

Wednesday 24th April 2019

We were discussing the best planting to encourage wildlife.

Having lived in Devon as a child the imposing tall hedges were always full of wild flowers. There are traditions such as not bringing May Hawthorn bloom into the house before the end of the month or bad luck may ensue. I often wonder why that tradition arose.



Us gardeners agreed that the following would tempt birds and wildlife into the hedge: Hazel with its catkins and nuts; Hawthorn, which has berries later; Buckthorn; Blackthorn; Dog Rose, which has blooms and rose hips; Guelder Rose, actually a Viburnum, which has flowers and berries. A thick hedge to encourage birds, butterflies and insects would make up for the many which were taken away with intensive farming, necessary after the war.



In the garden this morning the jasmine is flowering profusely. After three days of sun and high temperatures, of course jasmine on a south facing wall would flower. Borage is doing well in the meadow as are the ox-eye daisies which often bloom first.

We look forward to welcoming you at Hengistbury Head Garden.

The Volunteer Gardeners.