



Issue 13

Week beginning

July 13th

FOVG Valley Gardens Watch during the Covid19 restrictions



What is happening this month:

- We are delighted to report that the Volunteer Gardening team has returned to work. This week five of the regulars including Trustees tried out the new routine based on a risk assessment agreed with HBC, so we have their full support and will continue to garden once a fortnight. It is great to be back! (hand sanitizer for gardeners use only!)
- The playground is open once again and the tennis courts are being well used.



The Stray Ferret online newspaper alerted us to the mindless vandalism of two of the wooden sculptures, particularly the Kiwi, which is very disappointing as being carved tree trunks they will be difficult if not impossible to repair. We were aware that the stumps are beginning to rot, as the tree trunk bench did, but this will hasten their demise. The paper have printed a short piece and included comments from both us and HBC.

(photo supplied by the Stray Ferret)

Snow in Summer

On one of my regular walks around the garden I took the photo on the right.

Several areas of the garden were covered with white fluff, it sat on the branches of the small yews looking like cotton wool decorations.

What is it? See page 2



What is looking Good this Week?



Iris ensata Darling (main picture)

Looking lovely with the grey green of the Hosta in the Japanese Garden. In Japan they are believed to bring good news and be a symbol of loyalty.

The Iris image is used a lot in Japanese art and decoration with lacquer. Liz brought her fan to the garden to photograph on the Kasuga Lantern.



They have done particularly well this year since we moved some plants into the water last season. Two other varieties in the garden are called Emotion which is featured on our Japanese Garden leaflet designed by a student from Rossett School having darker purple markings, and Loyalty, a beautiful deep blue with a yellow centre planted upstream of the arched bridge.

A QUIET PLACE

There is a quiet place, a woodland glade,
 where, in the spring wild flowers crowd the grass;
 and as the purples, blues and yellows fade,
 bright gold azaleas form a vibrant mass.
 Here, orange poppies bend their fragile heads,
 near buttercups and daisies, freshly white,
 and rhododendrons (pinks and vivid reds)
 are clearly seen against the sky at night.
 And in the morning, when the dog and I
 tramp through the sweetness of the early dew,
 the sun is pushing through a misty sky;
 a blackbird sings, and all the world is new.
 Tranquillity abides within a place
 where I can sense God's presence, know His grace.
 Barbara Stone

Thank you Barbara for a lovely summer poem which was inspired by the field next to the bowling green. This area is certainly a lovely place to enjoy nature.

Answer to the photo on page 1

The seeds of the Black Italian Poplar

Populus x euroamericana 'Serotina'. The flowers are catkins, male and female on different trees. When the catkins are fertilized they produce these fluffy cottony seeds which look like snow on the ground. Once plentiful along river valleys in England, now the population of trees in Europe is in decline.