

## Newsletter Summer 2013

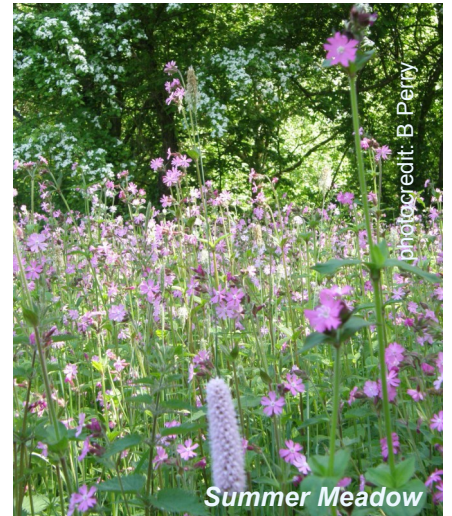
### Welcome to our Summer Edition of the Martineau Gardens' Newsletter.

Summer is the time to enjoy the Gardens in all their glory, to escape the bustle of the city and enjoy a little bit of nature on your doorstep. People of Birmingham have been visiting the Gardens since the 1940s to do just that. In the '40s, the Gardens were leisure grounds for newly qualified teachers, from 1960 to 1990, hundreds of Birmingham children came to the

Gardens for environmental studies. Then the Gardens became a Community Garden, here for all to enjoy. March this year, saw us celebrating 10 years of Stewart Holmes leading the Therapeutic Horticulture Project.

Martineau Gardens is here to stay, even in difficult times. That's why we need your help more than ever to ensure this beautiful garden continues to bring pleasure and tranquillity to all who visit in the future.

*Caroline Hutton, Director*



Summer Meadow

### Restoration!



In the centre of the Gardens is the Pavilion, a building that dates back to at least 1930, possibly earlier. The former sports pavilion is believed to have been used by teachers recently arrived in the war-torn city. Evidence of the former tennis courts still remains in the chain-link fences located near the present play area.

Today it's the social hub, constantly in use, a place where volunteers relax after a morning's 'hard graft' in the gardens, where garden visitors stop for a drink or where the local community gather for meetings and celebrations. Much loved, much used and with historical interest, the Green Oasis Appeal is raising funds to renovate

the building to extend its life. This is the first step of our development plans for the Gardens and will be a refurbishment that won't 'cost the earth'. Locally sourced material, suppliers with social enterprise credentials and FSC timber will be used wherever possible.

The walls will be insulated (with environmentally-friendly sheep's wool), the roof replaced, the veranda area improved, the windows double glazed and a small district heating system installed. A spacious volunteer room will be created that is warm, dry and welcoming. Equipped with a kitchenette, it will contribute to a sense of wellbeing for all who use it.

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](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend)  
or sign-up when you next visit.

### Diary Dates

Sat 22 June, Storytelling Festival, with Traditional Arts Team

Sat 10 August, Bee Keeping Course (advance booking essential)

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

Sun 29 Sept, Autumn Event, with Local Food Global Food (LFGF)

October, Apple Day, with LFGF

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



Garden's bounty - the fruits of late summer.



## Maths at Martineau



Tomorrow's teachers are coming to Martineau Gardens today to get inspiration on how outdoor learning can be integrated into lesson plans. How would you create a mathematically correct square with eight blindfolded people, a rope and no ruler? This was the challenge that Debbie Reel, Lecturer at University College Birmingham set student teachers on the Early Years PGCE Teacher Training Course. Debbie explains the value of outdoor learning in teaching Maths: "Leaving pencils, rulers and paper behind offers children an opportunity to use practical, reflective and social skills that embed a far deeper learning experience than when sat behind a desk." The Forest School areas, the Nature Trail and diverse examples of natural habitats of Martineau Gardens continue to be a resource valued by the local schools who visit us.

## Storytelling Festival Returns



The Martineau Gardens Storytelling Festival returns for midsummer, Saturday 22 June. Enjoy a family-friendly day of storytelling, crafts, music, food and more presented by the Traditional Arts Team. Tickets £6 Adults, Children free.

Advance tickets:  
[www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

## Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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

## Getting Ship Shape



Ahoy me Hearties!

In May, two teams of staff from Ernst & Young's Birmingham office volunteered their time at Martineau Gardens to restore the children's 'Shipwreck' play area using traditional and sustainable building techniques under the instruction of Stewart Holmes. Day one saw them laying skins of cob on the wheel house. The cob was made of sand, straw and the Gardens' own clay. Pictured here, at the end of day two, are the team who repaired the hull of the Shipwreck with hazel heatherings (sourced from sustainable coppiced woodland, Pepper Wood). Martineau Gardens is one of the chosen charities of the year for Ernst & Young's Birmingham Office. Staff are also supporting the Gardens with dress-down fundraising days. Our thanks to Ernst & Young for the hard work and generosity.

## St George's Church Day Out

Pictured right, Caroline Hutton is doing her best to convince younger members of St George's Church, Edgbaston to taste Lovage, an Old English Garden herb with a flavour similar to celery, growing in the Gardens. The children visited the demonstration vegetable beds for a 'see it, taste it' experience, as part of their outing to the Community Garden. Drawings of birds, bees and the steering wheel were captured on paper



by the children, when they shared their experiences of the Gardens with the congregation at the next Church service. To book a guided tour of the Gardens for your group or organisation, call 0121 440 7430.

Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm