**Glemsford Parish Council – Annual meeting 2025**

**Report from Glemsford Gardening Club.**

Good evening.

This is the Annual report from Glemsford Gardening Club .

Firstly , I hope that on your journey here this evening you noticed how lovely the daffodils on the village greens are looking. Whilst there were some daffs on the greens already, you may recall that in 2022 in a joint funding arrangement with the Parish council, members of the Gardening Club planted an additional 2000 bulbs! They get better year on year !

We are a small club holding meetings with Speakers in this building over 9 months from September to March. In the summer months when we don’t have meetings, we try to organise visits to gardens and hold social events.

The Club currently prides itself on giving our members great value for money. We try to provide quality speakers on various garden related topics for 8 of our 9 meetings throughout the season. Our 9th meeting is a social event. In the past it was a Christmas party but this year we decided to do something different and had a light supper together in January . It was very well attended so I think will become a regular in the diary. In addition to these, we organise trips to various gardens during the summer and we also try to have a members summer social event.

 The Club remains in a reasonable financial state. Our membership has remained static this year at 34 members ( having dropped from c 50 or so post covid). Fewer members coupled with rising costs is naturally of concern for the Club, so we either need to find ways of increasing revenue or reducing expenditure. Some local clubs do not have speakers every month using some of their meeting dates to visit gardens , whereas we treat garden visits as extras. Others will charge an overall membership fee but also charge members for each meeting. We are trying to avoid doing this but may need to rethink in the future. Whilst attracting new members is key , what is also essential is that some of those members feel willing /able to join the Committee and this currently is an issue for us. We are a small committee, and without new members to give fresh ideas and impetus there is the danger of stagnation but sadly we have no volunteers !

I know that’s all a bit gloomy, but we must be realistic and I’m sure we are not alone . But there is a such a lot to be positive about ! In the last year we have enjoyed many excellent speakers on a wide range of subjects , Winter colour, Climate change and ‘ Gardening for the perplexed and perennially challenged’ to name just a few. We finally managed to visit Mickfield Hostas ( for the third year of trying ) and visited a superb private garden in Clare followed by a tour of Clare Church. We also had a successful Plant stall at last year’s Summer Fete and Car show being run by St Mary’s Church. Most of all our meetings are an opportunity to make new friends !

 Plans for the coming year include outings to Polstead Mill and Helmingham Hall and a summer fund raising BBQ. We already have an excellent set of speakers booked to take us into 2026 and I remain optimistic that this time next year we will still be here and reporting to you all our activities.

I very much hope that we will see you at one of our meetings .

Loretta Edwards
 Chair
Glemsford Gardening Club