The Mayor's Awards 2027

Wildlife and Habitat Creation Award

John and Eileen Mills

Husband and wife John and Eileen have worked tirelessly volunteering for over 11 years and enthusiastically leading Thornbury Orchard group for over 6 years. They have created numerous wildlife habitats, greatly extended Thornbury Community Orchard managed area and liaised with many organisations to facilitate these habitats. After attending a Wildflower Management course with Donald MacIntyre (Founder of Emorsgate Seeds), they worked with Bug Life and South Glos. Council to create a wildflower meadow at the Morton Bridge site (2016) as a habitat for pollinators and then arranged scythe training courses for the volunteers (2017 on).

Other projects that they have initiated, created and maintained include:-

- A bee bank for solitary bees (2019)
- Bug hotels/holes around the site (2017 on).

Forwarding recordings (including a rare Chinese Leucospid parasitic wasp 2018) to relevant national, regional and local bodies.

- Bird boxes and feeders (2020 on)
- Planting shrubs specifically for certain insects/encouraging other wild plants e.g. Alder buckthorn for Brimstone and ivy for Holly Blue Butterflies (2016 on)
- Planting rare local Gloucestershire fruit tree varieties, to be eaten by the human and wildlife community. (2022 on)Fruit tree DNA testing. (2022 on)
- New environmental areas on other side of the stream and by Swallow Park (2020 on)
- Alongside BART improved the stream's habitat upstream of the Orchard (Installed 2023)
- Regular stream sampling (2024 on) of Pickmore Rhine also recorded an eel. (2022 on)

John and Eileen lead Work Parties every Wednesday but also put in extra hours, other days, to suit the volunteers and partners. Inspired by them volunteers have also created compost areas, log piles and dead hedges as wildlife habitats. Observations include frogs, dragon flies, rodents, ant hills of yellow meadow ants and much more. I recommend individuals John and Eileen jointly.



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Wildlife and Habitat Creation Award

Guy Rawlinson

Guy has made an outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation, environmental enhancement and community engagement in Thornbury over many years. Well known throughout the town, he previously served as Chair of Thornbury in Bloom and continues to dedicate his time and expertise to promoting nature and biodiversity through his role as lead of The Holy Mowers at St Mary's Church and writing notes in the Church magazine.

A passionate advocate for wildlife-friendly gardening and habitat creation, Guy champions practices that encourage biodiversity, including the establishment of wildflower areas and the retention of long grass to provide valuable habitats for pollinators, insects and small mammals. His commitment to creating spaces where nature can thrive has inspired others within the community to adopt similar approaches.

Guy's knowledge and expertise are widely recognised beyond Thornbury. As an active member of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), he an assessor for the RHS 'In Bloom' competitions at a regional level, reflecting his significant contribution to horticulture and environmental stewardship.

He is also a committed member of Thornbury Town Council's Climate and Nature Committee, which he was instrumental in establishing whilst serving as a Town Councillor and Chair of the Open Spaces Committee, where he helps support local initiatives aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural environment. In addition, he maintains his own allotment at Daggs Allotments, demonstrating through practical action his passion for sustainable growing and wildlife-friendly land management.

Through his leadership, expertise, enthusiasm and tireless voluntary efforts, Guy has played a significant role in encouraging environmental awareness and habitat creation within Thornbury. His longstanding commitment to wildlife and the natural environment makes him a highly deserving nominee for the Wildlife and Habitat Creation Award.