



Rain stopped play at Northway Gardens Tennis Courts (Photo: Tony Brand)

# On 12th July the heavens opened for an hour

The rainfall was biblical. As the photos testify, havoc was wreaked throughout the Suburb, where many parts were completely flooded with people having to move out of their homes whilst water was drained and the aftermath cleaned up.

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

On the afternoon of 12th July I was judging an international mediation competition on zoom. I was just giving my feedback to the participants when my voice was drowned out by a sudden heavy downpour. I realised the room had grown unnaturally dark and

there was water gushing in through the open window. I excused myself and ran to close the window, getting soaked in the process. I have never experienced rain quite like it here in England; the closest I have seen was in Mumbai during monsoon season.

We were lucky, only suffering a few leaks where the rain had managed to get through some

broken roof tiles but other HGS residents were not so fortunate. Some had to evacuate their homes altogether whilst the damage was repaired.

Weeks later we are continuing to see the after effects of the flooding, an example being the loss of one of the beautiful old willows in Northway Gardens (see photos below).



The waters encroach (Photo: Michelle Niarchos)



The rain stopped the cars too (Photo: Anthony Bernstein)



Quite a deluge in no time at all (Photo: Tony Brand)



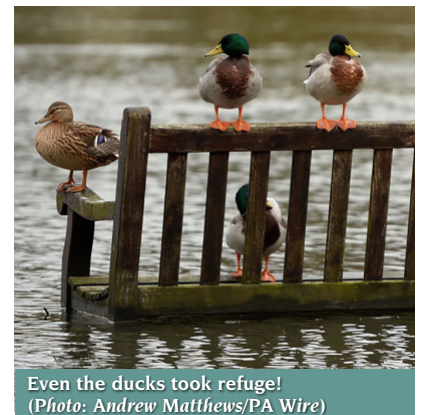
A once majestic willow succumbs... (Photo: Peter McCluskie)



Fletchers Gardens are almost unrecognisable (Photo: Tony Brand)



...and the willow is no more (Photo: Peter McCluskie)



Even the ducks took refuge! (Photo: Andrew Matthews/PA Wire)

JANE BAILEY

This huge weeping willow beside the Mutton Brook in Northway Gardens fell over on Sunday 1st August. Fortunately nobody was under it at the time. It was growing very near the edge of the brook which flooded in the storm so I presume that further erosion then caused the tree to become unstable. There are other weeping willows in a similar position on the edge of the brook.