Hundreds of supporters of Bees for Development gathered to celebrate bees and the work of the Charity in the gardens of Marlborough House, a former Royal Palace and HQ for The Commonwealth.

The BBC’s Martha Kearney hosted the Party together with Classic FM’s Bill Turnbull. During the evening Martha interviewed some of the bee personalities enjoying the Party, including Peter Tompkins, Master of The Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers, artists Alex Hirtzel and Kurt Jackson, Jeweller Alex Monroe, author Laline Paull, Idle beekeeper Bill Anderson and stock-broker-turned-beekeeper Dale Gibson of Bermondsey Street Bees.

Guests were entertained by the panache of Artizani’s stylish and fun bee theatre, displays including bee hives from all around the world, and Chris Park’s skep making. They could sample Dr Sara’s latest Bath Potions, taste honey with The London Honey Company and mead with New Quay Honey Farm. Chef Elizabeth Parker served fantastic veggie food featuring only bee-pollinated delicacies, with sparkling wines, organic gin fizz, mimosa cocktails and honey beer. Meanwhile, self-styled bad beekeeper Bill Turnbull auctioned a range of exclusive bee-related luxuries, fabulous holidays, hampers and jewellery, including a jar of his own honey which raised £350 for the cause!
The silent auction was a huge hit too, with guests bidding for treats from champagne teas to bee-themed jewellery and artwork.

Political Guests included Government Ministers Michael Gove and Lord Alli, while bee researcher Professor Dave Goulson promised that topical new findings on neonicotinoid pesticides would feature in the following day’s news.

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Bees for Development works in the world’s poorest countries, enabling people to become self-reliant through beekeeping and to protect habitat for bees. Thank you for supporting our work.

Adnams Southwold
Alan Titchmarsh
Alex Hirtzel
Alex Monroe
Anna Wright
Artemis
Artizani
B Chocolates
Baroness Anita Gale
Baroness Patricia Scotland
Bath Potions
Bee Good
BeeFAyre
BeeHaven Flower Farm
Beelinspired Creams
Ben Rothery
Bermondsey Street Bees
Bill Tumble
BJ Sherriff
Boxworth Botanicals
Brian Melton
Cath Hodsman
Cawston Press
Chaplin Family
Chris O'Brien
Chris Park
Clare Mackie
Corrine Edwards
Creature Candy
Dave Goulson
Dianne Stradling
Dr Beekeeper
E H Thorne (Beehives) Ltd.
Eastman family
Emma Bridgewater
Fi Ritchie
Filberts of Dorset
Fortnum & Mason
Frances Quinn
Gardman
Green & Blue
Green and Gorgeous
Hatch Mansfield
Haygrove Ltd.
Hiver Beers
Humble by Nature
India Jane
Jackman Photography
Jessica Irena Smith
Jill Stein
Jo Shapcott
John Chapple
Kallaway
Kate Osborne
Kim Sera
Kurt Jackson
Laline Paull
London & Scottish International Ltd
London Honey Company
Lorna Syson
Marlborough House
Martha Kearney
Melissa Morton
Meta Media
Monty Don
Mr and Mrs David Chaplin
Natasha Passmore
Neal’s Yard Remedies
New Quay Honey Farm
Noble Isle
Northumberland Honey Co.
Perowne International
Plant Theatre
Rainbow Productions
Rickety Bridge Winery
Robbie Lyle
Rowse Honey
Shirine Vincent
Steven Falk
Sting
Stroud Brewery
Stuart Gardiner Design
Thatchers Cider
The Jockey Club
The Kensington Hotel
The Ritz London
Therapi Honey Skincare
Timorous Beasties
Tregothnan
Vintage Roots
Waitrose
Whizbee
Wildflower Favours
Wilkin & Sons
Will Bishop Jewellery
William and Hilary Russell
Willow Pottery