**Glemsford Women’s Institute Annual Report - 2025**
Looking through my notes it’s a wonder that any member is at home! We have had such a full programme of talks, visits, games, craft sessions, walks, not to mention food oriented meetings over this past year.
We are a rare W. I. having 2 meetings a month and still enjoy many extras. It’s a full social life if you belong to Glemsford W. I.
Our talks have included a Forensic Scientist - wow! Her talk fascinating - she’s booked for next year. We’ve heard how Lavenham wool dye is making a comeback and is a hit with the tourists and London Market. Travel talks, Canada - East to West, A night in Mexico with samples of Mexican cuisine, a members talk on her travels in South America. Local history looking at the beautiful buildings of Bury St Edmunds, and a  visual walk through Glemsford 30 years ago, so many changes, especially with the loss of industry’s which this village was renowned for. Our tour of the C G B chocolate factory, members left with delicious samples. We went to Tiptree and bought craft supplies from the “cheap shop” followed by lunch at Wilkins Jam Factory. At our Annual Strawberry Tea, members are invited to put forward ideas for the coming years programme. “No such thing as a free lunch, or tea in this case”.  Our Annual Meeting was followed by our version of a Pudding Club. No calories counted that night!
We have supported our federation events. Quiz nights see two or three tables of our very competitive quizzers, triumphant on one occasion and second more than once! Great fun at Bury Bowl, and craft sessions at our office centre in Bury.  We enjoyed our visit to the National Federation meeting held at the Royal Albert Hall. I can never get through the singing of “Jerusalem “sung by thousands of women’s voices accompanied by the mighty organ of the Albert Hall, without a break in my voice.  This meeting we discussed the campaigns of the need for the provision of more N H S  Dental provision. Our other campaigns, clean water in our rivers, micro plastics, have seen letters to our local M. P., and 2 members represented us at  recent surgery James Cartiledge held here in Glemsford.
There are many extras when you belong to our W.I. We went on a beautiful day on a trip on the electric boats along the Stour to Henny.  after an excellent lunch at the Swan, our return found us singing Jerusalem whilst in the lock at Cornard and the lead boat had a fabulous sighting of a kingfisher. Couldn’t be better! We have enjoyed visits to Hampton Court Flower Show and Chartwell House, using the local Felix Coaches. Easy access for us and using local businesses.
Theatre visits to Thursford Spectacular, Guys and Dolls in Bury, and a number of cinema trips have also been enjoyed.

We have for some years facilitated Carols on the Green. This year, the tree looked resplendent with its new lights. It is difficult to see how many villagers attend but Fair Green was pretty full. We were led by the Majors Pincers of the Salvation Army and the singing was magical. The little ones did a good rendition of “When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney!” The W. I. had a pop up refreshment tent and in collection bucket was an amazing amount of over £550. Which was given to the Salvation Army for their valuable work in the local area.
We looked at our “Poppy Wall” which we put up at the back of the war memorial. It is, as we speak, in process of being renewed - the pigeons had been very busy on them!
So for the forthcoming celebration of End of War in Europe, we hope it will be up and fabulous.
Not so fabulous, are our Rose beds on Tye Green and Brooke Street. We are hoping to renew them at some point with plants that the pesky deer don’t have a preference for.

I think we have fulfilled the motto of the W.I. Of friendship, education and fun.
This will be my last report as President as I have completed my term of 3 years. We are a successful Institute because of a wonderful team. It could not operate without a brilliant committee and a membership that takes part in all that we offer.
Lesley Lagden President Glemsford Women’s Institute. 7 4 2025.