

Newsletter Autumn 2014

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

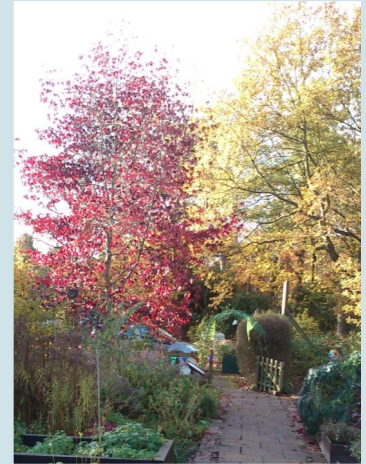
Early Autumn at the Gardens is a time to enjoy the garden's harvest: the sales shed is brimming over with homemade preserves made from the Gardens' soft fruits. Apples, pears and squashes are ripening and in the woodland the Autumn leaves are producing rich colours to lift the soul. A tranquil time before the season shifts and brings rain and gales.

It's this time of year when we 'batten down the hatches' and prepare the Gardens and its buildings for bad weather. It costs £250 a day to keep

Martineau Gardens open. The Gardens are open all year to the public and volunteering continues throughout the winter, whatever the weather. We reported in Spring that we've received a significant grant from a Charitable Trust to offer Therapeutic Horticulture. We also need to keep our buildings warm and watertight so our volunteers are comfortable in winter. For many, Martineau Gardens is a lifeline that can keep depression at bay: being able to volunteer in winter is vital.

Please do continue to support us. We need your support more than ever at this time of year.

Caroline Hutton, Director



Autumn colours at the Gardens' entrance — the red foliage of the Liquidambar tree is a highlight at this time of year

We've won again!

For the fifth year running, Martineau Gardens has been awarded a Green Flag Community Award. The award recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. This award is a tribute to the dedication of our volunteers who work hard to keep the gardens a beautiful and tranquil spot for all to come and relax in.



Volunteers thinning out pondweed. Our pond is a home to dragonflies, newts, yellow iris, watermint and other species.



Photocredit: Jane Summerton

Reading this and not a Friend? Isn't it time you joined?! Become a Friend of Martineau Gardens at: <http://bit.ly/1bsoAfO> or sign-up when you next visit.

Diary Dates

Sun 28 Sept, 11am—3pm

Autumn Event

Fri 31 October, 6pm—9pm

Halloween Storytelling with the Traditional Arts Team

Sat 22 November, 2pm **AGM**

Winter Working Conservation Parties (November to March)

Full details at:

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Welcome to ...

We're delighted to announce that two new members of staff have joined us: Helen Bickley (Fundraiser) and Miranda Kingston (Education and Working with Women).

Bank holidays: Open Mon to Sat 10am—4pm, except bank holidays, closed 24 Dec 2014 to 1 Jan, re-open 2 Jan 2015

Summer Garden Party



(A) Eureka Jazz perform (B) Lot 7: the handmade cake inspired by the Gardens (C) The auction begins

The sounds of Gershwin, Cole Porter and Dixieland Jazz, performed by quartet Eureka Jazz were the perfect backdrop to a beautiful evening in the Gardens. With our friends at Calthorpe Residents' Society, we held a Summer Garden Party – guests enjoyed music, cheese and wine and took part in a charity auction whilst raising funds for Martineau Gardens. Thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters who both donated incredible gifts and bid enthusiastically, the charming and persuasive Jeremy Thornton from Biddle and Webb (who donated auctioneering services), the event raised over £4,000 for Martineau Gardens. Our thanks to Calthorpe Residents' Society for all their support and the tireless energy of Sue Roberts, our new Chair of Trustees, for this wonderful evening.

Would you like to hold an event here? We welcome partnership events with local businesses and organisations which support our charitable objectives. Please call Caroline on 0121 440 7430 for details.

Power through plants

The ESF Community Grant and support from Charitable Trusts enable us to offer opportunities five days a week at Martineau Gardens. Our Therapeutic Horticulture Programme includes people with mental health issues and learning disabilities. These gardening volunteers acquire skills, knowledge, experience, physical fitness and confidence which can help them to get into further volunteering, training and employment. We are grateful to the ESF and our other funders for this support.



**European Union
European Social Fund**
Investing in jobs and skills

Connect with us ...

How to contact us

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Events at Martineau Gardens



Produce for sale and afternoon sun at the Autumn Event 2013

It's been another good season for events. 'Taming of the Shrew' was terrific, despite being performed in the wake of Hurricane Bertha. Do read one audience member's amusing account of it: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/2014/08/caps-off-for-taming-of-the-shrew/ Please do come to our final two events of the year, our Autumn Event is on Sunday 28 September and Halloween Storytelling is Friday 31 October. Thanks to a grant from the John Feeney Trust, we have refurbished the platform of the children's shipwreck play area to give it a new lease of life. Pictured overleaf, this multi-purpose platform has been used as a stage at our events (from actors to musicians) and most importantly our younger visitors have been able to return on board to 'swab the decks' and other such pirate play.

Goodbye to the Pottery Studio

Sadly, due to cuts in their funding, BITA Pathways has had to close the Pottery Studio at Martineau Gardens. Heather Loftus, the tutor, has taught pottery here for ten years. We will miss Heather's calm, gentle manner and wish her well. The Pottery Studio will be redeveloped as part of the refurbishments of our buildings that we are planning for next year.

Please run for Martineau!

Please choose us, if you are taking part in any sponsored activities this year.

Places still available for:

BUPA Great Run Sun 19 Oct (includes a 2.5k mini run for children) www.greatrun.org

Martineau Gardens will be participating in 'Grow Your Tenner', (GYT), a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for the Gardens. See <https://localgiving.com/campaign/gyt>. GYT launches on 14 October. On-line donations up to £10 through localgiving.com will be matched pound-for-pound so now is the perfect time to set-up a fundraising page for us.



Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm