

Wednesday 15th January, 2020 - Learning new garden techniques and discovery

It didn't feel very likely that I would actually do any gardening today. Felicity and Sue felt the same way. However, the weather changed and it became brighter. The new bird feeders and houses bring lots of song and chirping to keep us company.

The meadow grass continues to keep us busy, and then, through the grass, we spied some pretty, low-growing irises we planted last year. In the woodland area a few Snowdrops are beginning to show. I did hear a visitor suggesting that they might not have flowered yet because we haven't yet had very cold weather. There has certainly been much wind and rain. Sitting outside here, the waves can be heard as though breaking right beside the garden. Beautiful sound, full of energy and force. Nothing any human can control. Just like the seasons: one can watch and wonder.



Walking into the woodland, little bright stars of winter honeysuckle delight the senses. What beautiful perfume they have in spite of their leaf-naked branches.

Oh yes, new techniques: edging lawns and using long-handled 'claws' to loosen weeds. Maybe our backs and knees will suffer less. It's good to try new ways of working which will make gardening more effective.

Monty Don, talking about American gardens, thinks that gardens are all about the "passion and love" put into a space. There's certainly passion in deciding whether to keep seed heads without seeds. It could be called love when one of us bothers to tease all the grass from the roots of a wild flower and then replant it. Seed heads look amazing when the frost is on them and who knows what titbits might remain for the curious birds.



Here's hoping you might visit and see the passion and love we regularly pay the garden. Nature and wildlife deserve our reverence, and repay with moments of unsurpassed bliss. Birdsong, sea sounds, wind and sunlight.....ahhh. What a joy to write this blog.

From the Volunteer Gardeners at Hengistbury Head Wildlife Garden.