

Newsletter Spring 2017

Welcome to our Spring edition of the Martineau Gardens' Newsletter.

Refurbishment of our buildings is well under way— social enterprise Jericho are waterproofing and insulating the Pavilion. The former office has been transformed into a welcoming Reception area, with plenty of space for volunteers to relax and a brand new kitchenette. The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to grants from charitable trusts. We're all enjoying the light, airy feel to this friendly space. Congratulations to our Apprentice Lee Davies who in

March, was a regional finalist in 2017 Young Horticulturalist of the Year.

Miranda Kingston is leading the (new) Propagation Group on Wednesday, specialising in the propagation and production of plants. Volunteers are following an RHS course, receiving training in horticulture whilst contributing more plants for the sales area.

Caroline Hutton, Director

STOP PRESS: Bookings for School Visits are going well — we're now taking bookings for Sept / Oct (a few dates left for May — July)
www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/education/

New Friends welcomed Reading this and not yet a Friend? Isn't it time you joined?! **Join online** via: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/

Celebrating 20 years of Community Gardening here



We are one of the longest running Community Gardens in Birmingham. This May, we are celebrating 20 years of community gardening at the **Spring Event (Sun 14 May, 11am—3pm)** and we do hope you will join us. When closure threatened in 1997, a group of local supporters came together to create a community garden for the people of Birmingham to visit

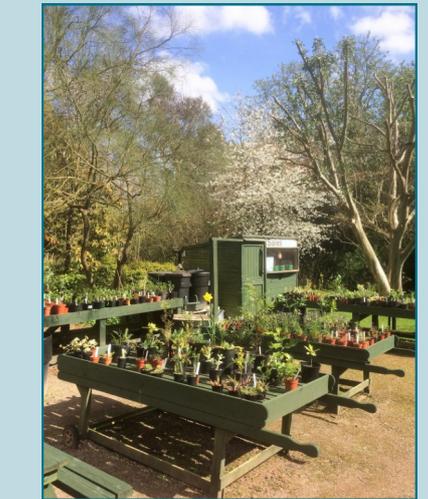


and care for, that would stay open for free. Supporters included former staff, neighbours, Birmingham Friends of the Earth and members of the Martineau family. Today our Martineau Gardens is a thriving independently run charity. Voluntary action got us started and volunteering continues at the heart of what we do. **Read our history**
www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitorinformation/history

What is Martineau Gardens?

Our Therapeutic Community Garden is looked after by Volunteers, many of whom have

mental health issues or learning disabilities. Hundreds of school children visit the Gardens to learn about science and the environment. Every year Birmingham people (now in their



Spring blossom around the plant sales area

Diary Dates EVENTS

Sun 14 May, **Spring Event**, 11am - 3pm, all welcome, Friends free entry

Sat 20 May, **Nettlefest**, 11am-6pm organised by SAB Permaculture, free

*Sat 27 May, **Bee and Plant Walk**, 10.30am—12.30pm, BugLife, free

*Sat 3 June, **Under the Blossom that Hangs on the Bough**, 4.30pm, presented by 4-Wards, free

*Sat 17 June, **Storytelling Festival**, 11am—5pm, Trad Arts Team, £7 (£2)

*Sat 15 July, **Summer Garden Party**, charity auction and raffle in support of Martineau Gardens pre-book see website £10

Plus! Outdoor Theatre in August: Twelfth Night and Princess & Pig - see web, plus **courses** see overleaf

*Advance booking

Information and ticket links via:

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events

Open: Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays. Entry is free except for special events.

thousands), visit the Gardens to enjoy its peace and tranquillity. We host events and courses and sell plants and produce.

Pavilion Refurbishment Update



Volunteers enjoying a well-earned tea-break in the shade of the freshly painted Pavilion, Farrow & Ball paint cans in the foreground.

In our twentieth year we are refurbishing our 1930s Pavilion to ensure that this much-loved and oft-used building is here to stay for the future. Social enterprise Jericho has started the work to water-proof, insulate and paint the structure. As we go to print, we are delighted to announce, that thanks to a very generous donation from Farrow & Ball Solihull, manufacturers of artisan paint, our Pavilion is looking resplendent. The exterior walls have been painted in a colour pleasingly named 'Lichen'.

Co-op Local Community Fund

We've got some great news! Martineau Gardens' Therapeutic Horticulture Project has been awarded £3,220.16 from the Co-op Local Community Fund. For many of Volunteers who come to Martineau Gardens, gardening isn't just a hobby, it's a therapy that provides new ways to deal with their problems. Volunteers garden together – they receive support from trained staff members Stewart Holmes and Miranda Kingston and enjoy socialising with a supportive group, getting new skills in gardening and feeling better about themselves. Thanks to all our Co-op members who chose us as their local cause and our supporting stores, Co-op Edgbaston, Co-op Moseley and Co-op Jewellery Quarter for enabling this grant.

Wildlife News



Our newts return to the pond in Spring to breed. At other times, they hide in damp places, under stones and logs. We used to find newts near the pond until we woodchipped the area. We've realised that the wood chips might be a barrier to their movement –so we've re-sown grass.

Courses in 2017



(L) Calendula (pot marigold) one of the herbs that often features in our popular Herb Patch Course: *Growing and Using Your Own Medicines* (R) Earth Oven Bakes in our newest course

Spring is the time for courses at Martineau Gardens, many of these are inspired by activities that happen here regularly: growing food, cooking it and cooking outdoors. Here's your chance to join in! Once again, we've teamed up with Loaf Cookery School to host 'Forage and Cook' and 'Build an Earth Oven' courses. So many of our customers who hire the Gardens for parties and family celebrations are interested in using our Earth Oven to bake the party food, so in response to popular demand, we've introduced a new Earth Oven Baking course with the Earth Oven expert, Lizzy Bean. Dates and web links for tickets are in the diary dates box below. Advance booking is essential — our Bee Keeping courses have sold out, so don't delay if there is a course you're particularly interested in.

Diary dates COURSES

*Tues: 9 May or 6 June, **Forage and Cook**, 6pm, £50, with Loaf cookery school

* Sats: 13 May, 15 July or 23 Sept, **Earth Oven Baking**, 10am, £40

* Sats: 3 June or 1 July **Build an Earth Oven**, 9.30am, £90 with Loaf cookery school

* Sat 24 June, **Herb Patch Course**, 10am, £35

*Advance booking

Information and ticket links via:

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events

Please save the date for:

Sat 15 July, our wonderful **Summer Garden Party** with charity auction and raffle all in support of Martineau Gardens. Pre-book your tickets via our website £10

Connect with us ...



How to contact us

Martineau Gardens, 27 Priory Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG

T: 0121 440 7430 E: info@martineau-gardens.org.uk

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Opening Hours

For visiting: Mon - Sat, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm