

# Clatford Valley Gardening Club

Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm

Upper Clatford Village Hall

[www.clatfordvalleygardeningclub.co.uk](http://www.clatfordvalleygardeningclub.co.uk)

July 2022

Dear Members,

My poor garden is looking very sad at the moment as a result of the dry spell we are having. The only real colour at the moment are the pots because I am watering them. Some of my roses are looking particularly sad. I went to put a support in the ground the other day and it was like concrete. I am not very good in the heat anyway so there is not a lot of gardening going on. Luckily weed growth has also slowed down.

We had a lovely visit to Hilliers (see later) even though only a few people came. If you didn't come on the visit, you missed a treat. We were so pleased with the guide that I sent an e-mail to Hilliers and this is the reply I got –

*Dear Jennifer,*

*We are so pleased you enjoyed your visit to the Gardens and your guided tour with Deborah. I have passed on your compliments which are very much appreciated.*

*Best wishes,*

*Jo*

*Jo Field  
Visitor Services Supervisor  
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens*

The June speaker was very good, but unfortunately the attendance was low. If you didn't come because you don't have a greenhouse, there were lots of general tips and advice included in the talk.

Looking forward to August we have two events, our Pimms, Pastries and Plants evening and our annual show. Because it is in late August, the Pimms, Pastries and Plants evening will start at 7.0 so we can visit the gardens before it gets too dark. We will then finish in the village hall.

The Annual Show is 20<sup>th</sup> August so I hope that you will be thinking about that. Offers for help with that would be appreciated.

We have applied for a May Fayre grant in order to have an open meeting in 2023 with hopefully a well-known speaker.

If you can suggest anybody, please let us know.  
Finally, don't despair too much as your prize plants wither,

Jenny.

### **The Queen's Green Canopy.**

This was sent by Christine Brett and there is a link to find out more about it if you are interested.

Morning! I didn't know whether any of you are interested in planting a tree for the Jubilee? It's quite cool as you can plot it on the QGC map. If you click on the map you can see if anyone has planted one near you.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/individuals/>



## THE GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER



It's been a real privilege to see the Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding with a chick on the peanut feeder in my garden this year. I like to do tai chi in the garden around 9am and this is often the time when the woodpecker arrives. I've been able to quietly carry on but at the same time observing him dancing around the feeder.

He is such a colourful and characterful bird. The woodpecker is similar in size to a blackbird. The male has a crimson patch on the back of his head and crimson feathers under his tail. He makes a sharp and loud 'kick kick' sound throughout the year and of course there are the short bursts of drumming that mostly take place in late winter and early spring that we are all familiar with.

Rarely seen on the ground the woodpecker is mostly solitary outside the breeding season. You are likely to see it both in coniferous and deciduous woods, provided the trees are large enough to support the nest - holes. Some live in parks and large mature gardens in urban locations. Young birds may travel a few kilometres from their nest-sites but generally the species is resident.

Feeding mainly on insects in summer and seeds and nuts in winter, the woodpecker will even raid other birds' nests to feed the chicks to its young, or even to eat itself.

This woodpecker has been remarkably successful at the same time the Lesser Spotted has declined. It has benefited from the dead wood resulting from Dutch elm disease and more recently from food provided for garden birds.

So, the next time you're walking in the woods or doing tai chi in the garden, don't forget to listen out for his distinctive call and see if you can spot him.

*Lesley*

## **MEETINGS FOR JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

Our speaker for the 27<sup>th</sup> July is Geoff Hawkins. "From 30 acres to 30 Square Yards" tells of moving from gardening on a large estate to a small town garden. Geoff has visited us several times in the past and has always been very popular, so we look forward to a good evening.

On 24 August you are invited to PIMMS, PASTRIES AND PLANTS. The meeting will start in the hall earlier than usual at 7PM to make use of the light, and you will be able to look around several of the gardens in the village, after which you will be offered PIMMS and PASTRIES back in the hall. If you have any PLANTS to bring along for sale, they will be very welcome.

