

GREENING GLEMSFORD
The climate and nature working group of Glemsford Parish Council

Report: September 2023

Wildflower Project area in St Mary's Churchyard

Following the strimming of dominant grasses in early June, the grass is having a 'second flush' and will need another cut. Also the thistles and nettles in the extra roped-off area will need cutting back and the 'hedgehog & invertebrate area' needs forking before hibernation time (October on).

A decision was made to completely clear several small areas back to bare earth then to sow Yellow Rattle seeds to suppress the grasses.

Three field maple trees planted in late March are, on closer inspection, actually sycamores which will become too large for their current positions by the hedge separating the churchyard from the cemetery. Once genuine field maple trees are sourced the trees will be swapped!

Village Litter Pick

This will take place on Saturday 14th October, 10.30am from the Village Hall. Equipment provided.

Future projects:

Community Nature Reserve

Following a successful Wildlife Friendly Village family event in April, the working group would like to further promote the need to convert as little as 2-3 square yards of a garden to provide plants for pollinators and habitats for invertebrates.

A diverse range of insects is critical to the survival of most life on earth: they pollinate food crops; break down dead materials; are natural predators to control animals we view as 'pests'; are a source of food for many birds, reptiles and amphibians.

However, across the globe a 'collapse' of insect populations is underway, with over 40% of species in decline. The causes are primarily: habitat loss, due to intensive agricultural practices & urbanisation; pollution, including the use of pesticides, and the impacts of climate change.

Relative to this, in June this year a House of Commons Committee looking into Insect decline and UK food security heard evidence from leading scientists. See link in Footnote below.

Repair Cafe

The working group now have a list of 6 potential repairers, including a retired electrician, and have looked into details of necessary paperwork and potential venues. It was proposed that three cafes a year would be manageable, but more people would need to be involved.

An 'open meeting' was proposed to provide more information and gauge support for these future projects, to be held in early November (subject to venue availability).

L Tunbridge, Chair

Footnote

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13280/pdf/>