



Newsletter

Issue 4 – Summer 2008

Farewell Viv O'Connor...

We say farewell to our Head of Grants Unit, Viv O'Connor. Viv left RSWT in June after having worked there for a very successful 22 years. She helped to set up the Grants Unit in 1997 and has passed on her wealth of experience to the grants team. She will be sadly missed by all of RSWT, especially the Biffaward team.

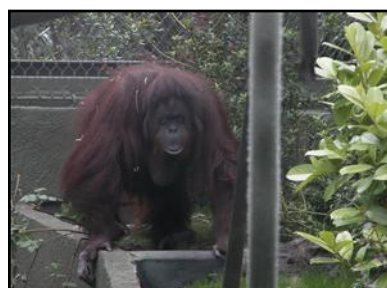
Team project visit at Chester Zoo...



Read on...

Biffaward has funded two projects at Chester Zoo, and the team went along to see their progress. The picture immediately right displays the ongoing progress of the tropical butterfly enclosure. Due to open October 2008, the butterfly enclosure will inspire and educate visitors of the importance of native animals and plants. The public will be transported into an indoor heavily planted tropical area. They will experience a hot and humid setting with colourful butterflies closely flying all around, truly immersed in the lush environment. The zoo will tell the amazing story of their life cycle through colour, shapes and oversized models, appealing to younger children.

The latest exhibit at Chester Zoo is the stunning new 'Realm of the Red Ape'. Themed as an Indonesian forest exhibit it immerses visitors in the world of the forest canopy and its teeming biodiversity. The exhibit houses the Zoos threatened Sumatran and Bornean Orang Utans. Biffaward funded the lift which improves visitor access to the tree-top exhibit.



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 Liverseidge
01636 670051
cleverseidge@rswt.org

Alison Watson
01636 670058
awatson@rswt.org

Peter Dorans
01636 670059
pdorans@rswt.org

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

PR & Promotions
Officer:
Gemma Mitchell
01636 670083
gmitchell@rswt.org

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



Meet the team

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

Cath Laverseidge, Grants Officer



Cath has worked at RSWT for eight years and joined the Biffaward team in March 2006.

Cath is the Grants Officer for Greater London, South East and North East regions. Her job involves providing help and support to applicants; assessing applications; checking all reports; and authorising claims!

Her favourite part of the job is contacting applicants to tell them that they have been successful in their application.

Out of work Cath enjoys running, kickboxing and relaxing with a book or a glass of wine... or both.

Welcome...

Peter Dorans joined the Biffaward team in April as Grants Officer to Yorkshire & Humberside, East Midlands and Scotland.

Gemma Mitchell joined the Biffaward team in June as PR & Promotions Officer.

Money, money, money...

Since February, we have awarded nearly £3 million to 91 new Main and Small Grants projects. Some that have recently got underway include:

£50,000 – Summerlee Scotland's Museum Of Life.

The refurbishment of Summerlee - Scotland's Museum of Industrial Life. Extending over nine hectares, it occupies the former Summerlee Ironworks. It is one of Scotland's most important industrial sites and holds collections of national significance.

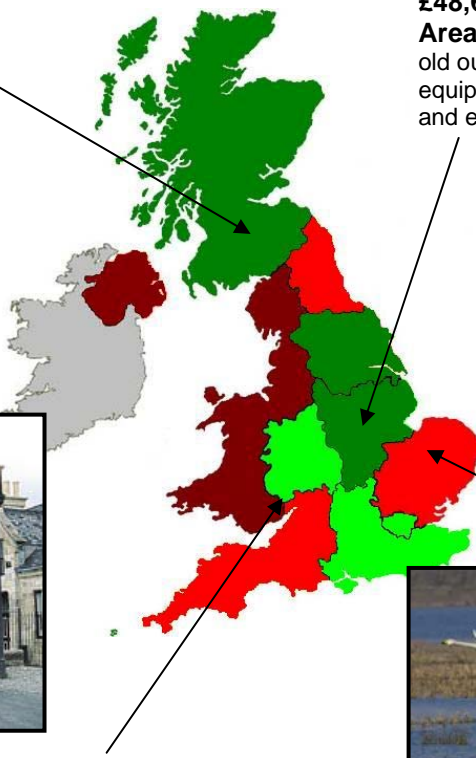


£49,990.00 – Wetlands For Wildlife. The project will maintain and enhance wetland habitats at Gwent Wildlife Trust's (GWT) Magor Marsh reserve; one of the last remaining remnants of the once extensive Gwent Levels near Newport, south Wales.



