



Neighbourhood in Bloom

Handbook

In association with



**Sky Gardening
Challenge 2026**



Ready, steady, grow!

This handbook introduces our new gardening challenge, Neighbourhood in Bloom. We're launching it in association with the National Trust's Sky Gardening Challenge 2026.

L&G is a long-term investor in housing and places, so helping communities thrive is very important to us. That means more than just developing new homes and services. We also want to boost people's wellbeing by encouraging active lifestyles, helping them enjoy nature both within and beyond their homes.

We're growing together!

A little green goes a long way – for bees, butterflies, and your wellbeing.

That's why this summer we are running a gardening challenge designed for L&G residents and employees.

You will join thousands of people across the country, planting seeds, trying things out and sharing what works.

No garden? Big garden? Just a pot and an idea? No problem.

Whatever space you've got – balcony, garden, Juliet balcony, window box or a windowsill in your kitchen – it can become something brilliant. A place to escape, feel good, and grow something that makes you smile.

What can you grow?

Whatever you fancy: herbs you'll use, flowers for colour, plants for pollinators, or even a few things to eat.

Make it yours

Choose colours, scents, textures and herbs you'll actually use.



How to grow in different spaces

Know your space

- **Sun or shade?** Morning sun, all-day sun, evening glow, or mostly shade – plant labels help, but experimenting is half the fun.
- **Windy balcony?** Create shelter with screens or group pots together.

Choosing plants

- **Annuals** flower for one season.
- **Perennials** come back every year.
- **Evergreen** plants give year-round greenery.

Pots & containers

Use anything with drainage holes: buckets, tubs, pans, baskets. Add trays to catch water. Add frames or string for climbers.

Water & compost

- Bigger pots dry out more slowly.
- Reuse cooled cooking water or leftover drinking water.
- Choose peat-free multipurpose compost (bonus if it includes John Innes).

Full terms apply: Full terms and conditions are available on our website: legalandgeneral.com/neighbourhood-in-bloom



How to enter

One Pot Power

Create something brilliant using just one pot. Pack it with colour or mix as many plants as you can.

Wild About Wildlife

Grow bee-friendly flowers like calendula (sun) or nemophila (shade). Add native wildflowers for extra pollinator appeal. Join the Big Butterfly Count in July.

Urban Farming

Grow herbs, fruit or veg – maybe even enough for a meal.

Sustainable Solutions

Reuse water, choose drought-tolerant plants (like stonecrop or houseleeks), compost scraps, or use reclaimed materials.

Share your entry

Then, when you're ready, share some pictures or videos of your space on your favourite social media channel using the hashtag #NeighbourhoodinBloom2026 and pop onto our website to complete the short form, confirm your entry and category.

www.legalandgeneral.com/neighbourhood-in-bloom

UK Entrants will receive a free National Trust day pass

These are available on a first come first serve basis when you complete the form on our website.

www.legalandgeneral.com/neighbourhood-in-bloom

Top tips:

We know writing social media copy isn't always easy, so we've prepared some questions and draft messages to help you get started.

Questions to ask yourself:

- What worked?
 - What inspired you?
 - What made your space special?
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Draft copy:

Check out my #NeighbourhoodInBloom2026 entry!

Thanks @Legal & General and the @NationalTrust for encouraging me to turn my space into something that blooms. #NeighbourhoodInBloom2026

Here is my One Pot Wonder! Fingers crossed it's a winner of the #NeighbourhoodInBloom2026 competition

Judging period

Winners will be contacted in Autumn and will be in with a chance of winning National Trust prizes. Pictures or videos will be judged on your story, creativity and what you've achieved (not planting perfection).



Follow along by searching:

#NeighbourhoodInBloom2026

Not sure where to start?

L&G's Neighbourhood in Bloom challenge in association with the National Trust's Sky Gardening Challenge competition. This means you can source lots of ideas and get involved in lots of activities happening around the country.

Join a workshop

Join a free workshop – online or in person – and learn tips and tricks from the experts. Find out more at

nationaltrust.org.uk/sky-gardening-challenge



Neighbourhood in Bloom competition – Key Information

Promoter: Legal & General Investment Management Limited, One Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AA, which is part of the Legal & General Group (Legal & General Group PLC and any of its affiliates from time to time, including the Promoter).

Who can enter: L&G employees and residents of L&G properties, aged 18+.

Free National Trust Day Passes for entering: Participants based in the UK are eligible to receive a National Trust day pass (one visit only) following submission of a valid entry form, as described in the competition materials. Passes are subject to availability and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Competition dates: Opens 13 July 2026 and closes 23:59 GMT on 31 August 2026.

How to enter: Create a gardening project in one of the challenge categories, post a photo/video on social media using #NeighbourhoodInBloom2026. 2 If your social media channel is private, you must also submit your entry via the official Legal & General entry form.

No purchase necessary.

Prizes: Two winners will receive a prize bundle provided in association with the National Trust including:

- Free entry to one National Trust property (valid for up to 2 adults and up to 6 children, one visit only, to be redeemed before 29 August 2027, some exclusions apply).
- £100 National Trust voucher, can be redeemed in National Trust cafes, shops (including online), also admission points to pay for entry, to go towards National Trust membership, National Trust holiday cottages, bunkhouses and bothy stays, plus selected campsites.
- Craghoppers x National Trust Insulated Mug
- National Trust: Across the Land puzzle by Gibson Games
- National Trust A5 notebook
- National Trust book
- National Trust x CJWildlife birdfeeder

Judging: Entries will be judged based on creativity, storytelling and overall achievement (not horticultural perfection).

Winner notification: Winners will be contacted by 15 September 2026.

Remember: Check the terms of your lease, get permissions if needed and ensure items you install are safe and secure.

Full terms apply: Full terms and conditions are available on our website: legalandgeneral.com/neighbourhood-in-bloom