

Annual Report

Year ending 31 March 2017

Introduction

What is Martineau Gardens?

A therapeutic Community Garden, close to Birmingham city centre, it is a valued slice of organically maintained land that provides a place to learn, to heal, to connect with nature and to play. The Gardens are tended by a community of volunteers, many of whom experience social exclusion or isolation. The Gardens are open six days a week, as a tranquil place that is free to visit, thanks to the dedication and generosity of our volunteers and supporters.

Martineau Gardens' 2016/17 overview

We were able to start raising money and preparing for the refurbishment of the Pavilion. This involved a number of other smaller capital projects. Thanks to a grant from the Ernest Cook Trust, we were able to extend our Environmental Education work with schools.

Our achievements

This report refers to our strategic document 'Mission, Values, Objectives and Activities' available on our website.

I. Improving the mental and physical health of the people of Birmingham

I.I Training volunteers in skills that contribute to their progress towards volunteering, further learning and employment

Our Therapeutic Horticulture practice involves 66 people including people with mental health issues, learning disabilities, dementia, autistic spectrum disorders, head injuries and strokes. These volunteers look after the gardens, supervised by our expert staff Stewart Homes and Miranda Kingston, whose work is funded by Charitable Trusts. We recorded 4,808 hours of time worked.

Volunteering gives people exercise, purpose, social contact and an opportunity to learn about plants, conservation and each other. Regular volunteering, even if only for half a day a week, can give structure



A breath of fresh air. Martineau Gardens provides tranquillity, close to the city and an opportunity to get close to nature. (L) Snowdrops in our SLINC designated woodland (R) Merveille du Jour moth photographed by wildlife recorder Andrew Curran

What drives our work?

- Social inclusion
- Accessibility
- A welcoming approach
- Environmental sustainability



Volunteering is at the heart of what we do - the Green Flag Award celebrates the efforts of our volunteers and staff in keeping Martineau Gardens open, six days a week, throughout the year.

to someone's life and take them towards integration into society and possible employment.

We work with Baskerville School and Queen Alexandra College to give students with autism and learning disabilities the experience of volunteering outside their usual environment.

I.2 Measuring outcomes and progress of participants

Our new administrator Jane Bradshaw, who has an interest in Impact Measurement, set up a system based on the Warwick Edinburgh Wellbeing Scale, this started in January 2017. When asked 'What does coming to the Gardens mean to you?', volunteer responses included: *'I look forward to coming to the gardens. I feel good about myself when the session's over. I feel like I've achieved something'*

More comments on our website here: bit.ly/2jHK5JT

I.3 Maintaining and developing the restorative environment of the Gardens

Providing a restful green space that is free to enter improves the health of our volunteers and visitors (including patients and visitors from the Priory Hospital).

I.4 Securing sustainable funding

We have continued to develop more sustainable funding from Charitable Trusts, donations, sales and events.

SOURCES OF INCOME	2015-16	2016-17
TH Grants from Charitable Trusts	84,857	56,175
Other grants (inc. Education)	8,000	12,000
Building development	6,750	46,947
Donations	11,178	7,981
Memberships	5,898	5,456
Events	13,606	17,233
Sales	15,608	14,338
Charitable services (education etc)	4,279	5,575

2.To provide educational opportunities for the people of Birmingham in environmental issues, the sustainable use of resources, therapeutic horticulture and the value of organically grown produce

2.I Demonstrating organic practices, sustainable use of resources and good habitat for local wildlife

Our normal activity includes:

Composting and making leaf mould, organic pest control, reuse of materials, maintaining habitats for birds, bats and invertebrates.

