



Glemsford WI April 2021 - March 2022
Report for Glemsford Parish Council Annual Meeting
12th April 2022

Spring 2021 - As the Covid pandemic lockdowns continued into 2021 WI meetings remained virtual with no mixing indoors unless in a 'support bubble'. Vaccinations were rolled out, with Astro Zenica and Pfizer becoming the main topic of conversation, but by April a 'restricted' WI programme was in place and members could start to socialise while meeting Government guidelines. So began a few months of Rule of 6 Tea & Cake in gardens and Rule of 6 walks in the village.

Summer - A village litter pick was held on 6th June, but the June Strawberry Tea was postponed and Zoom was back for the July speaker as government restrictions were extended till mid-July.

Finally, on 28th July, a craft meeting was held outside on the Old School Hall courtyard. By now the Committee realised many members would prefer to meet in a more spacious venue, so the August and September meetings were held in St Mary's Church and were well attended.

Autumn - Glemsford Primary Academy 'Summer' Fair took place in September and welcome funds were raised at the WI Cake Stall. Also in September Glemsford WI held a Green Cafe and a Green Walk round the village, as part of the Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week.

In October the Women's Cycle Tour came through the village, with the Queen of the Mountain sprint from the bottom of Skates Hill up to Tye Green. Glemsford WI ran a hot food stall outside the village hall and there was a party atmosphere as Little Egypt Morris group entertained the crowd.

October was a busy month with people feeling more confident to attend events.

An Evening with Charlie Haylock, organised by the WI, was held in the village hall and attracted an audience of 93! The raffle raised £500 which was donated to The Kernos Centre in Sudbury. This was followed by the WI Annual Meeting, postponed from May 2020, with a status quo vote for the current Committee and President.

On November 10th Glemsford WI celebrated 100 years in style, with a delicious buffet, guests from Suffolk West Federation, entertainment from a very funny ukelele band and, of course, a special Centenary cake! Gill Leech, who joined Glemsford WI in 1967 and has served on the Committee in various roles over the past 54 years, was presented with flowers. To commemorate the Centenary, 30 young trees were planted at the allotments by Schoolfield.

Winter - the final meeting of 2021 was a Roaring Twenties Christmas Party in the village Hall on 8th December, a hark back to the era of Glemsford WI's formation. A lovely evening and just in time as a new variant of Covid - Omicron - was sweeping across the country. As a result of the rise in infections both the January meetings were cancelled but the programme resumed in February with a sociable evening, including voting on the National Federation Resolutions. The perfect end to a bleak start to the year was Lunch at Bury Golf Club on 23rd February; great food and company!

Spring 2022 - March meetings saw speaker Angie Jones sharing her walks in Suffolk villages, and our own village walk was followed by a delicious Afternoon Tea prepared by the WI Committee. Moving forward, we hope potential new members will join Glemsford WI - it's a group for all women of all generations. We share experiences, make friends, make a difference in our community, learn and laugh!

Lesli Tunbridge, President