

Newsletter Summer 2015

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

It's been a busy few months, please do view our website for more details.

'Fit for the Future' organisations (including the National Trust, Kew Gardens and Powis Castle) gathered at Martineau Gardens to problem solve issues concerning Sustainable Gardens.

Our thanks to Ernst & Young Birmingham who returned for summer volunteering tasks.

Did you see us at BBC Gardeners World? Under the umbrella of Gardens of Birmingham, we are joining forces with the Botanical

Gardens, Winterbourne Gardens and Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens to promote the stunning Gardens that Birmingham has to offer.

Martineau Gardens is featured in a new guide published by the National Association for Environmental Education. It includes a study on a Birmingham school, showcasing the Gardens as an ideal venue for outdoor learning.

And finally, it's at this time of year that Southern Hawker dragonflies emerge from our wildlife pond, this heart-lifting moment was caught on camera by Brian Perry (see inset).

Caroline Hutton, Director



Homemade jam available soon, made from freshly picked Martineau Gardens' currants and gooseberries

Award Winning Garden!



(Left) Celebrating our good news! and (Right) Stewart with the volunteers, landscaping a previously undiscovered area of the Gardens, for all to enjoy. See website news for details

Our Therapeutic Community Garden is one of the very best in the UK – and that's official! We're amongst 115 parks and green spaces within the West Midlands which received the Green Flag Award in July. Pictured above (left), Garden team volunteers and staff members gather around the food growing demonstration beds, to

celebrate, dwarfed by a fine array of runner beans! The award, handed out by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. Volunteering is at the heart of what we do — this is a tribute to all our volunteers who work hard to keep Martineau Gardens looking beautiful for all to enjoy.

New friends welcomed

Reading this and not a Friend? Isn't it time you joined?! Join online via this link: <http://bit.ly/1D8rlab>

or come to reception and sign-up when you next visit.

Diary Dates

Events

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

Sat 5 & Sun 6 Sept
Birmingham Honey Show
with BDBKA, 10am, free entry

Sun 27 Sept, Autumn Event,
10am - 3pm, members free

Sat 31 Oct, Halloween Story Night
with Trad Arts, 6pm-9pm *

* Pre-booking recommended, follow this link to the events webpage:

<http://bit.ly/1igpH6N>

Open: Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays (closed Monday, 31 August)

What is Martineau Gardens?

Our Therapeutic Community Garden is looked after by volunteers, many of whom have

mental health issues and learning difficulties. Hundreds of school children visit the Garden to learn about science and the environment. Every year the Birmingham people (now in their

thousands), visit the Gardens to enjoy its peace and tranquillity. We host events and courses and sell plants and produce.

Summer Fundraising Garden Party



Guests gather on the lawn as bidding commences at the Auction (background). Pictured from left to right: Jeremy Thornton, Sue Roberts, Peter Arnold, Andrea Walker-Kay, Judy and Melanie Freeman and Jasvinder Mehta.

The sounds of Chet Baker, Miles Davies, Herbie Hancock and more, performed by award-winning jazz musicians *The Bryan Corbett Quartet* were the perfect backdrop to a beautiful evening in the Gardens, at our Summer Fundraising Garden Party. The weather was warm, the roses were in full bloom and guests enjoyed music, cheese and wine and took part in a charity auction in support of Martineau Gardens. Thanks to Shakespeare Martineau (courtesy of whom we enjoyed the fabulous food and wine), Jeremy Thornton from Biddle and Webb (our pro bono auctioneer), to Hayley from Majestic Wine who stayed for free to serve wine to our guests, and most importantly, to the generosity of our supporters who donated lots for the auction and bid enthusiastically, the event raised over £7,000 for Martineau Gardens. Our thanks to the Garden Party Committee for all their efforts (pictured above), and to Sue Roberts (chair of Trustees) for this memorable evening.

Leave a legacy

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

Events at Martineau Gardens



On one of the hottest evenings of the year, family groups spread out picnic rugs on the lawn in front of the pirate deck, transported for the evening, to the world of Kenneth Grahame's *'Wind in the Willows'*, in the company of Folksy Theatre. Pictured left, Toad discovering the joys of motor cars. Don't miss Folksy Theatre when they return to Martineau Gardens for two evenings in August (6 and 7 August) with *'Hamlet'*. Our events season continues with The Birmingham Honey Show (5 and 6 September) - find out about bees, honey and bee keeping and the role played in pollinating our crops. You'll be able to buy honey made by local bees. The Autumn event (27 September) showcases the Gardens' bounty, plus family friendly activities. And our final event is Halloween Story Night (31 October), children welcome, if they dare! More details via this link: <http://bit.ly/1igpH6N>

Staff Changes

Helen Bickley (fundraiser) Lorraine Carden (cleaner) have moved onto pastures new, we wish them well with their new endeavours. We welcome Lee Davies (our apprentice gardener, full-time) and part-time staff members, Jane Summerton (our administrator), Susan (our cleaner) and Michael Burnett (our fundraiser).

New species recorded at Gardens

This beautiful moth is the Scarlet Tiger, and a new species to add to our list of wildlife. It's rare to see this moth in the midlands, find out more about this and its part as a possible climate change indicator here, with this article by MothsCount: <http://bit.ly/1lrVfLs>



Photo credit: A Curran

Connect with us ...



How to contact us

Martineau Gardens, 27 Priory Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG

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

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm