

Wednesday 10th July 2019

We are so happy to have the sparrows in our new houses at the Visitor Centre. Sparrows, goldfinch and blackbirds are fluttering around the pond. We are looking at ways to enable them to dip in the water. A little shade and some rocks should help.

The Passion Flower on the wall of the Centre is in bloom. The name came from the Spanish when they arrived in South America. They saw symbolism in the flower which related to their Catholic faith. The main flower was said to be a crown of thorns with five wounds and the three nails on the cross. Symbolism aside, *Passiflora* is such a wonderfully exotic climber with glossy green leaves and dramatic whipping tendrils. We are going to research a bit more to see if they are self-pollinating. A warm south-facing wall ensures many flowers in July. Later, orange, oval fruit will hang where the flowers were. Unfortunately, the fruit never develops into the crinkled brown fruit that can be cut open and the wonderful sweet innards eaten.



Passion Flower



Yellow Floating Hearts

The Opium Poppies have statuesque seed heads, a beautiful pale green. The seed matures and the head needs to be left until it has gone brown. It is only then that the seeds are ready to be grown. Unfortunately, the seed heads are sometimes picked off too early, which is a shame as the seed heads are beautiful and only useful when ripe.

Here's to a bit of rain to help the plants along. We look forward to chatting with you on Wednesday mornings.

The volunteer gardeners at Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre.