

# Starpeople

The Millennium Commission Magazine

AUTUMN ISSUE 2003



# Contents



The cover image was painted by Colin Bentham during his Barrow CRC Cultural Achievement Millennium Award project. The peaceful Rothko Room at Tate Modern inspired Colin to look into colour therapy and arts in health. He trained in colour theory to produce a series of oil paintings which were exhibited within community healthcare settings to stimulate interest and recovery.

- 3 Welcome
- 4 Out of Time
- 6 Any Volunteers?
- 8 Linking London: Peabody Trust Millennium Award  
Bangla School: Arwain WCVA Millennium Award
- 9 Bike to the Future: RIAS Millennium Award  
Life after Deaf: Coalfields Community Spirit Millennium Award
- 10 Star Story: Cue Stars
- 11 Star Story: Is Kissing Gluten-Free?
- 12 Building on Success
- 14 Earthwatch Ignites Community Action
- 16 Bringing Black History to Life
- 18 Review: Park Life
- 19 Update

The Millennium Commission was set up in 1994 to assist communities in marking the close of the second millennium and celebrating the start of the third. The Commission uses money raised by the National Lottery to encourage projects throughout the nation which enjoy public support and which will be lasting monuments to the achievements and aspirations of the people of the UK. Over £2 billion has been invested by the Millennium Commission in buildings, environmental projects, celebrations and individual Millennium Awards.

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For details of amending our mailing list, see page 19.

# Welcome

Welcome to the autumn edition of Starpeople. Following a summer of record-high temperatures, we've been achieving a few records of our own, including celebrating our 30,000th Millennium Award winner and reaching nearly 10 years in the life of the Millennium Commission. We'll be sharing the Commission's story, from its formation in 1994 to the present day, with a three-week 'Out of Time' exhibition in December. Hosted by Tate Modern, it will contain stunning images of some of the Commission's 200 projects, along with photography and artwork created by Millennium Award Fellows. We hope it provides an interesting visual account of the Commission's investment of Lottery funds. For more information, see our feature on page 4, and visit [www.millennium.gov.uk](http://www.millennium.gov.uk).

Meanwhile, enjoy this latest edition of Starpeople in which we find out how volunteering is accelerating UK regeneration, learn how Black History Month is being marked and meet Earthwatch Fellows who are inspiring their communities to make a real difference.

## Alison Duguid

Editor, Starpeople

# Star Stats

Do you know who else receives Starpeople magazine? The readership comprises approximately:

- 58% Millennium Award Winners and Fellows
- 20% Community and Government Organisations
- 13% General Public and Others
- 7% Libraries
- 1% Millennium Commission Projects
- 1% Overseas Community and Government Organisations



## What's on at Millennium Projects

### Dino Dig, Hands-on Exhibition

3 September 2003 – 7 January 2004  
Sensation, Dundee  
01382 228800; [www.sensation.org.uk](http://www.sensation.org.uk)

### Family Christmas Concert

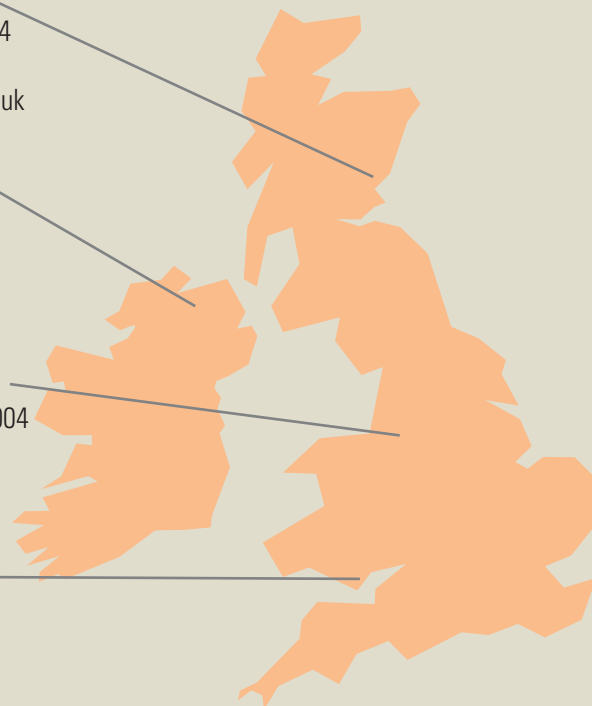
22 December 2003  
Millennium Forum  
Derry/Londonderry  
028 7126 4455  
[www.millenniumforum.co.uk](http://www.millenniumforum.co.uk)

### Taboo, the Boy George Musical

11 December 2003 – 17 January 2004  
The Lowry, Salford Quays  
0870 111 2000  
[www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com)

### Stereophonics Concert

20 December 2003  
The Millennium Stadium, Cardiff  
0870 013 8600  
[www.cardiff-stadium.co.uk](http://www.cardiff-stadium.co.uk)



# Out of Time – the new millennium in pictures

Since it was set up in February 1994, the Millennium Commission has distributed over £2 billion of National Lottery money around the UK. From major city regeneration projects to village greens, world renowned stadia to community support groups, an incredible variety of schemes has changed the face of the UK.



