**Glemsford Parish Council – Annual meeting**

**Report from Glemsford Gardening Club.**

Along with many other Village Clubs and Societies, the activities of the Gardening Club have been severely curtailed by the COVID Virus and the restrictions placed upon gatherings.

Although we have been unable to meet since March we have endeavoured to keep in contact with our members through e-mails and our Member’s Facebook page. In March ’20, just as our gardens were springing into life and Gardeners were starting to plant seeds and prepare their gardens for the summer we went into lockdown 1! Garden Centres were closed, and compost was as hard to source as toilet rolls. The Club complied lists of local nurseries etc. that were willing to deliver plants and sundries and kept members up to date through social media and e-mails. Offers were made to swap plants and seeds between members, with offerings being left on member’s doorsteps for socially distanced delivery or collection. We have held ‘virtual’ competitions and a Christmas Quiz and encouraged members to post pictures and interact with others on Facebook.

We became aware that during the spring and summer people in the village were spending more time in their gardens and were beginning to take more of an interest in Gardening. We started to write a monthly ‘What to do in the Garden’ section in the Contact magazine, repeating the advice on the Glemsford Matters Facebook page. We have met with an excellent response to this and have had several requests to join the Club once we are able to resume some sort of ‘normal’ activity.

Stephen Perkins and Loretta Edwards (Chair and Secretary of the club) both attended the initial virtual meeting of the ‘Glemsford Fit Villages’ initiative since gardening is proven to have beneficial health benefits. The Club continues to get updates on this initiative and we are aware that our details have been passed on to several people to consider joining the Club when the situation permits.

We have recently taken the sad decision that we will cancel the remaining meetings that we had planned for this season which ends in May 2021. We optimistically hope that we can start a full programme of meetings from September 2021and have booked some interesting speakers. In the meantime, should regulations permit, it is our hope that we may be able to hold some form of members social event and even a trip to a local garden during the summer.

Loretta Edwards

Glemsford Gardening Club
Secretary