

Newsletter Spring 2015

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

Primroses, daffodils, magnolia blooms and dog tooth violets are all in flower this month. The warm sunshine has brought record numbers of visitors all enjoying the beauty of the Gardens. Thrive is a national charity that helps people touched by a disability to transform their lives using gardening, a subject close to our hearts here at Martineau Gardens. Our charity is a leading provider of Therapeutic Horticulture services in Birmingham and we're delighted to be hosting Thrive's training courses in the Studio. Those training in social and

therapeutic horticulture have been working with Thrive's tutors developing their careers. After the refurbishment of our buildings, we will have warm, dry buildings that will be available for hire for a range of purposes including training, courses, meetings, events and education, generating a new income stream for the charity. Please do read the latest update on our plans overleaf, and come and view the drawings.

Caroline Hutton, Director

Ps: Many families and friends already hire the Gardens for celebrations, find out more via <http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/venue-hire/>



Visitors enjoying dappled Spring sunshine, beside the pond, in the wildlife area. More wildflowers are emerging in this area, thanks to the winter conservation volunteers' work.



As more and more school children visit the Gardens, we're delighted to welcome Juliette Green, a freelance Environmental Educator and primary school teacher (see inset). Juliette is also a published author who has written books and resources about outdoor learning. She has created materials for schools to use whilst they are here at Martineau Gardens, up to date with the recent national curriculum changes. Juliette runs our workshops for school visits, which means that Miranda and Stewart

can continue their work with volunteers on the Therapeutic Horticulture Project. Our recently renovated hot house has been used as a garden classroom. Pictured right, Juliette is leading a teaching session with children from Christ the King Primary School; surrounded by seedlings and plants propagated here at the Gardens. This was the perfect backdrop for a lesson on understanding how plants grow and naming the parts of plants. If you'd like to book a school visit, then you can find out more at <http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/education/>

New friends welcomed

Reading this and not a Friend? Isn't it time you joined?! Join online www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/ or come to reception and sign-up when you next visit.

Diary Dates

Events

Sun 17 May, Spring Event,
11am-3pm

***Sat 20 June, Storytelling Festival,**
with The Traditional Arts team, 11am

***Wed 1 July, Wind in the Willows,**
with Folksy Theatre, 6pm

***Thurs 6 & Fri 7 Aug, Hamlet**
with Folksy Theatre, 6.30pm

Courses:

***30/31 May Earth Oven Building**

***6 or 13 June Bee Keeping**

***27 June The Herb Patch**

Pre-booking recommended for events, essential for courses, see www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Open: Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays (closed Mondays 4 and 25 May, 31 August)



Sprucing up the Gardens

We've been sprucing up the Gardens. Next time you visit, you'll notice on your arrival that the Escallonia hedge along the edge of the car park has been cut low to allow more light onto the vegetable beds. Nearby, the Hawthorn has been given a good trim allowing more space for people to enter the polytunnel where our salads are growing well. Our annual tree surgery programme has seen Eucalyptus stems cut back for safety and to provide more light for crops and within the woodland, dead branches and a tree sitting on a neighbour's fence have been cut back. Pictured above, on a crisp February morning, Garden volunteers pause for a moment for the camera. This area beside the track has been rechipped, well weeded and planted up with new bulbs by the team. The magnolia is now in full bloom — thanks to all the hard work of the Garden Team for improvements in this area — don't miss it!

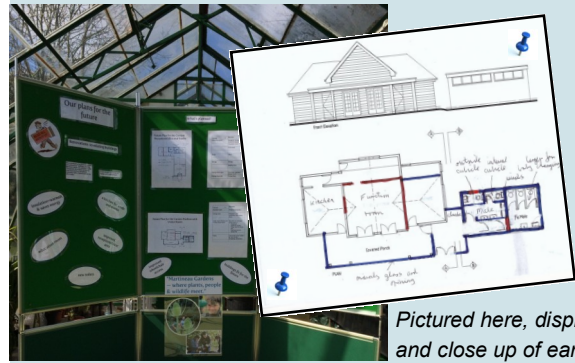
Update on funding

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

View our Plans!



Pictured here, display boards and close up of early drawings.

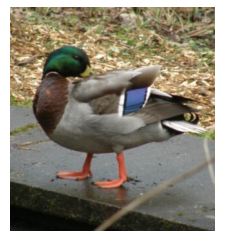
We now have early drawings to share with you, showing the plans for our buildings' refurbishments. Buildings that are fit for the future will enable Martineau Gardens to continue to offer Therapeutic Horticulture and provide a wonderfully restorative place, indoors and out, for all to enjoy. We will renovate and insulate the Pavilion and Reception/Studio buildings, the Reception and visitor area will be improved and a renovated kitchen will allow us to develop a cafe service and provide improved catering at events.

Insulated buildings, that won't 'cost the earth'

The buildings will be well insulated, saving energy and lowering our running costs and reducing our carbon footprint. By knocking through walls in the Pavilion, a large, airy and light multipurpose room will be created, providing an indoor classroom area that can be used for events and by venue hire customers too. And the toilets are to receive a full makeover, gratefully received by all! Please do visit the Gardens, view our plans and leave your feedback in the boxes provided. Your comments are evidence to our funders that Martineau Gardens matters to you!

Bird list soars to sixty!

Our volunteer Wildlife Recorder Brian Perry, has been recording the bird life at Martineau Gardens for nearly twenty years. Recently a Raven was seen, which means our Bird List has reached a total of sixty species, a significant number for a small urban location. Besides Raven, other notable species include Red Kite, Peregrine Falcon and Woodcock. To see the list in full log onto: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/wildlife/bird-species-list/



Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm