



What a summer! Apart from an 'away day' clearing bracken at a local nature reserve (left), we've been busy in the office and visiting projects. A lot has been done on behind-the-scenes things, like changes to the papers which we present to the Board, and developing brand new grants monitoring software. More excitingly, we are mid-way through our review of the Flagship Scheme. More later. Happy reading!

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## Biffaward Awards 2007

Manchester's Victoria Baths proved an excellent venue for this year's annual Awards ceremony, held on 3 October. Winner of the BBC's first *Restoration* series and recipient of its own Biffaward grant, the Baths was a very appropriate place to celebrate and honour the range of projects funded by Biffaward.

In a morning of surprises, the winner of the Small Grants category went on to become the **Overall Winner** – scooping a cheque for £7,000. Presenting the prize to Long Whatton Cricket Club's David Willis (right), Guest of Honour Peter Jones OBE, Biffa's Director of External Affairs, said *"The improvements at Long Whatton show what can be achieved by people with drive and tenacity, together with a modest level of funding. The Club's outlook is bright, having worked to ensure its own sustainability."*



For the judges, making those final decisions was difficult. Congratulations to those who went home with awards in each of the four categories. These are:

### **Buildings for Community and Culture**

**Winner:** New Village Community Hall (Rock Village Hall)

**Highly Commended:** Denton Methodist Church (TMCP)

### **Community Outdoor Recreation**

**Winner:** Phoenix Project (St Michael's Square Community Group)

**Highly Commended:** New Herrington Green Improvements (Square Route Group)

### **Natural Environment**

**Winner:** Lower Lea Otter Project (Lea Rivers Trust)

**Highly Commended:** RSPB Fairburn Ings Hide (Green Leeds)

### **Small Grants**

**Winner and Overall Winner:** Cricket Equipment (Long Whatton Cricket Club)

**Highly Commended:** Gaudi Seat (Wendron CofE Primary School)

**Highly Commended:** Village Play Area (Bere Ferrers Villagers Group)

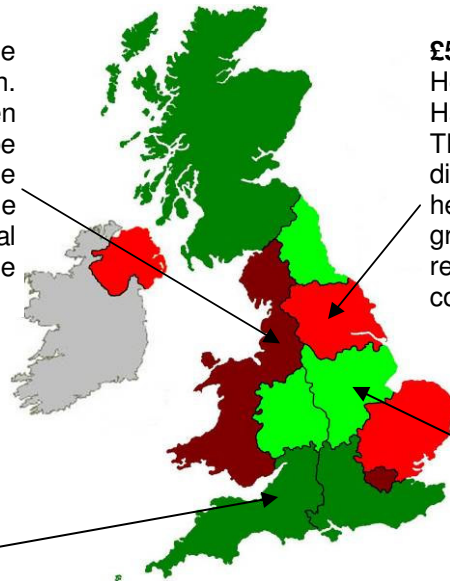


## Money, money, money...

With more than £5 million allocated at the July and October board meetings, there are too many new projects to mention! Some recent grants include:

**£930** to All Saints Grange Bowling Club, Accrington. The Club's old kitchen water boiler will be replaced, adding to the quality of social life for the members, visitors, local community and league teams.





**£17,737** to protect and monitor the rare horseshoe bat at Harridge Woods Nature Reserve in Somerset. Somerset Wildlife Trust will also be improving visitor access and interpretation.



**£51,020** for the new Heritage Lounge at Harrogate's Royal Hall. The Lounge will feature displays of the town's heritage. This is the second grant towards the Hall's restoration, which will be complete in 2008.

**£50,678** to upgrade and improve a 13<sup>th</sup> century building. The former Hermitage is a valuable meeting space for an expanding community near Nottingham.

Our Grants Officers' regions are:

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

## Meet the team

In every issue, we introduce you to a member of our team. This time...

**Katrina Dines,**  
Assistant Grants  
Officer



When you first make an enquiry to Biffaward, it's likely that Katrina will answer you!

Katrina has been with us at Biffaward for nearly 10 years, supporting the team and managing Small Grants projects in London, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland. When she isn't here, she enjoys nothing better than a good game of tennis.

## Recently completed projects

A number of projects have completed their funded work recently, all deserving credit. A few End of Grant reports from the **Small Grants Scheme** which have successfully negotiated the postal strikes recently include:

### **Evington Village Green's 'Forest of Play', Leicestershire**

£4,800 helped Evington's community to turn the village green into a safe and friendly space for games, play and socialising.

