



GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026





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BELTANE IN GLASTONBURY

Beginning on the Tor at sunrise, a crowd of hundreds gathered to watch the sun rise north of east, with a patch of cloud held at bay as if especially for the display. We were joined by the morris dancers, while the druids present held a short ceremony and sing-along. The atmosphere was uplifting. A warm day with a cool wind brought people out in large numbers to celebrate the beginning of summer.

In Glastonbury, Beltane holds particular significance. As well as being a key cross-quarter festival marking the start of summer, the Tor itself is perfectly aligned to watch the sun as it appears on the horizon at this time of year. It could even be said that the wider South West shares in this alignment, as the line known as the St Michael's line runs across it, passing through both Glastonbury and Avebury on its way to the east coast.



Beltane is a festival often marked by traditions such as morris dancers, maypole ceremonies, the crowning of the May Queen, and later, the battle of the red and white dragon, a folkloric tale of some depth. All of these were woven into the town's celebrations in a coherent way, making this one of the most well-attended May Day events in the country.

Left: Green Men carrying the freshly cut pole from the woods at Butleigh. Photo: Jason Bryant



This year the maypole was sourced from Butleigh Woods, and carried across the Levels by the Green Men, while the hole was dug by the women of the community in a ceremony held in the Fairfield the day before May Day.

Left: Glastonbury women performing a ceremonial dance. Photo: Jason Bryant

The maypole itself is now displayed proudly in the Peace Garden of St Dunstan's House. The community and visitors alike will be able to view the maypole in St Dunstan's House garden between the hours of 10am and 3pm, when the Glastonbury Information Centre is open.

It is something for the town to be proud of. Despite the back and forth in the run-up, everything went very much to plan. The new route for the maypole procession, led by the Green Men, and the fresh location for the ceremony within the blossom field





at the foot of the Tor, all felt natural and well suited. The amphitheatre layout of the Fairfield set the tone, offering views towards Wearyall Hill and Chalice Hill, and in the other direction, straight up to St Michael's Tower.

We would like to thank the National Trust for agreeing to the use of the blossom circle, a ring of 27 crab apple trees in the Tor Fairfield, originally planted with this kind of gathering in mind. Thank you also to the local police for their presence and support. As a Town Council, we managed road closures, coordinated with the police, and provided public facilities, helping to ensure the smooth running of the day.

The biggest thank you goes to all of the organisers, organisations, charities, and businesses who came together to make the event happen. The time and effort involved in bringing something like this together should not be underestimated. Finally, thank you to everyone who came, from near and far. It would not be what it is without you.

Wishing everyone continued warmth and well-being as the season unfolds, and offering gratitude for all who contributed to and supported the day. May future gatherings continue in the same spirit of cooperation, celebration, and care for the community.





MAYOR MAKING

Welcome to our new Mayor, Zoe Price. Councillor Price, a member of the Green Party, succeeds in the role after previously serving as Deputy Mayor. Her appointment also continues a family connection to the town's civic life, as her late mother Denise Michell served twice as Glastonbury's Green Mayor.

Glastonbury has appointed a new Mayor, with Councillor Zoe Price officially accepting the role at the town council's annual Mayor making ceremony on May 12.

In her acceptance speech, Mayor Price said she was "deeply honoured" to serve the community and outlined her themes for the coming year as "co-operation, kindness, and community."

She said she hoped to place particular focus on children and young people, announcing that her chosen mayoral charities would be Sacred Birthing Centre, Mamma Village and Children's World.





Paying tribute to her mother, known locally as Denny, Mayor Price described her as a “much-loved figure” within the town. Denise Michell was Archdruid of Glastonbury, and Mayor Price went on to explain: “As I also follow this spiritual path, I have asked Danu Forest to be my Mayor’s Chaplain, and I also hope to work closely with the interfaith group.”



The new Mayor also spoke about the importance of unity within the town, saying: “Whilst we do not always agree, we can be kind to each other, we can listen and learn from each other.”

Mayor Price additionally addressed transparency and civic accountability, stating: “Following feedback from the community, I acknowledge that Glastonbury Town Council holds important civic responsibilities, and – as such – we are accountable to the people who elect us.”

