

## **Glemsford Parish Council working group for Climate and Nature Report December 2024**

At the working group meeting held on 3rd December 2024, past achievements were celebrated since the group formed 5 years ago in December 2019, following the Parish Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

### **2020**

A conservation advisor from Suffolk Wildlife Trust visited St Mary's churchyard to help us establish a 'wild habitat' area, and also advised on putting swift boxes in the church tower, which were installed in 2021.

### **2021**

Trees such as wild cherry, field maple, rowan, crab apple and birch were planted around the edge of the village hall car parks, along with 80 hedging plants.

The Kings Rd wild area project was established.

The annual Community Litter Pick originally run by Glemsford WI was extended to twice a year, spring and autumn.

### **2022**

A 1993 survey of wild flora in the churchyard had identified 91 species, but only 23 of those plants were still present in a repeat survey in July 2022.

Two hornbeams trees were planted in the cemetery, replacing a cherry tree which had to be cut down.

We held two speaker events on the subject of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Two group members attended training on becoming a Wildlife Friendly Village.

Five trees were planted near the village hall to replace those lost to drought in the 'heatwave' summer.

An Eco Fair was held in September, along with a Litter Poster competition for children attending the local school. All posters were displayed around the village.

### **2023**

A thermal imaging camera was purchased and insulation surveys carried out over the winter 22/23.

The group supported a local small-holding's woodland project, successfully applying for 200 trees from the county council.

A group member began supporting Glemsford Primary Academy 'EcoSchool' Club taking action on topics Energy, Litter, School Grounds and Marine.

We held a 'Make Your Garden a Nature Reserve' workshop for families, giving away wildflower seeds, logs for invertebrates and bird baths.

Despite a 5 week long drought in May/June, a survey of the Kings Rd wild area project showed 14 flowering plants & grasses, 6 butterflies, 3 invertebrates and 6 hedge-boundary species.

A survey of Churchyard wild flora in July identified 36 species this year, an increase of 13 from the 2022 survey. Swifts have been seen in the village, but none have nested in the church tower yet.

### **2024**

The group hosted a thermal imaging camera (supplied by Suffolk Climate Change Partnership) which was lent to other Parish Councils in the area during winter 23/24. Our own camera was used for home insulation surveys & advice.

Three crab apple trees were planted near the Churchyard wild area; a bat box was installed on a tree in the Spinney.

Village Hall Renewable Energy solar panels project - the process of funding applications began in April.

Mapping hedgehog sightings in the village was launched at a Hedgehog Information evening held in May, followed by a trial wildlife-friendly village Open Gardens in June.

Greening Glemsford celebrated World Oceans Day with a gazebo at the Church Summer Fete (held at the village hall) - Litter Pick the Ocean was popular with children!

A survey of fauna in St Mary's churchyard was carried out in July.

Glemsford Primary Academy was awarded the EcoSchool Green Flag!

Glemsford Parish Council joined the Wilder Together in the Stour Valley initiative.

A Hedgehog Friendly Gardens project began with a speaker event in October, to be developed in 2025.

### Looking ahead, the Working Group will continue to support the following projects:

St Mary's Churchyard wild area; Community Litter Picks in spring and autumn; Thermal Imaging surveys/ insulation advice in winter; EcoSchool Club ; Hedgehog Friendly Gardens

### Two new projects are being considered:

1. Swifts are in decline due to habitat loss and the impacts of climate change. The group is looking into installing swift boxes on suitable houses in the village.
2. A member of the group is researching setting up a Repair workshop/cafe.

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