

Newsletter Winter 2021



Jenni (top left) with the Martineau Gardens team

Welcome to this Winter edition of the newsletter.

The first thing I need to say in my first CEO welcome is a huge thank you to everyone for the very warm welcome to the gardens. And to Gill Milburn, our retiring CEO for her wonderful contribution to Martineau and from me personally a fantastically

thorough handover. It's been amazing to see the efforts of our volunteers recognised through the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. The award honours the dedication of every hour of every day of every one of our volunteers for the last 24 years so if that's you, thank you very very much.

It was also great to welcome Lucy Kapasi from ITV to meet the team for what was a brilliant feature on Central News.

Next year marks 25 years of Martineau Gardens and I hope it will be a year of celebrations as well as planning as a team for the next quarter of a century.

As we approach the end of the year all that remains is to thank everyone for their continued support of the gardens. Hopefully we will see you all for a visit in 2022.

JENNI FRYER CEO



The Courtyard Garden dusted in snow

Spotlight on the 'not so secret' garden



"Volunteering has given me a role – there was a massive hole in my life but when I began volunteering here, I could see there was light at the end of the tunnel." (Munsab Kahn)

We have been recognised for our commitment to the community receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. Awarded during lockdown when gatherings were not possible, finally in October, a happy gathering of 30 volunteers and staff attended the awards ceremony. Pictured above,



volunteers Claire Perry (centre) and Munsab (right) received the award on behalf of Martineau Gardens from John Crabtree, OBE, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands. We caught the attention of the press too, with spreads in the Birmingham Post, Mail and a special feature on ITV Central News. View the report that ITV broadcast for a rewarding glimpse of life 'behind the scenes' including a Green woodworking session, digging up vegetables and interviews with volunteers and staff. View it here [ltv.com/central: bit.ly/30Db3ZI](http://ltv.com/central:bit.ly/30Db3ZI)



**Help Martineau
Gardens to
flourish in 2021**

Ways YOU can help!

Donate: justgiving.com/martineau-gardens

Via online shopping:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/martineaugardens/

Become a Friend:

martineau-gardens.org.uk/support-us/



Come and Visit!

Free admission, open Monday to Saturday 10am— 4pm. Over the festive period we are closed from 4pm Thurs 23 December and re-open Tues 4 January

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.

Beautifying indoors and out



With the temperature dropping, there's nothing like a cup of tea in the warmth and comfort of indoors, those who know the gardens well will know that is often warmer outside than it is in, here at Martineau Gardens. Our single skin wooden chalet style hut which houses both the office and volunteer room has been in need of some TLC to get us through winter. Our thanks to everyone who responded to the call out for cosy soft furnishings. The 'beautifying project' has involved staff and volunteers together working hard, decluttering, fitting curtain rails, making curtains, even potting up house plants.

Meanwhile outdoors, Our wildlife 'meadow' located behind the children's play area, is an important resource for wildlife, particularly bees and butterflies. Created 15 years ago, we look after it by cutting and raking it at specific times of the year to encourage its diversity. We leave seedheads in place to drop their seeds for future growth, and a winter feast for birds. However over time the area has become quite choked with hogweed and there's less of the wildlife-friendly plants we would expect to see and so it has been receiving the attention of the therapeutic horticulture volunteers. It was a tough job, scraping off layers of topsoil, roots and debris, but all the volunteers worked hard and the land is ready now for sowing. The area will quickly replenish and as we move into the warmer months next year, we can expect to see plenty of wildflowers returning.

Martineau Mondays



Spend Monday Mornings at Martineau Gardens and get your week off to a great start. Join us for outdoor Tai Chi, a gentle yoga session or spend some time walking and practising mindfulness in the gardens. The sessions are free and we would love to see you. For details on how to join, view this page: www.martineau-gardens.org.uk/whats-on Please note a slight change in timings in the New Year.

Easy Fundraising



Raise donations for Martineau Gardens whenever you shop online.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/martineaugardens/ and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the retail site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to **Martineau Gardens** at no extra cost to you whatsoever

Pictured above, staff member Felicity being interviewed on setting this up for Martineau Gardens

Raise FREE funds
for us every time you shop online

Find out more

Festive Giving that supports Martineau Gardens



Beekeeping course vouchers - inspecting the hives (L), hand-chopped logs (C) and sack of logs (R)

Like to feel an extra warm glow during this festive period of giving? Why not pick up an unusual little something from Martineau Gardens to give to friends or family? All purchases directly support the work of the Gardens.

- Potted hyacinth bulbs, traditional winter gift, £2 (and £6)
- 5 Notelets with wintery scenes of the Gardens £2.50
- Preserves and chutneys, made from produce from the Gardens, £3.50
- Beekeeping Courses 2022 vouchers now on sale—£70 and £125
- A hessian sack of seasoned logs, handchopped by our volunteers (£9 for a 25kg bag)

Pop into the gardens to buy in person, cash or card welcomed!
Or read more here: martineau-gardens.org.uk/festivegiving

Connect with us ...



How to contact us

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

www.martineau-gardens.org.uk

Opening Hours

Monday—Saturday 10am—4pm

Covid-19 update: read our latest statement here: <http://bit.ly/33CbtMK>