



Building communities. Transforming lives.

Annual Review *2025 – 2026*



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Foreword

Stewart Goshawk,
Biffa Award Outgoing Chair

As I complete my tenure as Chair, I am proud to reflect on the remarkable on-going journey of the Biffa Award scheme and the achievements of the past year. In 2025-26, we awarded more than £5 million to community and biodiversity projects through our Main Grants and Partnership Grants Schemes. These have delivered real benefits to people's lives and protected important local habitats across England and in Northern Ireland.

Through the Main Grants Scheme, we supported 28 initiatives, from community halls and sports facilities to nature reserves.

Work to revitalise village halls and urban nature reserves is helping bring people together, fostering a sense of community pride, as well as providing safe and welcoming spaces where people of all ages can spend quality time.

Similarly, providing modern, good quality sports and cultural facilities – whether

that's a skatepark, boxing gym or theatre – helps nurture talent and brings so many health benefits, both mental and physical.

We also supported six incredible large-scale projects through our Partnership Grants Scheme, either protecting and enhancing havens for wildlife, or creating iconic, state-of-the-art learning spaces. The environmental and educational benefits will have lasting impact both regionally and nationally.

Visiting many of these projects, as chair, has demonstrated to me the commitment, vision and sheer enthusiasm of so many staff and volunteers. They are the real stars of the show.

My thanks go to my fellow grants committee members from both Biffa Waste Services and from within The Wildlife Trusts movement, and to our excellent staff team. I also extend a warm welcome to the new Chair, David Jordan OBE, who picked up the baton in April 2026 and has the privilege of continuing this wonderful work, which we know is having an enduring impact on people and nature across the country.



Foreword

Rachel Maidment,
Biffa Award Grants Manager

A heartfelt thanks goes to Stewart, for his commitment and support over the last three years. With the changing of the guard comes a chance to reflect on the ways Biffa Award funding has supported communities and the natural world, and to look ahead to future opportunities. Our commitment is always to help people create welcoming spaces, celebrate local heritage and protect invaluable natural habitats for the future. We believe in

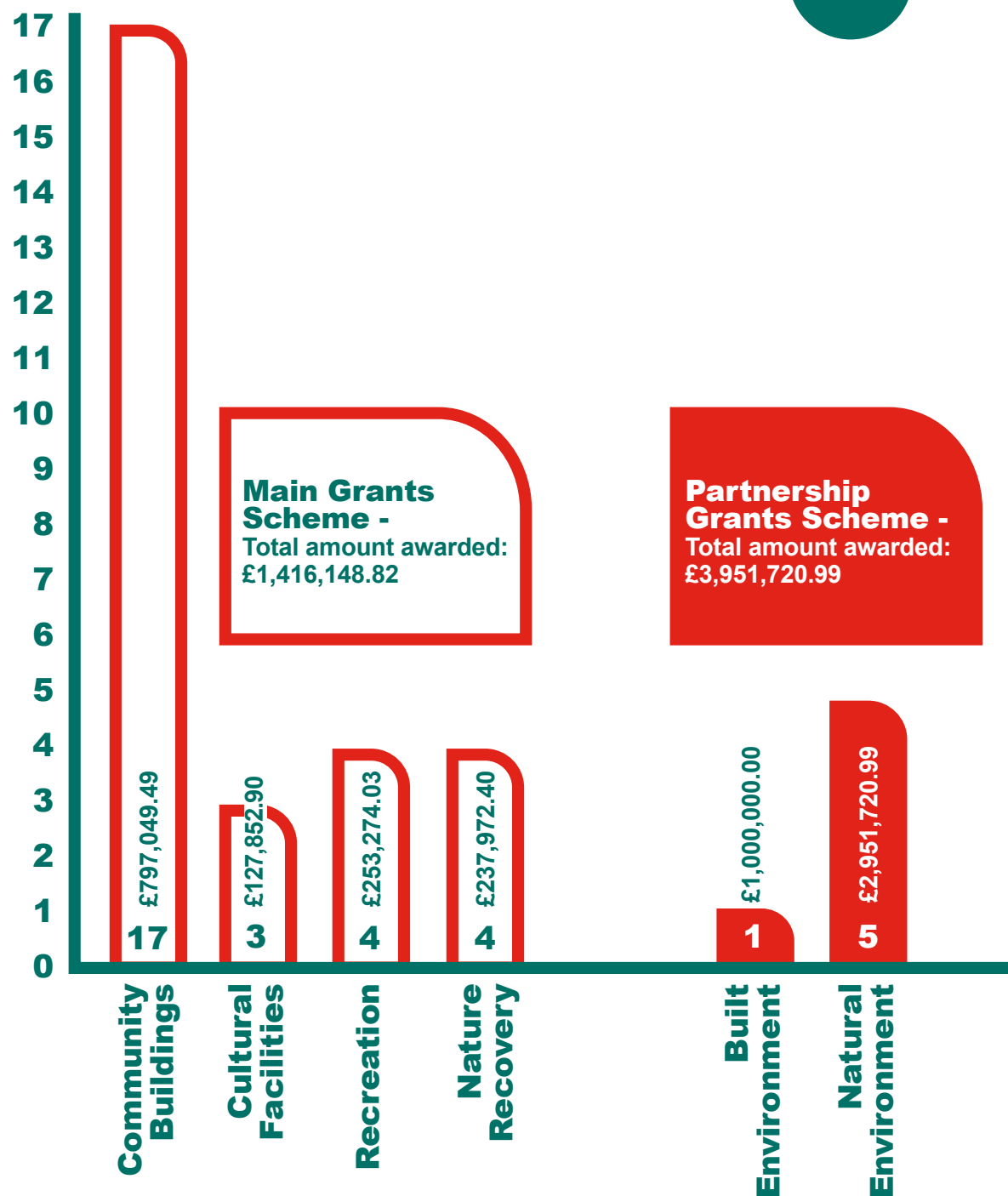
the power of local action: it can change lives, and often begins with just a hope and a vision. If you have such a hope for improving your community space, or a vision for your local greenspace, then we want to hear. Explore the opportunities available through Biffa Award. Visit our website and use the postcode checker to see if your project could be eligible. We have seen the difference local action can make, to the spaces and the people involved. Good luck!



