

investing in the environment

Farewell Biffaward team members Peter Dorans & Emma Drury-Jones ...

We say farewell to our PR & Promotions Officer Emma Drury-Jones. Emma left RWST in September and Peter Dorans, Grants Officer to Yorkshire & Humberside, East Midlands and Scotland has now moved from the Biffaward team to another post within the organisation in October. Emma and Peter will be sadly missed by all the Biffaward team and we wish them well in their new endeavours. Watch this space for more information on the new recruits...



The Royal Hall, Harrogate



The splendour of the Royal Hall in Harrogate provided the stunning backdrop to this year's annual Biffaward Awards, held on 8 October. Biffaward became involved with the Royal Hall in 2007, providing funds to help repair and restore the Heritage Lounge, sensitively restoring it to its former glory. The awards celebrate the achievements of environmental projects in our communities and acknowledge the everyday heroes who give so much to deliver them.

Biffaward

Royal Society of
Wildlife Trusts
The Kiln,
Waterside
Mather Road,
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG24 1WT

Tel. 01636 670000
Fax. 01636 670001

E-mail:
biffaward@rswt.org

Website:
www.biffaward.org

Programme
Manager:
Gillian French
01636 670000
gfrench@rswt.org

Grants Officers:
Sally Hovell
01636 670049
sahovell@rswt.org

Cath Hare
01636 670051
chare@rswt.org

Alison Watson
01636 670058
awatson@rswt.org

Assistant Grants
Officer:
Katrina Dines
01636 670000
(via switchboard)
kldines@rswt.org

PR & Promotions
Officer:
Louise Veys
01636 670083
lveys@rswt.org

PR & Promotions
Assistant:
Sam Coleman
01636 670104
scoleman@rswt.org

Biffaward Awards Overall Winner 2009

Amongst the winners was **The Bearsted Woodland Trust** who not only won the Outdoor Recreation Category, but was then crowned Biffaward's overall winner securing a substantial cash boost for its amenity.



The Bearsted Woodland Trust, represented by Bernard Head, Trustee of the Bearsted Woodland Trust seen here receiving the award from Roger Dobbs, Biffaward Chairman & Nathan Williams, Outdoor Recreation Judge.

Read on...

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

Biffaward Awards 2009 Winners...

Buildings for Community and Culture

Winner: A New Beginning (Worsall Village Hall)
Highly Commended: Gunville Methodist Church & Community Kitchen (TMCP)

Community Outdoor Recreation

Winner and Overall Winner: Bearsted Woodlands Project (Bearsted Woodland Trust)
Highly Commended: Myatt's Field Park Playground Group (Myatt's Park Project)

Natural Environment

Winner: Protecting the Greater Horseshoe Bat at Harridge Woods (Somerset Wildlife Trust)
Highly Commended: The Nene Valley Project (The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire & Peterborough)

Small Grants

Winner: Middle Bourne Community Wildlife Garden Project (Bourne Conservation Group)
Highly Commended: Restoration of St Mary's Fountain (Friends of Archbishops Park)
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**Money, money, money!
Read on ...**

Biffaward News....

Meet the team

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

Gillian French, Biffaward Programme Manager



Gillian was appointed Assistant Fund Manager at RSWT on the Biffaward Programme in May 2006 and became Programme Manager following her promotion in January 2008 driving the fund forward to new heights.

Gillian graduated at Staffordshire University in 1999, after which she moved to London to work for The Prince's Trust for three years as Contracts Manager, where she managed a national ESF Objective 3 project.

Out of work Gillian enjoys hill walking, photography and spending time with her two dogs.

Mid-December Gillian will be on maternity leave and away from the office until next year. We wish her well and look forward to the exciting new ... Will it be a **boy** or a **girl**?

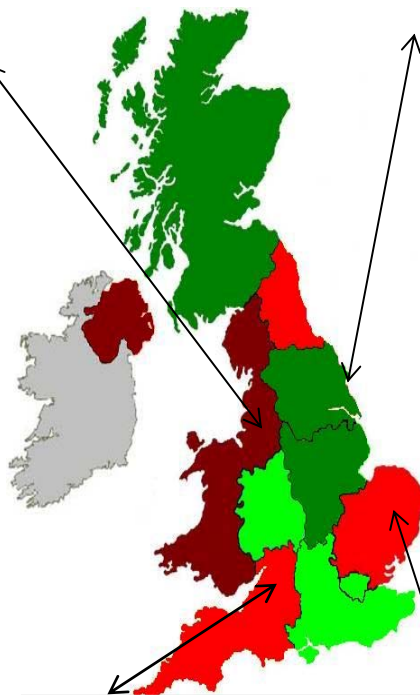
WATCH THIS SPACE!

