

Newsletter Winter 2018

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

Happy New Year to you from us all here at Martineau Gardens. 2017 was quite a year, celebrating 20 years of community gardening, school visits growing and a busy events season. Every year more and more people are visiting the Gardens, enjoying the surroundings, thanks to all the hard work put in by our incredible team of volunteers, who, last year, have contributed 4,808 hours. The colder months are when we get on with

our winter jobs – the big project for this winter is of course phase two of the Pavilion refurbishment. Whilst we didn't hit the target on our recent crowdfunding Pavilion appeal to achieve everything on our to-do-list, building works are progressing well. We would like to thank all our supporters for donations, but in particular The Rowan Trust.

My retirement approaches: I will step down as Director in Spring. Before then, I look forward to a spacious, watertight and warm Pavilion and a beautiful new Courtyard Garden.

Caroline Hutton, Director



Diary Dates COURSES

Beekeeping course, 10am-4pm, £50, (Sat 12 sold out) or 19 May *

Earth oven building course, 10am-4pm, £75, Sat 16 June or 29 Sept *

Earth oven baking course, 10am - 3pm, £50, April to Oct monthly see web*

For Families

Easter hols wildlife family activities, £5, Mon 9 or Wed 11 April*

Half-term family habitat explorers, £5, Thurs 31 May or Fri 1 June *

Pizza Craft sessions, £15 per child (incl. 1 free adult) Half term: Tues 29 or Wed 30 May *

*Advance booking essential
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. (Open Good Friday 30 March, closed Easter Monday 2 April 2018.)



Hire the Pavilion! We are now taking venue bookings for the Pavilion, for parties, meetings, regular classroom space —from May.
Log onto: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/venue-hire/



A Courtyard Garden

Martineau Gardens is creating a beautiful new Courtyard Garden, thanks to the support from **Jo Malone London**. Work is taking place now (Winter to Spring), and the new area will be opened in June. It includes two pools linked by a rill, an alpine scree garden, scented shrubs and flowering plants, improved hard standing



surfaces and extended, improved wheelchair access.

• Full story—overleaf.

Pictured here - volunteers and staff from Martineau Gardens and Jericho - making preparations for the new courtyard garden. (L) In summer, willow roots were dug up and (R) the future site of the rill, from where plants have been dug up to be relocated within the gardens

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

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

A Courtyard Garden is coming



Pictured here, this is one of our new ponds in construction, at the heart of the Gardens between the woodland and the formal area. The Courtyard Garden will open out the current courtyard which created a bottleneck during busy events and had worn out surfaces difficult for people with limited mobility to navigate. With the refurbishment of our Pavilion well under way, the Courtyard Garden development creates both a place to linger and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Martineau Gardens, and a welcoming approach to the Pavilion.

Volunteering is at the centre of how we work at Martineau Gardens. Our volunteers are involved in decision making. Comments and creative input have been gathered from all and the landscaping and gardening work will be achieved by volunteers, staff, local social enterprises and trusted professionals.

Martineau Gardens remains open during the landscaping work. Visitors are welcomed but there is more noise and more mud than usual; at times, some areas of the Garden will not be accessible. Look out for signs when you arrive, for information about what's going on and the best route to access areas. Building work is not taking place on Saturdays.

Without the generosity of Jo Malone London, the Courtyard Garden would have remained a dream - Martineau Gardens appreciates the support we have received. For information about Jo Malone London's work supporting mental health, visit: www.jomalone.co.uk/charity-gardens

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

Pavilion Update



Last issue we reported that the completion of phase one has seen the complete replacement of the roof (no more leaks!), exterior woodwork repaired, painted and sealed and the volunteers' room re-located (with modern kitchen installed). With funds in place and our events season ended, phase two started swiftly in November which will make the inside look as beautiful as the outside. Asbestos was removed and walls knocked through to enable the new layout. The interior of the Pavilion is astonishing: we've uncovered quarry tiles and revealed a high vaulted ceiling. What was previously a cramped, dark area, is starting to feel spacious and more natural daylight is coming through (see picture top left).

The Pavilion ... a building that won't cost the earth.

This month has seen new walls constructed and the arrival of rolls of sheep's wool insulation (top right). Building firm and social enterprise, Jericho, are installing this environmentally-friendly material which will help to insulate the Pavilion, keeping it warm in winter, cool in summer and keep our fuel bills down.

Our thanks to Steve Wright for driving the wool to the Pavilion doorstep (pictured above, carrying it in with Director Caroline Hutton).

Teachers—book your school visit

Quality Badge awarded by



Martineau Gardens has been awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.. To book your class in for an Educational Visit from March until October 2018 call 0121 440 7430. For more

information about these National Curriculum linked activities and the LoTC award, visit:

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/education



Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm