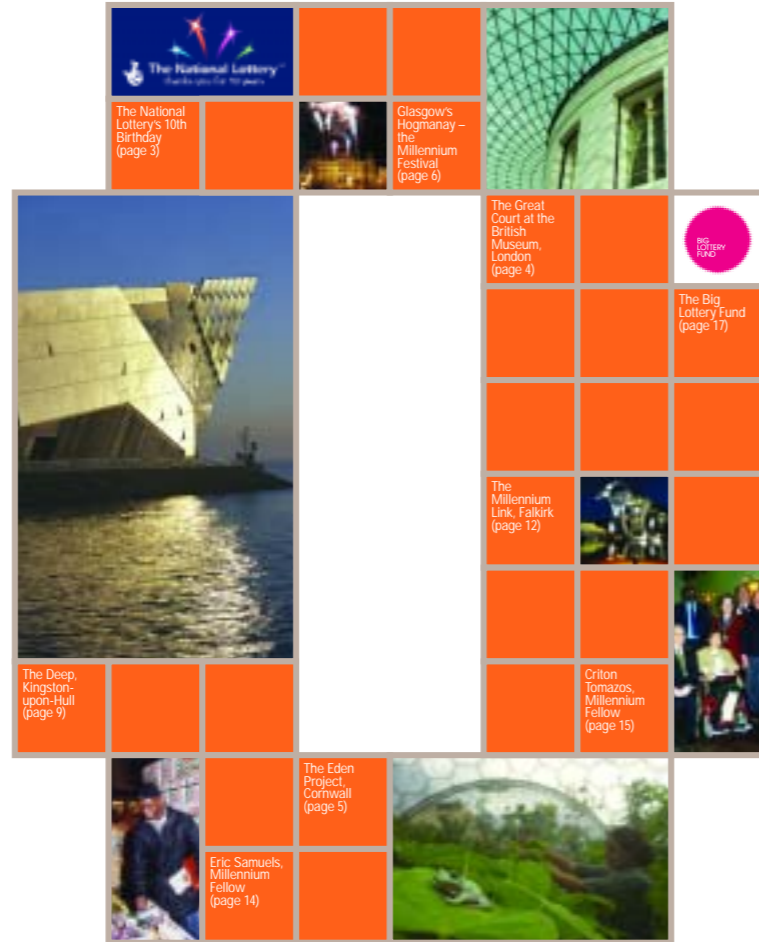


Starpeople

The Millennium Commission Magazine

FINAL ISSUE SUMMER 2004



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The Millennium Commission was set up in 1994 to distribute funds from the National Lottery to projects which marked the new millennium. Since then, it has invested over £2 billion of Lottery money in a huge range of initiatives across the UK, from world-class educational visitor attractions to small grants to individuals for community projects. The Commission stopped receiving funds from the National Lottery in August 2001 and is now overseeing the completion of its work.



Welcome

Welcome to the final edition of Starpeople magazine, in which we celebrate the 10th birthday of the Millennium Commission and the National Lottery. We take a look back at the Commission's roots and achievements, and forwards to the future of the Lottery.

Although this is the final edition of Starpeople magazine, you can still keep in touch with Commission news via our web site, www.millennium.gov.uk. The Round 3 ReDiscover Grants will be announced there in September. The Millennium Awards Fellowship web site www.starpeople.org.uk has been taken on by UnLtd (see page 16) and will continue to be updated with news of Award winners' activities.

