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WELCOME

to the 2014/2015 Biffa Award
Annual Review and Awards 2015



**BUILDING COMMUNITIES.
TRANSFORMING LIVES.**

Biffa Award is a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives by awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. The fund's capital comes from landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Group Limited, through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Since launching in 1997, Biffa Award has awarded more than £156 million to more than 3,300 projects nationwide – that's an average of more than 3 projects per week, every week, for the last 17 years.

From fitting out dedicated gallery spaces in independent museums to protecting significant wildlife habitats, over the last 12 months Biffa Award has provided funding to hundreds of projects that are working to transform their local communities and the environment.

In summary, in 2014/15:

- More than £9 million in funding has been distributed across the UK
- 254 projects have been funded, run by 219 different organisations
- 89 community buildings have been renovated or improved
- More than 660 species of wildlife have been protected, and 127 habitats restored
- Thousands of volunteers have given their time to Biffa Award projects throughout the nation

All of our projects aim to bring communities together and make a lasting difference to their local areas and the environment. Together with vital funding from Biffa Award, they continue to make a positive impact in every region of the UK. A few examples can be seen later in the programme by our amazing shortlisted projects for Biffa Awards 2015.

With this in mind, this year's review focuses on how funded projects are Building Communities and Transforming Lives – how by drawing on the drive, determination, expertise and skills of all parts of the community and working with Biffa Award's support, individuals can come together to improve the environment and make their local areas a better place to live.

Biffa Award is proud to have helped thousands of projects over the years to get off the ground and have a positive effect on so many people and communities. Our programme supports projects across four different themes – Community Buildings, Cultural Facilities, Rebuilding Biodiversity, and Recreation.

We offer:

- Small Grants – of between £250 and £10,000
- Main Grants – of between £10,000 and £50,000
- Partnership Grants – under this invitation only scheme, targeted organisations are approached to deliver national projects with a specific theme. Previous beneficiaries include the Freshwater Biological Association, Woodland Trust, the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), and The Wildlife Trusts.

This year's review and awards 2015 programme features: a foreword from our Chairman, John Hughes; a message from Ian Wakelin, Chief Executive of Biffa Group Limited – the company which makes all our projects possible; and a round-up of the year's highlights from our Head of Grants, Gillian French, as well as some key facts and figures relating to Biffa Award funding. You will also be able to learn more about our shortlisted projects for Biffa Awards 2015. In addition, you can head to our website to view our short films that tell some of the year's 'Extraordinary Stories'.

“Biffa Award is proud to have helped thousands of projects over the years to get off the ground and have a positive effect on so many people and communities.”

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF WILDLIFE TRUSTS (RSWT)

Biffa Award is administered by a dedicated Grants Team at the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) – the national charity working to support the work of 47 Wildlife Trusts around the UK.

To learn more about RSWT, please visit:
www.wildlifetrusts.org



FOREWORD

from our chairman

Welcome to this Biffa Award annual review, my fourth as Chairman. I have always been impressed by the consistently high demand for funding from projects across the UK – and this year is no exception, once again we have been over-subscribed with the number of excellent applications outweighing our ability to fund them.

One of our main targets for the year was to continue to meet the Government challenge; to reduce the amount of unspent funds held by environmental bodies by 25% from those recorded in 2010. Having implemented several changes to our criteria and procedures, in March, I was pleased to learn that Biffa Award, along with some of our colleagues across the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), had met the challenge for the second year running.

The LCF is a vital scheme for communities in the UK; not only does funding help organisations build their own capacity and gain the confidence to apply to other funding streams, it also provides other funders with the confidence to invest in those organisations with a good track record in grant management.

I would like to thank all of the Board, as well as Biffa Group Limited and the Landfill Communities Fund, without which this programme would not be possible. On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I thank the Biffa Award team for their continued dedication to the programme and I look forward to another year of inspirational ideas transforming communities across the country.

OUR BOARD

The Biffa Award Board is comprised of the following members:

John Hughes (Chairman)

RSWT nominated representative

Allan Bantick

RSWT nominated representative

Linda Butler

RSWT nominated representative

Mick Davis

Managing Director, Landfill & Chemical Treatment Division, Biffa Group Limited

Jacqueline Doone

Indirect Tax Manager, Biffa Group Limited

Rob Jones

Group Environment & Sustainability Manager, Biffa Group Limited



JOHN HUGHES

Chairman, Biffa Award

Founded more than 100 years ago by the Biffa family as a haulage business largely dedicated to the collection of ashes, dust and clinker from coal-fired power stations in the London area, Biffa has developed and grown over the years and today it is the leading nationwide integrated waste management business providing collection, treatment, recycling and technologically-driven energy generation services.

Through the expertise of our people and investment in technology we promote and deliver sustainable waste management solutions. Since 1997 Biffa has been donating capital from landfill tax credits to RSWT, which uses the funds to award grants under the fund name Biffa Award, to projects aiming to improve the environment and quality of life in communities close to landfill sites.

I am very proud of the £156 million we have provided to date for thousands of inspired community and environmental projects. It is always a pleasure to hear the uplifting stories about the impact of these varied initiatives on those involved and the wider communities they benefit. By working together with Biffa Award and the groups who run the projects on the ground, we are improving communities and the environment all around the UK, making better places for both people and wildlife to thrive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated people who deliver these projects as well as the team at RSWT who do

an admirable job in providing support and guidance to enable people from all walks of life to access vital funds through Biffa Award.

Since 1997 Biffa has been donating capital from landfill tax credits to RSWT, which uses the funds to award grants under the fund name Biffa Award, to projects aiming to improve the environment and quality of life in communities close to landfill sites.



IAN WAKELIN

Chief Executive,
Biffa Group Limited

BUILDING COMMUNITIES. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

2014/2015 Highlights

It is a pleasure to report on another very successful year for Biffa Award – we continue to award funds to hundreds of vital projects all over the country and to help make people's inspirational visions for local communities and the environment come alive.

Within a landscape of ongoing economic difficulty, the need for people to come together in their communities, and work with funders to turn their ideas into a reality has never been more important. With this in mind, it has been an honour to represent Association of Distributive Environmental Bodies as chair this year during such an important time, while we work with HM Revenue & Customs to help to ensure funding continues to be available (and as effective as possible) for community projects across England, Wales & Northern Ireland during the reform of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

Among our list of funded organisations, which you can explore on our website, there are countless examples of Friends' Groups, Sports Clubs, Church Committees, Community Interest Companies, Residents' Associations and other groups of volunteers who by working together and in association with Biffa Award have delivered highly successful projects for the benefit of local people and wildlife. These organisations demonstrate how by drawing on the expertise and enthusiasm of the whole community, individuals are empowered when they work together and are able to build communities and transform lives to make a real difference to the people and the environment in which they live.

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GILLIAN FRENCH
RSWT's Head of Grants

MEET THE BIFFA AWARD TEAM

To meet our wonderful team and find out which Grants Officer is responsible for which UK region please visit our website:

www.biffa-award.org/contact-us



MAVIS WILKINS

Former Community Buildings
Adviser, Warwickshire Rural
Community Council
(Retired April 2010)



For 27 years, Mavis was responsible for around 250 community buildings throughout Warwickshire and Solihull, giving advice on grant availability, advising committees on charity status, legal licensing and Hallmark training. Following her retirement, Mavis decided to join her local University of the Third Age group, enjoying sharing her knowledge and meeting other specialists in many different fields of work. Since 2011 she has also been involved with an established charity on her doorstep which is endeavouring to renovate, refurbish and return an old building into community use. This is the ninth year for Mavis of judging the Biffa Awards Community Buildings category.

Mavis' hobbies include her passion for family history research, old-fashioned letter writing, catching up with friends, National Trust visits, and reading.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

SICKLINGHALL VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT SCHEME

Sicklinghall Village Hall



REGION: Yorkshire & Humber

AWARDED: £49,980

Sicklinghall Village Hall has been the heart of the community since 1952, regularly hosting a playgroup, yoga sessions, church groups and a host of other organisations. Unsurprisingly after 60 years of continual use, and as the only bookable community building in the village, the facilities were in desperate need of attention.

In 2013 the village hall committee applied for Biffa Award funding to bring this much loved community building into the 21st Century. The grant has allowed for a significant extension to accommodate a new toilet block and access has been improved with a raised patio and French doors. Installing building wide insulation and double glazing has led to a 40% reduction in heating costs. These improvements have greatly benefited the experience of users and helped to realise the ambition of creating a 'cleaner, greener village hall'. With grand plans to hold even more events next year, it's an exciting time for the village of Sicklinghall.

"As the only community hall in the area it truly is the heart of our village life.

Thank you Biffa Award for making all of this possible."

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

EXTENSION TO SHELLEY VILLAGE HALL

Shelley Community Association



REGION: Yorkshire & Humber

AWARDED: £50,000

Shelley Village Hall has been the cornerstone of the community for many years, used by local residents for meetings and events as well

as housing an outreach Post Office and MPs surgery. With all of this activity, an additional room was required to service the high demand for the building.

The ambition of the Shelley Hall committee was not to continue on as they always had, but to fill gaps in community need. A Biffa Award grant of £50,000 helped to realise this ambition. The new extension is a self-contained unit with its own toilet, heating and kitchen facilities so is adaptable and user friendly for a variety of user groups. The hall now offers a meeting space for fledgling groups offering more diverse opportunities for the community.

"The Biffa Award grant was a life-saver and game-changer"

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

RAW MATERIAL MUSIC AND MEDIA EDUCATION CENTRE

Rawfuture



REGION: London

AWARDED: £19,860

Raw Material, Music & Media Education Centre supports young people from a variety of backgrounds, including the unemployed and those with mental health problems. Raw Material encourages them to advance their education in the creative and expressive arts through workshops, courses and creative sector training. The centre lacked an adequate heating system

and became unusable in periods of bad weather and the winter months. The Biffa Award grant of £19,860 was used to install a new heating and lighting system. This change has made a marked difference to the mental health programme creating a building where people can mix and engage with others. The award enabled Raw Material to raise further funds to complete the refurbishment of the studios and education rooms, rewire the centre and add new lighting and technical equipment. These improvements have made the centre a safe, warm and comfortable place for vulnerable people to study and improve opportunities through the arts.

“The direct and open way in which we were able to approach Biffa Award made this project possible.”

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

HARMSTON MEMORIAL HALL

Operation Heartbeat



REGION: East Midlands

AWARDED: £49,500

Harmston Memorial Hall provides the only community meeting space for entertainment in Harmston, a rural village with limited transport links. The 1920s building was in need of modernisation as the kitchen and toilet facilities

made it difficult to cater for large events. ‘Operation Heartbeat’ set about improving the facilities which would bring the hall up-to-date, and ensure it was usable for the next generation.

The funding was used to create a significant extension for a new kitchen, toilet and storage facilities and a usable multi-purpose outside space. Since completion in August last year there has been a notable increase in the usage of the building which has hosted 39 events including; 4 wedding receptions, 2 christenings and 8 birthday parties!

“Such valuable funding makes a big difference to small rural communities, with very limited facilities, in order to maintain what assets there are, such as a village hall.”



THE BIFFA AWARD SMALL GRANTS SCHEME PANEL



Rob Jones, Group Environment and Sustainability Manager, Biffa Group Limited

Biffa is a leading nationwide integrated waste management business providing collection, treatment, recycling and technologically-driven energy generation services. Biffa Award is Biffa's environmental trust fund, and Rob has represented the company on the Biffa Award board since July 2011, and on the Small Grants Scheme Panel since January 2012.

Cath Hare, Deputy Programme Manager, Biffa Award

Cath has been Deputy Programme Manager of Biffa Award since September 2011 and a member of the Biffa Award grants team since 2006. Cath has a wealth of expertise in grants distribution and management for a wide range of community and environmental projects nationwide.

Patience Thody, Director of Operations, The Wildlife Trusts

Patience came to TWT from the banking sector and has vast experience of operations and HR, having held senior positions at Lloyds TSB during an 18 year career. During this time she managed large teams across numerous operational disciplines and had HR responsibility for more than 1,000 staff. She joined RSWT in 2008 to apply her passion for releasing talent to a cause closer to her heart and became Director of Operations which incorporates the Biffa Award team in March 2014.

SMALL GRANTS

COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

Bierley Community Association Limited



REGION: Yorkshire & Humber

AWARDED: £7,145

The Bierley Community Association on the outskirts of Bradford, are committed to ensuring that the Life Community Centre is a place that residents want to visit, and can provide quality resources to user groups. The much used building was tired, and there had been

concerns raised over the condition of the facilities.

The funding has paid for new eco friendly flooring throughout the centre and the installation of fire doors. These improvements have helped to create a cleaner, lighter feeling to the building. The centre is attracting more people than ever before, through a weekly timetable of activities and one-off community events. New people to the centre have commented on how welcoming the building feels and have helped bring the centre back to life.

“The building now has an added vibrancy as more and more people come to participate in activities and make use of all it has to offer”

SMALL GRANTS

GALLERY AND EVENTS SPACE REFURBISHMENT

Birmingham Open Media



REGION: West Midlands

AWARDED: £10,000

Opening in 2014 Birmingham Open Media (BOM) is the West Midland's newest centre for photography and digital media. The transformation of a derelict building into a

gallery and events space has changed an eyesore into a bright, welcoming place for the community.

The Biffa Award funding helped turn the shell of a building into a simple, practical space to engage visitors in creative projects. The space has been used to deliver programmes for a variety of events from Chinese New Year origami to an exhibition exploring the science behind the 'gay gene'. BOM has worked hard to build relationships with schools and formed new partnerships with the City's Universities. This project has helped the fledgling art centre to secure a bright future as a dynamic, creative organisation.

“Without the grant, the refurbishment simply would not have been possible.”

SMALL GRANTS

TATTERSHALL CARRS – BENEFITTING BATS

Woodland Trust



REGION: East Midlands

AWARDED: £10,000

Tattershall Carrs is 28.94 hectares of woodland in Lincolnshire, comprising the last remaining area of ancient, wet, alder-dominated woodland that once ringed the border of

The Fens. This wood has had an interesting past, and was once part of RAF Woodhall Spa, key structural elements of this remain. The Woodland Trust who manage the site, applied for funding from Biffa Award to help utilise existing WWII air raid shelters for the benefit of the wood's bats.

The installation of 96 bat boxes and 44 bat blocks offered new roosting and hibernation opportunities for the bats, and the conversion of 11 air raid shelters has allowed a dedicated team of volunteers to more effectively monitor and attend to bat populations.

This second life for the WWII structures has conserved an important part of local history; along with protecting the 8 resident species of bat.

SMALL GRANTS

FOCUS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY (KITCHEN)

Elsing Memorial Village Hall



REGION: Eastern

AWARDED: £8,263

Built in 1999 Elsing Memorial Village Hall in Dereham, Norfolk is a much loved, and well used. The facilities have been well looked after but the kitchen was not designed to meet current demands of the hall and was no longer fit for purpose.

The Biffa Award grant funded the refitting of the hall's kitchen and new appliances to improve the usability for volunteers. This has enabled the hall to cater for larger groups of people, more effectively. The monthly Saturday markets which feature full English Breakfasts are attracting more attendees than ever before, and the Hall hosted its first ever Medieval Banquet earlier this year!

"In short, it has made the world of difference to us... Thank You!"



MARK FISHPOOL

Director, Middlesbrough
Environment City



Middlesbrough Environment City is a charity that promotes healthy and sustainable lifestyles. Each year, the organisation undertakes around 40 projects that engage local communities in tackling climate change and living more sustainably. This includes encouraging more people to grow their own fruit and vegetables and running the Middlesbrough Cycle Centre.

Previously, Mark worked as a Project Manager at Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and Groundwork Hertfordshire. He studied for a PhD at the University of Wales in Cardiff, investigating the role of preserved land snail remains in interpreting the environment of archaeological sites in north Wiltshire. Mark is married with two daughters. He is a keen bird watcher and also enjoys gardening, cycling, walking and classical music. Mark has been judging the annual Biffa Awards since 2005.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

QUORN GOODS YARD ENHANCEMENT

The David Clarke Railway Trust



REGION: East Midlands

AWARDED: £46,416

Quorn and Woodhouse station formed part of the Great Central Railway, as a working yard allowing for the transportation of goods

around the country. The station also played an important part in WWII where the station was used for personnel travelling from Bletchley Park to their second site at Beaumanor Hall.

