

Wednesday 2nd September, 2020 - Autumn Memories

When I lived in Tenerife I visited Las Canadas, the area around Mount Teide. It is a beautiful and austere volcanic landscape. The flowers that grow there include Yucca, the beautiful white cuplike flowers of which smell divine, and huge 18 foot tall Echium. It seems that stately blue Echium also grow down by Tuckton tearooms and Yucca in gardens here, near Hengistbury Head.

Looking up Echium, I find it is related to Viper's Bugloss, a small low growing wild flower found in our Wildlife Garden. Although these flowers may have gone over now they, sort of, join our worlds together and remind us of the scope of nature.



The tall Fennel near the Chamomile lawn has a story to tell. Last year as the seeds fell the structure of the six-foot plant stayed and became silver with the sun and frost. It was left and this year the new growth has a support; last year's aged stems have provided a framework for the plant young stems which would have, otherwise, been blown and broken in the strong winds.

Imagine summer in Italy. Around a small pool at Villa Anna, Sorrento a leggy, delicate flower dancing in a pot blown by warm winds. It's noisy and splashy and the holiday feels as though it should last forever. The Gaura at Hengistbury Head reminds me of the many holidays we spent there. A plant without fragrance that conjures memories of Italian life and the noise of a Vespa buzzing by laden with dogs, children and even planks of wood.



The promise of plants to come is hidden in the border near the gate. The delicate leaves of a *Thalictrum* tell us that the seeds we put in a while back have released the beginnings of a tall plant with dainty leaves and flowers. Not yet, but in the future.

We hope you enjoy visiting Hengistbury Head Wildlife Garden, from the Volunteer Gardeners.