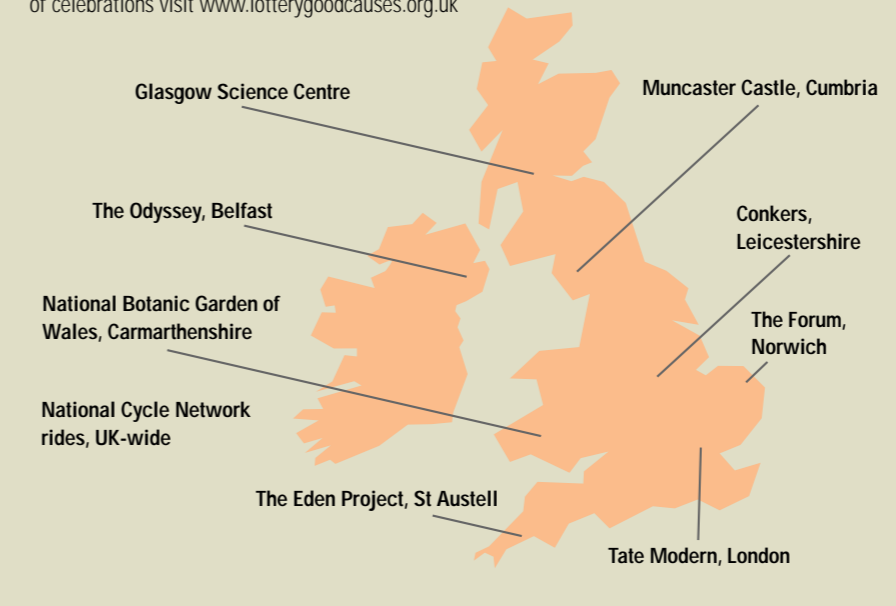
Finally, I hope that Starpeople's coverage of the Commission's projects has encouraged you to visit them, and that our recipients' achievements have inspired you to volunteer your own time to help make a difference to your community.

Alison Duguid
Editor, Starpeople



National Lottery 10th Birthday Celebrations

To thank Lottery players for their huge contribution to national life, a range of events will be held throughout the year, culminating with the first National Lottery Day on 6 November 2004. For a full list of celebrations visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk



10 years of the Millennium Commission

This year, the Millennium Commission, like the National Lottery, is celebrating its 10th birthday. Over the last decade it has invested £2.3 billion of Lottery money in projects, people and celebrations across the United Kingdom.



The British Museum Great Court, London

Photo: Zoe Yates

Beyond its mission of celebrating the new millennium through a range of projects, the Commission was set up without a defined area of responsibility. It was not set up to fund its own ideas but to seek out and support other people's ideas for projects. These had to reflect either the nation's achievements or its aspirations for the future.

The Commission's work has been incredibly diverse, ranging from landmark buildings like the Eden Project and Tate Modern to hundreds of new cycleways and village halls. In fact, on average it is estimated that everyone lives only 30 miles from a Millennium Commission project. Some projects have transformed, others have restored, educated or united. We have supported ingenuity from the world's first rotating boat lift to Europe's deepest underwater viewing tunnel. Already over 50 of our projects have been recognised for prestigious architectural, structural or tourism awards,

and they continue to win prizes.

The Commission wanted to invest in people as well as buildings, enabling people to put their ideas for their communities into action. Through the Millennium Awards Scheme, we have unlocked an abundance of talent and energy in over 30,000 individuals. From breakfast clubs and Black

history web sites, to anti-bullying projects and accessible footpaths, these small grants have enabled ordinary people to do extraordinary things. By linking them through the Millennium Awards Fellowship, a network for social change is being developed.

By the time the Commission is wound up in 2006, it will have created more than 220 capital projects, made more



Gateshead Millennium Bridge

Photo: Graeme Peacock



The Eden Project, Cornwall

Photo: Nick Gregory/Apex

than 32,000 Awards to individuals, funded over 2,000 Millennium Festivals, provided cultural projects in 19 urban areas and given nearly 80,000 children the opportunity to visit the theatre. In addition, the Commission's grant to the Millennium Dome created the most popular visitor attraction in the United Kingdom in the year 2000 and kick-started the regeneration of the Greenwich Peninsula, which will create 25,000 jobs and 10,000 new homes. The development will also pay £550 million to the public purse.

Everyone who has ever bought a Lottery ticket can consider themselves a stakeholder in

the initiatives the Millennium Commission has supported – these projects belong to all of us, wherever we live in the United Kingdom. There isn't a part of the country or a sector of the community which hasn't benefited in some way.

Although we shan't see the Commission's like again in our lifetime, as long as its influence continues to inspire and encourage the people of the United Kingdom, its legacy will live on.



The Lowry at Salford Quays, Manchester



Glasgow's Hogmanay for New Year's Eve 1999, part of the Millennium Festival

Celebrate!

The Millennium Festival

Every person in the United Kingdom was given an opportunity to join the party celebrating the coming of 2000 and the passing of the second millennium. The Millennium Commission allocated just over £30 million to a year-long programme of community festivals across the United Kingdom to mark the happy occasion.

Beginning on New Year's Eve in 1999, an exciting selection of spectacular events and activities, involving 20 million people, celebrated the first year of the new millennium. There was something for everyone everywhere, in the carnivals, parades, exhibitions and performances culminating in the New Year's Eve celebrations of 31 December 2000, when 32 towns and cities hosted over 200 hours of festivities.

The festivals increased community pride and drew people together in their creation, planning and implementation. Most of these events created full-time

employment for a significant number of people and provided a wealth of volunteering opportunities.

The Millennium Experience

It is now already more than three years since the Millennium Experience at the Dome on the Greenwich Peninsula closed after welcoming over six million visitors. During the year 2000, it housed a range of attractions, live events and activities that involved schools, voluntary groups, churches and businesses from across the United Kingdom. The Millennium Experience welcomed more visitors than any other paying visitor attraction in the United Kingdom in the year 2000, and only Disneyland in Paris was more popular in Europe.

As for the much-speculated future of the Dome, following its sale to Meridian Delta Ltd, it will be used for public entertainment for many years to come. The subsequent redevelopment of the

previously derelict and contaminated area will support 25,000 jobs for generations to come, as well as generating returns for the public sector of £550 million over 20 years, with the Lottery receiving 13% of the proceeds.

Millennium Encore Scheme

The Millennium Encore Scheme was launched in 2002 to encourage an appreciation of the performing arts by young people, many of whom would not normally have an opportunity to attend professional productions. The scheme was established with a budget of over £2 million of Lottery funding, enabling nearly 80,000 young people

to attend a wide range of productions that included theatre, musical theatre, opera, ballet, orchestra and ensemble music performances.

Three partner organisations – the National Association of Clubs for Young People, the Happy Days Children's Charity and Arts & Business – were chosen to administer the Millennium Encore Scheme. The grant made to Arts & Business is not only giving young people the opportunity to visit professional performing arts productions in the short term, but is also intended to generate millions of pounds of additional business investment in order to create an initiative with a potential legacy of up to 20 years.

Beginning on New Year's Eve in 1999, an exciting selection of spectacular events and activities, involving 20 million people, celebrated the first year of the new millennium.

Something for Everyone – Millennium Projects

The most visible aspects of the Commission's work are the Millennium Capital Projects, to which over £1.3 billion of funding was allocated. These buildings and environmental projects are nearly all complete, the first having opened in 1996 and the last due for completion by 2006.



Above: the Rocket Tower at the National Space Centre in Leicester, the United Kingdom's only visitor attraction devoted to the study of space science. Photo: Jim Cartwright

Centre: Lawrenny, one of the smallest villages in Wales, has had its former Victorian village school transformed into a new hall and a youth hostel.

Right: The multi-campus University of the Highlands and Islands has created a unique focus for education and lifelong learning from Argyll to Shetland. It comprises 15 colleges and research institutions across the Highlands and Islands.

It would be impossible to describe a typical millennium project. World-class educational visitor attractions stand alongside smaller, community-based developments such as village halls and local parks. All projects demonstrate public support and celebrate our heritage while taking us forward into the future. Communities all around the United Kingdom reaped the benefit, with the creation of over 200 projects on over 3,500 sites.

The Commission's final project – a new tower for Edmundsbury Cathedral – will result in the completion of the last unfinished Anglican Cathedral in England. It is somehow fitting that the Millennium Commission should complete a construction that first began at the turn of the last millennium.



Things to do, places to see

Each of the funded visitor attractions was designed to educate, and has an important role to play as a scientific, environmental or cultural resource – or as a platform for regeneration.

