

## Newsletter Summer 2017

### Welcome to our Summer edition of the Martineau Gardens' Newsletter.

Congratulations to our Apprentice Lee Davies who has been appointed as Head Gardener of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens — fortunately, we're not saying goodbye, Lee will continue to garden at Martineau Gardens two days a week.

We have reached the next stage of the Pavilion refurbishment: the roof is being replaced and so, the Gardens will be closed on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August. We reopen

on Monday 7 August. Our Spring Event saw us celebrating 20 years of Community Gardening at Martineau Gardens: we named the building that includes our reception area The Mollie Martineau Building and unveiled a plaque (pictured below) dedicated to the Martineau family in appreciation of support from the family when we needed it.

**Caroline Hutton, Director**



*Reading a novel at the Sun Dial Lawn, a tranquil area for summer days. (Inula and Teasels in foreground)*

**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/](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/)

### Green Flag flies again— for the eighth year running.



Pictured above left, staff and volunteers celebrating our good news, by the vegetable beds, on one of the hottest days of the year. Green Flags are awarded by the Keep Britain Tidy environmental charity in recognition of quality green spaces. At Martineau Gardens there are many 'behind the scenes' tasks that volunteers



**Visitors enjoying the Spring Event**

undertake from managing our biodiversity, keeping wildlife records and welcoming visitors to washing up the cups and keeping our paths accessible. As always, this award is a tribute to all the volunteers who give up their spare time to help Martineau Gardens thrive. We couldn't do it with out you!

### 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

### Diary Dates EVENTS

**\*Summer Holiday Family Activities:** 2 & 3, 25, 30 and 31 Aug, 10am or 1pm, £5 per child find out more about the wildlife here with plenty of fun and play along the way

**\*Wed 16 Aug, The Princess & The Pig,** Folsky Theatre, 6.30pm, various prices

**\*Tues 22 Aug, 6.30pm, Twelfth Night,** Folsky Theatre, 6.30pm, various prices

Sat 16 and Sun 17 Sept, **Birmingham Honey Show,** 10am-4pm, with the BDBKA, free

**\*Sat 23 Sept, Baking on an Earth Oven Course,** 10am—3pm, £40

Sun 24 Sept, **Autumn Event,** 11am—3pm free entry for Friends

*\*Advance booking Information and ticket links via: [www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events)*

**Open:** Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays. Entry is free except for special events. (Closed 5 & 6 re-open 7 Aug)

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

## Garden Party Record Amount



On a warm summer's evening our Summer Fundraising Garden party was held. To the music of folk band, *Wild Clover* (pictured below), guests enjoyed music, cheese and wine and took part in a charity auction, in support of Martineau Gardens. Thanks to Jeremy Thornton from Biddle and Webb (our pro bono auctioneer, pictured right, as he surveys the Lots), and our sponsors, Beyond Beauty, Dermoperfection, Mills & Reeve and Shakespeare Martineau, our volunteers for all their hard

work on the night and the generosity of our supporters who donated lots for the auction and bid enthusiastically. The event raised over £11,000. Our thanks to Sue Roberts (chair of Trustees) for organising this wonderful evening.



## Therapeutic Horticulture News

Adolescents from the Priory Woodbourne Hospital School have recently begun volunteering at the Gardens on a regular basis. Working in the vegetable plots alongside Miranda Kingston, one of our Therapeutic Horticulturalists, the gardening tasks are providing a welcome break from the hospital wards for these vulnerable young people. Head of School, Jilly McCarrick, said, 'the fresh air, physical exercise and change of scene is a real boost for the children's morale'.



Miranda, with a bumper crop of blackcurrants beside runner beans

## Summer Events 2017



Summer's here at last. Folksy Theatre, the outdoor touring theatre company are bringing children's show 'The Princess & the Pig' to the Gardens on Wed 16 August, followed by 'Twelfth Night' (Tues 22 August) - if you've never been to a Folksy show, you're in for a treat, this delightful company make the most of the outdoor setting with highly entertaining shows. Bring a picnic and rug and buy tickets in advance to get the best price. Family tickets are only available in advance. (See the diary date box overleaf for ticket details and web links). New for this summer are family activity sessions. Ideal for finding out more about the wildlife at Martineau Gardens with plenty of fun and play along the way, the sessions are led by Juliette Green, our Education Officer. There are three sessions to choose from, Pirate Adventure, Plant Professor or Minibeast Safari, on a range of dates in August (see diary dates overleaf). Each two hour session costs £5 - booking in advance is essential, one session has nearly sold out.

## Great Birmingham Run



Peter Backhouse (L) and John Kingston (R) and are running for Martineau Gardens in the Great Birmingham Run half-marathon on Sunday 15 October, 2017. John is married to Miranda (see *TH News left*). There is a huge commitment of time, effort and mental determination for anyone who decides to participate in a long-distance run.

Please support John and Peter in their efforts to run for Martineau Gardens and sponsor them. Please donate online via:  
[www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/2017/07/greatbirminghamrun](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/2017/07/greatbirminghamrun)  
 or post a cheque made payable to Martineau Gardens to the address listed below.

## Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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[www.martineau-gardens.org.uk](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk)

Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm