



Building communities. Transforming lives.

© Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Emmett Hill



© Roger Kimberley-Scott: Winterton Bowling & Recreation Club



© Scotter Playpark



© Littleworth Community Association



# Annual Review 2020-2021



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# Foreword

As I complete my fifth year as Chairman I look back on what has been an unprecedented year for everyone. As we entered 2020 little did we know what was about to happen and how it would affect all our lives.

Covid19 had a huge impact on our applicants, not least during the first national lockdown of 2020 when community centres, village halls and sports clubs joined businesses in closing their doors. Tradespeople also had to down tools meaning projects could not progress.

I am pleased to say that we were able to support all of our applicants during this time to ensure they did not lose out on funding because of Covid19. At the same time continuing to accept new applications and distribute funding at a time when many other funders were forced to pause.

I am extremely proud of the Biffa Award team and how they carried on regardless, adapting to new ways of working and new challenges to ensure we could continue to do what we do best, build communities and transform lives!

As I look back at the past year it is with great pride. Despite the global pandemic, Biffa Award was still able to grant nearly £3million to community organisations and charities as part of the Landfill Communities Fund.

This funding was distributed to 25 community and biodiversity projects through our Main Grants Scheme and some fantastic large-scale Partnership Grants Scheme projects – you can read a bit more about those later, but I don't think it can be underestimated just how impressive a feat this was.

Since 1997 we have been able to award more than £180million to projects in the vicinity of landfill sites. In this Annual Review you will see a small snapshot of what Biffa Award has achieved during this past monumental year.

*Andrew Moffat*  
Biffa Award Chairman





# Overview

Over the last year, at a time when the world has faced a global pandemic, we have witnessed communities pulling together to support each other in ways they had never imagined.

We have heard of village halls and community centres being used as testing centres and as bases to prepare meals for some of the most vulnerable members of society. In many cases this was made possible due to refurbishment works carried out thanks to Biffa Award funding.

When restrictions eased and children were once again allowed outside to play after months inside their homes, Biffa Award-funded playgrounds provided the perfect space to unwind and enjoy the fresh air.

Though it all, the Biffa Award team was able to continue working, albeit from their homes, ensuring we could continue to support applicants. We extended deadlines to make sure all projects that had received offers of funding could continue to completion.

We were also able to adapt how we worked so that we could still accept applications for funding. This ensured the Biffa Award Board could still meet four times through the year by video link to allocate funding to projects.

Despite all of these challenges we have continued to fix leaking roofs and broken heating systems, replaced inadequate kitchen and toilet facilities, provided parks and recreation areas, and helped wildlife to survive and thrive. I feel extremely privileged to have been a part of this.

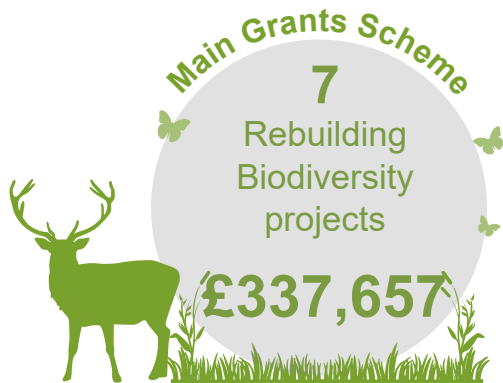
*Rachel Maidment*  
Biffa Award Grants Manager

*Rachel Maidment and Biffa Award Board member Simon Rutledge (centre) are pictured at the formal opening of the Conservation in Action Workshop at Aerospace Bristol with Lloyd Burnell, Executive Director of Aerospace Bristol.*





# Financial Summary



**TOTAL AWARDED: £3,619,297**

# Main Grants Scheme

During the 2020-2021 financial year we funded 25 Main Grants Scheme projects across three themes - Community Buildings, Recreation and Rebuilding Biodiversity. In doing so, we have...



# Main Grants Scheme: Recreation

## New playground at Scotter War Memorial Playing Fields

A new playpark in Scotter, Lincolnshire, is providing a fun and colourful place for children of all ages to play.

£70,000 of funding has enabled the War Memorial Playing Fields Committee to replace equipment that, at 30 years old, was outdated and badly in need of replacement.