The Commission knew that they were taking some risks, but – driven by the conviction that Lottery funding should be an agent of change – they selected applications for visitor attractions from areas where there was a need to attract tourism and where the local economy would benefit from the additional jobs that would be created by an influx of visitors.



One of the most successful and bravest ventures must surely be the Eden Project in Cornwall. The dream of its creator was to take a vast disused china clay pit near St Austell,

construct in it two of the world's largest greenhouses and turn them into a living theatre of plants and people to demonstrate our dependence on one another. At face value a difficult call, but vision and determination produced a miracle of creativity with two magnificent biomes in which entire microclimates have been recreated to support the plants and trees that are native to the zones represented.



A courageous decision to construct the world's first 'submarium' at the confluence of the River Hull and the Humber Estuary has resulted in The Deep, a truly spectacular visitor attraction, educational facility and research centre. The bold, pioneering design of The Deep has delivered a dramatic architectural icon for Hull, and the project has kick-started an ambitious regeneration programme for the city

Photo: Richard Bryant/Arcaid

A Boost for Architecture, Science and the Environment



Magna, Rotherham



The National Cycle Network, created by Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity



Glasgow Science Centre

Inspirational architecture

The nation's architectural and design industries have been enjoying some of the greatest opportunities ever to devise and implement a range of landmark constructions. Through millennium projects, they have created an array of some of the most spectacular structures and interiors in history. The old Bankside Power Station on the South Bank of London's River Thames has been transformed into Tate Modern – one of the

great modern art museums of the world. The Falkirk Wheel on the Millennium Link in Scotland is a remarkable feat of engineering, with its two giant caissons lifting or lowering up to eight boats at a time the 38m (115ft) between the Forth and Clyde and Union Canals.

Dozens of architectural awards have been won by millennium projects across the United Kingdom, with two notable Stirling Prize winners – the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, one of over 30 projects that include new or restored bridges, and Magna in Rotherham, a science adventure centre in the converted Templeborough Steel Mill.

Rediscovering science

The Millennium Commission has made the most significant investment in the public understanding of science since the Science Museum in London was founded in 1909. Around £315 million was made available to 14 projects that have a major science

education component, including W5 at Odyssey in Belfast, which has over 100 interactive exhibits; the Glasgow Science Centre, which offers an innovative 'Science Mall'; and the International Centre for Life in Newcastle. This is not including projects such as the Eden Project, the National Botanic Garden of Wales or the Millennium Seed Bank, which have a significant element of science education in their mission.

When it decided to fund science centres, the Commission saw its role as purely the funder. However, it recognised that in order to continue to be relevant and to continue to attract visitors, science centres needed to update and renew their exhibits. Funding refurbishment from revenue is never easy and so the Millennium Commission created the ReDiscover fund. A joint venture between the Commission, the Wellcome Trust and the Wolfson Foundation, ReDiscover is a £33 million fund to renew, replace, refresh or redevelop high-quality science, education and technology exhibitions. It represents an important partnership between the Lottery and major non-Government funders. The projects supported so far include Satrosphere in Aberdeen, the London Wetland Centre in Barnes and Techniquet in Cardiff.



Turning the Tide, Durham coastline

Photo: Charlie Headley © Countryside Agency

The environment in the third millennium

The quality of our environment in the third millennium was also a major investment for the Millennium Commission. Over £350 million has funded environmental improvements, transforming former chemical waste tips, abandoned clay pits and previously underused waterways into hubs of activity.

The Turning the Tide project cleaned up a contaminated stretch of the Durham coastline to provide 20km (12 miles) of new coastal footpath and an extensive cycle network. Groundwork UK's Changing Places scheme was a major programme of post-industrial

land regeneration that transformed 21 sites totalling 1,000 hectares across England and Wales.

Inland waterways have been the focus of a programme that will result in numerous restorations, revitalising an important part of our national fabric. The restoration of the Huddersfield Canal was popularly referred to as the 'impossible restoration', incorporating as it does the 5.6km (3.5 mile) Standedge Tunnel – famously the longest, deepest and highest waterway tunnel in Britain.

