

## **Report from Greening Glemsford**

Glemsford Parish Council working group for Climate and Nature

**August 2024**

### **Wilder Together and Hedgehogs**

As a member of the "Wilder Together in the Stour Valley" project we are mapping sightings of hedgehogs in the village. A number of people expressed an interest in receiving a Newsletter specifically about hedgehogs and wildlife-friendly village initiatives; this is currently being compiled.

A followup talk will take place on Tuesday 17th September, 7.30pm in the Village Hall, with Emma Black, Countryside Project Officer for Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley. Her presentation will include more information on Wilder Together and how to set up Hedgehog Highways in Glemsford.

### **Village Hall**

The Parish Council project to put solar panels on the village hall continues, with funding applications to Babergh Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Babergh Rural Communities Fund and Suffolk Climate Action Matchfunder, in order to reach the quoted cost of the project at around £40,000, which includes battery storage. Our newly-extended village hall is a comfortable, warm space where villagers meet for community activities. The building hosts a number of regular users and a range of activities, as well as special events and entertainment.

### **"Coronation" Bus Shelter**

The bus shelter at Broadway was built to commemorate the coronation of Elizabeth II. However, in recent years it has become quite shabby, with peeling paint and graffiti on the internal walls and a large tree growing over the roof and hiding the Coronation weather vane!

Members of Glemsford Air Scouts have kindly offered to repaint the outside of the building, using paint, brushes and rollers donated by Wickes Community Programme, while the Parish Council considers how best to move forward with any other improvements. Public opinion will be sought, possibly by means of a survey, before any other work is undertaken.

### **Wildlife Project**

July in St Mary's Churchyard saw ox eye daisies flowering among the headstones and the yellow rattle plug plants flowering successfully in the wildlife project area. To reduce the growth of dominant grasses, some species, such as cock's foot, were trimmed to remove the seed heads. Clumps of knapweed were flowering in time for the Big Butterfly Count 2024 (12th July to 4th August) and a survey of animal species was carried out at the end of July. Unfortunately it seems the swifts did not choose to nest in the church tower. Sightings of swifts are down this year, perhaps due to the effect of the cold, wet spring weather on insect populations.

### **Wildlife Friendly Open Gardens - feedback**

The free entry trial event of four gardens was held over three hours on Sunday 23rd June. Thanks to good weather visitors enjoyed picking up tips on suitable plants for pollinators, gardening without chemicals and how to care for birds, mammals and amphibians that pass through, or even make a home, in our gardens. Thank you to the volunteers who opened their gardens to the public. Positive feedback suggests we should run this event again next year!

### **Community litter pick**

This will be held on Sunday 29th September, starting from the Village Hall at 10am. Bags, HiVis tabards and litter pickers are provided; please bring your own gloves. Bags containing rubbish are put near the Container on the village hall car park and collected by Babergh District Council the following day.

Cllr L Tunbridge