*"My favourite bit is the climbing frame, it's got lots of things to do on it, I really like the monkey bars."*  
**Ewan (11)**

*"It's way better than the last play area, there are a lot more things, overall it's lots of fun!"* **Toby (11)**

*"I like the bucket swing because it goes higher than the other ones! The new area is better designed as it's not as cramped as the old one."*  
**Millie (11)**





# Main Grants Scheme: Rebuilding Biodiversity

## Ulster Wildlife: Balloo Wetland Restoration

Balloo Wetland Nature Reserve is an urban reserve situated next to an area of social housing in Bangor.

The range and quality of wildlife at the reserve was under threat due to access difficulties that hindered conservation work. The old boardwalk had to be removed due to safety concerns, leaving the site inaccessible to both conservation staff and the public.

Thanks to £11,757 of funding, Ulster Wildlife was able to undertake extensive conservation work.

Work including scrubland management, removal of invasive weeds, restoration of species-rich grassland, planting of native bulbs, trees and scrub species, and the creation of pollinator banks has not only benefitted a wide range of pollinating invertebrates, birds and bats, but also provides connectivity with nearby Balloo Woodland Nature Reserve.



# Main Grants Scheme: Community Buildings

## Improved facilities at Boston Spa Village Hall

Boston Spa Village Hall is a former Victorian school building that has been at the heart of the community since the early 1900s.

Although the hall's kitchen had recently been refurbished, the tired and dated foyer and toilets were desperately in need of modernisation and improvement.

Thanks to a £50,000 grant the work could be undertaken, helping to future-proof the hall for many years to come.

The previously cramped main entrance foyer is now spacious and welcoming and the toilets have been modernised and include baby changing facilities.

*"As a long-time village hall user it has been really gratifying to see the completed alterations and renovations to the foyer and toilet facilities which are a credit to the village hall and will stand it in good stead in future years."*  
**Terry Gaussen local resident & parish councillor.**





# Partnership Grants Scheme

We awarded £2.3 million of funding to five Partnership Grants Scheme projects.

RSPB: Restoring Humber's lost floodplain



Woodland Trust Northern Ireland: Cavehill Woodland purchase



Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Braydon Forest Marsh Fritillary project



Lancashire Wildlife Trust: Mosslands Connect project



Essex Wildlife Trust: Transforming coastal habitat





# Partnership Grants Scheme: Natural Environment

## RSPB: Restoring Humber's lost floodplain

Humber's floodplain was once a sprawling wetland, reaching miles inland and providing habitat for hundreds of thousands of birds.

Over the years flood protection works, land drainage and intensive agriculture had reduced the connection between the estuary and its floodplain. As a result, many wetland birds and estuarine species were struggling to find space to survive.

Thanks to a £433,500 grant, RSPB was able to purchase 49.42 acres of arable and grass farmland next to the Humber Estuary to preserve this once thriving habitat.

Now that the land has been purchased, RSPB has restored the coastal grazing marsh and is improving the future for wildlife and creating new opportunities for people to connect with nature around the estuary.



# Partnership Grants Scheme: Natural Environment

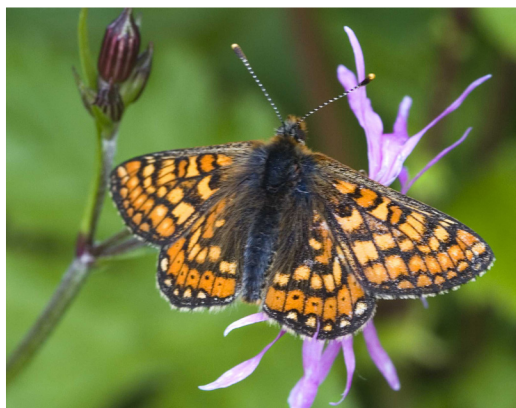
## **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Braydon Forest Marsh Fritillary project**

Forty-four acres of land, once at risk from development, has been purchased by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, thanks to £442,941 of funding.

The purchase has secured vital habitat at Upper Minety in Wiltshire, and is supporting the long-term recovery for the rare, but once flourishing, marsh fritillary butterfly.

The butterfly was commonly found in North Wiltshire until the 1990s, but in recent years it has declined to no more than one or two colonies due to loss of habitat.

