

Newsletter Spring 2019

Welcome to this Spring edition of the newsletter.

After the rain and frosts of winter, primroses, daffodils and sunshine remind us of drier gardening days to come. In this issue we're announcing our events and courses, with bookings opening for Friends of the Gardens from Wed 3 April. Do support our events—profits raised help to keep these beautiful gardens open for free and enable the Therapeutic Horticulture

(TH) Programme to continue. The work our volunteers do is rewarding stuff — not only does it give meaning to someone's life but we have a tranquil, beautiful space for all to enjoy. Our thanks to the Heart of England Charitable Foundation for their continued support of the TH programme. Finally, where would we 'bee', without the bees? John Gale has championed bee keeping at Martineau Gardens. Find out more overleaf. **Gill Milburn, Director**



Look up and enjoy the view, Magnolia Stellata, near the top of the track

The Pavilion Garden



Last issue we reported on the continued support from Jo Malone London. The team at Martineau Gardens is creating a new Pavilion Garden, located behind the refurbished Pavilion, creating a tranquil haven – a place for those experiencing immediate mental distress to find peace. The volunteers have been working hard, through severe frosts and icy rain, clearing the land, removing rubble and digging trenches. The Wednesday Group, are following a course in RHS Garden Design, hands-on. The

work is demanding but there's a great sense of team spirit – working together on a project like this is good for the soul. We've been calling on local businesses and charitable trusts to help by donating materials. Thanks to a recent donation of materials from E H Smith progress is advancing well! We now need a range of building materials. If you're involved with a business who could help, please find out more by calling 0121 440 7430 and ask for Gill, or read: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/support-us/paviliongardendonations/

Diary Dates

***Easter Holidays Family Activities**
15, 17, 18, 23 and 24 April 10am or 1.30pm Most tickets £5 per child. Advance booking essential, info on our website see below. Family fun with environmental/craft activities suitable for 3 to 12 years. **Springtime & Seeds, Dinosaur Discovery, Easter Stick Man with egg hunt ***, **Family Bird Morning**

Spring Event

Sun 19 May, 11am-3pm
Family-friendly 'green' fete, £4 (£2 conc), Friends FREE

****I am Turtle' open-air theatre,**
Thurs 30 May, 12noon with Make Shift Ensemble £tbc

***Summer Garden Party**
Sat 29 June, with Auction and Raffle

*Advance booking essential
Information and ticket links via:
www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/events

* Egg hunt supported by Co-op Edgbaston



Bristol Road (A38) Cycle Route means diversion in place Access to Priory Road has changed for traffic approaching via the Bristol Road. Follow diversion signs. Find out more here: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/cycle-route/

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 Gardens 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.

Open: Mon to Sat 10am - 4pm, except Bank Holidays. Entry is free except for special events. (*Easter: open Good Friday, closed Easter Sunday and Monday*)

Bees at Martineau Gardens

Photocredit: Lindsay Smith



Are you interested in bee keeping? Not sure where to start? Martineau Gardens' Introductory Taster Course might be just what you need! These popular one-day courses led by Martineau Gardens' bee keepers will help you decide if bee keeping is for you. (Pictured above, our bee keepers Ray Bowers and Sam Walker.) Advance booking is essential and these courses sell out quickly. Friends of Martineau Gardens receive a substantial discount. Course dates: 8, 15 June, 6 or 13 July (all Saturdays). For a course description and details on how to book, visit our website: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/event/beekeeping-taster-courses/.

Thanks to John Gale, who has stood down as our bee keeper after many years, Martineau Gardens has a number of bee hives located in a secluded part of the woodland area. Our volunteer beekeepers tend the bees and their hives over the year. In September, the honey is extracted and for a short time, we have delicious Martineau Gardens' honey for sale (the profits of which are ploughed back into the charity). It's available for a month or two, but customer demand is high and it soon sells out. Our thanks to John, find out more here: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/visitor-information/wildlife/beekeeping-at-martineau-gardens/

Wildlife News

Photocredit: Brian Perry



Our volunteer wildlife surveyors, Andrew Curran and Brian Perry, are running annual checks on our bird boxes—the nesting boxes are cleaned, once they are no longer in use, to reduce the risk of parasites infesting young birds in the nesting season. Find out why the thermos is in use — full story here: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/2019/03/wildlife/

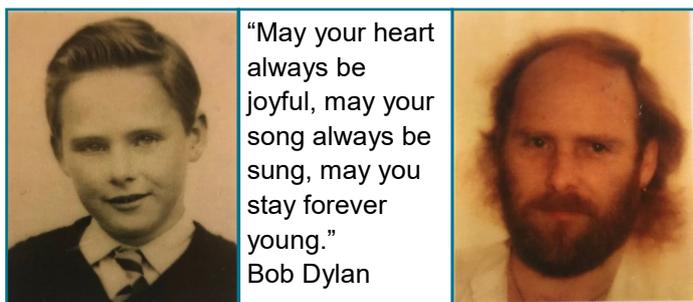
What's On at Martineau Gardens



I am Turtle. family-friendly outdoor theatre
Half-term: Thurs 30 May . 12noon

Roll up, roll up! Tickets for Martineau Gardens events and courses are now on sale, from bee keeping to theatre, we have lots of activities happening this year. Profits contribute to keeping these beautiful Gardens open for free, so please do visit the What's On pages of our website for full details and make a note in your diary. **Here's a taster of what to look forward to:** This May half-term bring the family to the Gardens for outdoor theatre, inspired by an environmental theme close to our hearts. Makeshift Theatre invite you to dive into the world of the Sea Turtle and learn about changing our plastic use. With a great story, songs and incredible puppets, 'I am Turtle' is suitable for 3 years upwards. Advance tickets essential, more details on our website.

In memory of A J (Andrew J. Webb) 1952–2019



This memorial card remembers AJ's great love for music

We miss our volunteer AJ greatly. Generous with his time, his smiles and generous in sharing his woodwork skills, AJ was the person to turn to if there was something that needed fixing. Earlier this month, a celebration of his life was held at Martineau Gardens. The money donated is being use to buy woodwork tools in memory of him.

Connect with



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