

Newsletter Autumn 2013

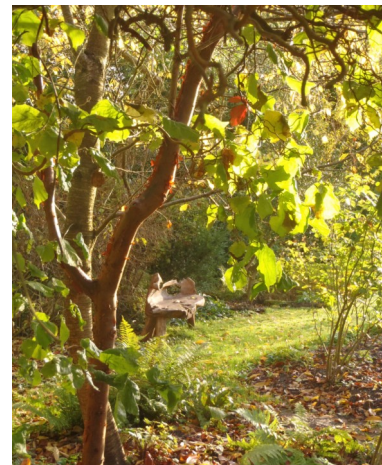
Welcome to our Autumn Edition of the Martineau Gardens' Newsletter.

Autumn is the time to enjoy leaf scrunching and looking for new fungi emerging in our wooded wildlife area. Our wildlife sightings are recorded and contribute to EcoRecord the ecological database for the Black Country and Birmingham. When you visit the Gardens, you can also contribute to our wildlife records, see the weekly observations

(recorded in the Bird Hide) or follow us on twitter to keep abreast with latest sightings. Pictured bottom right, our volunteer wildlife recorders reviewing a moth survey.

Autumn is also the time to celebrate the Gardens' bounty — squashes are ripening in the vegetable plots, apples are being turned into preserves and juices, and honey extracted from our bee hives' combs. Make a note of our forthcoming events and celebrate the gardening year with us.

Caroline Hutton, Director



photocredit: J Fletcher

Autumn sunlight through the leaves of the Paper Bark Maple (Acer griseum)



Thumbs Up for Martineau!

What do you do at Martineau Gardens? Maybe you bring the children to look for newts in the summer, or meet friends for a brisk, crisp frosty winter's walk, perhaps it's somewhere you enjoy seeing crops growing like grapes, mulberries and figs or a tranquil spot for birdwatching, whatever you do when you visit the Gardens, we hope you enjoy your time here. Martineau Gardens wouldn't be the special place it is, without the hard work and dedication that our volunteers put into looking after the Gardens. And in recognition of this, we've won a Green Flag community award, for the fourth year running. The Green Flags are

awarded to the best community run green spaces in the country. To celebrate the good news, visitors and volunteers met up for a picnic. The Gardens were judged against eight criteria: a welcoming place; healthy safe and secure; clean and well maintained; sustainability; conservation and heritage; community involvement; marketing and management. Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award scheme Manager, Paul Todd said: "Quality green spaces are absolutely essential to happy, healthy communities. They are fundamental to our quality of life."

Pictured above, volunteers and staff photographed at our Green Flag Press Call. Photocredit: P Arnold

Reading this and not a Friend? Isn't it time you joined?! Become a Friend of Martineau Gardens at: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend or sign-up when you next visit.

Diary Dates

Sun 7 Sept, Collage Course, with Petra Röhr-Rouendaal. Advance booking essential

Sat 14 & Sun 15 Sept, The Birmingham Honey Show, with Birmingham & District Beekeepers

Sun 29 Sept, Autumn Event

Sat 5 Oct, AGM

Sun 19 Oct, Apple Day, with LFGF

Winter work parties, from November

Full details at www.martineau-gardens.org.uk



(a & c) Moths identified by our wildlife volunteers, before release; (b) yellow brimstone moth

A buzzing Honey Show



We're delighted to welcome back the Birmingham Honey Show, returning to Martineau Gardens for its third year on the 14th and 15th September (10am — 4pm). The Honey Show is a chance to find out all about the intriguing craft of beekeeping, you'll be able to talk to local beekeepers (a), meet a queen (!), learn about the different types of bees, talk to beekeepers, view observation hives (c), make candles from beeswax and buy locally produced honey direct from the beekeepers (b) all in the setting of our beautiful organic community garden. This is a Heritage Open Day event, organised by Birmingham and District Bee Keepers and is free entry.

A quiet spot to sit and remember



Pictured here, our newest garden bench in the Winter Garden, a tranquil place to enjoy a quiet moment away from the hustle and bustle. It has been donated in memory of a loved one. If you wish to celebrate the life of a special person, please consider

donating a bench here, which would make such a difference to the Gardens. To discuss this in confidence, please telephone Caroline on 0121 440 7430.

We need you!

We're seeking the right people for two new Volunteer Posts: a Membership Secretary and a Fundraising Assistant. Could this be right for you? You would need to be available at least one day a week, be computer literate with experience of Excel essential. Full details on this web link: <http://bit.ly/1bPETW2>

Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk



Growing Together

Lemongrass and Vietnamese coriander were the focus of our latest Local Food Global Food taster day, here at the Gardens. The Chinese Community Centre learned how to propagate and care for a selection of edible crops that originate from Asia but could be grown easily in this country. The 'Local Food Global Food' project is run in partnership involving the Black Environment Network and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens. Funded by the Big Lottery's Local Food programme, the project links ethnic minorities with local food growing organisations like Martineau Gardens.

Support Urban Harvest

Our friends at Northfield Eco Centre are crowdfunding for a community harvest project that aims to reduce fruit waste, food miles, carbon and improve nutrition. You can find out more about this and Martineau Gardens involvement on our website, via this link: <http://bit.ly/14Xwvon>



Leave a Legacy to Martineau Gardens

'A place where people, plants and wildlife meet' sums up what's at the heart of Martineau Gardens. This is a place where younger generations, some of whom have no access to the countryside, can appreciate wildlife first-hand. Help us to preserve something special. By leaving a legacy to the Gardens, you will be sowing seeds for future generations. For a confidential chat call Caroline on 0121 440 7430.



Ethan, newt finder extraordinaire

Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm