

# Martineau Gardens

Annual Report 2020



Martineau Gardens is a valued and much-loved, organically-maintained Community Garden close to Birmingham city centre. A place to learn, to heal, to connect with nature and to play.

The Gardens are open six days a week, as a tranquil place that is free to visit, thanks to the dedication and generosity of our volunteers and supporters.

# THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE



Martineau Gardens provides a safe and welcoming space for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. It is maintained and developed by the people who volunteer on our therapeutic horticulture programme, many of whom live with enduring mental health problems, learning difficulties, brain injuries, physical disability and neurological conditions. We are indebted to the Charitable Trusts and individuals who support our work and give our volunteers the opportunity to find purpose and a sense of belonging.

In 2019-20 we supported **97** volunteers to undertake therapeutic horticulture (TH) in a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. TH volunteers supported the Gardens and each other with over **7130** hours of work.

Over **95%** of the volunteers who joined our therapeutic horticulture programme reported a substantial improvement in their wellbeing.

When asked to score between 1 and 10, how satisfied they are with life as a whole: before they start **75%** of prospective volunteers report their Life Satisfaction **below 6**, whereas over **70%** of our current volunteers report their Life Satisfaction **above 6**.



One of the areas of life which contributes to overall wellbeing, and the area which prospective volunteers report as being lowest, is satisfaction with what they are achieving in their lives. This is also the area of life that, once they join us, volunteers report as having increased by the greatest amount. Other areas of substantial increase included personal relationships and feeling part of their community.

## OUR TRUSTEES

Sue Roberts, Chair; Peter Arnold; Tim Bruton, Treasurer; Sarah Colles; Liz Hensel; Glenys Thomas; Peter Townley; Tom Walking

## OUR STAFF (4.8 Full Time Equivalent)

Gill Milburn, CEO; Jane Bradshaw, Deputy; Michael Burnett, Fundraising; Sarah Hill-Daniel, Marketing and Communications; Juliette Green, Environmental Education; Stewart Holmes, Therapeutic Horticulture; Miranda Kingston, Therapeutic Horticulture; Felicity McCabe, Administrative Support; Alec Middleton, Event Host. Sessional Support: Susan Swan; Peter Athorn; Jacky Hotchin; Kim Knowles

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Therapeutic Horticulture 97 Visitor Welcome 12 Events Support 22 Corporate 56



Some of our volunteers are not in a position to move on to paid work and so they stay with us, sometimes for many years, developing deep and meaningful connections with the Gardens, staff and other volunteers. This long-term stability is vital for their wellbeing.

Our impact measurement system, strongly suggests that participation in the Martineau Gardens Therapeutic Horticulture Programme has a measurable, positive impact on the wellbeing of volunteers, many of whom join us with very low life satisfaction.



***"From the moment you step through the gate, you enter a world of calm joy. Whoever you are, you'll find something important for you here"***

(S, 2019)

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

From March to October each year, we offer National Curriculum-focused teaching sessions and sensory tours of the Gardens for children to learn about plants, habitats, food chains, invertebrates, lifecycles, food and healthy eating.

**241** children from Reception to Year 6 visited the Gardens from **25** schools

**14** schools made multiple visits

**6** schools received a Hugh Kenrick Day Bursary towards transport costs

One school sent a class every day for a week to study bees and pollination.

Family Activities engaged 3 - 8 year olds with environmental play and crafts, introducing them to the wonders of outdoor adventure. **742** children and their parents attended **38** holiday time sessions



***"Very organised and a great learning experience. Loved the resources on the hunt and pond dipping"***

(Teacher feedback)

## OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES IN PRACTICE

### We provide:

A safe and welcoming space which enables adults, young people and children to connect with nature and improve their wellbeing.

Long-term social and therapeutic horticulture and related programmes, which facilitate improved wellbeing and the development of transferable skills of vulnerable people. Including but not exclusively: people with mental health issues; brain injury; Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Special Educational Needs or those living with dementia.

High quality, affordable, Environmental Education for children of school age and engaging family activities using the natural landscape and features of the Gardens to encourage outdoor play.

Gardens and woodland managed along organic principles with biodiversity and sustainability at its core and which seeks to enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of food growing, caring for the environment and the positive impact a green space has for a local community.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

We are pleased to present the annual report and accounts for what was a year of positive outcomes for Martineau Gardens, but one which ended in sadness as COVID-19 impacted everyday life. We are thankful for the generosity of funders and Friends who continue to support us through the pandemic. Notable achievements, following our charitable objectives, include the following highlights.

Completion of the Pavilion Garden, thanks to the hard work of our TH volunteers and the continued support of Jo Malone London. This project brokered links with corporate volunteers, including Amey PLC, Avison Young and Charity Commission staff, and support from local builders merchants. We are delighted with this addition to the Gardens, and the indoor working opportunities provided by the Keder House, particularly with our more vulnerable volunteers. World Mental Health Day was an opportunity for TH volunteers and corporate supporters, including NBB Solicitors, to come together to plant bulbs and share lunch. We also started a series of courses funded by Bupa UK Foundation, for people 'feeling low', using the Gardens as inspiration for a creative recovery.

Wildlife volunteers soldier on coppicing the woodlands, clearing the pond and preserving habitats within the SLINC. Wildlife recording continues, with over 400 species of moth; 60 fungi; 60 birds and 22 butterflies identified on site.

Environmental education went from strength to strength, and we wish Caroline Starr a happy retirement and offer thanks for her dedicated long service. We continued TH support of young people with special needs, helping to develop skills and relationships.

Our Visitor Welcome team put in 1,344 hours to greet 12,000 visitors wishing to connect with nature, find a place to de-stress and meet with friends. The investment in refurbishing the pavilion paid dividends with an increase in venue hire, and our events, particularly the Garden Party, provided valuable unrestricted income and an opportunity to introduce new visitors.

We proudly live by our values, demonstrating integrity by supporting sustainability, ethical purchasing, and having a welcoming approach that embraces social inclusion and accessibility.

An extended version of this report will be available on our website in November.



**Income**  
**£205,926**

Grants 61%  
Charitable Services 3%  
Sales 24%  
Donations 7%  
Building Development 2%  
Friends Scheme 3%  
Bank Interest 0%

**Expenses**  
**£184,183**

TH Salaries 34%  
Other TH costs 4%  
Charitable services 19%  
Premises / overheads 9%  
Public engagement 22%  
Building development 6%  
Cost of sales 6%

**People**  
**12,334**

TH Volunteers 97  
Visitor Welcome Team 12  
Events Volunteers 22  
Corporate Volunteers 56  
Trustees 8  
Staff (FTE) 4.8  
Friends 135  
Visitors 12,000

Balance: at 31.03.19 £111,825 at 31.03.20 £133,568

Martineau Gardens is a registered charity (1092364) and a company limited by guarantee (4273209)  
27, Priory Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B5 7UG. Tel: 0121 440 7430  
email: [info@martineau-gardens.org.uk](mailto:info@martineau-gardens.org.uk) [www.martineau-gardens.org.uk](http://www.martineau-gardens.org.uk)

