

Report from Greening Glemsford

Glemsford Parish Council working group for Climate and Nature

- The group held a successful stall at Glemsford Summer Fete on World Oceans Day (8th June) raising awareness on the journey of **plastic litter** from Glemsford via street drains to the river Stour, on to the North or Norwegian Sea and eventually possibly to the Atlantic Ocean. It's estimated that 80% of plastic in the ocean is from the land. Over 40 children took part in our 'Litter Pick the Ocean' activity and enjoyed meeting our marine visitor, Inky Octopus.
- We continue to map sightings of **hedgehogs** in the village as a member of the "Wilder Together in the Stour Valley" project.
- Regarding **solar panels** on the village hall roof, the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding application, including a Business Plan, was submitted to BDC by the deadline date of 31st May. Thank you to all who took the time to send in comments on this project. The next stage is to seek additional funding from other sources, as Babergh may only award up to 75% of the total cost.
- The free **Wildlife Friendly Open Gardens** event is on Sunday 23rd June from midday till 3pm. Posters are going up around the village. This is a small-scale trial event with four gardens taking part. Climate change and habitat loss have led to declines in our native wild flowers and animals, so making our gardens attractive to wildlife is more important than ever.
- At last the standardising of recycling collections is under way, starting with **Food Waste**, which Funding has been agreed to begin kerbside food waste collections for homes in BMSDC from 2026 as part of a nationwide requirement by central government. The councils will use the funds to source new bins and lorries, plus recruit extra crews. Once ready to roll out, residents will receive a new 23-litre food waste bin, as well as a 5-litre caddy for the kitchen. Food waste is a global problem. When food breaks down at landfill sites, it releases harmful greenhouse gases like methane into the atmosphere. Approximately 8-10% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions relate to food waste. In the UK we waste an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food every year. To produce food to waste on this scale leads to habitat destruction, decreased biodiversity and overuse of land and water. To combat the climate emergency and help protect our environment, we all need to reduce the amount of food we waste.

Lesli Tunbridge
June 2024