As well as creating a landmark project for every region and country of the United Kingdom, Lottery money has been reaching grass-roots level. Small grants made directly to individual recipients were not cost effective so the Commission made grants to organisations that could in turn divide the money between small schemes. These umbrella projects have created thousands of new woodlands, forests and

community green spaces, enhancing the everyday lives of millions of people. Thousands of people around Britain have been working with the Woodland Trust on the Woods on Your Doorstep

scheme, planting over 1.5 million trees to create some 250 new woods, which in turn are improving and extending wildlife habitats, neutral meadows and pastures.



Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Photo: Mike Followay on behalf of British Waterways

A world first has been created in Scotland with the completion of the Millennium Link and its centrepiece, The Falkirk Wheel.

This unique rotating boat lift, part of the biggest canal restoration ever, has forged a link between the historic Forth and Clyde and Union Canals between Glasgow and Edinburgh and opened up to navigation a passage from the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.



Photo: Ashley Coombes, The Atom Photographic Agency

Regenerating our Cities



Photo: Barro Happold/Mandy Reynolds

Linking the Peace Gardens and the Millennium Galleries in the heart of Sheffield are the elegant arches of the Winter Garden temperate glasshouse.

The regeneration of coastlines, replanting of woodlands and reinvigoration of communities through new village halls has done much for rural areas throughout the United Kingdom. One of the most remarkable successes, however, has been the investment in some of our great city centres, reversing a gradual decline over recent years. Twenty cities which include Coventry, Birmingham, Durham, Belfast and Portsmouth, have all seen developments that have improved accessibility and created new visitor centres, encouraging tourism and economic growth.

The Cardiff Bay waterfront is the site of the new Wales Millennium Centre, which is

to be the home of Welsh National Opera, providing a world-class venue for musicals, opera, ballet, dance and festivals. This project and the highly popular Millennium Stadium have put Cardiff on the map, giving it excellent new facilities for the arts and sport.

The Urban Cultural Programme is providing £19.5 million of National Lottery funding for cultural projects taking place in 19 urban areas across the UK. The programme is a partnership between the Millennium Commission and Arts Council England. It builds on the successful European Capital of Culture 2008 competition, run in 2003, which generated huge support in all sectors of the community. From the Highlands to Brighton and Hove, and from Belfast and Cardiff to Norwich, over the next two years the UK will see a host of cultural activities.



Photo: Todd Watson © The Odyssey Trust

The Odyssey in Belfast is one of the world's most adventurous and exciting leisure and entertainment venues.



Photo: Kieran Riley, Ethos Photos

The Wales Millennium Centre, which will open in November 2004.

Changing Lives, Changing Communities

Through the £200 million Millennium Awards Scheme, small grants of around £3,000 have been made available to anyone in the United Kingdom. The grants have had to be used to develop personal skills in order to fulfil a personal goal which also benefits the local community.

The success of the Millennium Awards Scheme has been assured by its network of Award Partners – charities and non-profit organisations with strong community networks and a track record in grant-making who administer and run the various Award schemes. Through this partnership, Award winners have been able to access support, knowledge and expertise throughout the lifetime of their project.

Independent studies into the social impact of the Millennium Awards Scheme have returned very positive results. An average of 2,486 people have been touched in some way by a Millennium Award project; 87% of Award winners said that their confidence had increased as a result of their Award; and nearly 70% of Award winners declared that they would be more likely to take part in an education or training initiative. Over 60% of Award winners are planning to continue or extend their project and 30% of Award winners believe that their Millennium Award helped them to obtain a new job.

Millennium Award projects have reached every corner of the United Kingdom, and all sectors of society are benefiting, with neither age nor disability being a barrier. They have spanned generations, with the youngest Award winner being

7 and the oldest 99. No two projects have been identical, each stemming from the Award winner's own ideas and many drawing on their own experiences. The dedication of Award winners has not gone unnoticed, with many winning other awards

of recognition such as MBEs, along with further funding and press coverage. Millennium Awards have been an extraordinary example of one of our most admirable national characteristics – our sense of community.



