

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - How windy it is!**

When I'm considering what to blog about I often arrive at a good idea only to have it blown away once we meet up to garden. The wind today was strong and gusty. I became involved with making protective wigwams; some for support, such as the Buddleia near the moth trap. It is an unusual Buddleia with small purple flowers along the stems, unlike the conical flowers on a *Davidii*. It was also necessary to prune it below the height of the wall. When the north-easterly wind blew it ripped the main stem forward. It's the time for pruning as plants start to grow, although some are more particular than others.



The other wigwams are above *Frittilaria* which are starting to grow with their modest flowerheads bowed over. The wigwam idea can be seen in gardens as grand as Kew. It is using wood and posts made from coppiced plants in the garden and from the Head.

Weeding the Chamomile lawn has meant lifting a lot of wild carrot. The pretty umbellifer flowers are only part of its charm. On a bushcraft course, I learned that they were grown and eaten. The root of the wild carrot is edible and as we weed it from the lawn, the smell is distinctive, though somehow fresher than the orange vegetable. Wild Carrot flowers are distinctive in that they have one dark flower in the middle of the white florets. The central dark flower is designed to attract flies and pollinators to it.

Out of the wind we were able to sit in the warmth of the sunshine in a sheltered corner of the garden. The skylarks started to sing and there was a round of poetry. Unfortunately, I can't remember it.

We look forward to seeing you at the Hengistbury Head Wildlife Garden.

**The Volunteer Gardeners**