

South Gloucestershire

# COMMUNITY AWARDS 2025

Your way to say **thank you**



TO YOUR LOCAL

# HEROES



South Gloucestershire  
and Stroud College



South Gloucestershire  
Council

Delivering with you

# WELCOME

...to the 2025 South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards and to the WISE campus of South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, who are once again hosting and sponsoring this event, which we hugely grateful for.

An enjoyable part of my role as Chair of Council, is being able to join in with local events throughout the year and meeting so many different people from within South Gloucestershire Council.

Looking through the nominations has been a real privilege and in many cases I could feel the warmth behind the words towards the individuals and groups being nominated.

This is your evening, so I hope it is an enjoyable one for you as we join to say 'Thank you' for the fantastic contributions being made in South Gloucestershire which help to make it a great place to live and work.



**Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi**  
Chair of South Gloucestershire Council

# AWARD WINNERS

## HANNI DOGAN OWENS

Hanni has worked in unpaid volunteer role for many groups which include Anthony Nolan Leukaemia. Research fundraiser and educator, Southmead Hospital, UWE Beeline Project, volunteer interpreter for Maternity Ward for Asian mums in Bristol and Fire Safety Educator. Hanni is always cheerful no matter the weather or the work, and happy to give her all to everything she supports. She often remembers little things about individuals and gives hugs and support when needed, her genuine empathy shines through.

## PENNY SHEARS

Penny has been volunteering for 35 years in supporting junior badminton across South Gloucestershire and Bristol, specifically running the Yate Racketeers Junior Badminton Club. Penny is a very good badminton player herself (winning medals at both World and European Senior Championships) so understands how competitive sport can help children strive to do better. Penny's dedication has done more than just improve physical and mental wellbeing, her club and her drive have changed the course of people's lives. Her inspiration is infectious, and she has encouraged many others to volunteer and support their local community.

## ROGER CHILCOTT

Roger has been volunteering since 2003. He advocates for good quality social housing in South Gloucestershire and most particularly in Kingswood. Throughout his volunteering life Roger has worked tirelessly to reduce the stigma attached to living in social housing by empowering tenants to engage with their landlord and improve the quality of the services they receive. He also leads on the King's Forest Community Action Group, holding various social housing providers to account and scrutinising their services.

## DAVID BEDDOW

David has been providing unpaid volunteering service since 2019 through various local groups including the Sodbury and Yate Clean Up litter picking group. As well as attending group events, David and his wife Denise would both go out daily to litter picking in their area, clearing huge amounts of waste. Through Upper Frome Friends group David has been clearing out the River Frome through Yate, focusing on the

industrial estate, often going out on his own, or arranging picks with some of the Upper Frome Friends members. The amount of work and time David and Denise have given to help their local community is utterly inspiring. David daily litter picks have encouraged others to get involved.

## DENISE BEDDOW

Denise, together with her husband, David have been providing unpaid volunteering service since 2019 through various local groups including the Sodbury and Yate Clean Up litter picking group. As well as attending group events, Denise and her husband David, would both go out daily to litter picking in their area, clearing huge amounts of waste. The amount of work and time Denise and David have given to help their local community is utterly inspiring. Denise daily litter picks have encouraged others to get involved. Her amazing work with Family Food for Free has helped so many in need, supporting families through difficult times, and helping collect, organise and to run the shop so that it has kept going for so many years.



## SUSAN WEAVER

As Day Facility Volunteer, Short Break Volunteer and Evening Programme Volunteer, Susan has been providing unpaid volunteering service for 15 years through Paul's Place, a charity which supports adults aged 18-65 years of age who have physical, cognitive, or sensory impairment. Paul's Place Daily runs throughout the year. Based in Coalpit Heath, providing a programme of daily activities that supports disabled adults. Susan has been praised for helping attendees achieve their potential, picking them up when they need morale support and being a trusted friend. She genuinely cares and has a passion to support others.

## PETE GOODWIN

Pete joined the Warmley Signal Box and Community Garden Group in 2016. He was a Parish Councillor for Siston and had a keen interest in the local area, including industrial heritage and history. Pete has been a positive role model to the group and was key (along with the Vice Chair) in ensuring security for the Signal Box was improved through security camera, lighting and alarm systems. Through dedication, good management and leadership, he has ensured that the Warmley Signal Box has remained accessible to the public, every weekend, all year round. Many members of the community value being able to walk or cycle along the Railway Path for their daily exercise, and sometimes to sit in our Community Garden.



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## **MARIE CURIE FUNDRAISING GROUP, FIVE STOKES**

The group organise and run fundraising activities in South Gloucestershire all year round to raise funds for Marie Curie's end of life care services in South Gloucestershire and Bristol. The group members give up their free time to be part of the committee, organising a range of activities to fundraise, including supermarket and street collections, tea parties, quizzes, online auctions, raffles, tombola's, craft events and much more. Over the years, the fundraising group have shown dedication to Marie Curie's cause and are on track this year to hit their big target of raising £100,000. The Five Stokes stand out for their persistence and dedication to fundraising for Marie Curie that hasn't let up over the 10 years. They have always been motivated to do more fundraising and reach new targets.

## **P.E.A.K PARENTING EMPOWERED AUTISTIC KIDS**

PEAK support families who care for neurodiverse children, pre or post a diagnosis of autism. These volunteers offer their time, skills, and compassion to ensure that families and never face their struggles alone. They do this through many ways including by hands-on commitment speaking to hundreds of families, offering a lending ear, suggestion of parental strategies and behavioural strategies for their children. They read through paperwork to help make Educational Health Care Plans in their strongest form before submitting to local authorities. They represent parents and children in school mediations where parents are not sure what to do or say. They attend tribunals which include reading a lot of written law and documents as well as representing families and fighting for their rights to school placements in special educational settings. All the families they work with are grateful for their time and knowledge. The volunteers have turned their own challenges into support for others.

# SOUTHWOLD RAMBLERS MAINTENANCE TEAM

The Group aim to improve the quality and accessibility of footpaths in South Gloucestershire. They have been working in collaboration with South Gloucestershire Council since June 2012 to maintain access to these routes and open the countryside to people with mobility limitations. Working alternate Thursdays year-round in all weathers, this small group of volunteers have fitted 336 kissing gates, 43 Bristol gates and 106 other gates including specialist gates with disability key access. They have also repaired or replaced 44 ditch crossings and cleared numerous areas of overgrown vegetation. There has been a lot of positive feedback especially when replacing stiles to gates, allowing older people to continue walking, maintaining health, fitness and wellbeing, while some communities have been inspired to further action. The team has been working in partnership with the council for over 12 years to improve access for all members of our community and have gained the trust of landowners to allow them to work on their property.



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