

Wednesday 26th August 2020 - Changes

Nature ensures that change happens and I always find it comforting as Summer changes into Autumn. Back at Hengistbury Head Wildlife Garden we return to bring a little order. While reading Monty Don I was fascinated to find that a garden is only such as we make choices of what goes and what stays. Some plants find themselves crammed together and therefore grow tall as they struggle for light. The Rosemary bush by the pond is doing just that, while over the path in an opposite bed a Rosemary bush struggles under the weight of a Honeysuckle. Although trained into a column last year the *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle) has produced vibrant red berries and is smothering the bush and plants beneath it.



There is so much remedial work to do after the 'Covid Pause' and only so much that can be achieved in the short time we dedicate to gardening each week. The light is changing as the days shorten and the ground smells different after the welcome rain. As a younger person I would feel sadness at the passing of the Summer Holidays and happiness at the thought of seeing my school friends once again. I remember well the sweet smell of Wallflowers as I walked into Dulwich Village for the excitement of a new term. We don't have any perfumed Wallflowers at Hengistbury Head garden, though there is a beautiful purple one that presents as a bush each spring.

I am reminded that every garden is its own unique environment. It is remarkable that a plant that has flowered in Southbourne may have a different timing at Hengistbury Head Wildlife Garden. Nature has her own way of choosing what she allows to grow when and where. The Apple tree is looking healthier after a strong prune last winter. However we do need to take off some fruit which are not doing so well. Oh, another job to catch up on!



Wishing you well from the volunteer gardeners at Hengistbury Head.