



Newsletter

Issue 3 – Spring 2008

It's all change here in the RSWT Grants Unit! Several new faces have joined the fold as we prepare to open a new £50 million fund called *Local Food* – part of the BIG Lottery's *Changing Spaces* programme. As for Biffaward, the Flagship Scheme is reopening, and we've made important changes to the Main Grants Scheme. We've also got some staff updates of our own! Read on...

Harrogate's Royal Hall, supported by two Main Grants from Biffaward, looks stunning after its £10.7 million refurbishment.



Important updates...

As we continue to receive high numbers of applications, we have re-worked elements of the Flagship and Main Grants schemes. These improvements will help us to work more closely with applicants to develop successful bids, and support more in our priority categories – Cultural Facilities and Rebuilding Biodiversity.

Flagship Scheme

The Flagship Scheme has been reviewed, and re-opens on **1 March 2008**. For more information, see www.biffaward.org. In summary:

- ✓ Cultural Facilities and Rebuilding Biodiversity projects, within 10 miles of an active landfill and 25 miles of a Biffa operation will be eligible to apply
- ✓ Applications will be accepted during a fixed time frame each year
- ✗ Community Buildings and Recreation projects will no longer be supported through the Flagship Scheme

If you have a regionally or nationally significant project that would benefit from £150,000-£500,000 of funding, and it might be eligible, call us! Your regional grants officer is the first point of contact for Flagships. They will be able to talk through the new application process, offer advice and send you the appropriate form. 1 July is the deadline for the 2008 round.

Main Grants Scheme

Our Main Grants Scheme is to become a two stage process. From **1 April 2008** a new Expression of Interest form will be available. (From **30 April**, we will **only** accept applications made on this new form - any applications received after 30 April using the old form will be returned.) We will assess the completed Expression of Interest forms and invite full applications from the most promising projects.

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Meet the team

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

Sam Coleman,
PR & Promotions
Assistant



Sam has worked at RSWT for 7 years, joining the Grant Unit team in 2003.

Sam is a key point of contact in the PR Team, sending out PR material and arranging for representatives to attend events. She makes sure we're provided for in the office, and will always go the extra mile to help out.

Away from work, Sam looks after her two boys and enjoys cooking. Her homemade pizzas are much talked about! (Oh, and she only wears silly hats for people's birthdays.)

Up, up...

As well as being Head of the RSWT Grants Unit, Viv has overseen Biffaward since it was but a twinkle in Biffa's eye. In January she handed the Biffaward reins to Gillian French, who joined us in 2006 as Assistant Fund Manager. Viv remains Head of the Grants Unit, and Gillian becomes Programme Manager.

And away...

Helen Brimblecombe is leaving our PR Team to work closer to home, taking up the post of Office & Communications Manager at an independent school.

Cate Brimblecombe-Clark (no relation!) isn't really going away, but is moving across the office to become a Grants Officer on our new Local Food programme.

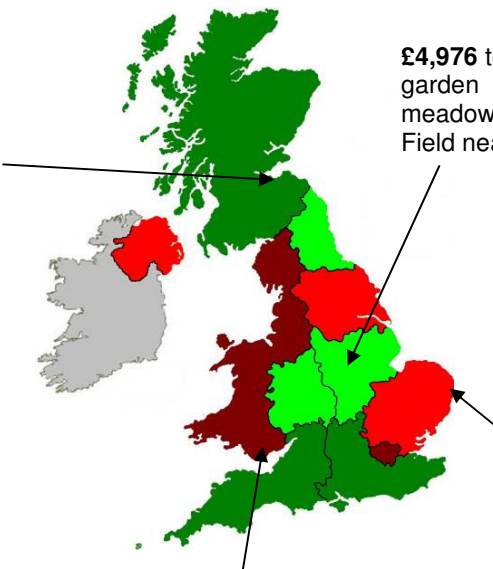
Money, money, money...

Since December, we have awarded nearly £2 million to 60 new Main and Small Grants projects. Some that have recently got underway include:

£468,648 to the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh for The Gateway - the biggest project of its kind in Scotland.

The Gateway will be a hub to encourage more people to learn about biodiversity and environmental issues and the natural world. The state-of-the-art building will regenerate an underused section of the Botanic Gardens, and feature a biodiversity garden, education room and secret garden.

Below: artist's impression



£4,976 to create a community garden and wildflower meadow at Hoton Playing Field near Loughborough.

£51,020 towards the restoration of the last steam herring drifter, the *Lydia Eva*. Docked in Norfolk, the *Lydia Eva* is one of the 60 most important historic ships in Britain.

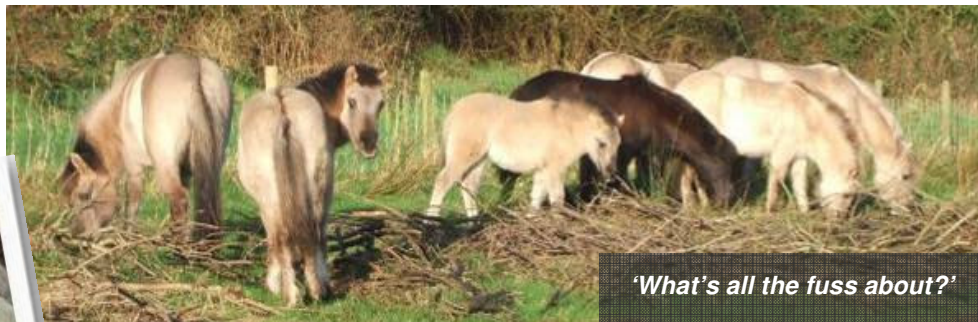
£17,714 to the Welsh WTF Taekwondo Association to develop its community gym and fitness studio in Griffithstown, near Pontypool.

Our regional Grants Officers are:

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



Project news and pics



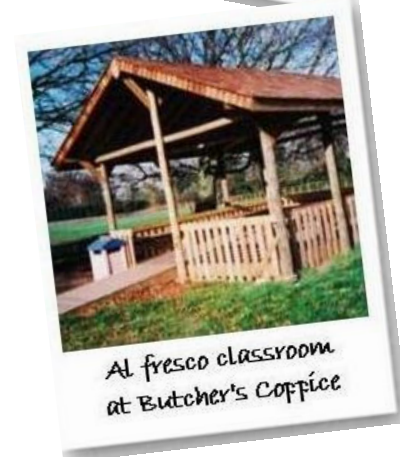
'What's all the fuss about?'



*Enjoying a tasty bite
at Tasty Bites*



*Pushing it - sit-ups
at Elam Street*



*At fresco classroom
at Butcher's Coppice*

The RSPB has released nine Konik ponies – an ancient Polish breed – onto its nature reserve at Portmore Lough, Co Armagh. The ponies travelled from Denmark as part of a Biffaward-funded project to **enhance and restore the reserve's valuable wetland habitat**. The reserve's warden said "We are very excited by our new arrivals and are delighted to have Biffaward's support. The ponies will graze the reserve, keeping scrubland down to benefit species such as lapwing, curlew and the Irish damselfly. The Koniks are well suited to wetland conditions and will be a key part of the RSPB's plans to protect this biodiversity rich wildlife reserve."

Thanks to funding from Biffaward's Small Grants Scheme, an under-used area of Low Simonside Community Centre in Tyne and Wear has been transformed into Tasty Bites Diner – a **community kitchen and lounge area** which enables local residents to socialise and take part in community activities.

Community Association member Christine Burns says "The new Kidz Klub and Walkers Group use the Diner, which has grown in popularity and has become the hub of the Centre."

Groundwork's Healthy Living Site on Elam Street is the first of its kind in Lambeth. Helped by a Biffaward Main Grant, the well-loved park now features an **innovative trim trail, informative health signage and educational wildlife area**. Local residents were invited to try out the trail at a recent opening event.

The final phase of improvements at Butcher's Coppice – a 7.5 acre site set in a residential area in Dorset – has been completed with Biffaward funding. **Landscaping and access works have been carried out, and new facilities installed** including an outdoor classroom, a bouldering wall and two ground-level trampolines suitable for use by children with special needs.



Focus on Flagships

In the last issue, we looked at the types of Cultural Facility projects that we can support. As we prepare to open the new round of the Flagship Scheme, it seemed fitting to take a look at two of our largest grants.

Our first ever Flagship project has recently been completed – wildlife surveillance and interpretation at the newly created Water's Edge Visitor's Centre (right) on the banks of the River Humber. A Biffaward grant of £509,743 went towards the Centre's fixtures and fittings, including the creation of a wildlife surveillance network. The network feeds into the Water's Edge website, where visitors can keep up with the local wildlife thanks to live webcams.



Another major visitor centre is under construction in the Tees Valley. Saltholme International Nature Reserve (below) is a regionally important project. At its heart will be the Saltholme Wild Bird Discovery Centre. Within an iconic building, cutting edge interpretative techniques will be used to provide unique insights into the wildlife of the Reserve. Work on the Centre is well underway (left).



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 also get in touch if there is anything you would like us to cover in the next issue!

It's good to talk...

Funders do like to know what's going on with the projects they support. It's not to trip people up or keep tabs – we're genuinely interested.

Most people keep us 'in the know' by filing regular progress reports with their payment claims. We love interim photos and news – good communication helps us to understand and support your work. Maybe something happens – the weather turns and your project is delayed – let us know, and we can alter your payment schedule. Don't think that 'no news is good news', or that you'll be bothering us with your woes. We can't stop it raining, but we might be able to help and will certainly appreciate the news.