



## Newsletter

Issue 1 - Summer 2007



Welcome to this first issue of our newsletter, which we hope will provide you with news, useful updates, case studies, tips and titbits from the Biffaward team.

This summer will be spent reviewing and updating a lot of what we do, to make sure we're as user-friendly as we can be. Our new website is a good example of what we're trying to achieve. It's a long process, but a worthwhile one!

Let us know what you think, and do send through any ideas or items which we could include in the future. We're planning quarterly issues, following each Board meeting. This fits in nicely with our new strategy – read on!

*The Team*

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## Strategy for Giving

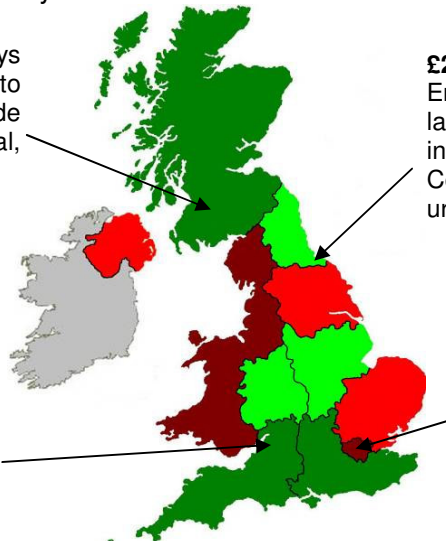
Our new Strategy for Giving has just been published. It sets out what the Board is looking to support over the next three years in a straightforward way, which will help you to write your applications, and us to assess them! We are particularly keen to support more cultural facilities (museums etc), and biodiversity projects. You can download a copy from [www.biffaward.org](http://www.biffaward.org). More on biodiversity later...

## Fresh successes

We're soon to hit another milestone, with £85 million of funding awarded since 1997. Grants made recently include:

**£27,716** to The Waterways Trust to upgrade access to the green corridor alongside the Forth & Clyde Canal, linking communities.

**£30,816** to Christ the King Parish, Thornbury, for essential conservation and refurbishment of Porch House, a Grade II\* listed building and valuable community facility.



**£26,327** to Middlesbrough Environment City Trust for landscaping and interpretation at Linthorpe Cemetery, an important urban greenspace.

**£508,718** to The Father Thames Trust for the London Arcadia project, opening up public space and enhance biodiversity between Teddington and Kew. Read on for more about this project...

Our Grants Officers' regions are:

-  Cath Liverseidge
-  Sally Hovell
-  Cate Brimblecombe-Clark
-  Alison Watson

Some really exciting projects have just been considered by the Board at its June meeting - more news on these next time. With a record number of applications, competition was particularly stiff.



## Biffaward Awards 2007

Congratulations to all those shortlisted projects! By category, they are:

### Buildings for Community and Culture

Denton Methodist Church (TMCP)  
New Village Community Hall (Rock Village Hall)  
Hidden Gardens Cultural Workspace (City Design Co-operative)  
Wittenham Clumps Heritage Landscape Project (Northmoor Trust)

### Community Outdoor Recreation

Community Sports Club All Weather Pitch (Birkenhead Park FC)  
New Herrington Green Improvements (Square Route Group)  
Oakfield Project (Warwickshire Environmental Trust)  
Phoenix Project (St Michaels Square Community Group)

### Natural Environment

Hedley Hall Wood Access (Woodland Trust)  
Save Southdown Ponds (The Harpenden Society)  
RSPB Fairburn Ings Hide (Green Leeds)  
Lower Lee Otter Project (Lea Rivers Trust)

### Small Grants

Comfortable Seating (Holme Afternoon Tea Club)  
Pond Restoration and Woodland Creation (Findern Footpaths Group)  
Gaudi Seat (Wendron CofE Primary School)  
Cricket Equipment (Long Whatton Cricket Club)  
Village Play Area (Bere Ferrers Villagers Group)

The 2007 Awards will be held in October at Manchester's Victoria Baths (supported by Biffaward, also winner of the first BBC *Restoration* series). The event recognises the best of the previous year's completed projects. The overall winner will be presented with a further £5,000 to invest in their project, with category winners taking home £2,000 each. The judges have some tough decisions to make between now and the Awards...

Good luck everybody!

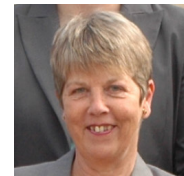


2006 Awards winners with Ed Vaisey MP (4<sup>th</sup> from right)

## Meet the team

In every issue, we'll introduce you to some of the team. There wasn't a rush of volunteers to go first, so let's start at the top...

**Viv O'Connor,**  
Head of Grants  
Unit and Fund  
Manager



Viv has been with RSWT for 21 years and helped to set up the Grants Unit in 1997. She has a wealth of experience and contacts in the world of grants management and environmental issues.

A keen birdwatcher, Viv keeps an eagle eye on all of the programmes that we run from our office in Newark, overseeing more than £150 million of funding so far.

## Making progress... virtually

Our recently re-launched website is generating some good feedback, and we are continuing to tweak, update and add things. By the end of the year we intend to have a new internal IT system which will allow us to do much more – possibly even online applications and reporting! In the meantime, let us know what you think about the new site, particularly if there's anything you like... or not!

## Project news

### GBN's 150<sup>th</sup> ENTRUST project coming up...

The Green Business Network, which undertakes environmental improvements in Calderdale and Kirklees, has received Biffaward funding totalling more than £1.4 million since 1998. Its landmark 'ABLE' project, a 34 acre environmental resource centre in Wakefield, is on track to be extended thanks to an offer of land from Kirklees Council. 'ABLE 2' will be GBN's 150<sup>th</sup> ENTRUST registered project!