Our speakers on 28<sup>th</sup> September are Katie and Jess from Featherstone Flowers in Nether Wallop who will be telling us about the growing side of their business and growing cut flowers for the home. Something a little different which you will hopefully enjoy.

*Judy*

## **GARDEN SHOW**

Oh dear on rereading previous garden show pieces for the newsletters they all state the weather has been too wet, cold, hot or dry. This year is no exception except with the prolonged heat wave gardening is even more of a challenge!

Remember the Jubilee? How about producing 'A Jubilee Flower Arrangement' while children could have a go at a Jubilee garden in a seed tray. The produce section invites you to make a Jubilee biscuit so something for everyone.

The schedule and entry form are now on the [village website](#) so please have a go and join in. Remember this is a FUN day for all club members including children.

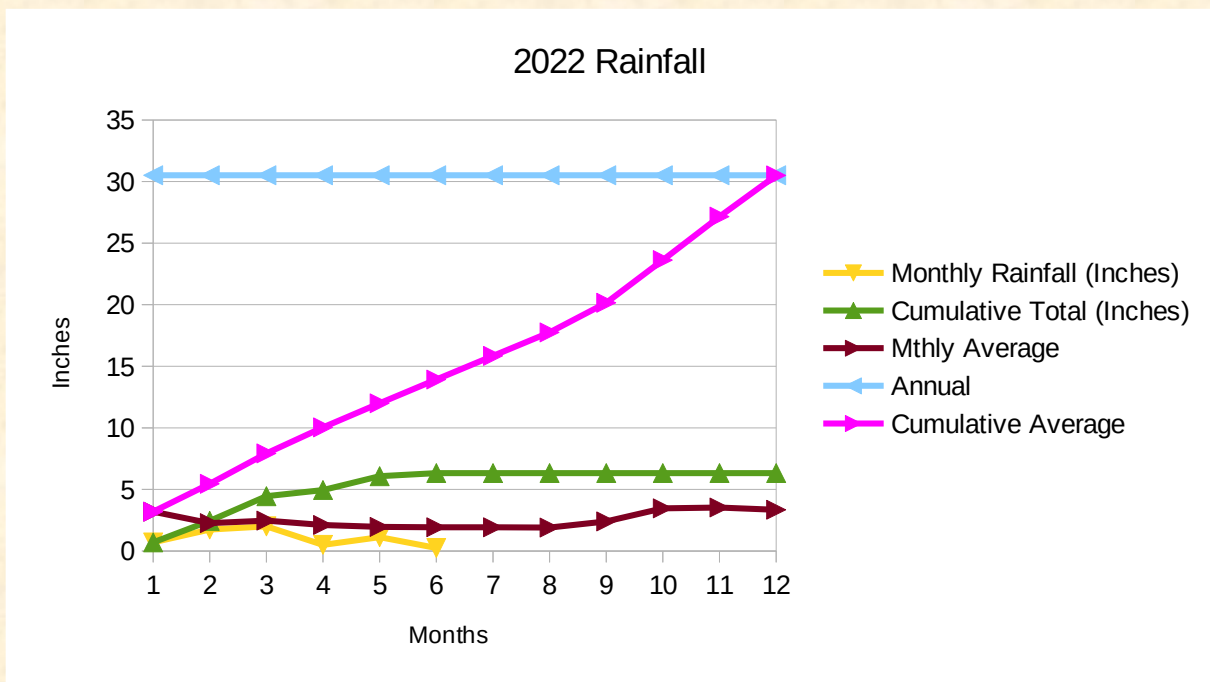
See you at the show – Saturday 20 August.