£48,600 - Doveridge Play Area Project. Replacement of old outdated playground equipment, with safe, modern and exciting facilities.

£40,760.68 – Awash With Wildlife. The project aims to safeguard and improve key areas of floodplain grazing marsh. These habitats will be protected for breeding waders, internationally important wintering wildfowl and a range of BAP species.



Our regional Grants Officers are:

-  Alison Watson
-  Peter Dorans
-  Cath Laverseidge
-  Sally Hovell



Project news and pictures...

First Steps!

Mark Harley, of Biffa Waste Services, visited the launch of the 'First Steps to Folly Wood' project on Friday 18th July, to learn about what the project will achieve.

Biffaward awarded £14,137.95 to The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough, to enable the launch of the 'First Steps into Folly Wood' project. This project will restore and manage the wet woodland of Folly Wood for a variety of wildlife, and improve access for the enjoyment of visitors.



Mark said: "I am very happy to be here today to represent Biffa. I hope this wet woodland reserve will help with the conservation and understanding of a diverse array of wildlife and nature."

He was shown around the wood by Graham Bellamy, the Trust's Conservation Manager for Bedfordshire. Graham explained why the project was so important: "Folly Wood is a rare example of wet woodland. The close tangle of trees, mosses, reeds and ferns creates an air of mystery quite unlike any other kind of woodland, which will fascinate visitors. This project will allow us to ensure that the wood survives for the benefit of wildlife and people long into the future."

New Arrivals!

The pictures to the right are the latest benefactors of Biffaward's funding to a Barn Owl project, supporting and conserving the dangerously low numbers of barn owls in the North Cheshire area. The project is erecting more than 60 barn owl boxes over three years. The boxes are placed high up in trees in suitable hunting habitat. It is great to see that the project has been a success!



Team Talk...

Some funding applicants are seasoned grants pros, and some are treading the path for the first time. There's always something to learn, and we are here to answer your questions every step of the way.

Evidence of Community Support

When assessing applications, Grant Officers look out for 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, questionnaires, petitions, letters of support from people who will actually benefit, will all strengthen your application.

Recently completed projects ...

Centenary Baptist Church refurbishment, March, Cambridgeshire

£5,102 has enabled phase two of the refurbishment of a church hall and its ancillary rooms, via the modernisation of its doors and windows.

Improvements to Gray's Recreation Ground, Duffield

£26,628.54 has helped redevelop a public playground by providing replacement play equipment for children aged two to twelve years.

New Broadwell Village Hall, Rugby

£50,675.51 to demolish an existing wooden hall and replace it with a brick building, providing new, modern facilities and storage space.

Slade Pond improvement, Plumstead Common, London

£1,434.58 funded the continued regeneration of these ponds. An ambitious project, which has improved water quality and provided wildlife habitat.



Questions & Answers...

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 site?

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 an active 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*

The 2008 Flagship Scheme...

The 2008 Flagship Scheme is now closed for applications. We have had a high level of interest in the Flagship Scheme this year.

Many Flagship projects from previous funding rounds are now in full swing. One such project is the Calke Abbey National Nature Reserve Biodiversity Development Project being undertaken by The National Trust. The globally threatened white-clawed crayfish, which is a rare UK BAP priority species, is surviving in at least one of the three lakes in Calke Abbey NNR. The crayfish are surviving in less than ideal habitat conditions due to lake sedimentation. This project aims to remove threats and create a long-lasting, sustainable solution to enable Calke's UK BAP priority species to thrive. The project will achieve these goals by de-sedimentation of the lakes and the creation of a new wetland area to act as a natural sediment trap, preventing further eutrophication. Three weir structures will be sympathetically restored to maximise their role in safeguarding the UK BAP priority species habitats.



The latest update from the project is that the weirs construction is now complete. Survey work on white-clawed crayfish in the weirs has recently been carried out, and shown a population increase of 2,000 per cent from a baseline of two specimens! We wish this project every further success.

Biffaward Awards 2008 is fast approaching....

The annual Biffaward Awards will be held this year on the HMS Belfast, London. An exciting location for the prestigious awards ceremony, celebrating another year of fantastic projects. The short listed projects have been chosen and are currently with the judges. The Biffaward Awards 2008 will feature a film on selected short listed projects, allowing us to see and hear from the people and habitats which have directly benefited from Biffaward funding.

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!

