

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019**

**Kew came to Bournemouth for the Arts By The Sea Festival**

The Central Gardens in Bournemouth are full of amazing trees. On Saturday I volunteered to go on a walk with an expert on fungi, from Kew Gardens. How exciting to wander around looking for fungi. Of course, I can't remember the names of any of them, but some were beautiful forms.

Mycorrhizal fungus is often suggested when planting. It seems that it sets up a symbiotic relationship with trees, giving sugars and taking back what it needs ('symbiotic' means that both the fungi and the plants gain from the relationship). I wish I could remember more of the science! Kew Gardens are focussing much of their work on the importance of fungi. How strange that the Kew expert didn't like the taste of the mushrooms.

Here in the garden, it is a joy to be able to dig and tidy after the rain. While there are areas which need compost and replenishment, other places are developing to be richer and worm-filled.



It is midday as I write and the chill of the morning is forgotten. A Robin is singing around us, and sitting in the sunshine, it feels as warm as any British summer. The angle of the sun casts a beautiful dappled light on the woodland.

The Michaelmas Daisies are varied in colour and form. We hope you will come and have a look.



*The Volunteer Gardeners at Hengistbury Head Visitor Centre*