



Biffaward reaches £100 million in funding awarded!



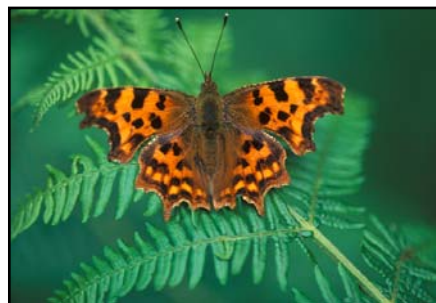
Gillian French, Biffaward's Programme Manager, announced at the Biffaward Awards 2008 that this Autumn, Biffaward reached £100 million in funding awarded. She said "Over 1,800 projects and their communities have benefited from this funding. Biffaward is committed to continuing this rewarding work and ensuring that the next £100 million continues to be allocated effectively, reaching those projects that most need supporting." Such an achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work from the Biffaward team, Biffa Waste Services and the hundreds of projects.



To mark this milestone, Biffaward is funding an extensive project in partnership with the Woodland Trust. The project is called **Biffaward Woodland Walks**, and has been awarded £120,000 in funding, enabling the Woodland Trust to undertake a variety of improvements across 12 woodland sites – from Northern Ireland to the South East of England. The project aims, through a variety of inspirational activities, to promote access to woods and inspire people to enjoy the natural world for recreation, enjoyment and exercise. It will improve understanding of the natural environment and its relationship with human activities through:

- undertaking access improvements
- installing interpretation to increase public awareness
- restoring habitats for wildlife

Work is currently underway and all improvements will take place within 12 months.



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Biffaward Awards 2008...

Who were the winners? See page 3

Partnership projects...

View the latest projects on page 4!



Meet the team

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

**Peter Dorans,
Grants Officer**



Peter Dorans has worked at RSWT for seven months, and previously worked for the Civil Service in the UK and New Zealand.

Peter is the Grants Officer for Yorkshire & Humber, East Midlands and Scotland.

His favourite part of the job is going to meet the projects, seeing the projects take shape and meeting the people who work so hard to improve their communities.

Out of work Peter enjoys travel, cooking, gardening and eating out.

Money, money, money...

Since July, we have awarded over £4.6 million to 72 new projects.

Recently awarded projects include:

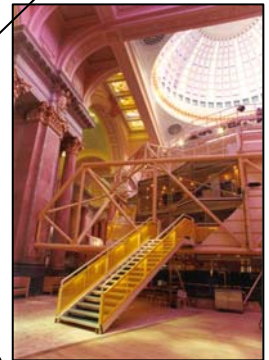
£49,744 – The Colin Glen Forest Park Biodiversity Enhancement Programme

The project will enhance the biodiversity of three key habitats within [Colin Glen Forest Park](#), in Northern Ireland: grassland, mixed ash woodland and open water. It will involve more than 1,000 volunteers.



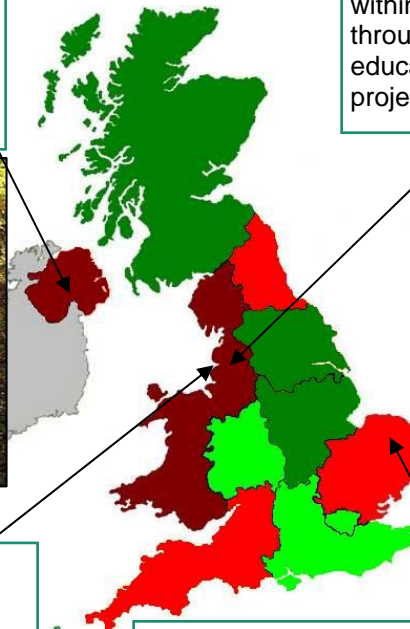
£38,206 – The Royal Exchange Theatre

The project will improve the 'sound experience' for all visitors to the [Royal Exchange Theatre](#) (RET) in central Manchester, both within productions and throughout the theatre's education and community projects.



£5,000 – Bolton Baseball Club Ground

[Bolton Baseball Club](#) in Lancashire aims to increase participation in the sport throughout the Bolton borough by offering introductory sessions to baseball. Funding is requested to develop the club's playing field by improving drainage so it is safer and can quickly recover from periods of rain.



£49,790 – Grazing for Norfolk's Wildlife

This project will expand [Norfolk Wildlife Trust's](#) conservation grazing capacity through the purchase of ponies and sheep, the recruitment of a new livestock assistant and contract shepherd, along with equipment and training.



