

Wednesday 20th March 2019

A visitor to the Hengistbury Head Garden asked us the name of a plant they had seen growing on Hengistbury Head, and also in their own garden.

Alexanders is the name of the plant, *Smyrnum olusatrum*. According to the 'Reader's Digest Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain,' the whole of Alexanders is edible. The name comes from Alexander the Great who came from Macedonia, like the herb itself. The plant is biennial and is typical of coastal areas. So, there we are: that's why it appears all over Hengistbury Head.



Alexanders



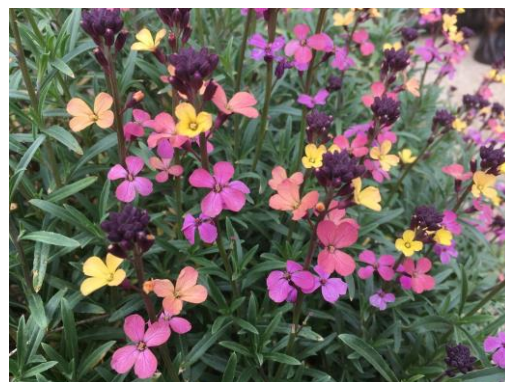
Wood Anemone

This morning the Skylarks have been delighting us with their song. The mild weather has led to the blooming of Wood Anemone, which occur naturally in the woodland area.

The Fritillaria are bobbing their snakeskin patterned heads. I always think of the artist Rennie Mackintosh, as he did some charming paintings of them. It's the vernal equinox today and spring will have officially 'sprung' by tomorrow.



Snake's Head Fritillary



Wallflowers

How marvellous nature is. We look forward to seeing you soon,

The Hengistbury Head Gardeners.