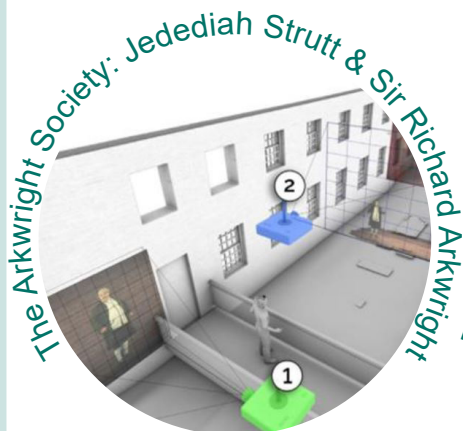
The purchase of the land means that this site is now being restored through green hay and plug planting to create the wildflower-rich, shrubby pasture land favoured by the butterfly.





# AIM Biffa Award History Makers' Programme

Through the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), the AIM Biffa Award History Makers' Programme awards grants to museums, galleries and cultural facilities so that they can tell the stories of some of our lesser known historical figures in new and exciting ways. In 2020 the programme awarded funding to:



**Association of  
Independent  
Museums**  
Helping Heritage  
Organisations Prosper



# Apply for Biffa Award funding

## Main Grants Scheme

Biffa Award's Main Grants Scheme is aimed at community groups and organisations, situated in the vicinity of landfill sites.

Our Main Grant Scheme comprises three themes: Community Buildings, Recreation and Rebuilding Biodiversity.

We provide funding of between £10,000 and £75,000, to create or improve community amenities such as upgrading kitchens, meeting rooms and toilets in village halls, creating new playparks, or establishing, protecting and enhancing habitats for biodiversity.

There is no deadline, we accept Expressions of Interest on a rolling basis.

More information on applying for funding through our Main Grants Scheme can be found on our website.

## Partnership Grants Scheme

The opening of our Partnership Grants Scheme is announced through our website and social media platforms each spring.

© Hall for Gwinear: New entrance lobby



More information on funding available through both schemes and the timescales/deadlines for our Partnership Grants Scheme can be found in our e-newsletter, published quarterly. To receive a copy, visit our website at [www.biffa-award.org](http://www.biffa-award.org) and subscribe using the link which can be found at the bottom of the home page.

# Meet our Board members

The Biffa Award Board meets to consider applications for funding. The Board is made up of representatives from Biffa Group Ltd and The Wildlife Trusts.



## **Andrew Moffat, Chairman**

Andrew is a Trustee at the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. He has spent his career as a civil servant working for the Ministry of Defence in a senior management position and has served as Chairman of the Biffa Award Board since 2016.



## **Patience Thody**

Patience joined RSWT from the banking sector where she held various roles in both Operations and HR. Within RSWT she was appointed Director of Operations in 2014 and Deputy CEO in 2020. Her current role oversees the operation of RSWT which includes the grants team.



## **Simon Rutledge**

Simon has over 25 years of experience within waste management and the safety, environmental and sustainability management field, working within the regulatory and policy making arena at Biffa. He has experience with environmental legislation, process improvement and carbon management.



## **Jackie Doone**

Jackie spent her early career in tax with HMRC, Hewlett-Packard and Dell. She joined Biffa in June 2008 and is Biffa's Group Indirect Tax Manager. Landfill tax takes up a great deal of her day job and as such she was invited to join the Biffa Award Board in June 2010.



## **Mick Davis**

Mick's early career was centred around mineral extraction and land management. He first joined Biffa in 1990 and this is his third 'tour of duty'. He has undertaken various roles before his current role as Chief Operating Officer for Resources and Energy.



## **Debbie Tann**

Debbie works at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. She began her career as an ecologist specialising in freshwater habitats, ponds and rivers. She has worked in a variety of roles including Head of Conservation and Deputy CEO before becoming CEO in 2008.



### **Biffa Award**

Since 1997, Biffa Award has allocated funding totalling more than £180million to thousands of worthwhile community and environmental projects across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The scheme administers money donated by Biffa Group Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund.

### **Landfill Communities Fund**

The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling landfill operators to contribute money to fund community projects situated in the vicinity of landfill sites.

### **ENTRUST**

ENTRUST acts on behalf of HM Revenues and Customs as the sole regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund. Organisations who are awarded funding through Biffa Award must be registered as an Environmental Body through ENTRUST.

