

Reports from Various Organisations



Tetbury Area Youth and Community Trust 2026 Annual Report to Tetbury Town Council

TAYCT Impact Summary April 2025 - March 2026

- 100+ young people supported each week through three weekly youth clubs and wellbeing groups and mentoring
- 35 young people at Sir William Romney School received early intervention mentoring , supporting confidence and emotional wellbeing
- Year-round activities for children, young people and families , including play days, trips, and BuryFest – a youth-led community event on the Rec
- Up to 50 residents attend the weekly Friendship Café helping reduce loneliness and strengthen community connection across generations

Rooted in our community, shaped by local voices

This has been another hugely positive year for Tetbury Area Youth & Community Trust, as we continue to strengthen our work with children, young people and the wider community. We are proud that TAYCT remains rooted in Tetbury, responding to local needs with care, creativity and a strong belief that everyone should feel connected, supported and able to thrive.

Our youth work continues to sit at the heart of what we do. Across our three weekly youth club sessions, we now engage more than 100 young people aged 11–18 each week, providing a safe and welcoming space where young people can relax, build friendships, develop confidence and access support from trusted adults. Alongside our universal youth club provision, we have continued to deliver targeted wellbeing workshops, supporting smaller groups of young people to develop confidence, resilience and positive coping strategies.

Our in-school mentoring programme at Sir William Romney School has also continued to grow in impact. Over the past year we have worked with around 35 young people through early intervention, one-to-one mentoring and small group support. This young person-led work provides space to explore challenges such as friendships, family relationships, anxiety, school pressures and emotional wellbeing. We regularly see the difference that consistent, trusted relationships can make at an early stage, helping young people feel more confident and better equipped to navigate difficulties.

In addition to our weekly provision, we continue to deliver a varied programme of activities for children, young people and families during school holidays, helping to ensure opportunities for connection, fun and enrichment remain accessible throughout the year. Highlights over the past 12 months have included family play days, Drayton Manor, watersports activities at the Cotswold Water Park, supported bus trips to Stroud and Cirencester, and BuryFest – our first youth-led festival of fun on the Recreation Ground. These activities provide valuable opportunities for young people to try new experiences, build confidence and strengthen friendships outside of the school environment.

We are particularly grateful for the continued support of Tetbury Town Council, alongside funding from the National Lottery Community Fund through the Cotswold Youth Network partnership and the generous support of the Feoffees. Together, this funding plays an essential role in ensuring that young people in Tetbury have access to consistent, locally based support at a time when many families are experiencing increasing pressures.

Alongside our youth work, the Tetbury Friendship Café has continued to go from strength to strength. Each week up to 50 residents come together to enjoy a warm welcome, good company and a wide range of activities including singing, bingo, quizzes, art and crafts. For many, the café offers an important opportunity to connect with others in a relaxed and supportive environment, helping to reduce loneliness and strengthen community bonds.

Over the past year we have also organised special community lunches to celebrate VE Day and Christmas, as well as a number of popular trips out to places such as Westonbirt Arboretum, Highgrove, the theatre and local garden centres. These shared experiences create moments of enjoyment and connection that are deeply valued by those who attend.

In January we were delighted to announce that TAYCT is part of Age-Friendly Cotswolds, a new three-year partnership made possible through a £1 million investment from The Summerfield Charitable Trust. This initiative brings together local organisations to work alongside older people to create more connected, inclusive communities where people feel valued and supported as they age. Through this partnership we will spend time listening to older residents, supporting locally shaped activities and helping to build opportunities for participation, volunteering and connection. This work builds naturally on the success of the Friendship Café and reflects our growing role as a community organisation working across generations.

Looking ahead, we continue to explore our ambition to develop a dedicated Community Hub for Tetbury – a welcoming and inclusive space where people of all ages can connect, access support and take part in activities that enrich everyday life. Over the past year we have had positive discussions with the Dolphins Recreation Centre about how we might work together to make best use of existing community spaces and create a sustainable base for TAYCT’s work. While plans are still developing, there is shared enthusiasm for creating a hub that reflects local needs and strengthens the social fabric of our town.

As TAYCT continues to grow, we remain committed to providing high quality, locally rooted services that respond flexibly to emerging needs.

We are increasingly aware of the challenges facing many families, including the impact of rising living costs, rural isolation and increasing pressures on young people’s mental health and wellbeing. Working collaboratively with local partners enables us to respond constructively to these challenges and ensure that support remains accessible and relevant to our community.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our staff team, trustees and volunteers, whose enthusiasm, skill and generosity make such a difference to the lives of those we support. We are grateful for the continued encouragement of Tetbury Town Council and the wider network of local partners who share our commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our community.