Eric Samuels

King's Fund Millennium Award winner Eric Samuels worked with the Newham Food Access Partnership to alleviate nutritional problems in the area by promoting healthy eating to local families and schools, and making available to them affordable supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Following a horrific experience in which her friend was drug-raped, Suzanne Jones (picture below) used her Drugscope Millennium Award to produce a film and information pack highlighting this danger and ways people can protect themselves. 'Spiked!' was shown on key British and university cinema screens last year before mainstream films. Suzanne's film campaign achieved national news coverage and even made Sky News' top story.



Suzanne Jones

Andrew Stibbs (pictured right) and his friend John Docker used their Jack Ashley Millennium Awards to complete the British Association of Snowboarding Instructors course and to set up a

programme to teach snowboarding to deaf children. As keen snowboarders and also being profoundly deaf, Andrew and John wanted to share ways of communicating on the slopes using special sign language to indicate essential warnings such as danger, stop and slow down.

Photo: Dick Makin



Green campaigner Dr Criton Tomazos (above, far right) opened people's eyes to their surroundings with his Help the Aged 'Citizens' Action' Millennium Award. Criton's Wake up to Your Environment project saw him running lectures, school visits and events, and writing a newsletter to raise awareness of environmental issues. Criton believes the project offered a much-needed forum for Londoners to raise their awareness about environmental concerns and to exchange ideas and suggestions on how to improve the situation.

The Future of the Millennium Awards

As a short-life organisation, it has always been the Millennium Commission's intention that the Millennium Awards Scheme should be a part of its long-term legacy. To achieve this and to ensure that Awards will continue to be available long into the future, the Millennium Commission is leaving behind a £100 million endowment – the Millennium Awards Trust.

UnLtd – the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs – was selected to act as a trustee to continue the work of the Millennium Awards Scheme. Following a pilot programme of events, around 5,000 Fellows have “opted in” to continue being part of the Millennium Awards Fellowship, which has now been handed over to UnLtd. We asked one of the London members of the UnLtd team, Jessica Nugent, some of your questions:



Some of the UnLtd team (clockwise from top left): Habibur Rahman, Katie Cohen, Patrick Shine, Paul Carbury, Amy Liddell, Lee Robinson, Clare Payne.

Resources

Web site: www.unltd.org.uk
Email: fellowship@unltd.org.uk
Telephone: 0845 850 1122

Q Could someone apply for funding to continue their Award project in the same way?

A “Unfortunately not! UnLtd does not give Awards for people to continue existing projects. However, if someone was planning a clear expansion of their project or wanted to start a totally new project, they could apply. As our grants come from the Lottery, all projects must be carried out in the United Kingdom and be of benefit to communities there only. Also, further education is not something we fund. Our web site, www.unltd.org.uk, lists our eligibility criteria and examples of projects we have funded.”

Q What kind of support can you offer?

A “We are always willing to help with any queries via email or phone. All new UnLtd Award winners are

assigned a Development Manager who will offer support and professional advice for the duration of their project. This is supplemented by dynamic local information sessions and networking events.”

Q What will you offer to current Fellows who have ‘opted in’?

A “We will send them our quarterly magazine, ‘No Limits’, and invite them to a grand finale event in early 2005 which we hope will be a fitting celebratory conclusion to the Commission's Millennium Awards Scheme. UnLtd will have responsibility for the Fellowship web site, www.starpeople.org.uk, and will continue to send out monthly e-bulletins. In addition, over the next two years we will have an additional 80 Level 2 Awards set aside for Fellows to apply for (subject to eligibility criteria).”

Q Who should Fellows contact in the UnLtd team?

A “There are nearly forty of us working from six regional offices across the United Kingdom. It's best to contact the office in your area. Call **0845 850 1122** or email info@unltd.org.uk. Details of our local offices can also be found on our web site.”

Q What have you learnt so far from working at UnLtd?

