

## Newsletter Winter 2016

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

The quieter months of winter, see the team busy catching up on garden and building repairs and improvements. We have a new Welcome Shelter (see overleaf), the crumbling caravan, once a potting shed but more recently a home to the slugs, has gone, as has our bird hide, which has become much more of a 'lean-to' than was needed.

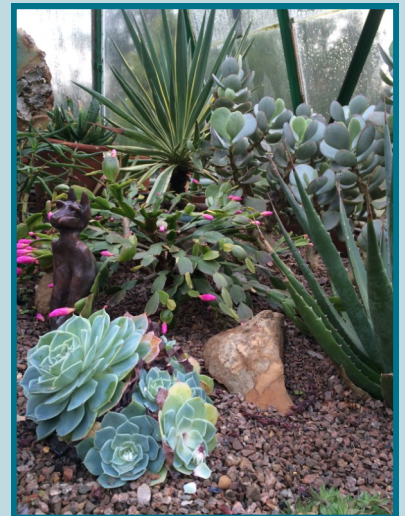
**Can you help us with a donation towards our new bird-hide?** The new hide will be visited by hundreds of school children who come to Martineau Gardens on field

trips and people like you, who want to enjoy the birds unobserved. On our website, find out about sightings at Martineau Gardens of birds like woodcock, kestrel, peregrine falcon and even a red kite, in an account by a bird spotter. Follow this link:

<http://bit.ly/1SLGR0H>

Could your company donate something to help Martineau Gardens? Ken Clayton thought so —thanks to a chance conversation at Moseley Festival, his company Reftech have provided us with a smashing set of badges and lanyards to help us present the Gardens better at stalls, markets and on event days. You'll also see our Visitor Welcome team wearing them.

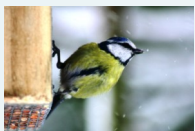
**Caroline Hutton, Director**



Visit the Hot House at this time of year to enjoy its greenery.

### 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/](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/about-us/become-a-friend/) or come to reception and sign-up when you next visit.



To make a donation to our new bird hide, please post a cheque made payable to Martineau Gardens (our address is overleaf) or donate on-line via our appeal page at LocalGiving:

[www.localgiving.com/appeal/MartineauGardensBirdHide](http://www.localgiving.com/appeal/MartineauGardensBirdHide)



### Big thank you – my anchor!



Volunteering at Martineau Gardens is an important part of the week for many of our volunteers; at this time of year, when it's wet, drizzly and grey, nothing beats a bit of fresh air, exercise, a few jokes exchanged over the spade and of

course cups of tea and biscuits. Volunteer Angela Gabb carried out a survey amongst volunteers at Martineau Gardens focusing on the impact that Therapeutic Horticulture has on them with regards to personal development and learning. There are some good findings, including comments from respondents (see title) - read the report on our website here:

<http://bit.ly/1Q2yfCj>

**Thank you for your support for Martineau Gardens – your donations and Friends' membership contribute to keeping the Therapeutic Horticulture service running.**

### 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 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.

### Diary Dates

#### Events & Courses

- \* **Sat 13 Feb & 12 March, Winter Conservation Parties**, daytime
- Sat 16 April, Big Dig**, 2pm-4pm
- \* **Tues 19 April, Forage & Cook Course** with Loaf, evening
- \* **Sat 30 April, Earth Oven Building Course**, with Loaf, daytime
- Sun 8 May, Spring Event**, 11am—3pm, Friends free
- \* **Pre-booking essential:** [www.martineau-gardens.org.uk](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk)

**Open:** Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except bank holidays. Over Easter, we will be open Good Friday (25 March), closed Easter Sunday and Monday (27 & 28 March). Entry is free except for special events.

## Courses connecting you to outdoors

We're gradually expanding the courses that we run at Martineau Gardens, which inspire a connection to the natural world. January is a time when it's traditional to look back on the previous year and think about new hobbies - perhaps there's something here to tempt you or a friend? Overleaf we've listed our new courses with Loaf Cookery School: Forage and Cook, and Earth Oven Building. There will be several repeats of these throughout the year, check our website for details. We're delighted to announce that John Gale's Bee Keeping Courses (14 and 21 May) and Nicola Peterson's Herb Patch course (23 July) are back. These courses sell out quickly, if you're interested, we recommend an early booking. Our thanks to the generosity of John and Nicola who give up their expertise and time in support of Martineau Gardens. Web links to book courses follow:

Loaf Cookery School: [www.loafonline.co.uk/cookeryschool](http://www.loafonline.co.uk/cookeryschool)  
Bee/ Herb Patch: <http://bit.ly/1I3eD3P>



*Pictured here, Loaf's Tom Baker selecting plants growing in the wild; on the Forage & Cook Course. Enjoy learning how to identify edible plants growing at Martineau Gardens and cook savoury treats in our refurbished outdoor kitchen*

## Saving the pennies!

If you received your newsletter by post, you may have noticed the 'delivered by Royal Mail' stamp. We're using a mailing house enabling us to make a modest saving on mailing costs. We're vigilant on looking for best ways to spend our funds, saving on costs to enable more to be spent on our Therapeutic and Education services.

## 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](mailto:info@martineau-gardens.org.uk)

[www.martineau-gardens.org.uk](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk)

## Welcome to the Gardens

We've been delighted by this wonderful new Welcome Shelter that has been designed and built by former volunteer Phil. He built the whole structure by hand in his back garden, before dismantling it and bringing it to the Gardens to install. Our thanks to The John Feeney Charitable Trust for their grant which covered the costs. We're sure you'll agree, it makes our entrance look most inviting, not to mention providing shelter for volunteers running the box office on event days, and protection for information boards and leaflets.



One of the reasons Martineau Gardens is open daily for visits, throughout the year (excepting Sundays and Bank holidays) is thanks to our Visitor Welcome Team volunteers who greet visitors on arrival, make drinks, sell plants and carry out many other 'behind the scenes' tasks. We're enormously appreciative of our volunteers who do this.

Would you like to join our Visitor Welcome team? You'd need to be able to spare a few hours regularly each week. For details call 0121 440 7430 or see website link: <http://bit.ly/1ZYzlw8>

## Calling all teachers—bring your class here!



At Martineau Gardens we offer teaching sessions, linked to the national curriculum, for primary school pupils led by our qualified teacher and freelance educator, Juliette Green. Pictured here, Juliette delivering a session on understanding how plants grow, in the glass house, surrounded by seedlings propagated here.

Advance booking essential, with Martineau Gardens. Bursaries may be available to cover the cost of a school visit. Follow this link for details on the Hugh Kenrick Days school bursaries with the NAEF: <http://bit.ly/1RA576T>



Opening Hours

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

Volunteering: Mon - Thurs, 10am - 4pm

Volunteering for women: Fri, 10am - 4pm