Together, we are helping to build a stronger, more connected Tetbury, and we look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead.

Suzie Drye
Chief Executive Officer

To find out more about who we are and what we get up to:
tayct.org.uk

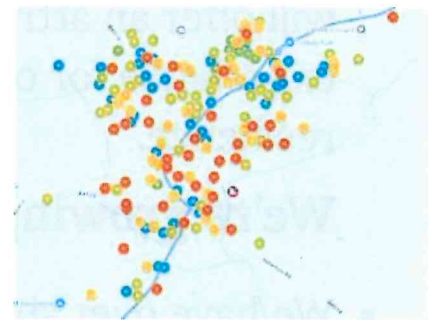
TETBURY GOODS SHED

A R T S C E N T R E



We're doing more than ever before to be an arts centre for everyone.

- More events than ever before: from fantastic tributes to leading classical; popular comedians to captivating theatre productions, screenings, cinema, talks, exhibitions, fairs and festivals.
- A stronger offer for families and young people.
- Daytime offerings for those who prefer not to go out at night, from our highly-affordable, community Wednesday Afternoon Music series, to our new Lunchtime Concert Series with the Royal Academy of Music.



We're improving our building and facilities.

- Installed a 12.5KW solar array thanks to a Rural England Prosperity Fund grant from Cotswold District Council, with additional support from the James Dyson Foundation, Good Energy, Tetbury Lions, Coventry Building Society, and our own friends and supporters.



- Refurbished part of our railway carriage with the support of a Section 106 grant from Tetbury Town Council, creating a new meeting/workshop space, and improved Green Room facilities.



- Upgraded sound and light equipment.
- Secured planning permission for a new café to replace the existing awning at the front of the building. The development will offer an attractive setting for our café, an enhanced experience for our audiences, and boost our financial resilience.

We're growing the team that makes it all possible.

- We have over sixty amazing volunteers who welcome visitors during the day, run our events in the evenings, and carry out essential maintenance.
- Welcomed new Trustees this year and successfully handed over from our previous Chair to our next.
- We began the year having just appointed a General Manager, and finish it with the appointment of a new Marketing Officer, both new roles created to support our growing arts centre.
- Our café continues to provide local jobs.
- Developed new membership programmes for individuals (Angels) and businesses (Sponsors) to support our work.



Tetbury in Bloom

Annual Report 2025-2026



In March 2025 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the current Tetbury in Bloom organisation, and the year that followed proved to be extremely busy and challenging.

Following the driest spring on record, the searing heat and dry conditions that followed in June, July and August 2025, we found ourselves struggling to water everything sufficiently: especially the newly planted bedding geraniums in many of the beds. By the end of August, despite our efforts, and to our great disappointment, most of the annual geraniums had failed to thrive. We therefore decided that for future years, we'd only plant them in the tubs and troughs around the town – these being much easier to keep sufficiently watered.

During the summer months we were also faced with a widespread infestation of Box Moth caterpillar. This affected most of the Box cones and bushes we have growing throughout the town and to deal with this we have already started to remove quite a few of our Box plants and are gradually replacing them with Japanese Holly cones and Euonymus: both of which grow very similar to Box but without the inherent attraction of the Box Moth or the other potential devastating problem of Box Blight.

During the autumn months we embarked on a huge work schedule to revamp nearly all the beds by adding many more permanent plants: long flowering perennials, shrub roses and small evergreen shrubs. Once established these should prove far more resilient to excessive heat and drought conditions.

To enhance the forthcoming displays for Spring 2026, we also planted around 1,800 additional daffodil and tulip bulbs to augment those already in the beds. A further 500 'snowdrops in the green' were also planted in Anniversary Gardens.

Our own fundraising initiative for 2025 was the supply and delivery of 93 hanging baskets to traders and residents: the profit from which helped us to continue the work we do year-round throughout the town.

Our grateful thanks and appreciation go to everyone who has supported us over the past twelve months:

- Tetbury Town Council, not only for their financial support but also for the much-needed practical assistance they give us.
- The Feoffees of Tetbury, St Marys' Parochial Church Council and Tetbury Upton Parish Council, for their generous grants.
- All the people who gave up their time during the challenging summer months to help us keep the beds and displays watered the best we could, and a special thank you to Sian who helped us plant the beds and displays in June.

Without the financial and practical support we receive, we wouldn't be able to continue the work we do in making the town look as good as we can for the benefit of us all.

For more insight into what we have done throughout the town over the years, please visit our website:

www.tetburyinbloom.org.uk

and click on 'What we do'.

Or you can keep up with what we're doing each month by reading our monthly article in the Tetbury Advertiser



UK TOWN OF CULTURE REPORT

In early January the Government announced the launch of the UK Town of Culture 2028. The aim of the competition is to encourage towns of different sizes throughout the country to be creative and encourage their communities to involve themselves in a wide variety of cultural events over a six-month period in 2028.

Towns have the chance to apply for a prize fund of £3m with two runner-up prizes of £250,000. The competition divides towns into three sizes – under 20,000, under 50,000 and under 75,000. If you are short-listed to apply you also get £60,000 to develop your programme for 2028.

As a trustee at the Goods Shed it seemed worthwhile pursuing the idea and after getting together with most of the other arts groups in town we decided to go ahead with an application. We put this in at the end of March and expect to hear the result of the short-listing by the end of May.

What is known as the “delivery group “consists of ten arts groups including The Goods Shed, The Music Festival, Tetfest, The Woolsack Race, U3A, Tetbury Art Society, Tetbury Film Society, TAYCT, HOTS and the Community Choir. What we realised when we all sat down to discuss the application was that it was the first time we had all sat down together, thought about what we offered the community already and which groups we were currently not serving. This is mainly young people and young families, both of whom are hard to involve. The overall feeling was that, whether or not we get on the shortlist, we should put together a programme for the town in 2028 which offers more to those specific groups in addition to all our normal offerings.

To this end we are very keen to find ways to contact these two groups - and others who may have ideas for events they would like to see happen. These could be music and film workshops, events for primary school children and under-5s, games shows for teenagers and family events. We would also like, if feasible, to make some of these events free or with reduced ticket prices.

Once we know whether or not we are on the short list we can plan what to do next. We have backing from the Town Council, who would oversee our application, and our District Councillors as well as the Feoffees and the Lions. We will need to work with local schools and playgroups to find out the sort of things parents would like to see happen and what their children would be interested in. This will be the major part of the project and we would welcome any ideas or support in carrying out this research.

We would also welcome ideas from the general public about the idea and how to develop it.

I can be contacted on carol.paton@tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

**Carol Paton
TGS Trustee**

New Picket Harp Allotment Association

I continue to enjoy being the Town Council representative on the New Picket Harp Allotment Association, maintaining and developing the site.

The community orchard has settled into its new position, and I connected the committee with a local resident, who gave advice on the care of the orchard and the heritage Gloucestershire apple varieties which are there.

Rents have been held for a further year, and the association's funds have been projected for the next 4 years. During 2025 4 plots become free and were re-let and 19 people remain on the waiting list.

The shed replacement programme was completed this year and maintenance will be ongoing.

Finally, I would like to personally thank the entire Committee for their hard work over the year. We welcomed new members, thanked those who have stood down, and particular thanks go to Charlie as Chair and Nigel as Treasurer, whose commitment to the Association makes a real difference.

**Councillor Nikki Ind –
Tetbury Town Council Representative**

GREENING TETBURY

Greening Tetbury is an environmental charity and registered with the Charity Commission in May 2020 (reg. no. 1189693).

We have a website www.greeningtetbury.org, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Examples of the charity's activities for the period April 2025 – March 2026 include:

- During The Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week campaign in June 2025 one of our trustees, a scientist, gave a talk entitled 'Net Zero by 2050?', at the Tetbury Goods Shed Arts Centre.
- Also, during Great Big Green Week, a sustainable fashion show and clothes' swap were held at Tetbury Goods Shed in collaboration with Tetbury WI and the Tetbury charity shops, where over one hundred people attended.
- Regular visits by our volunteers to Tetbury Library where the charity helps to enhance the surrounding grounds for nature and the environment.
- The charity organised hedge planting at a local farm and at Sir William Romney secondary school, totalling circa one thousand saplings. Greening Tetbury also provided volunteers for two other hedge-planting projects in the locality.
- We produced a regular column in the Tetbury Advertiser and took part in events including the Christmas Lights Switch on.

Examples of plans over the next few months:

- A dawn chorus walk on 26 April led by one of our trustees.
- Sponsoring a talk by representatives of Sapperton Wilder, at Tetbury Goods Shed, during Great Big Green Week 2026. Sapperton Wilder is conducting research into how nature and farming can work in harmony to the benefit of all.
- Running a sustainable fashion show and clothes' swap event, Thrifted Threads on Sunday 14 June during Great Big Green Week, along with launching a Make Meet and Mend workshop, which we hope will become a regular fixture.
- In addition, there will be two educational foraging walks along the path to Preston Park.
- The charity has in recent months provided representation to a flood management group, which operates out of Malmesbury. The plan is to help reduce flooding issue there.
- Further hedge planting in the autumn.

**Fergus Dignan and Dan Fletcher,
Co-Chairs April 2026**

GreeningTetbury@gmail.com