THE  FRIDAY  CAFE Report for April 2023

It has been somewhat a challenging year but also a very rewarding year.

On June the 9th we were invited to a very exciting evening in Ipswich hosted by Suffolk Libraries. The Friday Cafe had been nominated  in the section – Best  Volunteer Team Award. Together with the “Men’s Talk” team, we were jointly winners in this category.  A nice bottle of fizz, a plaque and a certificate was our reward. As some counties are devoid of a library service we feel very honoured that we were given this award in recognition of our work with the Glemsford Library.

For those not sure as to what happens at the Friday Cafe why not pay us a visit – we are open every Friday 8.45am – 11.30am providing a meeting place, tea, fresh coffee, fruit and snacks, not forgetting, a wonderful range of home made cakes.

We managed to hold the café within the village hall as the ground work and outer work was carried out. Our equipment needed for the café was transferred over to the Methodist Church Hall at the end of June, and here we remain! Toys, mats and large items either stored in the container or in volunteers  homes. One of the  wonderful advantages of the Methodist Hall is that it had a safe outdoor space and during the hot summer our singing sessions and story time were held   under the shady trees in the grounds.

 We celebrated our 10th Birthday in November. There was a party atmosphere and we invited our cake makers to join us.

We have lost out financially this year as our number of attendees have dropped and therefore so too have the voluntary donations received.

We were grateful to receive a locality grant to help with restocking our storeage facilities. Also to the Library for our table at the recent Home Grown in Glemsford morning which added to our much needed funds.

We are very grateful to Glemsford Methodist Church for their support this year. All or volunteers who set up the tables and of course, put them away again at the end of the morning. All the wonderful  cake makers, we never know what in on the menu until the morning! Our rota secretary. The leaders who take the singing section, AKA,  Tot Rock, and the story tellers, all contribute 110%  to make the Friday Cafe such a success. It is truly a team effort for which I am proud to be part of.

Lesley Lagen