Biffaward's Grants Officers are:

■ Alison Watson
 ■ Peter Dorans
 ■ Cath Liverseidge
 ■ Sally Hovell



investing in the environment



Biffaward Awards 2008

Twenty community and environmental projects around the country attended this year's Biffaward Awards ceremony, held on board the HMS Belfast, on 09 October. The aim of the annual event - now in its tenth year - is to celebrate the achievements of the community and environmental projects supported by Biffaward, and to highlight the diversity of work made possible by Biffaward's funding.

Tim Lowth, Biffaward's Chairman said: *"The Biffaward Awards is an opportunity to applaud those who have had the determination and commitment to make a real difference to their local communities and environment. I congratulate everyone involved. All twenty finalists are excellent examples of just what can be achieved by drive and tenacity."*



The category winners, who received an exclusive trophy and a cheque for £2,000, were: Great Bowden Village Hall, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (category winner of Buildings for Community & Culture); One Minet Park, Saffron Walden, Essex (category winner of Community Outdoor Recreation); Caldervale Schools Nature Trail, Wakefield, West Yorkshire (category winner of Natural Environment); The Riverside Courtyard, Newport, Isle of Wight (category winner of Small Grants).



ment, considered restoration and reclamation, demonstrated sustainability for future communities and benefited all generations".

Tim Lowth announced the **Overall Winner as Great Bowden Village Hall**, who were presented with an exclusive trophy and a cheque for £5,000. Mavis Wilkins, the Buildings for Community and Culture judge, said *"Great Bowden Village Hall was chosen as the Overall Winner because the project showed simply and clearly good practice regarding refurbishment, considered restoration and reclamation, demonstrated sustainability for future communities and benefited all generations"*.



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 Adam White (Groundwork UK).

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

Team Talk...

The Biffaward team understand that filling out an application can seem daunting. The Grant Officers are available to answer your questions every step of the way.

One of the key things Grant Officers look for in applications is... **Evidence of Match Funding**

When assessing applications and Expression of Interest forms, Grant Officers need to see evidence that match funding for the project is likely to be achieved within 6 months of a Conditional Offer from Biffaward. Match funding relates to all other necessary funding needed to achieve the project's total cost.

Have Your Say! The Biffaward team are always here to listen to any questions or suggestions about the funding programme. All comments are taken on board.



Questions & Answers...

We have a helpful selection of Frequently Asked Questions on our website.

One example is...

Q Who or what is ENTRUST?

A ENTRUST acts on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs as the sole regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund.

ENTRUST's prime responsibilities are to enrol qualifying organisations as Environmental Bodies, and to audit and inspect their activities to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996.

More details can be found on www.entrust.org.uk

Biffaward's Partnership Scheme... Latest projects

The Biffaward Partnership Scheme is an invitation only funding stream for projects which are truly unique and groundbreaking. Let's have a look at two of the latest Partnership projects.



Playing It Naturally, Groundwork UK – Awarded £257,529

Natural play spaces are designed to challenge and inspire children and provide a space for all ages that encourages engagement with natural surroundings and taking acceptable levels of risk. With the funding support from Biffaward, Groundwork is creating a natural play space in Ealing, West London.

The Playing It Naturally space, opening in the New Year, will be made from entirely sustainable materials and encourage natural play for children of all ages. It is not all about brightly coloured metal roundabouts and hard concrete, but instead incorporates grass, sand, bark, mounds, trees and unusual climbing equipment to encourage adventure and creativity in play. The project also involves pupils from local primary schools who have contributed their ideas to the new development. Groundwork sees the Playing It Naturally space as a flagship project for Natural Play.



Coastal and National Floodplain Grazing Marsh Programme, RSPB – Awarded £924,688

Over the last 60 years there have been substantial losses in the size and quality of grazing marsh, estimated to have decreased by 40% since the 1930s. Grazing marshes are invaluable for biodiversity, and are particularly important for the number of bird species they home, especially wading birds like lapwing and snipe. They are also vital habitats for numerous mammals, insects, rare plants, reptiles and amphibians.

The Biffaward grant will allow the improvement of around 950 hectares of dwindling historic grazing marshes, over 13 specific sites across the UK. This covers an area almost three and a half times the City of London. Kim Gutteridge, RSPB, says: "The grant from Biffaward is very significant. Almost a million pounds in one grant will allow us to do 13 exciting projects to help our threatened grazing marshes and give something back to the environment."



If you would like to be added to our mailing list, or you do not wish to receive emails about Biffaward in the future please let us know at biffaward@rswt.org.