She added that she would propose the council formally consider and respond to issues raised during public participation at future full council or committee meetings. Councillor Price also highlighted the council’s recent decision to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network and confirmed that an information day would be held in June to encourage greater community involvement and collaboration.

Also appointed at the annual meeting was Councillor Lokabandhu, who will serve as Deputy Mayor for the 2026–27 civic year. Cllr Lokabandhu has previously served the town as both Mayor and Deputy Mayor and now steps into the role following Councillor Price’s appointment. Mayor Price said it was “a huge privilege” to become



First Citizen of Glastonbury and promised to serve with “openness, kindness, respect, and a willingness to collaborate.”

We wish both Mayor Zoe Price and Deputy Mayor Lokabandhu well in their new roles serving the town and community of Glastonbury.





MAYOR'S DAY 2026

The Mayor's Day procession and ceremony at St John's Church.
Friday 22nd May 2026.

Photos by Jason Bryant





**Glastonbury
Information
Centre**



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Meet people and share local knowledge

The Glastonbury Information Centre is currently looking for volunteers to help welcome visitors and local people.

Volunteers help provide a warm welcome for those arriving in Glastonbury, while also offering guidance on the town's history, legends, sacred sites, and local community.



For more information, please contact:

tourism@glastonbury.gov.uk

Or call into the Centre, open daily from 10am to 3pm.

**Glastonbury Information Centre
Magdalene Street, Glastonbury, BA6 9EL**



**GLASTONBURY
TOWN COUNCIL**



A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING MAYOR

My year serving as the Worshipful Mayor of Glastonbury has gone very quickly indeed. Over the year I attended 120 events as Mayor representing our town and community.

Three memorable ones were Axbridge Blackberry Fayre; the changeover of High Sheriff at Wells Cathedral; and the jewel in the crown: opening St Dunstan's House Community Health and Wellbeing Centre, which was built as part of Glastonbury Town Deal Programme. I've been part of the In Bloom committee for four years, and in 2026 we are, again, a contender for Britain in Bloom ~ wish us all luck with this one.



I'd like to thank the many people who have stopped to talk with me: we've covered so many topics.

My two themes were Peace and Youth. I worked with all three schools, presenting certificates, opening fêtes, and helping to decorate the Christmas tree at Market Cross. I was part of the Hiroshima memorial event at Bishop's Palace, Wells; then led the Nagasaki commemoration in Glastonbury. I have just gifted a Peace Pole for St Dunstan's House garden: let Peace flow from that place.

My Mayor making in 2025 included visiting Chalice Well, which I believe is the first time a Mayor has done so. Thank you Red Spring!

Big thanks to Town Hall officers and staff for making Council decisions come into being; thanks also to our great Council - I appreciate your support.

Finally, what an absolute joy to be part of the Beltane celebrations, and the Battle of the Dragons: what a wonderful way to conclude my time as Mayor. Thanks be to All. May Glastonbury Flourish.



YOUTH COUNCIL

St Dunstan's School students visited the Town Hall this week for the first meeting of the new Glastonbury Youth Council, marking an encouraging step towards giving young people a stronger voice in the community.

The session offered students the chance to share ideas, discuss local issues, and speak openly about the things that matter most to them. Councillors and organisers said they were impressed by the enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and confidence shown throughout the meeting.



The initiative aims to create an ongoing dialogue between young people and the town, helping shape future projects and decisions. Further sessions are planned in the coming months.

Find out more about the youth council on their [Facebook page](#).



IN BLOOM 2026 UPDATE

Glastonbury is preparing once again to enter South West in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.

After entering Britain in Bloom for the first time in 2024 and achieving Gold in its categories, along with the Arts & Culture Award 2024, the town will once again take part this year, representing the whole South West region at national level.



Britain in Bloom is not simply about flowers. The judging criteria, set by the Royal Horticultural Society, focus on three core areas: Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility, and Community Participation. Judges assess the whole town, looking not only at planting displays, but also biodiversity, sustainability, cleanliness, local identity, and long-term community involvement.

Across Glastonbury, volunteers, residents, gardeners, businesses, and community groups are already preparing for the months ahead.

Hanging baskets are being prepared and, throughout the town, community gardens are being maintained and developed. Sustainable practices are also a key part of the approach, with peat-free composting, pollinator-friendly planting, and ecological awareness all forming part of the judging criteria.



Schools are also central to the town's entry. St Dunstan's, St John's, and St Benedict's all take part, with their gardens included in the judging. A poster competition also runs across Glastonbury schools, bringing children and young people into the wider effort and strengthening community participation.

This year, hanging baskets will include herbal plants such as parsley and oregano, offering one example of how practical planting, wildlife support, and public enjoyment can come together in public spaces. Once the hanging basket displays have finished for the season, many



of the herbs will be replanted elsewhere, given to community gardens to help raise funds, or donated to local residents rather than being discarded. Green waste from planting and maintenance is also sent to local allotments for composting and reuse.

Britain in Bloom also recognises the important relationship between green environments and mental health, celebrating places that encourage connection, wellbeing, and pride in the local area.

As preparations continue, Glastonbury's entry goes beyond simply looking pretty. Entry into this competition provides an opportunity to celebrate collaboration, environmental care, and the shared effort that helps shape the aesthetics of the town throughout the year, making it a more vibrant and enjoyable place to visit and live.

New for 2026, a small number of local residents will be opening their own gardens to the public over the weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2026. More information will follow, but we hope people will enjoy visiting and exploring the gardens.



IN BLOOM – RESIDENTIAL COMPETITION

Not forgetting the Glastonbury in Bloom residential competition, residents can also have their own garden, planter, or wildlife-friendly garden judged. New for this year is an under-16s category for Glastonbury's young green-fingered residents.

If you would like to apply, please email sarah.marks@glastonbury.gov.uk for an application form.

**GLASTONBURY
IN BLOOM**

GLASTONBURY IN BLOOM COMPETITION

**FREE
ENTRY**

🌸 Do You Have a Garden You're Proud Of? 🌸
Or maybe some beautiful planters, or a green space
buzzing with bees and butterflies?
Why not enter the Glastonbury in Bloom 2026
Competition!
Whether it's a blooming front garden, a window
box, or a wildlife-friendly corner, we'd love to see it!

✅ Free to Enter
🏆 Winners will be invited to a special awards
ceremony!

If you're a Glastonbury resident and would like to
take part, please get in touch:
☎ Contact: Sarah Marks – 01458 831769
✉ Email: sarah.marks@glastonbury.gov.uk

Closing date for all entries is
the Monday 1st June 2026.
Judging will take place w/c
15th June 2026.



ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

Glastonbury Town Council have a number of allotments at Lowside (opposite Forsey's Funeral Directors) available for Glastonbury residents.

The Allotment Officer regularly checks the allotments and monitors the upkeep of each plot and the surrounding area. Allotment holders are contacted if their plot has become overgrown or is no longer being kept in accordance with the Allotment Agreement.

Why rent an allotment?

- Grow fresh fruit, vegetables & herbs
- Enjoy outdoor exercise & fresh air
- Meet friendly local gardeners
- Suitable for all experience levels

To enquire about a plot at Lowside Allotments, please contact: sarah.hallam@glastonbury.gov.uk





GLASTONBURY CHARTER MARKET



Held every Tuesday in St Dunstan's car park and the town centre, Glastonbury's Charter Market, established in 1189 by Royal Charter, is one of the oldest and most vibrant markets in the UK.

It offers a unique opportunity to explore and purchase a wide range of local goods, from fresh produce to handmade crafts and artisan products. Located in the heart of the historic town of Glastonbury, the market has long been a hub for both locals and tourists.

The Glastonbury Charter Market is set to continue its tradition of supporting local businesses while promoting the town's rich history and cultural heritage.

[View Facebook page](#)

To enquire about the market, please contact: market@glastonbury.gov.uk





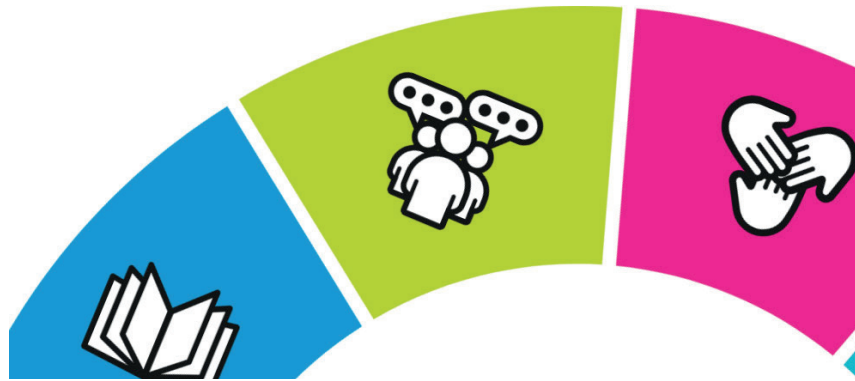
CO-OPERATIVE COUNCILS

Glastonbury Town Council has applied to join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network, reinforcing its commitment to collaboration, community involvement, and innovative local governance.

The move aims to deepen co-production with residents, businesses, and organisations, ensuring local people play an active role in shaping decisions and services. Building on Glastonbury's strong co-operative culture, the Council aligns with national values of democracy, equality, and social responsibility.

Membership would provide access to training, tools, and shared learning with other councils. It also supports more meaningful engagement, stronger community relationships, and collaborative approaches to challenges such as climate change and community well-being.

[Read the full article.](#)





ABBEY PARK CONSULTATION

Glastonbury Town Council is inviting residents to help shape the future of the Abbey Park Play Area through a new community consultation survey.

Abbey Park is an important space for children, families, and the wider community. The council is exploring ideas to improve and update the play area so that it works for children of different ages and abilities, reflects the unique character of Glastonbury, and remains welcoming and enjoyable for parents and carers.

The survey should take just a few minutes to complete, and feedback will help inform early design ideas and future funding plans. Paper copies are also available from the Glastonbury Information Centre.

What3Words location: assist.efficient.stores

[LINK TO SURVEY](#)





SIGNPOSTING

REPORTING CRIME

The Town Council urges everyone to report incidents, including shoplifting, to the police.

You can use 101 (phone or online) to report incidents.

Use 999 for emergencies and more serious happenings. If you are given a Crime number, then make a note of it as this makes it easier to report additional information.

You can also use Crimestoppers (anonymous service) online: crimestoppers-uk.org, phone 0800 555 111.

REPORTING ROAD DAMAGE

Please do continue to report potholes or any damages to the highway through the Somerset Council portal.

[LINK](#)

VICTIM SUPPORT & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Free confidential support for victims of crime: victimsupport.org.uk
Helpline: 0808 168 9111

Somerset Council Community Safety (ASB, nuisance, concerns)

Report issues: somerset.gov.uk/report-it/
Phone: 0300 123 2224

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Turning Point Somerset (drug & alcohol / mental health support locally)

Glastonbury service: Northload Street. Phone: 01458 832225
turning-point.co.uk

Mindline Emotional support and mental health helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

01823 276 892 | 0800 138 1692



NEWSLETTER SIGN UP



Sign up for
our newsletter!

Stay informed with the latest news, updates, and community information from Glastonbury Town Council by signing up to our monthly email newsletter.

It's the easiest way to keep up to date with local projects, events, and important announcements delivered straight to your inbox. To subscribe, simply email us and join our mailing list today. The newsletter will continue to be published online via the website in PDF format.

Sign up using the following link: <https://zcmp.eu/SeaT>





MAY GLASTONBURY FLOURISH

Thank you for reading this edition of our newsletter and staying connected with your local community. We look forward to bringing you further updates throughout the year, with our next editions scheduled for August, November, and February. If you have any news, events, or stories you would like to share, or wish to be added to our mailing list, please don't hesitate to get in touch and help us keep Glastonbury informed and connected.



All the best,

Glastonbury Town Council Team

