

Wednesday 10th April 2019

As gardeners we have differing views about plants that grow in the garden here at Hengistbury Head. Today we made a decision to relieve the meadow of the Common Wallcress. A couple of us admired the delicate beauty of this little wild flower. However, we would like the meadow to have the bright flowers we chose as seeds. You can see Common Wallcress in a lot of places in Bournemouth as it likes sandy soils as well as walls. When the seed pods are ripe, they will burst and spread the seeds far and wide.



We had a 'coffee discussion' about the identity of the plant and **it is** Common Wallcress according to the 'Readers Digest Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain'.

Today some seeds of Hoary Plantain have been planted, *Plantago media*. Unusually, this plantain has a delicate fragrance which attracts many bees. Other plantains are pollinated by the wind. The name 'plantain' comes from 'planta' meaning foot, and refers to the shape of the leaves. One of our volunteers brought the seeds back from the Botanical Gardens in Ventnor, Isle of Wight. The gardeners there keep their own seeds and sell them in beautiful packaging.



Thank you to the many visitors who have praised our volunteer gardening this week. We look forward to seeing you all again.

The Volunteer Gardeners at Hengistbury Head garden.

Next blog – watch for our views on how to plant a wildlife hedge.