

Newsletter Winter 2013

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

This season marks the return of our weekend Winter Working Parties. Our woodland has SLINC status, (a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation). Our volunteer team work on a range of conservation tasks, in line with our SLINC management plan, which are vital for the benefit of the wildlife. Coppicing trees and bushes, pruning hedges, clearing brambles and ivy helps to promote biodiversity in this area, not

to mention providing an opportunity for exercise in these cold winter months! For details of how you can join a working party, see the diary dates box below.

To receive your newsletter electronically, and reduce our costs e-mail us at info@martineau-gardens.org.uk.

Do visit us over winter, for a breath of fresh air, a stomp through the woodland or to pick up greetings cards, preserves and compost.

Caroline Hutton, Director



Early morning sunshine and frost on Sedum in the sundial lawn

Photocredit: S Hill-Daniel

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.

Photocredit: J Fletcher



Recycling champions!

It's official – Martineau Gardens is one of Birmingham's recycling champions! At the Birmingham Recycling Awards Ceremony, Martineau Gardens was awarded Winner in the Best Community and Neighbourhood Project category. Pictured above, Garden volunteer Steve Jones stands proudly beside our newest compost bin. Steve and Peter Athorn made this from recycled timber pallets. We compost our kitchen waste, together with paper hand towels, grass clippings and old plant material. We save money by using our homemade compost together

with Care compost to nourish and mulch our vegetable and flower beds. You can find out more about our recycling practices by following this link: <http://bit.ly/1amDTIS>

We stock Care Compost soil improver and mulch - this compost is a 100% peat free and has been made with the green waste collected from Birmingham residents' garden clippings. It's organic too, with certification from the Soil Association. A 40 litre bags costs £2.

Pictured right, Visitor Welcome Team Volunteer Jane Summerton with a sack of Care compost

Diary Dates

Winter work parties take place on:

Sat 21 Dec , Sat 18 Jan , Sat 15 Feb

and Sat 15 March. Free, but advance booking essential see <http://bit.ly/IgR1Gx> for full details.

Festive period opening times:

Open Mon 23 Dec until 4pm, closed Tues 24 Dec, reopen 10am Thurs 2 Jan



Photocredit: S Hill-Daniel

Bats ahoy!



Examining the bat

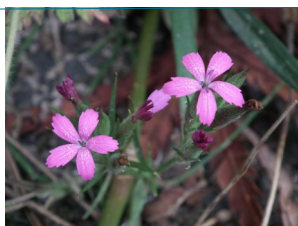


Surveying the boxes

On a bright September morning, Morgan Bowers (of BrumBats and our former Biodiversity Officer) accompanied by two trainee Bat Surveyors, came in to survey 20 bat boxes at Martineau Gardens. It was not until the final three were inspected that they found what they were looking for. To our joy, four bats were found in the most surprising of places: a box located high up on the mast of the 'shipwreck'. Bats generally prefer shaded, protected areas rather than open areas – this box was installed to raise awareness with visitors rather than a place for bats to roost. One sleeping bat was carefully lifted from the box, inspected, weighed and identified as a female Soprano pipistrelle bat. Though one of the UK's most common bats, they are a protected species and their population is in decline. We're very glad that the bats continue to find a home at Martineau Gardens, just two miles from the city centre. Our thanks to BrumBats for the survey and supplying these incredible photos. Full report plus bat facts at: <http://bit.ly/HUEVSI> Join BrumBats for bat walks and talks <http://brumbats.wordpress.com/>

Rare flower spotted

A nationally scarce wildflower, classified as Endangered on the Red Data List was discovered growing at Martineau Gardens by eagle-eyed Garden volunteer Jean Fletcher. Jean says: "I was cutting back plants outside the hothouse when I spotted something I didn't recognise. I looked it up and identified it as a Deptford pink". The plant, since verified by the Wildlife Trust, was recorded on our wildlife surveys, but hasn't been seen here since 2008. Plantlife, the wild plant conservation charity states that the plant has been in decline since the 1940s, is already extinct in Scotland. See <http://bit.ly/17IfQ9p>.



Deptford pink
(*Dianthus armeria*)
Photocredit: Andrew Curran

Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Grow your tenner

We're not suggesting money grows on trees, but the Grow Your Tenner Match Fund campaign, organised by fundraising website, Local Giving, will match donations of up to £10 made to Martineau Gardens via their website, and make it grow. This means, if you give £10 to Martineau Gardens, and it qualifies for Gift Aid, Martineau Gardens would receive £21.54. For supporters setting up regular monthly giving, new monthly donations set up during the campaign will be matched up to £10 for six months. Local Giving has £500,000 to allocate to small local charities, like Martineau Gardens. Local Giving will match donations until the £500,000 has been claimed. Donations made to Martineau Gardens via the Localgiving.com website by our supporters will be matched pound-for-pound up to £10 per donation. And if you qualify, gift aid can be claimed to add another 25%. For further explanation and details of the campaign, please read the article on our website at <http://bit.ly/loPD3E>. Or if you're ready to donate to Martineau Gardens now, please go to our page on LocalGiving at:

www.localgiving.com/martineau-gardens.

Please don't delay, this regional campaign runs for a short period of time. We are very grateful to those of you who already support us with regular monthly giving, if you don't give regularly but have been considering it, giving on-line via Local Giving is straightforward and of enormous benefit to the Gardens. Regular donations help us plan the cash flow and make sure that essential needs are met.

Peter ran again

Peter Arnold, Chair of Trustees ran for Martineau Gardens in the Great Birmingham Run in October. This is the third time that Peter has donned his running shoes for us. Thanks to his determination and commitment and the support of generous people like you, Peter raised over £2,000 for the Gardens following his Great Run.



Escape from the concrete ...

... to Martineau Gardens, a place where city dwelling youngsters can learn about healthy eating by finding out where food comes from.



Father and son with beans harvested at our recent Honey Show.

Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm