

**GREENING GLEMSFORD**  
**Report to Glemsford Parish Council**  
**July 2023**

**Trees**

Five trees (3 Rowan and 2 Silver Birch) were planted at the end of March this year round the edge of Tower Meadow to replace those which didn't survive last year's summer drought, but after this year's spring drought of five weeks they were looking poorly. Thanks to Laurie Milton, Tim and Holly Tunbridge who watered them on 17th June and fingers crossed they will all survive, especially as there has been plenty of rain since then. Luckily the 3 Field Maple whips planted in St Mary's Churchyard and the 2 Hornbeams in the Cemetery seem to be doing well.

**Wildflower Project area in St Mary's Churchyard**

EcoChurch Representative Andrew Powell reported on a recent visit from Suffolk Wildlife Trust Advisor, Adrian Walters, who suggested the cutting back of dominant grasses eg Yorkshire Fog, False Oat and Cocksfoot, before they set seed. The whole roped-off area has become tussocky and flowering plants are out-competed. As the Parish Council grass cutting contractor happened to be in the Churchyard at the time, he was asked to cut the grass back there and then, leaving the knapweed to flower. Fortunately, there are more flowering plants evident around the 'Hedgehog and Invertebrates' area, which was left uncut.

Andrew also circulated the survey of Churchyard plant species carried out by Mark Prina of Foxearth Meadows Nature Reserve and EcoChurch in April and July 2022, as compared with the survey by RF Hartley (for SWT) in June/July 1993. Sadly there is a stark decline in species present now, probably for a variety of reasons including cutting, spraying and climate change.

The aspirations of 'Make Your Garden a Nature Reserve' event, held in April, are being applied in the Churchyard; for example, with the insect population in crisis, there are dead wood habitats for invertebrates on the ground and as standing dead wood. Water is provided for wildlife and grasses/flowers/shrubs are sources of food and shelter.

After some discussion at the recent GG working group meeting it was agreed to decide how best to manage the area at our next meeting in August.

**Future projects**

- The Wildlife Friendly Open Gardens event is on hold for this year but will hopefully become a reality in 2024.
- The working group are currently looking into setting up a local Repair Cafe, because we (all of us) throw away vast amounts of 'stuff' and the skills of repairing are being lost. A Repair Cafe is a sustainable enterprise: practical skills are passed on and things are used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. This reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products, which cuts CO2 emissions.

L Tunbridge, Chair