

Newsletter Autumn 2015

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

Our Patron, Mollie Martineau, has died peacefully. She has been a great supporter of Martineau Gardens, since the beginning of our existence as a Community Garden. Overleaf, there are more details. We were sad to see that another generous supporter of the Gardens, Sir Adrian Cadbury has died.

Peter Arnold, Trustee, is running for Martineau Gardens in the Great Birmingham Run on Sunday 18

October. Please do support him by donating either on-line or in person at Martineau Gardens. You can read more about Peters' Run here: bit.ly/1MnlGwp

Stop Press: Just announced Mike Ponton is also running for Martineau Gardens.

13 October is a date for the diary — Local Giving launches 'Grow Your Tenner' we can receive match funding for the first £10 of every donation made on-line. Details are here: bit.ly/1glYlp2

Caroline Hutton, Director



Please donate: Peter's LocalGiving on-line page bit.ly/1QmdnTx

Mike's LocalGiving on-line page <https://bit.ly/1imh2FT>



New friends welcomed

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

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

Diary Dates

Events

Sun 27 Sept, Autumn Event,
11am - 3pm, Friends: free entry

*** Sat 31 Oct, Halloween Story Night** with Trad Arts, 6pm-9pm
Adults £6, accompanied children free

Look out for *Crafty Kids with Kika* workshops in autumn

** Pre-booking recommended. Ticket link and event details:* bit.ly/1QvkkBy

Thanks to Kika Kozar (Crafty Kids) for her donation of £120 from her July Family Fun Day.

Open: Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays. Entry is free except special events



(Above) Stewart Holmes with volunteers from the Garden and Meet & Greet teams and (below right) work begins on the structure for our outdoor kitchen

Community minded staff at fragrance house, Jo Malone London, held a staff sale and have donated £7,000 to Martineau Gardens. Thanks to their generosity, we are building an outdoor kitchen to house our newly-built earth oven (details overleaf) and our volunteers enjoyed a summer outing to Clumber Park, Worksop. The trip gave an opportunity for our volunteers to spend time together with people

they don't usually meet (because they volunteer on different days) and enjoy a 'busman's holiday', visiting the extensive walled kitchen garden and other beautiful areas, without worrying about the expense.

Photocredit: J Fletcher (above) & S Holmes (right)



What is Martineau Gardens?

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

mental health issues or learning disabilities. 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.

Mollie Martineau I-9-1926 to 15-8-2015



Mollie Martineau, our patron, loved how Martineau Gardens reminded her of childhood. She visited whenever she was able, supporting our events and our fundraising. We benefited a lot from the affection and respect that Birmingham people felt for her. She kept up the connection with us, even after leaving Birmingham, sending warm messages to

us through our Trustee, Glenys Thomas.

We owe the name of the Gardens to Mollie Martineau's family. It was Mollie's father-in-law Wilfred Martineau, who, as Chairman of the Education Committee, established a Teachers' Centre on Bristol Road after the war. He had recognised that Birmingham was facing a problem in attracting and retaining good quality teachers, and he wanted somewhere where the teachers could "put their feet up and let their hair down". Mollie had lived near the Gardens for over fifty years. She had seen the grounds as a Teachers' Centre, an Environmental Studies Centre and, through to its present existence as a Community Garden. She and her late husband Denis intervened when the site was at risk of being redeveloped. In an interview for one of our recent newsletters, she explained why her commitment remained strong: **"Martineau Gardens is so close to**

the City Centre, yet whenever I visit, I am reminded of my childhood and the nature walks I used to enjoy so much. This is a very special Garden. As a community garden, it's here for everyone. It's wonderful to see a place where children can run and play freely."



Pictured here, equipped with secateurs, Mollie Martineau launched our Nature Trail (2011) by snipping through an ever-green, 'living' ribbon made from foliage from the Gardens



We have to thank Andrew Curran again for spotting small and rare species, that so many of us would not have noticed, this unusual creature (a wasp-mimic) is actually a moth, the nationally scarce female Yellow-legged clearwing.

Connect with us ...

How to contact us

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Events at Martineau Gardens



Look out for 'Crafty Kids with Kika' at the Autumn Event - environmental themed crafts

Join us at our Autumn Event (Sunday 27 September) for our family-friendly green fete, celebrating this year's harvest. Bring your home-grown veg to join in Ming de Nasty's new photography project. There will be live music, delicious food, plants sales and more. Halloween Storytelling returns on Saturday 31 October (*above right*). Telling stories around the fire and in the woods, the Traditional Arts Team will make you shiver with tales of ghosts, spirits and fairy-folk. Last year's event sold out, advance booking recommended. Find out about both events (including Halloween ticket link): bit.ly/1QvkkBy

Outdoor Kitchen

Our demonstration food growing beds and outdoor cooking area makes healthy eating and food preparation fun. Seeing how food grows, picking fruit, tasting honey, digging up onions, snipping herbs, lighting a fire and cooking food over it, are experiences which encourage all to move away from fast food. With this in mind, a protective structure for our recently restored wood-fired earth oven is in the process of being installed which will protect cooks from the rain. Our volunteers are learning new skills, constructing the kitchen under the guidance of John Upton. Wood from Martineau Gardens is being used to make the timber beams. Earlier this year, thanks to Lizzy Bean (the tutor) and participants on a 'Loaf' course, our new wood-fired earth oven was built (to replace a former oven) using cob from Martineau Gardens. The earth oven will soon be available for use at events and to hire; wood-fired pizza parties for family gatherings at Martineau Gardens are becoming popular. Our thanks to the generous donation by staff at Jo Malone London, who have funded the construction of the kitchen. Please come and enjoy the earth oven in action, when we light it at our Autumn Event.



Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm