

# GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2026

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# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER - SAMHAIN

**As November arrives and autumn gives way to winter, this edition of the Town Council newsletter reflects a season of remembrance, community involvement and care for the places we share. From the future of Abbey Park to the protection of the River Brue, we look at work taking place across Glastonbury and the opportunities for residents to play a part.**

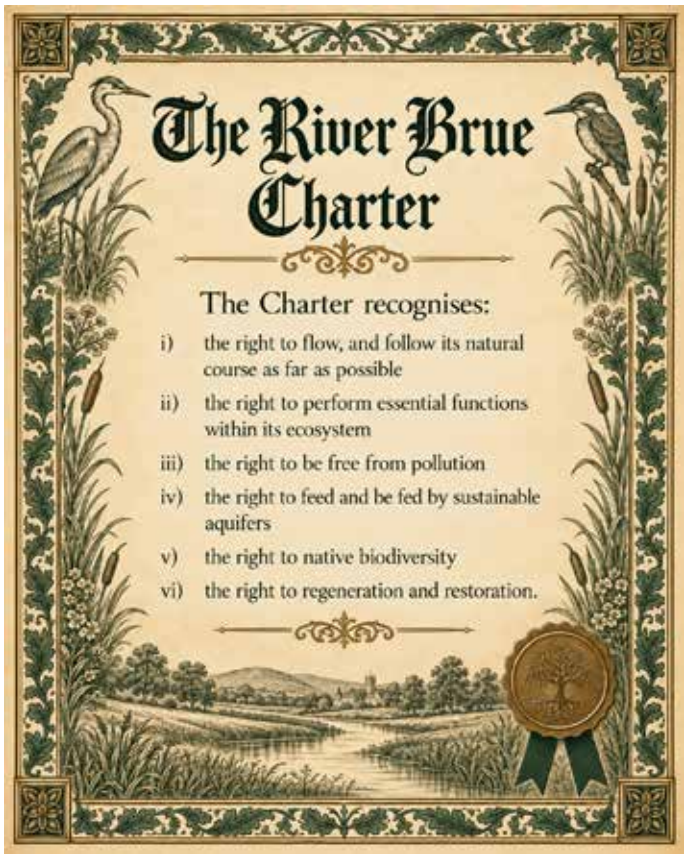
The beginning of November holds significance across several traditions. Samhain, the Gaelic festival marking the beginning of winter, is also observed by many Pagans today. In the Christian calendar, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day offer occasions for honouring saints and remembering those who have died. Here in Glastonbury, these different observances form part of the town's varied spiritual and cultural life.

November also brings the shared observance of Remembrance: a time to honour those who lost their lives in war, acknowledge the lasting effects of conflict on families and communities, and reflect on our hopes for peace.

As autumn colour gives way to bare branches in our parks and gardens, we look ahead to a new chapter for Abbey Park. Following public consultation and an assessment of nine proposals, Wicksteed's design has been selected for the redevelopment of the play area. We share more about the chosen design and the next steps towards creating a welcoming and imaginative space for children and families.

Our relationship with the wider landscape is also reflected in the River Brue Charter. In this edition, we explore the Charter and the commitment it represents to the river's health and future.

We celebrate the efforts of those helping our town to flourish through the Glastonbury in Bloom results, alongside news of the Town Crier's bell, the Market Cross and Bride's Hill House. Together, these updates reflect the many ways in which Glastonbury's character is cared for and carried forward.




Community involvement runs throughout this edition. Our step-by-step guide to public participation at Full Council meetings explains how residents can contribute and what happens to the comments they make. We also share opportunities to support the town by volunteering at Glastonbury Information Centre.

Alongside an update from Councillor Ewan Cameron, who represents Glastonbury on Somerset Council, you will find useful information and signposting for local services and support, as well as details of how to sign up for future newsletters.

As the colder months approach, we thank the volunteers, community groups, local businesses, councillors and staff whose work continues throughout the year. Their time, care and practical effort help keep Glastonbury connected and supported through every season.

With warm wishes to all for November.




# WORK NOW UNDERWAY ON GLASTONBURY'S MARKET CROSS

**Glastonbury Town Council is pleased to announce that work is now underway on the Market Cross, following a wait for the necessary conservation approvals and the completion of the required processes.**

The repairs are being carried out by D.J. Lang Stonemason, who previously worked on the Market Cross in 2023 and brings experience of caring for this distinctive town landmark.

Scaffolding was erected after inspections identified loose masonry that could pose a risk to people using the Market Place. A structural engineer subsequently completed a detailed assessment, with the resulting report shared with the specialist stonemason to inform the repairs.

As a Grade II listed monument, the Market Cross requires a sensitive approach to maintenance and repair. The Council has been working with Somerset Council's Conservation Officer to ensure that the proposed work protects the structure's historic character while addressing the identified safety concerns. Agreeing the appropriate repairs and securing the necessary approvals have been essential steps in allowing work to proceed.

We recognise that the scaffolding has been in place for longer than originally anticipated, and we thank residents, businesses and visitors for their continued patience. With the necessary approvals now in place, the repairs can move forward, helping to safeguard the Market Cross for everyone who lives in, works in and visits Glastonbury.

Further updates will be shared as work progresses.

# A HISTORIC BELL FINDS A NEW HOME WITH GLASTONBURY'S TOWN CRIER

**A town crier's bell dating from 1820 has been presented to Glastonbury Town Council for use by the town's crier, Brad, thanks to the generosity and efforts of Jeff Kellison and Gabriel.**

Previously used as a town crier's bell in Maryland, USA, the historic handbell now begins a new chapter in Glastonbury. Jeff located and restored the bell, including repairing the connection to its handle, while Gabriel provided the funds to purchase it for the town and its criers.



Made just 44 years after the American Declaration of Independence, the bell comes from an age before telephones, radio and television, when the spoken announcement played an essential role in community life. The ringing of a town crier's handbell summoned people to hear news, official proclamations, local laws and announcements about markets and special events.

More than two centuries later, this bell will once again bring people together, continuing a tradition shared by communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

During a heartfelt address to the Town Council, Jeff spoke about the significance of the gift and the connection between the bell's history and its new home:



"...what makes an object like this so special isn't just its age or craftsmanship, it's its voice. For over 200 years, its chime has rung out to gather people together, mark moments of importance and celebrate shared community."

He described the bell as a symbol of continuity, bringing people together and honouring the rich heritage that makes Glastonbury unique. Closing his address, he expressed the hope that it would ring in many centuries of unity and community for the town, adding: "And long may Glastonbury flourish."

The Mayor accepted the gift on behalf of the town before presenting it to Brad and inviting him to give it an inaugural ring.

Brad then delivered a proclamation, at a little below his full volume, celebrating the bell's legacy and its new era as Glastonbury's town crier's bell. He spoke of it being "passed down through the decades to all who may succeed me in this noble tradition of community and communication, as humble ambassadors of this most fine town of ours".

**Read the full article**

# MAYOR'S UPDATE - CLLR ZOE PRICE



**As we move into November and the quieter, colourful days of autumn, it feels like a good moment to reflect on the many people who help Glastonbury flourish. Serving as Mayor continues to be a privilege, particularly when it brings opportunities to meet those whose care, creativity, and commitment make such a difference to our town.**

One of the joys of this mayoral year is seeing again and again how much can be achieved when people work together. Whether through community groups, local organisations, volunteers, businesses or neighbours looking out for one another, it is kindness, co-operation and a sense of belonging that help make Glastonbury such a special place.

Among the occasions I have been honoured to take part in recently were opening Glastonbury Pride, opening the Children's World Zombie Walk, and leading a ceremony to commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Though very different events, each reflected something important about the spirit of our town: creativity, inclusion, community and a commitment to peace. From families and young people sharing in imaginative celebration, to affirming that everyone belongs, to remembering the importance of understanding and reconciliation, these occasions remind us of the many ways we strengthen our town through respect, kindness and a shared sense of purpose.

There has also been wonderful news to celebrate through Glastonbury in Bloom. Achieving Gold and winning the Champion of Champions category at South West in Bloom, alongside Gold in the national RHS Britain in Bloom competition, is an achievement the whole town should be very proud of. Behind these awards are months of planting, watering, planning and patient care, much of it carried out quietly by dedicated staff, volunteers, residents and local businesses.

My warmest thanks go to everyone involved, including the schools, community groups and local gardeners whose efforts bring colour, beauty and life to our shared spaces. These achievements demonstrate what can be accomplished when people work together for the good of the town.

The opening celebrations at Bride's Hill House marked another important Town Deal milestone. Bringing a community project to this stage takes vision, determination and collaboration, and I congratulate the Friends of Bride's Mound, Avalon Roundhouse Collective and everyone who has helped create this distinctive new venue. It offers exciting opportunities for learning, connection and discovery, while helping people engage with our unique landscape, heritage and sense of place.

Looking ahead, the selection of a design for Abbey Park's new play area is another welcome step forward. Children and young people remain at the heart of my hopes for this mayoral year, and I am delighted to see progress towards a space where local families can play, explore and spend time together. Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation and helped to shape this important addition to our town.

As winter approaches, I also want to acknowledge those supporting people who may be finding life difficult. Whether through organising a community meal, offering practical help, taking time for a welcoming conversation or simply checking on a neighbour, these everyday acts of kindness strengthen the fabric of our community. They remind us that everyone has something to contribute and that small acts of care can make a profound difference.

With Carnival on 21 November and Frost Fayre on 28 November, there is still much to look forward to. Events like these bring people together, support local traders and create the sense of warmth and community spirit that Glastonbury is known for. My thanks go to the organisers, performers, traders and volunteers who are helping make these events possible.

As we move into the darker half of the year, may we continue to build a town rooted in kindness, co-operation and community, where people feel connected, supported and included.

I wish you all a peaceful Samhain and a restful winter.

May Glastonbury flourish.

# BRIDE'S HILL HOUSE AT BECKERY - ANOTHER TOWN DEAL PROJECT LAUNCHED

**The opening of Bride's Hill House at Beckery Enterprise Park in October marked another successful launch for a Glastonbury Town Deal-funded project, creating a welcoming new community venue at the gateway to one of the town's most significant heritage sites.**

Bringing to fruition the shared vision of the **Friends of Bride's Mound** and **Avalon Roundhouse Collective**, the project combines a distinctive wooden roundhouse with opportunities for learning, creativity and connection with nature. It is a welcome addition to Glastonbury's community facilities and an example of Town Deal investment helping local ambitions become a reality.

At the heart of the project is a nine-metre roundhouse, built using sustainable materials and practices and set within a landscaped garden. Its circular form and timber construction give the building a character that reflects its setting, while modern facilities make it a practical venue for a wide range of activities.

Inside, the roundhouse is equipped with Wi-Fi, a projector and screen, and a kitchen, supporting everything from community meetings and presentations to creative workshops and educational sessions. Accessible toilet facilities, on-site parking and bicycle storage help make the venue convenient for visitors, with a bus stop also nearby.

For local groups, tutors, organisations and workshop leaders, Bride's Hill House offers a distinctive setting in which to bring people together. The venue is intended for weekday and weekend hire, with potential uses including talks, training, meetings and community events. Those interested in



using the space are encouraged to contact the team through the Bride's Hill House website for current availability, hire charges and booking arrangements.

Although Bride's Hill House has celebrated its official opening, the building is awaiting final Building Regulations sign-off before opening for public use. The Bride's Hi9ll House team hope to welcome you within the next few weeks. In the meantime, interested parties can join the waiting list, and we'll be in touch with updates and opportunities to hire the space.

Glastonbury Town Deal Chairman Rob Taylor described the opening as "another important milestone for the Glastonbury Town Deal."

**Read the full article**






# ABBEY PARK - THE WINNING DESIGN, WICKSTEED

**Glastonbury Town Council is pleased to announce that Wicksteed's design has been selected for the redevelopment of Abbey Park's play area, following public consultation and an assessment of the nine submitted proposals.**

Presented as Design 9 during the consultation, the winning proposal brings together castle towers, dragons, a Sword in the Stone and a wide range of inclusive play features. It marks an exciting step towards creating a distinctive destination play area inspired by Glastonbury's myths, legends and landscape.

The Council has allocated £200,000 towards the redevelopment, with the aim of creating a welcoming space where children can explore, develop their skills and enjoy imaginative adventures alongside their friends and families.

## A voice for the community

Residents were invited to explore all nine designs on the Council's website, with visualisations, layout plans and full proposals available to help people consider the options. An exhibition at Glastonbury Town Hall on Wednesday 30 September also offered an opportunity to view the designs in person.

The consultation invited people to share their preferences and comment on the features they felt would create the best play space for the town. Public feedback accounted for 30% of the overall evaluation, giving the community a substantial role in the selection.

Alongside this feedback, proposals were assessed for design quality and understanding of the brief, inclusion and accessibility, play value, and value for money. These considerations covered everything from imaginative play and the use of space to durability, maintenance and the needs of children with different abilities.

### Why this design?

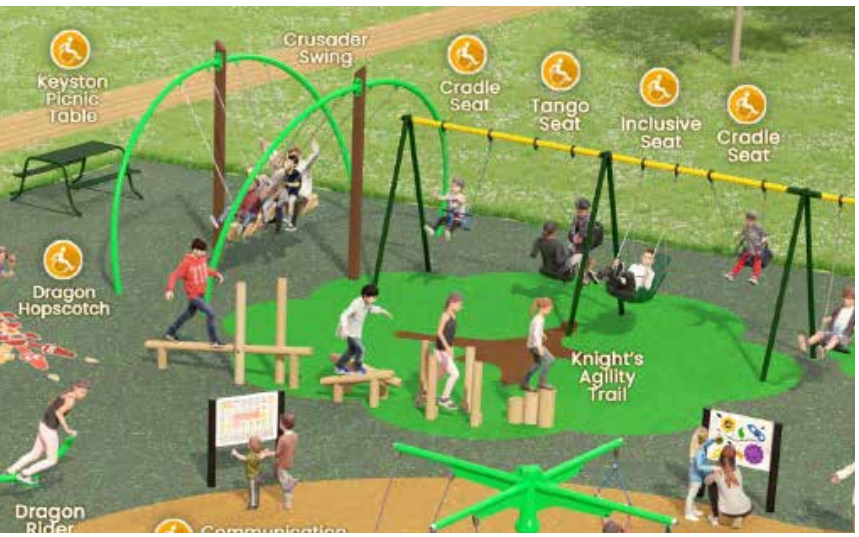



Wicksteed achieved the highest score for design quality and understanding of the brief, receiving 23 out of a possible 25 points across the five criteria in this category.

The assessment awarded maximum marks for creating a distinctive play destination rooted in Glastonbury's identity, for the way the equipment and supporting features complement one another, and for meeting the specification for materials, surfaces and colours.

The Arthurian theme runs throughout the proposal, connecting the castle, dragons and Sword in the Stone with opportunities for storytelling and imaginative play. The layout also brings together active play, sensory experiences and places for families to gather, while responding to the park's landscape and historic setting.

Inclusion was another clear strength. Wicksteed received maximum marks for accessible routes and meaningful participation for children with mobility difficulties, and for enabling children of different ages and physical abilities to play alongside one another. Its sensory provision was also rated positively.




Together with its consultation score, these results highlight the proposal's strengths in delivering a distinctive and accessible play

environment for Glastonbury. The scoring and judging criteria and all the nine proposals can be viewed at this link: **View Judging and Criteria**.

### An adventure inspired by Glastonbury




At the heart of the design is Camelot Castle, a bespoke play structure offering towers, bridges, slides and climbing challenges. A smaller fortress provides opportunities for younger children, while the larger stronghold offers more demanding activities as children develop their confidence and skills.

A wheelchair-accessible ramp leads to a shared platform with interactive features, helping children with different abilities participate in the castle's imaginative world. Ground-level activities and quieter seating spaces add further choices.

The Sword in the Stone climbing rock extends the Arthurian adventure, alongside dragon-themed play equipment and a Knight's Agility Trail for balancing and movement.




The proposal also includes a choice of swings, a wheelchair-accessible Crown Carousel, an inclusive in-ground trampoline, sensory and musical features, and a communication panel. Seating and inclusive picnic facilities provide places for families and carers to rest, supervise and spend time together.

Existing football and basketball facilities will remain, supporting the wider range of recreation already available at Abbey Park.

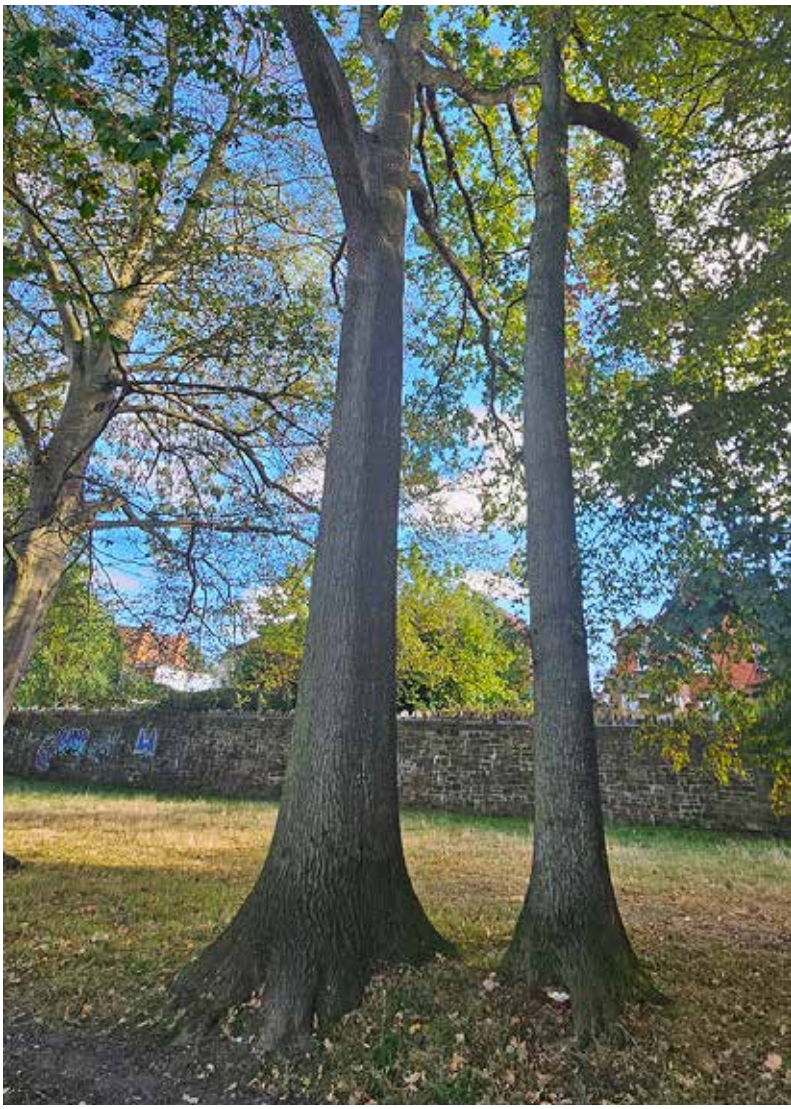
**What happens next?**

The selected proposal will now move into final design refinement ahead of installation, which is planned for March and April 2027.

The Council thanks everyone who viewed the designs, attended the exhibition and submitted feedback, and all nine companies that contributed proposals. You can still **view the other proposals here**.

**Read the full article**

# PLANNED TREE MAINTENANCE AT ABBEY PARK



A programme of tree maintenance is planned at Abbey Park to support the trees' longer-term health, give neighbouring trees room to grow and improve safety for people using the park. The work includes pruning storm-damaged branches, removing deadwood, addressing decay in affected trees and replacement planting recommended following the removal of a hawthorn.

The work is being arranged ahead of the land transferring from Somerset Council back to Glastonbury Abbey. It is separate from the playground redevelopment and is not being carried out to accommodate the new play equipment.

The redesign of Abbey Park followed a strict brief that included explicit criteria with regard to designing around existing trees. None of the work included in the report is unnecessary. Once complete, it will help the remaining trees to develop in a healthier way and make the surrounding environment safer.

An English oak, the tree on the right in the picture above, has been recommended for felling because of decay at the base of its trunk. The inspection also recorded the bracket fungus Ganoderma applanatum, an asymmetrical crown and growth suppressed by a larger neighbouring tree. Its removal will reduce competition for light and growing space, giving the neighbouring tree more room to develop its canopy.

Elsewhere in the park, deadwood and broken or hanging branches will be removed to improve safety for visitors. Selected trees, including a number of beeches, will also have lower branches removed, known as crown lifting.

Work to a horse chestnut, T30, pictured right, aims to retain the tree and, it is hoped, prolong its life. The inspection recorded trunk decay, fungal brackets and a substantial area of the trunk sounding hollow. The recommended pollarding will reduce it to approximately six metres high, with the hope that new growth will develop from the remaining trunk.

The programme of tree work follows recommendations recorded in the tree survey summary dated 23 July 2026. Other recommended work includes pruning a pear at the front of the grounds which has suffered storm damage. This tree will have its crown reduced in height by approximately two to three metres, with its sides pruned to shape. Lastly, the removal of a hawthorn, T22, is recommended. The survey recommends a replacement to help maintain the park's tree cover for the future.

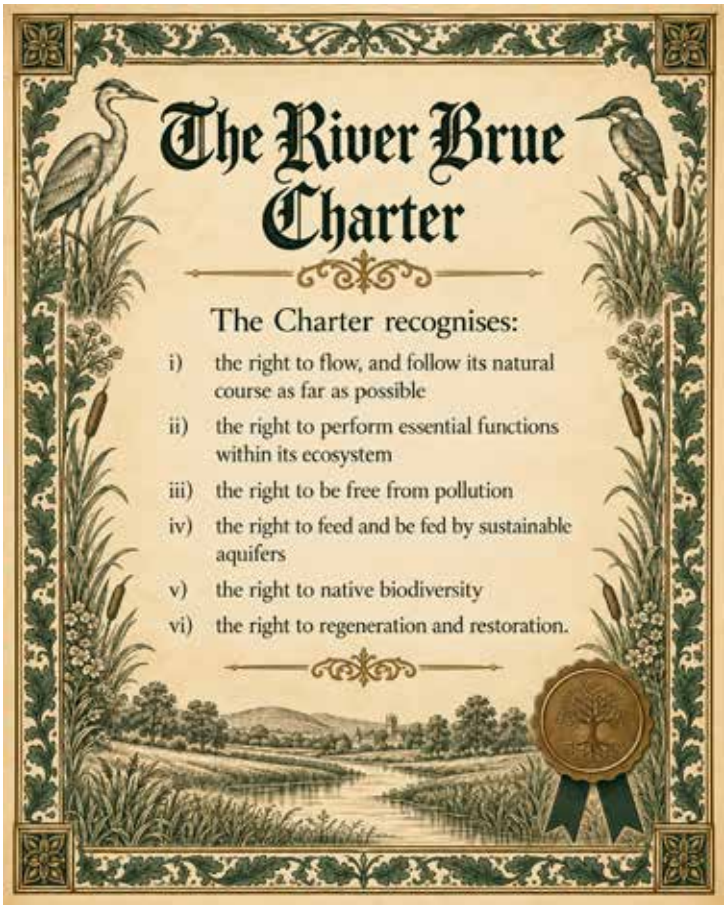


The full list of trees and associated works is available on Somerset Council's planning portal under reference 2026/1719/TCA.

**Link to planning portal**

# THE RIVER BRUE CHARTER

**Glastonbury Town Council has formally recognised the rights of the River Brue, following the unanimous adoption of a River Charter at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 8 September.**




The Charter sets out six fundamental rights for the river, covering its natural flow, ecological functions, freedom from pollution, sustainable aquifers, biodiversity and restoration. As part of the resolution, the Council agreed:
"As a declaration as to the importance and value of our river, this council resolves to formally recognise and respect the rights of the River Brue as set forth in the River Charter."

**The River Brue Charter recognises:**

i) the right to flow, and follow its natural course as far as possible
ii) the right to perform essential functions within its ecosystem
iii) the right to be free from pollution
iv) the right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers
v) the right to native biodiversity
vi) the right to regeneration and restoration.

The adoption of the Charter follows Living Brue Day, held earlier this year and sponsored by Glastonbury Town Council. The event brought together local people, campaigners and organisations concerned with the condition and future of the River Brue and its wider catchment.



**Benefits of adopting rights for rivers:**

Adopting the River Brue Charter gives councils and communities a clear framework for supporting the long-term health of the river. As more parishes along the Brue consider signing up, the Charter also has the potential to create a shared approach across the wider catchment in the following ways:

– Creates a clear shared commitment to protect and restore the River Brue.
– Gives councils along the river a common set of principles for decision-making.
– Encourages cooperation between communities upstream and downstream.
– Supports improved water quality, biodiversity and habitat restoration.
– Provides a stronger basis for future partnerships, projects and funding.

The more widely the Charter is adopted, the more useful it can become as a common reference point for communities along the Brue, helping to support coordinated action for the river's future.

Glastonbury Town Council's unanimous vote is therefore the starting point for a wider piece of work. Over the coming months, councils along the River Brue will be contacted and invited to add their support to the Charter, with the longer-term aim of establishing a shared commitment to the river along its course.

For further info or to support the Brue Charter in your parish, please contact Cllr Mike Smyth on **mike.smyth@glastonbury.gov.uk**.

**Read the full article**




# GLASTONBURY CELEBRATES ANOTHER GOLDEN YEAR IN BLOOM

First, a huge thank you to everyone who has helped Glastonbury flourish this year. To the volunteers, local businesses, schools, community groups, sponsors, Council staff and residents who have planted, watered, weeded, litter-picked, created and cared for our town: these achievements belong to you.

Together, those efforts have earned an exceptional collection of honours: Gold at the national RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals, Gold and the under-10,000 Champion of Champions title at South West in Bloom, and the Michael McGahey Trophy for exceptional community effort.



Further recognition included second place for art in the landscape for Heart of the Tribe, a Community Champion award for Sarah Marks, 15 business medals, three Outstanding school assessments and nine neighbourhood assessments. To achieve so much in a single season is remarkable. From national recognition to the individual gardens and projects that enrich our neighbourhoods, these results give people across Glastonbury considerable cause for celebration.

## Understanding the awards



At South West in Bloom, Glastonbury received Gold in the Champion of Champions category and was also named the category winner for entries under 10,000. These are two separate achievements: Gold recognises the standard reached against the judging criteria, and several entrants can achieve it. Winning Champion of Champions means Glastonbury was placed first within its category, competing against other previous regional category winners. Separately, Glastonbury represented the South West in the national RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals, receiving Gold in the Town category. This national Gold recognises an excellent standard among finalists selected from across the UK.

Britain in Bloom celebrates how communities improve their surroundings through gardening, environmental responsibility and working together. Judging covers horticulture, accounting for 40% of the marks, environment at 30%, and community at 30%. Glastonbury's South West assessment awarded Gold in all three areas.

Regional judge Rod Pooley described the town's floral displays as being "of the highest standard", with plants supplied by local nursery Sweet Acre. The War Memorial planting was singled out as outstanding, while herbs in hanging baskets added an interesting touch. Perennial planting supporting bees and other pollinators, together with the reuse of plants in winter displays, also received praise.

The report highlighted responsible water use through cup and saucer hanging baskets and rainwater collection at St Dunstan's House. The new approach to Glastonbury Abbey was praised for blending with its surroundings, alongside recognition of the biodiversity within the Abbey grounds.

Glastonbury's heritage and community spirit were evident throughout the visit. Historic buildings were well cared for, litter-picking groups helped keep the town "spotless", and the Mural Trail was described as "amazing and thought-provoking".

More than 360 pupils took part in the children's poster competition. Community gardening projects were praised for their teamwork, dedication and commitment, while the judges recognised the contribution of Community Payback and the importance of peaceful gardens where people can relax and enjoy their surroundings.



**Community Champion: Sarah Marks**

Special congratulations go to Sarah Marks, who received a South West in Bloom Community Champion award. Sarah is Glastonbury in Bloom's Committee Clerk, supporting the work behind the town's entry. Her individual recognition is a lovely opportunity to celebrate the contribution she makes alongside the volunteers, businesses, schools and Council staff involved in Bloom.

**Further awards across Glastonbury: Businesses, Schools and Community.**

Glastonbury in Bloom also received the Michael McGahey Trophy for exceptional community effort and second place in the Denise James Art in the Landscape Trophy. The Mitre Inn placed third in the Shaun Cregan Trophy, which recognises floral displays at public houses.

**Local business entries achieved the following results:**

**Gold:** The Mitre Inn, White Rabbit of Glastonbury, Glastonbury Abbey, Abbey Tea Rooms, Heart of the Tribe Gallery, Glastonbury Galleries, St Margaret's Chapel & Royal Magdalene Almshouses, Café Chakra, Beckets Inn, Cavendish Lodge and Happy Glastonbury Art Café.

**Silver Gilt:** Marchant Buildings, Rainbows End Café, Nature Preserved and St Dunstan's House Community Health & Wellbeing Centre.

There was success for local schools too, with St John's Infants, St Benedict's Junior and St Dunstan's School all assessed as Level 5: Outstanding in It's Your School.

In It's Your Neighbourhood, Outstanding assessments went to St Margaret's Chapel & Royal Magdalene Almshouses, Cavendish Lodge, Avalon Allsorts, Paddington Farm, Glastonbury Tribunal and Beckets Gardening Group. Fisher's Hill Community Garden achieved Thriving, while Herbies Field and the United Reformed Church Community Garden achieved Advancing.




**Read the full article**

Note: Glastonbury Town Council offers both of Glastonbury's unitary councillors the opportunity to provide an update in our newsletter.

# WORKING FOR GLASTONBURY DELIVERING RESULTS




**By your Liberal Democrat Councillor for Glastonbury, Ewan Cameron**

In my last article in June, I said that 'my priority has been simple: to be visible, accessible and to make a positive difference for Glastonbury.' I have kept to that approach and found myself being part of and visiting so many amazing events, organisations and people. Glastonbury quite simply is as awe-inspiring as we all know it is.

Of course it has not all been a bed of roses. An almost biblical storm descended on us in July that caused a flood along the High Street that affected a majority of our businesses and many fallen trees that smashed walls and homes. I was on the Droves and High Street as soon as the storm passed offering help where I could and I managed to get Somerset Council services on the ground almost immediately. Unfortunately, some of our businesses have not recovered and many still bear the scars from the flooding.

On a personal note, it was at this time when my mother passed away. I received multiple offers of condolence and well wishes from so many in our community including prayer circles from all manner of spiritual and religious groups. It was humbling and reminded me how unique, multi-cultural and diverse our community is. Thank you.

A positive outcome from the flood was that I requested that Somerset Council bring forward their planned drain clearing programme from March 2027 to September 2026. Somerset Council support has been a common feature throughout the last 3 months. The A361 from West Pennard to Edgarley Hall was resurfaced as it was

from Street to Pomparles Bridge. Traffic Regulation Orders were authorised; defects and potholes fixed; white and yellow lines have been repainted. There is still more to do and we can expect Bretenoux Road and Northload Street to be repaired.

I have also worked with Wessex Water and the Library of Avalon looking at the historic drain that runs from the top of Silver Street to Benedict Street. Wessex Water ran a CCTV camera from the Library of Avalon to Benedict Street and found a partially collapsed and restricted drain. We have yet to work out a solution and I have approached the Somerset Rivers Authority for support and resources.

Online social media continues to grow and is now a constant in many of our lives. Clickbait, non-factual discussions and conspiracy theories challenge many of us and on occasion cater to our worst behaviours. I should like to take this opportunity to ask that we all be kind to each other, anticipate that online discourse often does not include all the facts and offer that should anyone have queries about what is happening in and around town – do reach out to your ward councillors and myself.

As I stated in my last article, *'There is still much to do, but I believe we are making steady progress. Thank you for your continued support, your ideas and your willingness to work together. My commitment remains unchanged: to represent every resident of Glastonbury fairly, openly and with energy, and to keep delivering practical improvements that make our town an even better place to live, work and visit.'*

**Ewan Cameron**



# HAVE YOUR SAY: TAKING PART IN TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Do you have an idea for Glastonbury, a question about the Council's work, or a concern you would like councillors to hear? Public participation provides an opportunity to speak directly to Glastonbury Town Council and contribute to the decisions that affect our town.**

You don't need experience of council meetings or a formally written speech. Your knowledge of the town, your experiences and your suggestions can help councillors understand what matters to the people who live and work here.

If you haven't taken part before, here is how it works.

**1. Plan your visit -** Visit the Council website's **meeting calendar** and check the relevant agenda for the date, time and venue. Public participation normally takes place at 7pm immediately before the formal meeting begins. Full Council meetings are always on the second Tuesday of the month.

**2. Book your place to speak** - Contact the Clerk's office in advance by emailing **office@glastonbury.gov.uk**, calling 01458 831769, or visiting the Council reception desk in the Information Centre.

Speaking slots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please get in touch early. Let staff know what you would like to raise. They can advise whether it relates to the Town Council's work or whether another organisation is better placed to help.

**3. Think about what you would like to say** - Each speaker normally has up to three minutes, within the public participation session lasting 15 minutes overall. The Mayor or meeting chair may extend the time at their discretion. A few notes can help you make the most of your time. Explain the issue, describe how it affects you or the community, and finish with the question you would like answered or the action you would like the Council to consider. You are welcome to prepare something to read aloud.

**4. Make your contribution** - When invited to speak, direct your comments to the Mayor or meeting chair. Speak clearly and allow others their turn. The meeting rules allow you to remain seated if standing would cause discomfort or because of a disability.

**5. Understand what happens next** - Councillors will hear your contribution, but you may not receive an immediate answer. Public participation does not automatically begin a debate, and the Council's meeting notice explains that no resolution for action is taken during this session. The subject you raise will be noted, although the minutes do not need to contain a word-for-word account.

In May 2026, the Council agreed to consider matters raised during public participation for discussion at a subsequent Full Council meeting or the relevant committee, as appropriate, and to provide a response to the speaker. Where an issue falls outside the Town Council's responsibilities, staff should direct you towards the organisation that can help.

If you have spoken and are unsure where your enquiry has reached, contact the Council office and ask for an update; **office@glastonbury.gov.uk** or 01458 831769.

Whether you bring a suggestion, a concern or a question, we welcome your contribution. Taking part helps councillors hear directly from the community they serve.

# THE PEACE GARDEN AT ST DUNSTAN'S HOUSE



**The newly opened Peace Garden at St Dunstan's House offers a beautiful and welcoming outdoor space in the heart of Glastonbury.**

Thoughtfully planted and landscaped, the garden includes a well-kept lawn and spacious patio area, with impressive views across to Glastonbury Abbey. Accommodating up to 50 people, it provides a peaceful setting in which to meet, celebrate, learn or simply spend time together.
The garden is home to several features reflecting Glastonbury's traditions and values. Its Peace Pole carries the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in a variety of languages. A Glastonbury Holy Thorn represents continuity, hope and the town's spiritual heritage, while the colourful Maypole provides a focal point for community celebrations and the seasonal life of the town.

With its central location, peaceful atmosphere and distinctive views, the garden offers a unique setting for events, gatherings and quiet reflection.



**Open to the Public**

The Peace Garden is open for members of the public to visit and enjoy during the opening hours of Glastonbury Information Centre: 10am - 3pm daily.

**Available for Hire**

The garden can accommodate up to 50 people and may be hired on its own or alongside one of the rooms within St Dunstan's House. It is suitable for meetings, workshops, wellbeing activities, community gatherings, celebrations and private events requiring indoor and outdoor space. **Book the garden >**

# CONNECTION CAFÉ AT FESTIVAL HALL EVERY THURSDAY

**The Connection Café takes place every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm in the Festival Hall at St Dunstan's House Community Health and Wellbeing Centre. It offers a welcoming space to meet new people, make friends and enjoy a friendly chat.**

Run in partnership with Somerset Council, the café also provides an opportunity to speak with a Health Connector about local activities, support groups and services available in the community.

Every Thursday 2pm to 4pm
Festival Hall, St Dunstan's House Community Health & Wellbeing Centre

Come along for a chat, meet new people and get to know your local community services.

For more information: 01458 553025
Email **somicb.westmendippcn@nhs.net**






# HEATING OIL HELP

If you are struggling to afford a heating oil top-up, the Somerset Crisis and Resilience Alliance may be able to help. Heating oil help is available for low-income households who rely on oil and are at risk of running out.

You can apply online here:
**https://tinyurl.com/CRFHeatingOilHelp**

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.

**SHIFT TIMES:**
**10am - 12.30pm**
**12.30pm - 3pm**
**7 days a week**

**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

# 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.

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

**View Facebook page**



# THE CAFÉ OF INFINITE HOPE

You are invited to a FREE community film screening of

## The People's Emergency Briefing

After this summer, maybe you are a bit concerned … about the heat, drought, storms, flooding, struggling wildlife, rising cost of living and food prices?
Come together to watch a film about the changes we're facing and hear from local projects. Bring your ideas and questions about the practical things we can do.

Tuesday November 24th
Glastonbury Town Hall
6:30pm to 9pm

For more details email:
melissa.taylor@glastonbury.gov.uk

**Tickets are FREE**
https://buytickets.at/glastonburytowncouncil/2476705

National Emergency Briefing

Over 4,000 screenings across the country.
For more information:
https://www.nebriefing.org

OPEN TO EVERYONE…AGE RATING 16+

# SIGNPOSTING

## REPORTING CRIME

The Town Council encourages residents and businesses to report crimes, including shoplifting, to the police.

Call 999 if a crime is happening now, someone is in immediate danger, or violence is being used or threatened.

For non-emergencies, call 101 or report online at avonandsomerset.police.uk.

If you receive a crime reference number, keep a record of it. This will help when providing further information or requesting an update.

To give information about crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit crimestoppers-uk.org.

## REPORTING ROAD DAMAGE, FLOOD AND BLOCKED DRAINS

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

**Report via this 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)

Phone: 0300 303 8788.
**turning-point.co.uk**

**The 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




**Stay informed with the latest news, updates, and community information from Glastonbury Town Council by signing up to our quarterly 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 click the link below to provide your email address. 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 February, May, and August.

All the best,

**Glastonbury Town Council Team**