### Goods Again wins again!

Congratulations to Warwickshire County Council and Goods Again, who came out tops at the Municipal Journal Local Government Achievement Awards in London last month. Andrew Marr presented the project with the 'Innovating with the Third Sector Achievement of the Year' prize.

Goods Again takes discarded electrical goods out of the waste stream for reuse, and received Biffaward funding in 2003 under ENTRUST Category C. Prisoners at HMP Olney refurbish the appliances which are then distributed to the community, providing a key service for poorer people unable to afford new electrical goods.

### Flagship gets the go-ahead

It's all systems go for one of our newest Flagship projects, the London's Arcadia Ham Reach Tidal Thames Biodiversity project. Biffaward Board Member and RSWT Trustee Roger Dobbs and Senior Grants Officer Cath Leverage escaped the Newark rain in early July and travelled to London to celebrate the project's progress with representatives of the Father Thames Trust.



L-R: Roger Dobbs, Cath Leverage, Cllr Serge Lourie (Leader, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Council), Lord Watson of Richmond (Father Thames Trust Chairman), Drew Bennellick (London's Arcadia Executive Committee Chairman and Head of Partnerships, English Heritage), Jason Debney (Thames Landscape Strategy Coordinator), Sir David Attenborough (Thames Landscape Strategy Patron), Susan Kramer MP, Nick White (Manager, London Biodiversity Partnership).

### Giving nature a helping hand: calling biodiversity projects

Biffaward is launching a new drive to encourage more environmental and community groups to apply for funding to help protect and rebuild the UK's biodiversity.

Biffaward can help all kinds of biodiversity projects, great and small, within 25 miles of a Biffa operation – with funding available from £5,000 to £500,000. Recent Rebuilding Biodiversity projects include:

- £32,628 for heathland restoration on Sandy Ridge, Bedfordshire
- £389,930 for The Great Fen Project - restoring a 'Living Landscape'
- £41,918 for the Lower Lee Otter Project

Martin Bettington, Biffaward's Chairman, says *"The UK's ecosystems face ever greater challenges and we want to encourage more funding applications which will help our wildlife. Biffaward's support for projects such as the Lower Lee Otter Project shows that funding can play a vital role in protecting habitats and species."*

Contact your regional Grants Officer for more information and advice.

### Team talk

Some applicants are seasoned grants pros, and some are treading the path for the first time. There's always something to learn...

### Preparing your claims

We take pride in paying your claims promptly, but when we get incomplete or incorrect papers it causes delays – you don't get your money as quickly! Take time to double check that expenditure you are claiming for is eligible, that you have correctly filled in and signed the forms. It really helps if you can highlight figures and dates on invoices, especially if you have a lot of them.

If there is anything that you would like us to cover in a future issue, e-mail us!



## More project news

### Once Bittern... 'Flash' new pad...

One of Britain's rarest birds has made its home at a Biffaward project site. A male Bittern can regularly be heard booming its mating call across the waters at Wigan Flashes in Lancashire. The mottled brown heron-like bird is one of only fifty recorded in the whole of Britain.



Lancashire Wildlife Trust has been working for over eight years to improve the wetlands at Wigan Flashes, helped by nearly £190,000 of funding from Biffaward. Part of this funding has been used to improve 20 hectares of reedbed which are home to the Bittern and other species such as Reed Warblers and Reed Bunting.

The Trust is hoping that their Bittern's calls will soon be answered and that Wigan Flashes may hear the patter of tiny webbed feet next Spring.

Mark Champion, Wigan Flashes Project Manager, said *"This is like a promotion to the Premiership. There are only 38 sites in Britain lucky enough to have booming bitterns, so we now have to work hard and continue this success into the future"*.

## Recently completed projects

A number of projects have completed their funded work recently, and all deserve credit. A few End of Grant reports which have caught our eye recently include:

### London Transport Museum's educational suite

£51,020 was awarded for the new suite, part of the Covent Garden museum's major £20 million refurbishment, completing this autumn. [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)

### North Scarle Bowls Club, Lincolnshire

A small grant of £5,000 has paid for an automatic watering system to be installed, meaning less maintenance and more efficient use of resources.

### Conservation and modernisation of Blyburgate Hall, Beccles, Suffolk

Rural Action East secured £51,020 on the St John Ambulance Association's behalf for works to ensure that the Hall remains an active community centre.

### Reigate Fort Mobilisation Centre restoration, London

Reigate Hill contains the impressive remains of a mobilisation centre constructed in the 1890s as part of a ring of defences protecting London's southern and eastern flanks from threat of invasion. The National Trust has used grants totalling £155,905 grant towards the Fort's restoration and interpretation.

### Wrekenton Blue Star Football Club changing rooms, Tyne & Wear

£5,000 has provided a generator to power lights, showers and heating for the club's new changing rooms. These essential improvements will benefit local sports teams as well as the community for sports days and festivals, youth clubs and church groups.

## Feeling snappy?

It's great when you include photos of your project with your reports. We can't visit as many of you as we'd like, so photos give us a feel of how things are going and how your project actually looks.

Remember that we're not only interested in the nuts and bolts. If you're taking a picture of your shiny new play area, don't shoo the kids away!

Top tips for photos:

- ✓ If possible, include some people or wildlife – an empty playing field looks so sad!
- ✓ Send them by e-mail if you can – it helps us a lot.
- ✓ Two or three really good images that sum up your project are far better than a CD full of less interesting ones...