Purchasing consistent with our values:

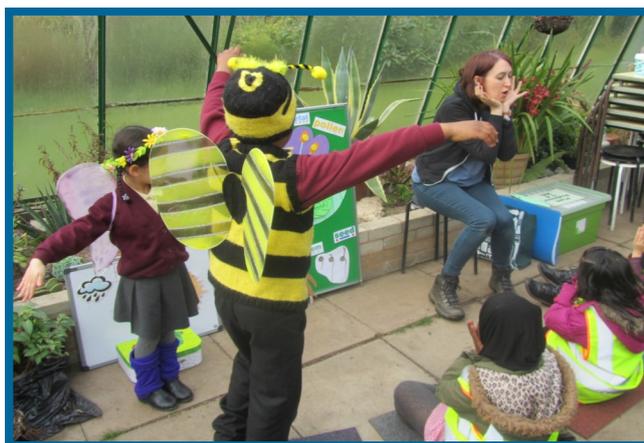
Electricity from Good Energy; telecoms from The Phone Co-op; building work from Jericho Foundation; recycled or FSC paper; printing ink and toner refills from Cartridge World; peat free and organic compost; payroll services from BVSC; DBS checks from St Paul's CDT; catering from ChangeKitchen; consumables from Lembas Ltd; tree surgery from Midland Arboriculture; log milling from Wildlife Trust Birmingham & Black Country and for aggregates we use crushed brick.

2.2 Promoting the work of the Gardens by organising special events, producing interpretive literature for visitors, communicating our core values to the people of Birmingham through the securing of media coverage, maintaining an up to date and informative web site, attending local events and giving talks at local groups

Public Engagement enables Martineau Gardens to meet its Charitable Objects. We promote the work of Martineau Gardens with a range of leaflets, newsletters, news and events e-mailings, securing media coverage, social media and an informative website. We gave five talks to groups and took five stalls to external events. Twelve groups of adults had tours of the Gardens, either self-guided or with a member of staff.



(L) Our Director Caroline Hutton with jams made from produce grown here



(R) Our Environmental Education Officer Juliette Green teaching school children about plants and pollination in the glasshouse, surrounded by seedlings, propagated in the Gardens

2.3 Providing education events, activity-based learning and opportunities for sharing knowledge

Our annual events programme gives people a reason to visit and return to the Gardens, and provides opportunities for family learning. This year we held the Big Dig, the Spring Event, the Storytelling Festival (with the Trad Arts Team), outdoor theatre: 'As You Like It' and 'The Smartest Giant in Town' (with Folksy Theatre), a Garden Party with an auction, The Honey Show (with Birmingham Beekeepers Association), the Autumn Event, and Halloween Storytelling Event (with the Trad Arts Team).

Courses: two Beekeeping courses (taught by our volunteer Beekeeper, John Gale); 'Forage and Cook' courses taught by Tom Baker (in partnership with Loaf), 'Building an Earth Oven' taught by Lizzy Bean (in partnership with Loaf), and 'Herb Patch' was taught by retired Medical Herbalist, Nicola Peterson.

2.4 Hosting and promoting school visits, Forest School and Outdoor Learning activities with an Environmental Education programme

Martineau Gardens was designed as a resource for Environmental Education. We now employ Juliette Green, an experienced Environmental Education teacher. She has created material for schools to use whilst here and has devised and delivers four lesson plans (Habitat explorer, Mini beasts, Plant professor and Tree of Life) for primary schools. Each visiting school receives a tour of the Gardens and a lesson that fits with the National Curriculum. Caroline Starr conducts tours for children, which complement Juliette Green's teaching. We had visits from 15 schools and home education groups over 28 days.

Juliette adapted her teaching to create family versions of Mini beast safari and Plant professor sessions.

We offered a venue and/or activities for children and your people's groups: Woodcraft Folk, Spurgeons, St Paul's Play Scheme

We provided work experience placements for students from Aston Manor School and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Technology College.

3. To conserve, protect and improve the natural environment of Martineau Gardens

3.1 Providing opportunities for volunteering in horticulture and conservation

The wildlife area of Martineau Gardens is designated as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC). During the winter months our conservation work parties coppice and thin the woodland to let more light reach the 'herb layer'. We

remove ivy and brambles to encourage the growth of wildflowers. A diversity of plants supports a diversity of insects which feed birds and bats.

3.2 Conducting surveys and recording wildlife to monitor the outcomes of conservation management work

To monitor the quality of the habitats we care for, volunteers Brian Perry and Andrew Curran continue to record our wildlife sightings. Birds, invertebrates and wild plants seen during the month are recorded in the bird hide, our records contribute to Eco Record and wildlife news shared in our newsletters and social media posts.

