

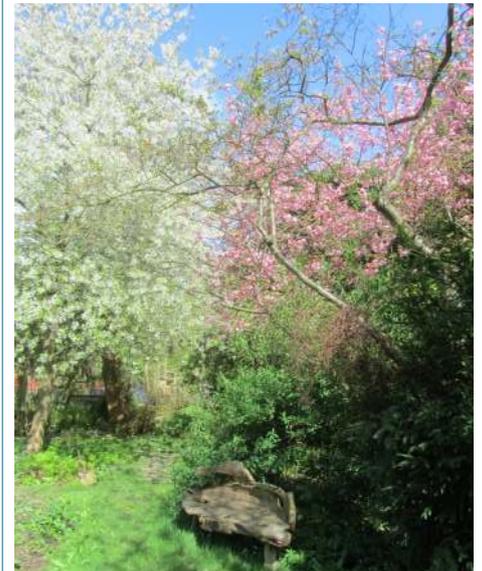
# Newsletter Spring 2018

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

In our twenty-first year, join us at our Spring Event (20 May) for a celebration of community gardening here at Martineau Gardens, meet our new Director Gill Milburn and bid farewell to Caroline Hutton. See inside our restored Pavilion (funded through the generosity of our supporters and Charitable Trusts) and view the progress on our Courtyard Garden (supported by Jo Malone London).



*Pictured here, staff of Martineau Gardens at the entrance of the woodland. Gill Milburn, receiving the keys from Caroline Hutton. Photocredit: AJ*



*Spring blossom near the Tai Chi Lawn*

## Meet our new Director Gill Milburn



"Well I've been in post just a month" says Gill, as this newsletter goes to print. "I've been getting to know staff, volunteers and Friends through various activities from planting perennials around the new pond to minor engineering around the washbasins, with plenty of meetings, conferences and conversations in between. My introduction to this organisation has shown to me the warmth and affection people hold for Martineau Gardens. I'm looking forward to contributing to the sustainability and enjoyment of the Gardens."

## Farewell to Caroline Hutton

Pictured here, looking at new horizons, Caroline says: "After 17 years, I'm stepping down. Thanks to all the tremendous support I received from volunteers, trustees and colleagues."



Find out more here: [www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/news/](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/news/)



**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/](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/venue-hire/)

## Diary Dates WHAT'S ON

**Spring Event**, 11am-3pm, Sun 20 May, admission fee (free to Friends)

**Summer Garden Party** auction fundraiser, 4pm—8pm, Sat 14 July, £15\*

### Courses

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

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

### For Families

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

**Open:** Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except Bank Holidays. Entry is free except for special events. (Closed Bank Holiday Mondays 7 and 28 May 2018.)

## 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.

## Planting the Courtyard Garden



In our last newsletter we announced that Martineau Gardens is creating a beautiful new Courtyard Garden, thanks to the support from Jo Malone London. Work is taking place now, and the new area will be opened at the end of June. As you know, volunteering is at the centre of how we work at Martineau Gardens. So we were delighted when staff from Jo Malone London came from across the country to join our garden volunteers for their first monthly gardening days. Nearly all the hard landscaping has been completed, and we are beginning to plant. In March, the hardworking team of gardeners worked together to plant a 25 foot hedgerow, running alongside the children's shipwreck play area, with a mixed range including field maple, holly, hawthorn, hornbeam and alder (*pictured above right*). In time this hedgerow will become beneficial for wildlife, with nectar-rich blossom in spring, a larder of berries in autumn and plenty of opportunity for mammals and birds to forage and nest. Martineau Gardens appreciates the support we have received from Jo Malone London. For information about Jo Malone London's work supporting mental health, visit:

[www.jomalone.co.uk/charity-gardens](http://www.jomalone.co.uk/charity-gardens)

Full story: <http://bit.ly/2KfnjCm>

*Hedgerow planting, photocredit www.bytombird.com*

## Pavilion Update



From this to this! Thanks to funding from The Finnis Scott Foundation and a good price from Woodstove suppliers Ebben and York, a Woodburning stove has been installed in the Pavilion.



The Pavilion refurbishment is quite breathtaking. Last issue we reported that new walls had been constructed and sheep wool insulation installed. Since January, building firm and social enterprise, Jericho, have been working hard on transforming the interior: walls and ceiling plastered, fire doors, fire alarms, emergency lights and electrics fitted and the concrete floor smoothed in preparation for flooring material. The carpenters have been busy building door frames and creating the serving hatch for the kitchen area.

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

As an environmental organisation, Martineau Gardens strongly advocate the use of environmentally friendly products - in painting the Pavilion we wanted to try and avoid some of the more harmful hazards associated with paint such as VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). We were delighted when Earthborn (suppliers of Eco friendly paint, [www.earthbornpaints.co.uk](http://www.earthbornpaints.co.uk)) offered to support us, with the specialist paints we needed. We needed a specialist paint which was breathable, to complement all the other wall components. In summary, using the Earthborn breathable paint allows the wall to deal properly with moisture, helping preserve the timber frame and maximise the insulation provided by the sheep wool. Full story: [bit.ly/2HSiuAv](http://bit.ly/2HSiuAv)

## Summer Events at Martineau Gardens

In addition to regular activities, Martineau Gardens hosts a season of events and day-courses, an opportunity for you to enjoy a different side to the Gardens. Highlights are overleaf, with more on our website. Ticket sales are now open for the Summer Garden Party (14 July), Folksy Theatre's productions of 'Love's Labour's Lost' (25 Aug) and 'The Princess and the Giant' (29 Aug). Call into the Gardens or book online.

## 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