A “It has presented a unique learning experience for me. Our Award winners come from an array of cultures and backgrounds, and working with UnLtd has given me the opportunity to work with and get to know people from all walks of life. Award winners have the vision and commitment to develop projects that can make a real difference to society.”

What does the Future Hold?

People often ask why the Millennium Commission is still in existence years after the millennium. The answer is that £2 billion of investment does not come on line all at once, and the Commission will be overseeing its remaining grants until it is wound up by an Act of Parliament. We expect that our closure date will be March 2006.



The next two years will see radical changes for the Commission. Already down to a staff of 50, it is intended that remaining Commission staff will be relocated to work alongside staff at the newly-formed Big Lottery Fund early in 2005. This will provide an invaluable opportunity to pass on skills and lessons learnt by the Commission over the last 10 years. In July 2003, the Government decided that the Commission's remaining responsibilities would pass to Big at the end of its life. It also decided that Big should take on the Commission's role of funding large capital projects. We asked Stephen Dunmore, Chief Executive at the Big Lottery Fund, to tell us more.

What is the Big Lottery Fund?

“Big brings together the work of two Lottery distributors: the Community Fund, which provided funding for charities and the voluntary and

community sectors, and the New Opportunities Fund, which provided funding for health, education and environmental projects. It will also take over the Millennium Commission's role of supporting large-scale regenerative projects. In total, half the funding that the Lottery raises for good causes – currently around £600 million each year – will be distributed by Big. We will be a fund for community transformation, from smaller grants at local level through to big capital projects intended to regenerate and revitalise communities.”

Why merge these distributors together?

“There is considerable crossover and many potential links between the types of organisations and activities that the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund have funded, and between the two Funds' aims and values. Bringing our funding together will avoid duplication and will reduce administrative costs. We will also take the lead on

joint working on a range of Lottery issues and develop new approaches to the way we work with organisations funded by the Lottery.”

How can the public have their say on these changes?

“We are committed to public involvement in our work. We are running a series of pilots in which we are asking members of the public how they would like to be involved in setting the Big Lottery Fund's priorities, and how we can work to deliver even more effective and efficient Lottery funding. The Consultation Forum on our web site www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/consultation features a

questionnaire and discussion board which are aimed at everyone who has an interest in our work, from individuals to groups and communities.”

What types of funding are likely to be available?

“Some of the funding programmes will be delivered via demand-led grant programmes, where a wide range of organisations can apply by completing an application form. Others are likely to concentrate on strategic partnership working across different sectors, funding for infrastructure and development, or opportunities for voluntary sector involvement in the delivery of community services.”

Resources

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk
The Big Advice Line: 0845 4 10 20 30

Behind the Scenes at the Commission

Commission staff will tell you that the real heroes of the millennium story are the people, charities and organisations who used their Lottery grants to turn their dreams and aspirations into reality. But grant recipients could not work their wonders without the dedication of our Commissioners and the support and hard work of our own staff. As the Millennium Commission celebrates its 10th birthday this year, it is fitting that the final edition of Starpeople acknowledges some of the people who have helped communities to celebrate the millennium.

The Millennium Commission was set up before anyone knew how much money the National Lottery would generate. When Commissioners first met in 1994 they had no idea of the size of the opportunity that awaited them. Twenty-one people have served as Commissioners, nine of whom were appointed as independents – three Commissioners have been with us since the beginning. The Commission has met 117 times, but, in addition to the monthly meetings at which grant and policy decisions are taken, Commissioners give up their time to meet grant

recipients and Millennium Award winners, visit developing projects, and share in the community celebrations when a project opens.

Behind the Commission has always been a committed and energetic staff – about 200 people in all, but no more than 100 at our peak. Among a varied and talented group it is hard to isolate individuals, but there are people who are no longer at the Commission whose contribution stands out.

One of the most formative characters was Jennie Page, whose personal example as Chief Executive set standards for dedication, hard work and energy that have persisted among staff to this day.

Erica Roberts and her team developed the Millennium Awards and Fellowship from the ambitious ideas of Commissioners, through a high profile launch by Tony Blair to securing the Millennium Awards Trust in perpetuity – so that

individuals would continue to be supported in community projects long after the Commission itself was gone.

