The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Ali Williams

Manorbrook School Allotment

Ali Williams has led this allotment group for children and families for over three years. The group is involved in a wide range of activities, including allotment maintenance, growing produce, watering, composting and water recycling.

Members plant and nurture vegetables, flowers and fruit, while also creating habitats that support insects and other wildlife. Ali is committed to fostering a genuine gardening culture within the school and works hard to involve as many families as possible.

She also works with different year groups to broaden children's understanding and appreciation of the natural world, creating valuable opportunities for environmental learning. Ali truly makes a difference and does so entirely in her own time.

The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Melinda Evans
CATSA - Climate Action Thornbury and Surrounding Areas

Mel has been a driving force behind the work of Sustainable Thornbury for more than five years and has served as Secretary for most of that time. She has organised the successful Susty Fest, managed the group's regular meetings, and supported the monthly Green Drinks events, where ideas are discussed and developed into practical projects.

Mel is also a founding director of CATSA CIC, a not-for-profit community energy company that helps residents with energy-related issues, and is a key staff member of the South Gloucestershire Community Energy Network (SGCEN).

In addition, Mel supports nature recovery work in Olveston, contributing to the Parish Council's nature group and volunteering regularly to support its activities.

Through her dedication, leadership and commitment to environmental sustainability, Mel has made a significant contribution to the local community. In short, she's a legend.

The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Evan Rackham - Krunch

Evan has volunteered for over a year, helping with the maintenance of The Pod. His main area of responsibility was gardening and clearing outdoor areas to ensure young people could access the site safely and that it remained tidy and welcoming for the community. He also spent time painting the disabled toilet area and assisting with general upkeep around the site.

Evan has been nominated because he was always willing to take on any task given to him. He often spent hours on his hands and knees, even in the rain, removing weeds by hand so that we could avoid using weedkiller. He has been hardworking, shown great initiative, and consistently demonstrated respect towards staff, young people and visitors.

By taking responsibility for much of the outdoor maintenance, Evan enabled staff to spend more time supporting young people and serving the wider community.

During his time with us, Evan completed the volunteering section of his Duke of Edinburgh's Award and will also receive a Gold South Gloucestershire Volunteering Award.

Evan thoroughly deserves the recognition that this award would bring in acknowledgement.

The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Emma Young
Plastic Free Thornbury

Emma has been looking after the flower bed in front of Castle Court for the past two or three years. She dedicates a considerable amount of time and effort to its upkeep, as do all the Thornbury in Bloom volunteers, but has taken a particular interest in making the planting more sustainable, requiring less watering and being more resilient during periods of drought.
To support this work, Emma secured sponsorship from Sustainable Thornbury, which enabled the purchase of additional succulents and other drought-resistant plants.

Emma also contributes to a wide range of other sustainability initiatives within the community. She leads Plastic Free Thornbury and is the incoming Secretary of Sustainable Thornbury. Through her commitment to environmental sustainability and community involvement, she continues to make a significant positive impact in Thornbury.



The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Kath Greenman
Thornbury in Bloom

Kath has inspired and motivated many people to get involved with Thornbury in Bloom, helping to make Thornbury a more attractive and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike.

A particularly good example of this was the community planting project undertaken as part of Creative High Streets this summer. The project was highly accessible and enabled a wide range of people from across the community to get involved, fostering a sense of pride and ownership in the town's public spaces.

Through her enthusiasm, leadership and commitment, Kath has encouraged greater community participation and made a significant contribution to the success of Thornbury in Bloom.



The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Jean Owen
Jean Owen Floristry

Jean has maintained the floral displays around The Plain in all weathers for as long as there have been displays on the pump and surrounding area. She dedicates a tremendous amount of time and care to ensuring they remain attractive and well-kept throughout the year.

Despite occasional damage to the displays, Jean never complains. Instead, she simply replaces the damaged plants and restores the displays to their former standard. Her quiet dedication, resilience and commitment to keeping Thornbury looking its best are truly admirable.

Jean's continued efforts have made a significant contribution to the appearance of the town and are greatly appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

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The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)



Will Matthews
Thornbury Castle

JWill is a young man whom I first met through Thornbury in Bloom and who works in the gardens at Thornbury Castle. He is passionate about promoting biodiversity, encouraging wildlife-friendly planting and increasing the diversity of plants and vegetables grown within the gardens.

Since taking on his role, he has developed links with Manorbrook Primary School and encouraged pupils to become involved in projects such as painting compost pallet structures in the gardens. He has also helped to plan a wildlife meadow and introduced hedgehog houses, bee habitats and areas where logs are left to decompose naturally, creating valuable habitats for wildlife.

Will represents Thornbury Castle Gardens as a member of the South Gloucestershire Food Network, where his knowledge and input on food production have been highly valued.
In addition to his work at the Castle, Will has supported Thornbury in Bloom through social media promotion and by designing posters for events and award certificates.

Will is an enthusiastic, knowledgeable and community-minded individual who is always willing to share his expertise. His commitment to environmental sustainability, education and community engagement makes him a deserving nominee.

The Mayor's Awards 2027

Nominations for Community Environmental Champion (Individual)

Anna Simmonds
Alexandra Care Home

Anna began developing part of the outdoor space at Alexandra Way Care Home in February 2022. She designed and created five herb and vegetable beds using the no-dig method. This initiative was subsequently adopted by Sustainable Thornbury and became known as the Thornbury Community Permaculture Project (TCPP).

Anna recruited volunteers, and the project was expanded to include a sensory garden and composting area. All aspects of the project are managed in accordance with the permaculture principles of Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share.

The site has been transformed from a simple grassed area into a thriving, biodiverse space featuring pollinator-friendly plants, fruit trees, a native hedge, edible crops and flowering grasses. Anna has also introduced a hedgehog house and insect refuges to further support local wildlife.

Volunteers have benefited from both the wellbeing aspects of tending the garden and the opportunity to learn about permaculture. Residents of the care home have enjoyed the sights, sounds and scents of the garden, as well as receiving fresh fruit and herbs for use in the kitchen.

The project operates sustainably, with no artificial fertilisers being used thanks to the production of home-made compost. Water was used sparingly during the initial planting stages and is now rarely required due to the maturity of the planting scheme. Two water butts have also been installed to support water conservation.

Anna leads the volunteer team by example, educating, encouraging and showing genuine appreciation for their contributions. Through her vision, dedication and commitment to sustainable gardening, she has created a valuable community asset that benefits both people and wildlife.