

## Newsletter May 2021

**Welcome to this Spring edition of the newsletter.** We're easing ourselves into Spring - enjoying longer days, more light and dare we say it? Sun. Then just as we're finding it too warm in the garden, we're treated to frost, snow and hailstones. Gardening certainly encourages us to be flexible in our approach and look for the silver linings. As lockdown eases, it feels

like we've turned a corner. We've enjoyed welcoming back volunteers and have reopened to the public. Roadmap permitting, venue hire, school visits, open Saturdays and outdoor events are restarting soon. You can find out more in this newsletter. We're feeling buoyant and overwhelmed by all the messages of support we have been receiving.  
**Gill Milburn, CEO**



### Help Martineau Gardens to flourish in 2021

Support Martineau Gardens by becoming a Friend - find out more here or sign-up when you next visit!

<https://martineau-gardens.org.uk/support-us/>



Enjoy a hot drink in the sunshine in the Courtyard Garden

### Time for trees

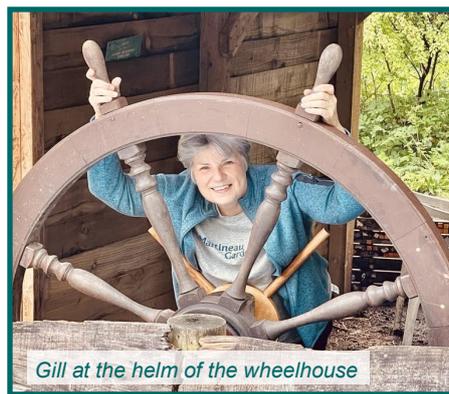


Volunteers and staff planting trees

The cycle of weather, heavy rains, periods of drought all puts a strain on mature trees in the woodland. Over the last few months, we have sadly lost one or two. Where possible, their trunks remain, providing new habitats for wildlife. We are grateful to the Woodland Trust for donating 400 British native saplings, which have been planted in our wildlife areas by the Therapeutic Horticulture Team. Look out for our tiny trees, next time you visit.

Martineau Gardens has received the **Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund** as part of a programme that aims to help Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations based in England continue to provide mental health services during this pandemic in Birmingham. Mind is administering the fund in partnership with the Mental Health Consortia, who represent the leading mental health organisations in England. The programme is supported by the DHSC.

### Au revoir Gill



Gill at the helm of the wheelhouse

Our wonderful CEO Gill Milburn is retiring in September after three years of incredible service to Martineau Gardens. We will be writing more about all that Gill has achieved for Martineau Gardens soon, but wanted you to hear as soon as possible. Please give her a virtual three cheers and fist bump for leading us, the organisation, the staff and the volunteers with such diligence, kindness and strength, particularly through the pandemic. We feel very fortunate that Gill was at the helm during this time. More information here: [bit.ly/2RLrZbt](https://bit.ly/2RLrZbt)

**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 (in their thousands) visit the Gardens to enjoy its peace and tranquillity. We host events and courses and sell plants and produce.

### Update on public access:

**Open for visits: Monday to Fridays 10am— 4pm Saturdays coming soon**

**School visits:** book now

**Venue hire:** book now for outdoors after 17 May

### Diary dates:

Beekeeping taster courses in May

Open Air Theatre in July and August

Please look out for updates from us to you, via email or check the covid web statement: [bit.ly/3gP7C44](https://bit.ly/3gP7C44)

### Volunteers Needed!

We have some volunteer role opportunities—could one of these be right for you?

Visitor welcome team [bit.ly/3ocoEhF](https://bit.ly/3ocoEhF)

Wildlife co-ordinator [bit.ly/3fh1T8f](https://bit.ly/3fh1T8f)

## Ahoy me hearties! Play area update



As lockdown restrictions ease, outdoor play space is needed more than ever. With this in mind, the restoration of the Children's Shipwreck Play Area has been a priority. The work has been coming on a pace. It has been a case of 'all hands on deck,' with our wonderful therapeutic horticulture volunteers working hard. Grass had to be scalped, a hummock turned into a treasure island and new picnic benches built. Tonnes of sand and bark were hand barrelled to the play area. The renovation also required good carpentry skills. Thankfully brothers John and Mick, who have been volunteering their time and skills at the Gardens for some time now, stepped up to the challenge. The ship deck has been repaired, and the wheelhouse completely rebuilt, by hand. Virtually all timber has been replaced, a watertight roof fitted, the ships' wheel installed and railway sleepers inserted to create the new sandpit area. The purchasing of materials was made possible by you, our supporters, who voted in the Persimmon Homes Building Futures scheme, enabling us to receive the funds we needed. View a photo gallery of the before and after process on our website here: /visitor info [bit.ly/3htzuyB](http://bit.ly/3htzuyB)

## Go Green for Outdoor Education

The Department for Education has given the green light for Educational Visits to resume. Our Education Officer Juliette Green said, "**Here at the Gardens, we can't wait to welcome back school children for Educational Visits. When pupils visit, much of their day is spent outside. Children really need this outdoor provision – to be able to observe the natural world helps to improve wellbeing and concentration and after having been restricted for so long, we're delighted to be able to resume our outdoor learning programme.**"



Read more and to book a school: [//bit.ly/2QlsyYs](http://bit.ly/2QlsyYs)

*Pictured here: Equipment set up in the woodland for a minibeast session for a close up encounter with the invertebrates of Martineau Gardens*

## We're open for Visits



Open for visits: Monday to Fridays 10am-4pm

Saturdays coming soon!

## Summer What's On



If you've missed the theatre, then why not book a ticket to one of the two open air productions at Martineau Gardens this summer. Perfect for younger audiences, who would enjoy an informal, outdoor setting, from the comfort of their picnic rug, Little Red and the Big Bad Wolf takes place on the Tai Chi Lawn, on Saturday 10 July, 11am with the Shipwreck Play Area open an hour earlier for BYO brunch and a play. Then on Tuesday 17 August at 7pm, Folksy return with 'The Tempest', the Shipwreck deck will appropriately become the stage for the evening. Gather your friends, folding chairs and a picnic. **Covid-secure: This is an open air event, taking place after 21 June\* (the time when it is anticipated that covid social restrictions will ease) our website has more details about what to expect. Advance ticket purchase is recommended to avoid disappointment for these popular shows.** Read more here: /whatson: [bit.ly/3eEk5JK](http://bit.ly/3eEk5JK)

## Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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Opening Hours

Monday—Friday 10am—4pm

For current details, please read our latest statement here: <http://bit.ly/33CbtMK>