Doug Weston came from the private sector and spearheaded the delivery of a £2.3 billion public projects portfolio. The incredible diversity of the projects that Commissioners funded set an enormous challenge for Doug and his team, but they changed the face of the nation.

John McCarthy's Festival team was one of the smallest grant teams at the Commission but did a remarkable job of organising celebrations across the United Kingdom on New Year's Eve 1999, followed by a memorable year of community festivals culminating in spectacular celebrations at the end of the year.

Angela Salt's press and communications section had 14 people at its peak, they were the glue which held the millennium family together and made sure that the public

knew that the Lottery was supporting this year-long celebration.

The existence of a finite time limit on the Commission's life from the start helped it grow into an exciting and dynamic organisation. Thanks to the vision and dedication of all the Commission staff, Commissioners and grant recipients, the United Kingdom has enjoyed a wealth of projects, celebrating the new millennium in style, and leaving a lasting legacy of projects for future generations.



Sarah-Jane Blizzard



Alasdair Macdonald



Jerry Michell



Steve Denford



Paul Meek

	PA to Mike O'Connor, Director of the Millennium Commission	Projects Manager	Director of Commercial	Head of Awards	Assistant Management Accountant
How long have you worked at the Commission?	Nearly five years	Six years	Eight years	Eight years	Around six years
What is your favourite project or scheme that the Commission has funded?	The Eden Project. For a long time I looked forward to visiting it, and it lived up to all my expectations when I did.	I think it would be the National Memorial Arboretum, near Alrewas. For its simplicity, for the hundreds of small donations that made it achievable, and for its ever changing environment as the trees and memorials establish themselves.	It depends on which I last visited.	One I'll never forget is The Spirit of Nottingham, the city's Millennium Festival. It included a show I saw involving children with learning disabilities. They took part on exactly the same basis as the other children with no special treatment being given them. It was great fun but very moving too.	Third Millennium Muncaster, on the western coast of Cumbria.
What has been your favourite thing about working at the Commission?	The people I've worked with.	The people.	The enthusiasm from projects and Commission staff.	The camaraderie. The Commission's willingness to take risks and the freedom to create innovative funding programmes.	The people. Also that the Commission takes risks in the projects it chooses to fund, where other organisations might not.
What are you most proud of within your work at the Commission?	Just being a part of an organisation which has been able to support such a variety of people and projects.	When I travel around the country and I see any Millennium Commission project, I know what a huge amount of effort and time people from all walks of life put into making it happen. That I have been able to play a small part has been immensely satisfying.	Helping to bring about a £2 billion portfolio of capital projects, many of which have changed the face of the UK.	The determination of my Festival Unit team to ensure that London did not lose out on New Year's Eve celebrations at the end of 2000, when the Greater London Assembly decided at the last minute not to go ahead. As we had only three weeks to work on this, it was probably the fastest funding programme on record.	That I've been able to provide a valuable service to the Commission, working within a highly respected team.
What do you think has been the Commission's greatest achievement?	The Millennium Encore Scheme, which has enabled tens of thousands of children who would not normally have had the chance, to visit the theatre. From their feedback, you can tell how much they have really gained from the experience.	Time will tell but I believe that increasingly as people look back at how we celebrated the millennium, they will consider that what the Commission has done in a very short space of time was a great achievement. I don't believe its impact has been fully realised yet as the impact on regeneration continues to be felt.	Achieving over £2 billion of new projects and 32,000 Millennium Awards as well as the festivals and other schemes, all in the space of ten years.	Without doubt the Millennium Awards scheme. No other Lottery Distributor took the gamble to give money directly to individuals, so they could develop their skills through undertaking a project which benefits the community. The sheer range of the projects undertaken by over 32,000 people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities has been astounding. To a mere administrator like me their commitment and enthusiasm has been humbling.	The Millennium Dome becoming the most visited visitor attraction in the UK in the year 2000. If it had remained open after 2000, I wonder if it would have built on this success?

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