Financial Summary

During the 2025-2026 financial year, we awarded £1,416,148.82 to 28 Main Grants Scheme projects across four themes: £797,049.49 to 17 Community Buildings projects, £127,852.90 to three Cultural Facilities projects, £253,274.03 to four Recreation projects, and £237,972.40 to four Nature Recovery projects.

Through the Partnership Grants Scheme, we awarded £3,951,720.99 to six large-scale projects across two themes: £2,951,720.99 to five Natural Environment projects to benefit nature recovery, and £1,000,000.00 to one Built Environment project to inspire learning, creativity and participation.



Main Grants Scheme: Recreation

Mount Hawke Skatepark, Cornwall

Mount Hawke Skatepark, a cornerstone of southwest skateboarding since 1986, is becoming one of the UK's premier skateparks. It has fostered talent at all levels, with one local rider even reaching the Olympics after training entirely at Mount Hawke.

However, the most popular section for skateboarding was outdated and required redevelopment. A £75,000 grant contributed towards fifty-two per cent of the redesign and installation of the street section including new features, platforms, levelling and framing. The modernised street section will better serve all abilities, from beginners to experts, and inspire the next generation of riders. The upgraded section will enhance physical and mental health benefits while securing the park's long-term sustainability.

[Click here to view the project film.](#)



Main Grants Scheme: Community Buildings

Carrickfergus Temperance LOL 1537, Belfast

The former Glenfield Community Hall in Belfast had been abandoned for over a decade having suffered from significant smoke and fire damage. Community consultation and a petition of support evidenced the building's potential and true demand for a welcoming community space. Carrickfergus Temperance LOL 1537 applied for £75,000 from Biffa Award to complete an internal overhaul to drag the building back into life. The grant covered infra-red heating, an air-source water heating system, toilets, a kitchen including white goods, flooring, internal wall partitions, doors and finishings, with more than 30 volunteers directly involved in project delivery.

Work was completed earlier this year, and the revitalised space is already used by an array of community groups. The grant helped to put the soul back into the building and the building hopes to become the soul of the Glenfield estate.

[Click here to view the project film.](#)



Main Grants Scheme: Cultural Facilities

The Edge Arts, Manchester

Manchester's award-winning theatre for participation, The Edge, is home to professional theatre, alongside an inclusive arts programme working with actors and musicians; many of whom are professional, some have learning disabilities, and some have experience of homelessness.