THE BIFFAWARD SHORTLISTED PROJECTS 2009

The Biffaward Scheme has now been running for over 12 years. It has provided over £100 million in funding and has supported over 2000 projects right across the UK. Look out for these recently awarded projects in your local area.

£47,750 – Victoria Baths, Manchester.

Manchester's historic building Victoria Baths, built 1903-1906, was closed in March 1993 with the costs of maintenance outweighing the income achieved. The trust has been working ever since then to find a way and with the grant from Biffaward, the trust have been able to restore and conserve the Victoria Baths including the Turkish Baths for public use.



£49,662 – Myatt's' Field Park Project Group.

Local children were given the chance to have a say in the redevelopment of old outdated playground equipment, with replacement facilities, which has been designed under the theme of migration – of people, animals, plants and birds. The new equipment features water jets, walls and misters which were developed to allow children to have fun exploring their natural fascination with water.



£17,383 – Saving the Greater Horseshoe Bat.

The greater horseshoe bat is a UK BAP species which has significantly declined throughout northern Europe, and in the UK is restricted to south west England and South Wales. The grant from Biffaward has helped the project to maintain and enhance the breeding sites through improvements to cold cellar areas and the warmer loft area of a derelict cottage in Harridge Woods, and improving conservation management of the reserve to extend the range of habitats available for the bats to roost, breed and feed.

£45,455 – Rural Action East.

Freethorpe Village Hall is the focal point of its rural community, providing facilities for many user groups. With the grant from Biffaward, it has been possible for a stand alone Sports Pavilion to be built, with incorporated changing rooms, bowls viewing area, and clubhouse / community participation, providing a much needed modern facility for a vibrant and growing rural community.

Our Grants Officers are:
Alison Watson, Cath Hare, Sally Hovell



Welcome to the Autumn, 2009
Biffaward Newsletter – Issue 6

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Biffaward News....

Money, money, money...
for you!

Flagship Schemes hotting up...

The beginning of 2009 saw the launch of Biffaward's 2009 Flagship Scheme, where we offer significant funding to major flagship projects. The Scheme awards grants of **£150,000 up to £500,000**.

This year we awarded funding to the **Black Cultural Archives and Peatscapes**. Black Cultural Archives will develop the current archives into a new cultural and heritage centre at Raleigh Hall – a Grade II listed building in the heart of Brixton town centre, London. Peatscapes, a North Pennines AONB based collaborative project will aim to conserve and enhance the internationally important blanket bog habitat within the AONB.



If you would like information on eligibility please [click here](#).

Meet the team

The Biffaward Team at the Royal Hall, Harrogate for the Biffaward Awards 2009. The Biffaward team would like to say a big thank you to our four judges, Mavis Wilkins (Warwickshire Rural Community Council), Mark Fishpool (Middlesbrough Environment City), Tony Richardson (RSPB) and newly appointed judge, Nathan Williams (Director of the Ingleby Foundation).

A big thank you to everyone that attended, from the Biffaward team.



“We are change” “We are Biffaward” Get up to date!
See for yourself ...

The Launch of our Annual Report 2008-09 & Impact Assessment

We have the great honour of introducing you to our 2008-09 Annual Report which gives you a flavour of an incredibly successful year, with almost £6 million awarded to 135 very worthy projects. In addition to this, we commissioned an independent assessment of the true impact of our funding on local communities and our environment. The “We are change” brochure highlights the truly remarkable results from the assessment and shows how Biffaward funding has had a positive impact on our communities. Download these two recently launched documents for all the latest news, including a fantastic poster with the Impact Assessment report. With such a strong heritage and experience we intend to continue to make a difference and support our “Everyday Heroes” now and long into the future.



If you do not wish to receive emails about Biffaward in the future, or you have received this newsletter from a colleague and would like to be included, please let us know at Biffaward@rswt.org. Please get in touch if there is anything you would like us to cover in the next issue.