merrington."

■ Visit [horticulture.org](http://horticulture.org) to pre-register. You can also visit the Young People in Horticulture Association website at [ypha.org.uk](http://ypha.org.uk)



Training future horticulturists is crucial

## Harry grows amazing auriculas!

Young Harry Botha has a passion - he's mad about auriculas! The 12-year-old, who has loved plants since he was just four years old, recently launched his very own business, Harry's Primulas and Auriculas, at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show in April, with his dad Etienne. He grows more than 30

varieties in two greenhouses on his grandparents Terry Marran and Sue Goodwill's Primrose Bank Nurseries, at Kexby, near York.

"I particularly like the clumpy ones with bright colours and love spending time with them at weekends," said Harry. "I love staging displays. It's fun and interesting. All my friends

know about my hobby and are supportive." He intends to exhibit at future shows, though he is undecided about becoming a professional grower.

"I'll definitely carry on with auriculas till I'm older," said Harry. "I love many plants, particularly annuals and perennials. One day I'll have my own garden."



Harry Botha with his auriculas