### **Lawford Parish Council's 'Riverview Project', Essex**

With £2,485, Lawford Parish Council has been able to improve the village's Riverside Play Area. Biffaward funding paid for new equipment and surfacing.

### **St Thomas' Churchyard project, Derbyshire**

This project has improved the churchyard for the benefit of all villagers. Borders were replanted, paths maintained and new gates fitted with a grant of £2,174.

### **St Mary's Sittingbourne interior refurbishment, Kent**

£5,000 helped to refurbish the church's interior to make it more flexible for wider community use. More groups are benefiting from new chairs and carpet!



## Musing on museums, theatres and all places cultural

As well as encouraging more applications for projects which benefit biodiversity, the Biffaward Board is looking to put a greater proportion of its money towards cultural facilities. Some of our most notable projects over the years have promoted culture and the arts, and we would like to help more.

Biffaward can help all kinds of cultural buildings projects, great and small, within ten miles of a Biffa operation – with funding available from £5,000 to £500,000. Recent examples include:

- £48,724 towards the restoration of Manchester's historic Victoria Baths, much loved by its local community (*see Biffaward Awards article, pg.1*)
- £51,020 to create an education suite at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Buckinghamshire, used by thousands of eager visitors of all ages!
- £51,020 for an education studio/workshop at Bexhill on Sea's newly refurbished, Grade I listed, De La Warr Pavilion – a centre for contemporary arts and entertainment (*below, courtesy DLWP/Bridget Smith*)

If you have a project which needs funding and fits into this category, contact your regional Grants Officer for more information and advice.



## Flagship Scheme review - update

Anyone who has contacted us recently with a Flagship Scheme enquiry will know that the Scheme is currently being reviewed.

Biffaward is wholly committed to continuing the Flagship Scheme, but elements of it need to be refreshed to ensure that funding is awarded most effectively. The application process is to be restructured, and specific priorities will be supported.

Keep checking [www.biffaward.org](http://www.biffaward.org) for more information as it becomes available.

## Team talk

In this issue, we look at something which makes a real difference to applications. Read on!

### Evidencing community support

If there's one thing that sets projects apart from each other when we assess them, it's how community support is demonstrated.

Your project might be very much 'grass roots' – by the people, for the people – but if you don't tell us, we simply don't know. It can make such a difference!

Surveys and questionnaires, reports, news cuttings, letters of support from people who will actually benefit ... they all strengthen your application.

Put them together and send them in!



## Project news and pics

### Project drives home 'green' message

Motorists on the M53 in Merseyside are enjoying what is believed to be a first – a Green Billboard! The revolutionary advertising medium is sited on a new woodland development at Bidston Moss as part of the 'Newlands' project, which has received Flagship funding through Biffaward. Made of living willow, it offers a natural screen from the motorway, reduces noise pollution and increases tree coverage.

### Itching to win

A community-led project to restore a village pond has won the Environment section of the 2007 Warwickshire Rural Community Council Village Ventures Awards and came second overall. Villagers in Long Itchington, Warwickshire, received Biffaward funding in 2005 to save their pond, a key village feature. The Pond Working Party is delighted with the win, and plans to use the prize money to plant more native species around the pond.

### Carp parking ...and other puns

500 carp and rudd have been released into a community fishing lake in the heart of Poole. The new additions mark the completion of a major two year project which has seen neglected sports fields transformed into a new public green space with fresh landscaping, an open stream and wildflower meadow. The area has been renamed Bourne Valley Park after members of the community were asked to give the rejuvenated space, formerly known as Alderney Rec, a new name.

## Annual Report published



Biffaward's Chairman, Martin Bettington, unveiled the 2006-2007 Biffaward Annual Report at the recent Biffaward Awards.

The report, along with a full list of projects supported during the year, is available to download at [www.biffaward.org](http://www.biffaward.org).



New chairs and carpet at St Mary's, Sittingbourne



Return of chalk grassland - Pegsdon Hills, Beds



Wrestlingworth Village Hall's new roof



Play in Prestwood, Bucks - opened by Cherie Blair

## Your questions answered

We like to think of ourselves as an approachable bunch, but sometimes people do have questions which they don't like to ask. Worry not...

**Q** The postcode checker on your website says I'm within 10\* miles of a Biffa site. Is this a landfill?

**A** Biffa has all sorts of sites – landfills, transfer stations, depots, workshops...

If a site doesn't have 'Landfill' in the title, it isn't one. In these cases, you'll need to consult the Environment Agency website or your local council to find out if you have a landfill site within 10 miles. We'll need its name and full address in addition to your local Biffa site information.

\*25 miles of a Biffa site if you are applying with a biodiversity project