

Wednesday 12th June, 2019

Wow - how wonderful the meadow looks. Visitors to the Hengistbury Head garden at the Visitors Centre are often exclaiming how wonderful the meadow looks at the moment. Corn Marigolds are the main stars, with the vibrant poppies now making an appearance. As you look over the meadow and up onto Hengistbury Head itself there is a mix of pink Corncockle, sapphire blue Cornflowers and the yellowy orange Field Marigolds. The whole area is buzzing with bees.



We hope we have identified the Buddleia by the moth trap as *Alterniflora* with its droopy leaves and branches and flowers along the stems rather than in the pointed cones of other *Buddleia Davidii*. We are making sure to tell everyone about the Asian Hornet which has come to our land and is a danger to bees which it kills. A little smaller than a native hornet it has a much darker abdomen with an orange part to it. Please look for more accurate information. There is also an app to identify and report this little monster.

Talking of ugly wildlife I would just like to share my joy recently at finding Stag Beetles on the bins, crawling in the grass, up walls and flying on warm evenings. We haven't yet seen any at the garden here but nature has a way of appearing when it wants to. As endangered creatures, Stag Beetles are protected so it is a privilege to see them.

Enjoy your week and we will be at the garden to welcome you next Wednesday morning.

The Volunteer Gardeners at Hengistbury Head.