

CAAL Bulletin - July 2025

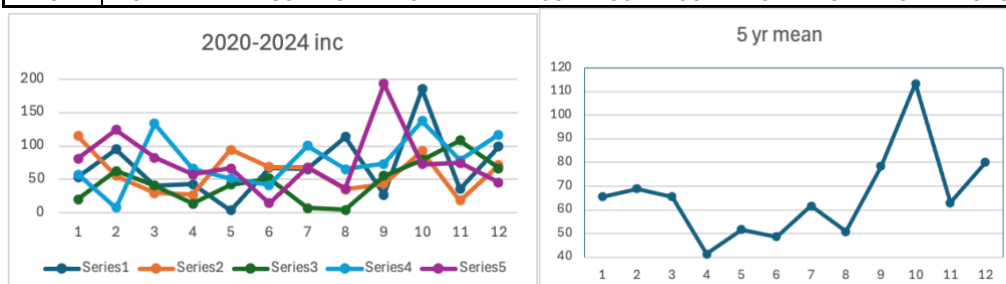
Hello CAAL Members,

1. **Your Cttee:** Freya Morgan has agreed to join the Cttee this year, joining Alison as Plot Secretaries and replacing Deborah in due course .. thank you Freya and welcome!
2. **Site.** Trees: Darren will return to remove 1 tree, prune 3 trees & cut back rampant shrubs - my aim is to increase light to plots without damaging security. September WP will focus on removing rubbish and autumn shrub maintenance.
3. **Spare produce to Larder & Plot 4.** Thanks from the Larder (and me) for those who have given some of your produce. It is both good and (will be) useful to us in future grant applications. Please put your spare produce on Plot 4 table, the Shed is tooo hot, so what do we use it for?



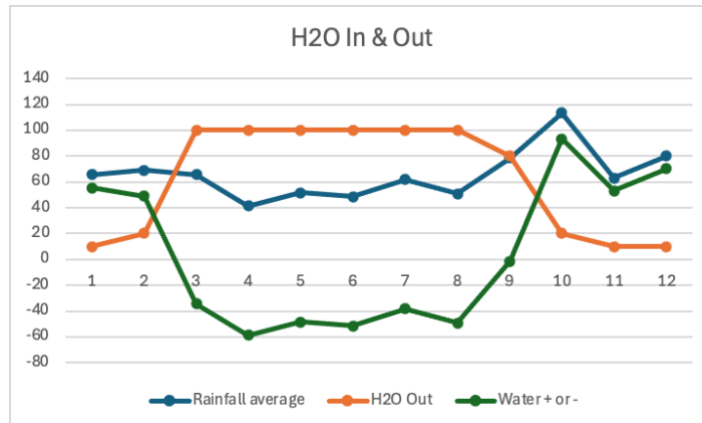
4. **Water.. a long term project?** I detect a soft consensus that we should consider “something” to capture and use rain water. Come on guys, surely there is enough Oxford brain power in CAAL to take this debate forward, let me help you with a few facts, in return, give me your thoughts:
 - a. Oxford rainfall over last 4 years. Graph on left shows 5 years, on the right the mean.

yr/mm	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
2020	54	95	40	43	4	67	65	114	27	185	35	99	828
2021	115	55	30	27	95	69	68	35	44	92	18	71	718
2022	20	63	41	14	42	51	7	4	55	79	109	67	552
2023	57	8	134	66	51	42	100	65	73	138	79	117	930
2024	82	124	83	57	67	14	68	36	193	73	75	45	916



If a veg patch needs about 100mm in the growing season, the graph below shows the shortfall:

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So the data tells us (what you already know) spring & summer dry and autumn wet.

- b. The climate is changing. The above is going to worsen, not improve, so we need to address the issue of water.
- c. I acknowledge:
 - i. Different veg require different water and that a polytunnel demands more than an open site.
 - ii. My 100mm Mar-Sep is approx. there are other models / data.
 - iii. Options include:
 - 1. capturing / using autumnal / winter rains
 - 2. Using mulch to restrict evaporation / increase water retention
 - 3. ??

We are 1.6 acres, just under 7000 sq metres, on 60 plots. I would like to build a consensus of realistic, costed options that we could consider for grant or our monies. So please contact me, help me build on this shaky evidence (correct my mistakes) and help develop options. (Remember we are more attractive to grant monies the more we support the Larder)..

Any questions, concerns, just call me.. thanks

Robert Davies
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