*Sue Stuart*

## RAINFALL 2022 (or lack of)

Year	Month	Monthly Rainfall (Inches)	Cumulative Total (Inches)	Mthly Average	Cumulative Average
2022	1	0.7	0.7	3.19	3.19
2022	2	1.75	2.45	2.26	5.46
2022	3	2.00	4.45	2.47	7.92
2022	4	0.5	4.95	2.11	10.04
2022	5	1.13	6.075	1.95	11.99
2022	6	0.25	6.325	1.93	13.92

We are about 7" of rain below where we ought to be. My water butts are empty and the lawns are yellow.



### April 2022

The weather during the early part of April was rather unsettled, especially during the 3rd-6th. The first ten days were also rather cold, although it became warmer than average through the middle part of the month. Towards mid-month it became more settled generally, with high pressure in charge for much of the rest of the month, though much of the final week was rather cooler. Clear skies ensured that sunshine totals were above average in many areas, but there were more air frosts than average.

## May 2022

The weather during much of May was mostly quiet and uneventful, rather unsettled and showery for much of the time but with a few warmer and brighter days. Temperatures were mostly above average, especially by night, but the latter part of the month was cooler.

There were thunderstorms on several days during the month, mainly for England and Northern Ireland. North-western areas of the UK had a wet month, though some areas of England and Wales were slightly drier than average. Sunshine totals were below average in many areas, especially towards the north-west.

## June 2022

The weather during much of June was mostly quiet and uneventful, though with a warm spell in mid-month which peaked on the 17th giving the warmest day of the year so far. It was showery at times, especially just after the warm spell and again in the closing days of the month.

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## HILLIERS VISIT

This visit on 24<sup>th</sup> June was a great success, although unfortunately not many members went. If this was because you had been before, then believe me you missed a treat. Three people on the visit are members of Hilliers Gardens and all said that they would in future see the gardens in a different light.



The weather did not look too promising that day, after weeks of fine days, so we went armed with brollies etc. It did rain slightly on the way there but that was all. We were met by Deborah our guide, who was one of the best guides I have ever had. She was very friendly and amusing and obviously loved the gardens and showing people round. Although the tour was about two hours, there were lots of stops and what's more, she went at our pace, and allowed people to catch up before starting to talk. I find guides who start before everybody is there very annoying.

There were lots of interesting things to learn about, but probably the most interesting was the Wallaby Tree, *Wollemia nobilis*, known as the Dinosaur tree because it is closely associated with the Jurassic period and the Prehistoric Dinosaurs. The oldest Wollemi type fossil dates back to 90 million years. It was known only through fossil records until 1994 when in Australia, *Wollemia nobilis* was discovered in a temperate rainforest wilderness area of the Wollemi National Park in New South Wales. It was growing in a remote series of narrow, steep-sided sandstone gorges. There



are three in the Hilliers garden and needless to say, we had our photographs taken standing in front of one.



After the tour, we all needed a sit- down so we had lunch and then looked rounded the garden centre of course. Miraculously I didn't buy anything.

There was also an exhibition of Poole Pottery and Eric Knowles was spotted there. I was a bit wary of getting too close to the pottery because if I had broken even an eggcup, I would have needed to re-mortgage my house to pay for it.



All in all it was a very enjoyable visit.

I would just like to thank Maureen Burgess for taking the photographs.

*Jenny.*



## TEA ROTA 2022

July 27th	1 Jan Golding, 2 Cynthia Williams
August 24th	1 Liz Penny 2 Sharon Cave
September 28th	1 Lynda Gent 2 Betty Armstrong

If you are able to contribute to the Newsletter we would be most grateful. Have you been to a nice garden or discovered an interesting plant? If so tell the rest of us about it. Please send copy to Wilson Carson at [lwilsoncarson@btinternet.com](mailto:lwilsoncarson@btinternet.com)

*We need contributions of recipes. If you have a favourite one please send it to Jenny or Wilson Carson at the following:*

Jenny – [meiosis41@aol.com](mailto:meiosis41@aol.com). Wilson – [lwilsoncarson@btinternet.com](mailto:lwilsoncarson@btinternet.com).

**Whatever you do Stay Safe and heed the latest advice given at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>**