The Edge wanted to create a place that was authentic, stylish and had comfortable seating where people could enjoy great films curated by the community for the community. The

Community Cinema was born thanks to a £54,079 grant from Biffa Award that paid for lighting, state-of-the-art sound equipment, a high-quality screen with projection capabilities, and power control.

Screenings offer access to acclaimed performances in a local setting, bringing the best of British film and theatre to Chorlton.

[Click here to view the project film.](#)



Main Grants Scheme: Nature Recovery

Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norwich

Sweet Briar Marshes is the first of Norfolk Wildlife Trust's urban reserves. Close to Norwich city centre, this 36.5-hectare site is made up of unimproved and neutral grassland and fen with areas of woodland. Some areas are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It is also a natural flood plain for the River Wensum, the largest chalk-fed river in Norfolk, and is part of a near-continuous chain of wildlife-rich habitats along the river valley corridor, making it the city's most important highway for nature.

Major parts of the reserve had been poorly managed, grazed inefficiently, or left ungrazed for long periods, reducing the abundance and diversity of plant species. The Trust applied for £64,933, a 77 per cent contribution, to re-establish grazing and improve grassland condition, helping to maintain the river corridor's important role in connecting habitats for wildlife.

[Click here to view the project film.](#)



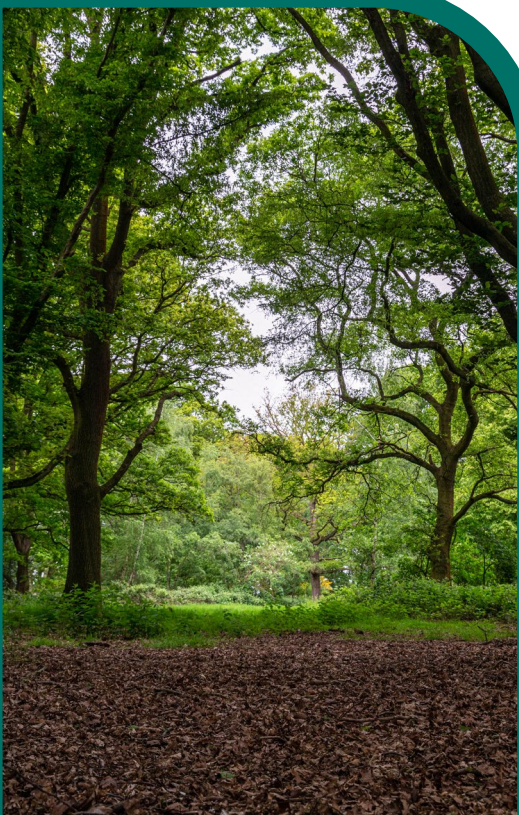
Partnership Grants Scheme: Natural Environment Wilderness Foundation, Essex

For several years, the Wilderness Foundation had occupied Mann Wood, a 92-acre, ancient, semi-natural woodland situated near Chelmsford. When the landowner decided to sell the site, they sought a custodian that would preserve, protect and enhance the woods in perpetuity. The Wilderness Foundation seemed like an obvious choice. They successfully applied to Biffa Award for £775,000 to purchase the site.

The acquisition will ensure long-lasting conservation stewardship of this nature haven, safeguarding its rich biodiversity and natural beauty. Ownership of the land will enable the Foundation to continue

to protect wildlife while expanding its work to promote conservation values and ethics, and to deliver social intervention programmes and environmental education.

[Click here to view the project film.](#)



Partnership Grants Scheme: Built Environment Bristol Zoo Project (Bristol Zoological Society), Bristol



The Bristol Zoo Project is an award-winning visitor destination set within 136-acres of nature-rich landscape on the edge of Bristol. Its ambitious vision was to create a new conservation zoo that will connect visitors to its flagship work in Equatorial Guinea, where it helps to protect western lowland gorillas and other threatened species in the wild.

A £1,000,000 Biffa Award grant brought this vision to life through the creation of a state-of-the-art immersive learning space. Complete with large viewing windows into the new African Forest Habitat gorilla house,

digital tools, learning resources and creative interpretation, the space offers an inspiring way for visitors to connect with conservation in action. Outdoor themed play installations, seating and interpretation completed the project.

