



## St Mary's Secret Garden Update

It has been a very busy summer at the garden, and the busyness looks set to continue through the autumn.

We were recently awarded a Defra Year of Green Action Bees' Needs Champions Award for our Buzzin' beekeeping project for young people and the work we've done on the roof garden at Nomura, creating habitat for pollinators in the City of London and Hackney.

We hosted yet another corporate volunteering group, this time from Hyperion Insurance Group, who among other tasks worked hard to revitalise part of our woodland area - feeding the soil with compost and manure and planting hundreds of bulbs. We can't wait to see how it turns out in the spring.

We have been asked to expand our work for Hackney Council with planting displays on Broadway Market and Chatsworth Road. As well as designing the plans we will plant and maintain these areas for the local authority, so watch out for new planting designs in these areas soon.

We were excited to welcome Sakari Mannisto's Birch Festival to the garden on Friday 4 October. The event featured an afternoon of performances from musicians, a magician, circus performers, and lots of fun!

<https://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/environment/sakari-mannisto-s-birch-festival-1-6306763>

Hope to see some of you at our upcoming events!

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## Mark's Adventures with Beeswax

Join our resident beekeeper Mark on Saturday 7 December 1 - 4pm as he takes you on a crafting adventure using beeswax.

Attendees will experience a moulded candle demonstration with a rolled candle to take home, and have the opportunity to learn to make soaps, hand and foot moisturising creams, tealight candles and beeswax wraps.

This is a perfect course if you keep your own bees and have an excess of beeswax, or if you're keen to learn how to make natural products, for gifts or your own use!

Click the button below to book your ticket and reserve your place!

[Buy your ticket](#)

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## Wreath Making and Late Night Shopping Evening

Our ever popular Festive Wreath Making Workshop will take place on Thursday 12 December 6 - 8pm.

Get creative for the festive season and craft your own wreath! Our resident florist Antoinette will guide you through the process of selecting and arranging your materials to make a beautiful wreath for your home. The price of the ticket includes your wreath and all materials, mince pie and mulled cider or apple juice.

Even if the idea of wreath making doesn't grab you we will be open late for Christmas shopping so you will also have an opportunity to peruse our garden preserves and crafted products.

Click the button below to book your ticket and reserve your place!

[Buy your ticket](#)

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# Greening for Wellbeing

We are looking for people with mental ill health to join our six month garden maintenance volunteering placements.

We run weekly sessions at the garden and our local community planting initiatives on Wednesdays 1pm - 4pm.

Please spread the word with people who are looking to improve their health and wellbeing and horticulture skills by getting active at the garden and helping us to green the local area.

## GREENING FOR WELLBEING



**SIX MONTH VOLUNTEERING PLACEMENTS IN GARDEN MAINTENANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILL HEALTH**  
**Wednesdays 1 - 4pm**

**For people with:**

- Common mental health problems, looking to improve wellbeing
- Some experience, or strong interest in gardening
- Time management skills
- Ability to work with direction and minimum supervision
- Ability to travel to a variety of spaces in Hackney
- Ability to carry out physical activity for extended periods

**We will provide:**

- Training and experience in gardening, food growing and garden maintenance
- Mental and physical benefits of being and working in a garden
- Protective clothing including boots and gloves
- Letter of reference for further volunteering or employment

**To apply please contact Siobhan on [siobhan@stmarysgarden.org.uk](mailto:siobhan@stmarysgarden.org.uk) 02077392965 or visit the garden for an application form**

  @stmarysgarden  @stmarysgarden1

[www.stmaryssecretgarden.org.uk](http://www.stmaryssecretgarden.org.uk)  
St Mary's Secret Garden, 50 Pearson Street E2 8EL  
Registered Charity 1152027 / Company limited by guarantee 05897612

[Join us](#)

## **Save the Date: De Beauvoir Christmas Fair**

We will be holding a stall at the De Beauvoir Association Christmas Fair which will be on Saturday 30 November 11am - 5pm this year.

Please let us know if you'd like to help run the stall on the day, and what your availability is, and we will draw up a rota closer to the time.

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## **Save the Date: Holiday Closing**

The garden will be closed from Saturday 21 December and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2020.