The David Clarke Railway Trust believed the public should have greater access to this piece of history so submitted an application to Biffa Award. Their vision was to demonstrate what a rural railway goods yard of the steam era was used for and how it contributed to the local community. Funding was used to build a timber goods platform, refurbish the station stairs and roof, construct a veranda on the café and convert a dilapidated tin building into a usable classroom and community space.

Since opening the station has hosted a science education week and entertained over 5,000 people at a bonfire night fireworks event.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

LAVENHAM GUILDHALL REPRESENTATION

The National Trust



REGION: Eastern

AWARDED: £46,750

Built in 1529 as a religious meeting place by the Guild of Corpus Christi, Lavenham Guildhall is one of the most important timber-framed buildings in the country.

The National Trust applied to Biffa Award to help create a new exhibition which would redefine the narrative of the museum. 'Our village through time' brings the colourful 500 year history of the village and the hall to life. The exhibition told through the voices and experiences of real-life characters helps to create a sense of people and place, telling the story of Lavenham through time.

Since the exhibition opened volunteer numbers have almost doubled, the highly passionate team delight in sharing the stories of the Guildhall with visitors. The Biffa Award grant has enabled the local community and the historic residents of Lavenham the opportunity to find their voice, and the newly created community exhibition space offers residents a platform for volunteer-led exhibitions.



REGION: Wales

AWARDED: £49,145

Chapter has been hub for creativity in Cardiff for over 40 years. The multi arts venue produces and presents live performance and film and offers dynamic social spaces.

As one of the first art centres of its kind in the UK, the institution attracts more than 800,000 visitors a year. Despite these numbers, the bookable community spaces had received no attention since 1971 and were in desperate need of refurbishment. The funding from Biffa Award allowed for the refurbishment of three popular hire spaces, including installation of double glazing, black out blinds, and new radiators.

The redeveloped spaces are now used by over 200 community groups every year including; martial arts, dance and drama workshops. As well as improving the physical condition of the building the project has demonstrated its commitment to the community groups who call Chapter their home.

“The project has helped transformed Quorn and Woodhouse station into a more attractive destination in its own right rather than just a stop on the mainline.”

“The grant from Biffa Award has enabled us to put the Lavenham Guildhall back in the heart of the local community, by telling the stories that matter to the local community.”

“The funding from Biffa Award allowed for the refurbishment of three popular hire spaces, including installation of double glazing, black out blinds and new radiators”





NATHAN WILLIAMS

Director,
The Innovation Foundation



The Innovative Foundation is a registered charity providing opportunities and support throughout Warwickshire to people who have physical and/or learning disabilities, mental health problems or are recovering from an illness or a difficult time in their lives. Nathan founded the charity in 2009 and its work includes a three and a half acre Horticulture Therapy site, Thisledome (or This'le do me) providing training and work/voluntary experiences for the local community and those in need incorporating the Foundations ethos of 'Inclusion, Progression & Recreation'.

Nathan also works in partnership with approximately 12 other charities supporting their strategic development and financial security via devising and implementing 'Income Diversification' models for the organisation. He has previously worked for organisations such as a Local Council for Voluntary Service, supporting the voluntary and community sector through training and advice.

He holds an honours degree in Geography and Economics from Coventry University and in his spare time enjoys going to concerts and listening to music. Nathan has been judging the annual Biffa Awards since 2009.

RECREATION

CANAL WOOD – ENHANCEMENT FOR EVERYONE

Woodland Trust



REGION: Northern Ireland

AWARDED: £40,094

Canal Wood was a hidden gem of low lying wet woodland alongside the old canal near Poyntz Pass, Armagh. Two local enthusiasts spotted the potential for the wood to become an asset for the public and organised regular work parties to open up the wood for the

community, but their ambitions didn't stop there. Working with the Woodland Trust the local volunteers applied for Biffa Award funding to improve accessibility and public awareness.

Funding has improved paths, bridges, benches and signage, as well as creating a main visitor entrance and education boards to help the community further engage with the wood. Investment has been made in training passionate volunteers to help inspire future generations to connect with nature.

"Before the project, Canal Wood was a sleeping beauty, unseen and appreciated by the community. Inspired by volunteers generations have come together to restore and improve this valuable green space, which will be enjoyed for years to come."