3.3 Maintaining a balance between the educational, therapeutic, productive, recreational, aesthetic and wildlife-friendly aspects of the Gardens

We monitor feedback through a range of sources, including Tripadvisor:

"The place is a real surprise, superb vegetable plots and flower gardens. You are encouraged to pick veg yourself if you purchase which I did. Also bought a lovely plant and some jam." (Source: TA Review)



3.4 Managing the land using organic principles so that it produces high quality food and plants

We produce and sell plants, vegetables, fruit, preserves, honey and chopped logs.

4. To ensure the continuity of Martineau Gardens by refurbishing and adding to the buildings in ways that enhance the Gardens

New sheds were installed. The Studio was vacated by the artists who had a short term let. We moved the office into the Studio. The former office had a new donated kitchen installed and became a combined reception for visitors and room for volunteers for breaks. The Pavilion has continued to be let out for events and parties. We raised funds to refurbish the Pavilion, which is taking place during 2017-18. The Trustees will review the need for a new building after the refurbishment is completed.

5. An effective and sustainable organisation

Martineau Gardens achieved a Green Flag Community Award for being a 'superb community green space', for the seventh year running. . The Visitor Welcome team of 23 Meet and Greet volunteers continue welcoming our visitors, providing information, sales assistance and cups of tea. We recorded 1303 hours of work.

Venue hire continues to increase, with lots of return visits for children's parties, significant birthdays and events run by other organisations. Alec Middleton (member of staff) hosts parties and events. Staff and selected volunteers attended external training courses including: managing staff performance; asbestos awareness; certificate of fundraising from the IoF; Baking in an Earth Oven; gaining corporate support and continuing professional development for STH. The Trustees review the Risk Management policy annually.

6. Looking ahead

The Pavilion refurbishment work will transform a crumbling building into a space that can be used by school groups, training courses and people holding parties. The roof and walls will be repaired during the summer months and the internal work completed over the winter.

We have been negotiating with a major corporate supporter that funds therapeutic gardens for people with mental health issues. We look forward to transforming the Courtyard area with their support.

7. Further information

7.1 Legal status

Martineau Gardens is a Company Limited by Guarantee (4273209) and a Registered Charity (1092364).

7.2 The Trustees

Peter Arnold, Tim Bruton (Treasurer), Margaret Holmes, Sue Roberts (Chair), Glenys Thomas and Tom Walkling

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

7.3 The Staff

Jane Bradshaw (Administrator) 2 days from Sept 2016; Michael Burnett (Fundraiser) 2 days; Lee Davies (Apprentice Gardener) fulltime; Juliette Green (Environmental Education) 3 days from March to Oct; Sarah Hill-Daniel (Marketing and Communications) 2 days; Stewart Holmes (Therapeutic Horticulture) 4 days; Caroline Hutton (Director) full time; Miranda Kingston (Therapeutic Horticulture) 2 days; Alec Middleton (venue hire) 1 day from July 2016; Susan Swann (cleaner); Jane Summerton (administrator) to June 2016

7.4 Patrons

Alys Fowler

7.5 Finances

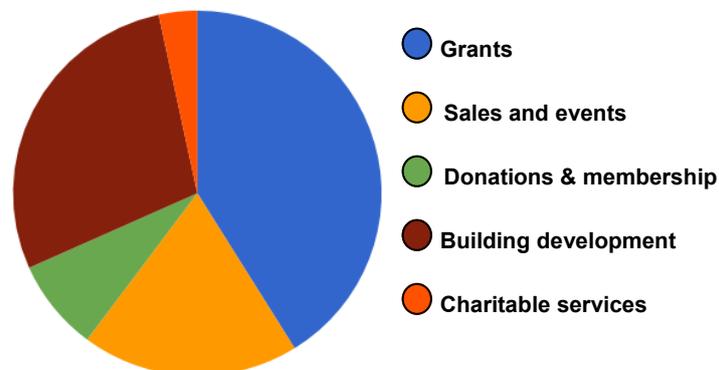
Income: £165, 930 Expenditure: £126, 029

Balance at 31 March 2016 = £77, 505

Balance at 31 March 2017 = £110, 497

For further information, our annual accounts are available on request.

Income



Expenditure

