**Friday Café Annual report – April 2025**

Yet another very successful year.
Our team of volunteers make the cakes, set up the cafe, set up the tables and all the toys and then the majic happens. We never know who is coming, everyone is welcome. We just facilitate the morning.
Here are a few quotes from our visitors last week.
“It’s a brilliant social time, I’m new to the village and it is a chance for son to make friends before he starts school.. The soup was “really nice” was one little ones report on the recent soup lunch. That little one, who comes with his grandma, was absent a couple of weeks. He came in, bared his tummy proudly showing us his chicken pox scars!
It’s a great atmosphere, very welcoming, non-judgemental. We love the coffee and the cake. It’s a safe place for the children to play. We try and keep Friday mornings free so we can come.  (Some little ones don’t go to pre-school on a Friday just so they can come to cafe). One mum said, it is the only time I come out and meet adults. It’s good for the children to interact with people in the village. One grandma, who comes from
Many miles away, said that it really makes her stay when she comes see her family.”
We welcome all to our cafe and still rely on donations for our refreshments. Some mornings we don’t cover our costs/overheads so we are extremely grateful for the recent locality grant. Thank You.
We still work alongside the Library Service and have a Tot Rock, singing session each morning. Wind the Bobbin Up, is still a firm favourite together with all the old nursery rhymes, inch winch spider, hickory dickory dock, to name but a few. We often have up to 20 plus adults and 20 to 30 little ones. We  also have a story  session which is enjoyed by some.
Once a year we try and hire soft play equipment to give a bit of variety for our little ones.
Recently, we held an extended session and provided a selection of delicious home made soups. Our cake makers and friends came at the end of morning session, some of the mums and little ones stayed. We held a raffle and were absolutely delighted to send a cheque of £575.  to the East Anglian Children’s Hospice. Brilliant.
These mornings would not be possible without all the volunteers who make Glemsford Friday Cafe such a success. . My grateful thanks to them all. It is an utter privilege to be associated with this village activity.
Lesley Lagden for Friday Cafe.  7 4 2025..