RECREATION

POOL PIECE 'VILLAGE GREEN' IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Community Voluntary Action, Ledbury & District



REGION: West Midlands

AWARDED: £28,171

The Pool Piece Village Green Working Group together with Community Voluntary Action in Ledbury, Hertfordshire applied for a Biffa Award grant to bring life back into 'Pool Piece',

the village green. The site was underused, overgrown and liable to flooding. The steep slope also made access difficult and limited the events and functions that could take place on the site.

The funding has considerably improved access, including the creation of a banked auditorium area and the building of an arched bridge over the stream. New play equipment and lawn games are now a permanent feature, to the delight of adults and children alike! Pool Piece has become a defined centre for the village and a real asset to the community.

"This has given a real community space to the village which is not only attractive but multi functional. It provides a safe area for children and an area for village events"

RECREATION

MULTI USE GAMES AREA

The Friends of Bilbrook



REGION: West Midlands

AWARDED: £46,997

The Friends of Bilbrook formed in 2011 to improve the facilities for more than 3,000 local households in their local area. There were few recreational facilities for young people and those existing were in need of updating.

The Friends of Bilbrook applied for a Biffa Award grant to create a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), giving the young people of Bilbrook somewhere to meet their friends and get active. Funding has provided new ground works, fencing and dugout shelters, football goals and basketball hoops, along with a multi use court with markings for three sports. Local children were involved from the beginning and the results of those consultations helped develop the final site design, so the games area is not only designed to their specification but a project the community can feel real ownership in.

"The Biffa Award grant has realised a dream for us. To see young people and families enjoying the MUGA daily and realise the difference it's made to their self-esteem and confidence is immeasurable."

RECREATION

ALL WEATHER CRICKET NETS

Glasshoughton Cricket Club



REGION: Yorkshire & Humber

AWARDED: £43,133

Glasshoughton Cricket Club has been part of the local community for over 100 years. This impressive history meant that with the cricket square in near constant use, practice facilities were limited.

The club applied for Biffa Award funding to install a two lane batting net with an all-weather surface, the only one of its kind within a 20 mile radius. As part of the Glasshoughton Community Centre this grant has enabled the centre to offer another sport for visitors to engage in. The club themselves have benefited as the all weather surface has meant that they can practice more often.

The club has grand plans for these new facilities, to work alongside partner schools, organisations and other clubs to help bring cricket to the whole community.

"As we said in our bid we have been part of our community for over 100 years and with the help of the Biffa Award have meant the next 100 are already being planned and developed."



TONY RICHARDSON

South West Regional Director,
RSPB



For 32 years, Tony worked for the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, mostly at its Slimbridge headquarters, working on wetland reserves, waterbird breeding programmes, wider wetland conservation and visitor centre developments. This included six 'fantastic' years as the charity's Chief Executive, which saw the opening of the London Wetland Centre in Barnes and the completion of a major Millennium Project at Slimbridge.

In 2003, Tony moved to South Devon to become the RSPB's Regional Director for South West England where he can be found today. Tony, who was until recently a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Committee for the South West, has been judging the annual Biffa Awards since 2001. He is a Board member of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Environment Partnership and represents biodiversity on the Climate South West Forum.

When not doing the above, Tony enjoys gardening for wildlife and absorbing himself in nature whenever possible.

REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY

PARC SLIP BIODIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales



REGION: Wales

AWARDED: £50,000

Parc Slip is the flagship reserve for the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW), and consists of a number of fields, boarded by wildlife habitats such as hedgerows, scrub,

woodland and wetland. Biffa Award funding has allowed WTSWW to create and restore 2.5 ha of arable crops, 4.5 ha of wildflower meadows, 20 new scrapes and ponds 8 ha of marshy grassland and 2 ha of conifer forest. These improvements have helped increase habitat variety and biodiversity.

Over the two year period the project benefited from the hard work of over 200 volunteer days and over 20 school visits. The green fingered efforts of one local school, who worked hard growing kidney vetch seedlings, contributed to the first successful breeding of the UK's smallest butterfly (the small blue butterfly) on the site in over 5 years!

"Without the Biffa Award grant, none of the above could have been achieved."

REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY

CONSERVING THE PAINSWICK VALLEY'S RARE BUTTERFLIES

Butterfly Conservation



REGION: South West

AWARDED: £48,566

Butterfly Conservation, working in the Painswick Valley, Gloucestershire work to protect Britain's butterflies. This project aimed to restore lowland calcareous grassland habitat to re-establish functioning metapopulations of two threatened species, the Large Blue and Duke

of Burgundy. Both species share a similar geographical range yet have very different habitat requirements.

Biffa Award funding allowed for an ecological contractor to best assess the needs of the two different butterflies and allow for strategic planting in specific locations. A team of staff and volunteers worked hard to restore 2.3 hectares of scrub land planting cowslip and wild thyme. This rejuvenated habitat allowed for the re-introduction of the Large Blue butterfly which has proved highly successful. Improved biodiversity in the area meant that the Duke of Burgundy butterfly returned of its own accord.

"The funding for this project has been instrumental in allowing us to re-introduce a previously extinct butterfly into a new network of sites in the UK"

REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY
WATER VOLE REINTRODUCTION
Gwent Wildlife Trust



REGION: Wales
AWARDED: £39,333

Water voles are an intrinsic part of any healthy wetland ecosystem; they were once common in Magor Marsh, in South Wales. The historic introduction of a non-native predator,

the American mink, had led to a sharp decline in their numbers across the UK.

Gwent Wildlife Trust applied for Biffa Award funding to help control the mink population, so water voles could be reintroduced in a safe environment. Mink rafts were installed to monitor and humanely control numbers around the site, along with vole feeding rafts to help observe the illusive mammal. Over 80 volunteers were recruited to help survey the populations of both animals. This investment in recruiting committed volunteers has ensured that the mink population is managed in a sustainable way. Since the reintroduction the water vole populations continue to rise in the area, the local residents of Magor have embraced the little mammal as a much loved local asset, and visitor numbers have increased.

REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY
RETURNING EDEN'S MEADOWS
Kent Wildlife Trust



REGION: South East
AWARDED: £49,225

Since the 1930s, an estimated 97% of the UK's species rich lowland hay meadow has been lost nationally. The fragmented and isolated nature of the remaining sites inhibits natural colonization, and leads to a decline in complexity. The Kent Wildlife Trust applied to

Biffa Award to help restore 9 lowland meadows totaling 25 hectares in Eden Valley, contributing to a whopping 35.7% increase in lowland meadows countywide.

The project helped connect the 9 sites to facilitate haymaking and aftermath grazing on the meadows; the traditional land use of much of rural Kent. Education has been essential in the delivery of this project; by developing strategic plans with local farmers the Trust could secure the long term management of these crucial habitats.

"This grant allowed Kent Wildlife Trust to ensure that our natural environment will continue to be an integral part of communities, transforming the lives of all who come into contact with it."

FUNDING SUMMARY

Total Awarded	£7,986,931
Other repayments and withdrawals	-£569,961
Grant Total	£7,416,431

FUNDING BY THEME AND REGION 2014/2015

Funding by Theme

Community Buildings	24%
Cultural Facilities	12%
Rebuilding Biodiversity	32%
Recreation	32%

Funding by Region*

Biffa Award aims to allocate funding in proportion to regional population. However, in any particular year, major projects, the number of applications received and other factors may create apparent anomalies.

East Midlands	11%
Eastern	10%
London	3%
National	12%
North East	4%
Northern Ireland	3%
North West	7%
Scotland	3%
South East	8%
South West	9%
Wales	2%
West Midlands	19%
Yorkshire & Humber	9%

*All statistics in this review represent the total funding that was awarded in 2014/15. Withdrawals and other repayments may have been made since.

OUR PROJECTS ARE BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND TRANSFORMING LIVES – WHAT WILL YOU DO?

You too can help to make your community a better place and improve the environment by working together with Biffa Award.

You could become a volunteer and get involved in one of our existing projects – visit our website www.biffa-award.org and use our interactive map to view Biffa Award projects in your area – you might be surprised by just how much is happening near you.

Or maybe you would like to start your own ‘Extraordinary Story’ by setting up a project along with others in your local community. Get inspired by the stories on our website, and check your eligibility for funding.

Our communities are stronger when they work together – **what will YOU do?**



www.biffa-award.org Twitter: [@BiffaAward](https://twitter.com/BiffaAward)

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