[Click here to view the project film.](#)



Biffa Award Board



Simon Rutledge, Biffa Group Ltd

Simon has 30 years of experience within waste management and the wider safety, environmental and sustainability management field. He is currently the Biffa lead for Waste Policy and Sustainability.



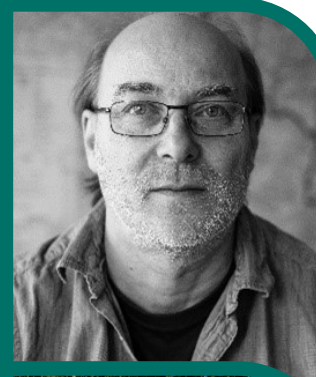
Patience Thody, RSWT

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 March 2014 and appointed Deputy CEO in April 2020.



Mick Davis, Biffa Group Ltd

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 COO for Resources and Energy.



Stewart Goshawk, Chair

Stewart is both a past Hon. Secretary of RSWT and chair of trustees at Essex Wildlife Trust. He works for the Professional Footballers Association supporting ex-players who have dementia and has prior roles in the sports and grant-making worlds.



Vicky Clack, Biffa Group Ltd

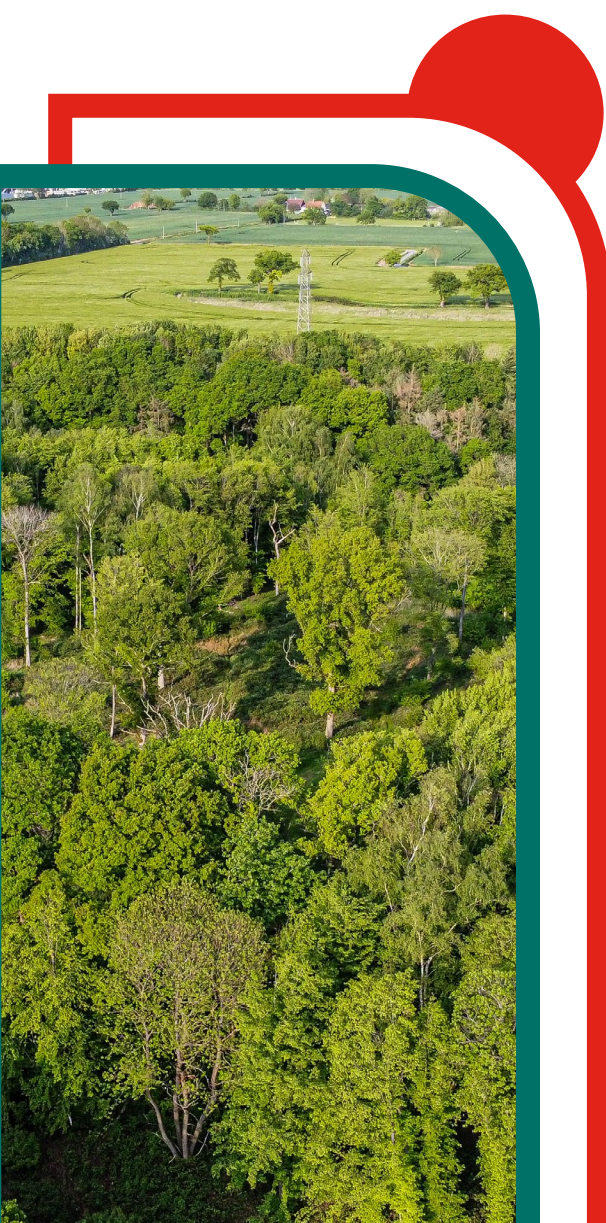
Since joining Biffa in 2005, Vicky has moved up through the ranks gaining experience in environmental management, legislation, permitting and compliance. In her current role as National Environmental Control Manager she sits on various industry working groups and leads a team of 20 across the UK.



Debbie Tann, MBE

Debbie is the CEO of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. She began her career as an ecologist before moving into policy and campaigning and then into senior management and leadership. She has worked at Defra and served on a number of Boards and Advisory Committees in her 25 years in the environment sector.

Funders Background:



Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)

Biffa Award is managed by the grants team at the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT). The Wildlife Trusts are a grassroots movement of people from a wide range of backgrounds. There are 46 individual Wildlife Trusts, each of which is part of The Wildlife Trusts federation and a corporate member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.

www.youtube.com/@biffaaward9199



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Landfill Communities Fund

The Government's 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.

