

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7

# Montagu Square Garden Trust

## Spring Newsletter

### Annual Garden Party

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

The Montagu Square Garden Trust's Annual Garden Party is on **Monday 26th June starting at 6.30 pm**. Kay & Co, who are celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, have kindly agreed to sponsor and host the garden party again this year. They are supported by **Home House** who will be providing cocktails, supper and fine wine. Our legendary raffle will feature amazing prizes courtesy of our generous Marylebone business neighbours and supporters. **Entry will be from the East and West gates.**

**The band J & The Rest** will entertain guests. Four finely groomed gents perform soulful, stripped-back arrangements of everything from Marvin Gaye to Nick Jonas.



New this year will be entertainer **Marco the Magician**, working the crowd, from youngsters to adults. Marco has a natural flair for entertainment and provides real humour in his performance.

**New to Montagu Square?** Consider coming around to a special area set aside just for you and others to introduce yourselves and get to know one another.

Tickets will be on sale **from 1<sup>st</sup> April for £40.00, which includes all drinks and a wide selection of fine food**. Purchase tickets online at [www.kayandco.com/MontaguSquare](http://www.kayandco.com/MontaguSquare) or stop by **Kay & Co, 20a Paddington Street.**



This year we are excited to announce we will now have a larger (16 x 8 meters) open tent style marquee, which will be fitted with uplighters and fairy lights to make it a magical setting. As in previous years, we will be making the marquee available for private hire on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June**. Enquiries should be directed to Luz Perez at [gardenclerk@montagusquare.net](mailto:gardenclerk@montagusquare.net)

## Montagu Square teams up with the Wild West End to enhance wildlife



You may have noticed various elements in the garden square supporting its many birds. Not only are there seed, mealworm and suet feeders, but also nesting boxes and nesting material holders. Recent visits by representatives of the **London Wildlife Trust** found some great results in Montagu Square Gardens in particular, “with more young birds spotted there than any other area of the West End.” They also spotted some more unusual species for the area; namely the Great Spotted Woodpecker and Grey Wagtail. This organization is teaming up with the **The Portman Estate** and other large property owners of the West End, and the **Wild West End** ([www.wildwestend.london](http://www.wildwestend.london)) to find out what wildlife habitats can be introduced. The ultimate end result will be a greater connection and enhanced life experiences with nature for residents, visitors and workers in the area and a “green corridor” supporting wildlife as they travel from one space to the next. Montagu Square looks forward to being an integral part of this project.



Resident and Montagu Square Garden Committee member **Nanette Pigaga** is doing her best to encourage the birds to the square, and remain to raise their young. “I’d like to invite anyone, especially those with children, to introduce themselves when they see me filling the feeders.” She has had luck hand feeding the robins, and enjoys giving children a try. Several families with children have offered to maintain the feeders on those occasions when she is traveling. “These are teachable moments, and ones that plant seeds within a child so he or she connects to nature throughout their life.” If you would like to help fill the feeders - with or without a child in tow - please contact Nanette at [npigaga@gmail.com](mailto:npigaga@gmail.com)





## Winter bloomers of Montagu Square

Montagu Square is awakening from winter with its many colorful bulbs, trees and shrubs beginning to bloom. But before we leave winter entirely behind, a note on two very special specimens that give us a gift during the long grey days of winter.

**Kerria japonica 'Pleniflora'**, commonly known as bachelor's buttons or double-flowered Japanese rose is a vigorous medium-sized deciduous shrub, with prominently veined, light green leaves and solitary bright yellow, double flowers. It typically blooms from mid-spring, but you will find it flowers all throughout winter in Montagu Square, with its true burst of bloom by mid-March. Named in honour of Scottish gardener and plant hunter William Kerr, this specimen was sent by him to Kew from China in 1804.



**Daphne odora Aureomarginata** is also known as the gold-edged winter Daphne. It is a winter flowering gem that is often noticed for its gorgeous sweet, heady, jasmine-like perfume before it is even

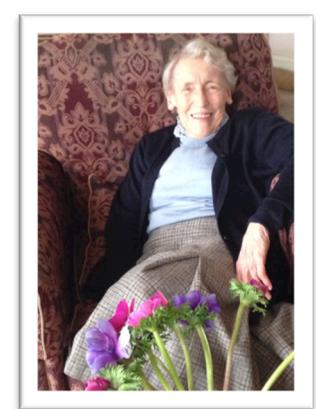
seen. Originating from Eastern Asia, this evergreen shrub produces fragrant pink tubular flowers on a backdrop of dark green leaves with attractive yellow margins.

After flowering, pretty red berries are produced. There are several specimens in Montagu Square, blooming by the end of January. Longtime resident **Mary Hicks**

remembers being given one from her mother-in-law's garden in Devon. She relocated it very successfully to her Chiswick garden where it grew and gave great pleasure for several years, but then quite suddenly died, possibly of old age. Upon moving to Montagu Square, she asked Joe Jones, our gardener, if he would add a specimen to our landscape. "He told me that they are rather expensive and tender". However, Joe did kindly purchase two

Daphne bushes and placed them at the north end. A

few years later, he planted other specimens in the south end of our garden, which he had himself grown from slips.



## Save the date!

### The Great Get Together

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 4 pm - 6pm**

Jo Cox MP was murdered just a year ago. To celebrate her life, her husband, Brendan Cox, has asked people to come together in community events called The Great Get Together to be held across the whole country on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

Martha Lane Fox will be hosting a Great Get Together in the garden of Montagu Square in honour of Jo's work which was strongly guided by her belief that we all have more in common than what divides us. She was particularly involved in supporting refugees and migrants.



Several charities will be taking part in the celebration, notably the award-winning campaign group, Just for Kids Law, which fights for legal justice for kids and its affiliate group, Let us Learn, which aims for access to higher education by young people who came to the UK as children and now call it home. Many have university places but are likely to be blocked from taking them up because of their immigration status.

The beautiful Montagu Square garden will be open for residents and non-residents to meet these brilliant young people. Food and entertainment will be provided ... so just bring yourselves!

### Open Garden Squares Weekend



This popular London event, organized by London Parks and Garden Trust, will take place 17-18 June 2017, with Montagu Square participating on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**.

Further information can be obtained from the OGSW website at [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org)