'Who is free' by Isaac Acheampong



Photo: Jim Cartwright

National Space Centre

Nearly 10 years on and the true impact of this investment is becoming clear. Such a range of new buildings with often groundbreaking new architecture, and such an array of projects undertaken by the Millennium Award winners has meant that the Commission's photo library is a stunning collection of images! And these images will form the basis of a photographic exhibition – Out of Time – to celebrate and communicate the incredible achievements of people and projects all over the UK. The exhibition will be hosted by the Commission-funded Tate Modern in December 2003 before moving on to other venues around the UK in the new year.

Director Mike O'Connor explains the ethos behind the new exhibition: "Everyone who has ever bought a Lottery ticket can consider themselves a stakeholder in all the initiatives the Commission has supported – these projects belong to all of us, in whichever part of the UK we live. We hope Out of Time will

provide a stunning visual account of what has been achieved, since it is only now, when we look back, that we can be truly proud and understand the legacy that has been created.

"The most striking point about the Millennium Commission is that – beyond the undefined notion of celebrating the new millennium – it was set up without a detailed area of responsibility. Each of the other Lottery distributors had its field clearly defined – the arts, sport or heritage. The remit of the Millennium Commission – as its name indicates – was to mark the millennium, and this has meant a wealth of ambitions have been achieved."

Tate Modern was initially supported by a £50 million Lottery grant from the Commission in 1995. In the recent round of funding to enhance existing Commission projects (see page 12), the Commission was pleased to award a further grant of £1.38 million to the Tate to improve its riverside access. It is fitting that in the interim this space is being used to host the new exhibition.

The new Out of Time exhibition will incorporate an exciting design to fit in with its surroundings. In addition to viewing the images, visitors will be able to see a film about the Commission's work and access the Commission's new web site.

Out of Time will run from 1 – 19 December at Tate Modern, Bankside, London.

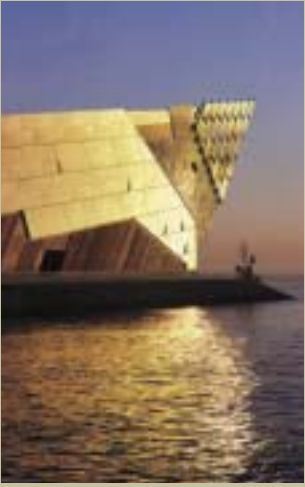
Admission free.

Tate information line: 020 7887 8000

[www.millennium.gov.uk](http://www.millennium.gov.uk)  
[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)

# Views from the Gallery

Photo: Richard Bryant/Arcaid



## Deep

The world's first 'Submarium' combines a visitor attraction, business centre, lifelong learning centre and research facility. The Deep aims to develop a greater understanding of the oceans and their secrets and to foster a deeper appreciation of the need to protect them. On view are seven species of shark, and the main tank has the world's longest ride in a transparent lift, bringing visitors face to face with a wide range of exotic creatures.

## Joanne Mohammed

Joanne Mohammed's exhibition was named 'Transitions' after the transition metals in the periodic table. It shows a series of images of women from African and Asian descent representing different metals. The project, funded by a Peabody Trust 'Champions for Change' Millennium Award, was displayed in South London.



Photo: Brian Sherwen

## Renaissance of Whitehaven

Whitehaven Harbour has newly revamped promenades and quays, and a permanent waterscape and 100-berth marina have been created in the inner harbour through the construction of a sea lock. The world's first exhibition depicting the story of the UK rum trade is set in the original shop, courtyards, cellars and bonded warehouses of the centuries-old Jefferson's family wine merchants business, located in the town.

## Ian Jebbett

Ian wanted to create photographic documentation of the local area surrounding the 'Bluestone' outcrop in North Pembrokeshire, including 'In the Shadow of the Bluestones' pictured here. With his You and Your Community – Wales Millennium Award he was able to share the landscape's geographical interest and beauty with others.



## Hugh Hill

Hugh Hill's passion for photography led him to take a City & Guilds in photography using his 'Real Lives, Real People' Mind Millennium Award. Hugh ran workshops in photography for students with disabilities and held an exhibition of photographic work.

# Any Volunteers?

The National Centre for Volunteering defines volunteering as “any activity which involves spending time, unpaid, or doing something which aims to benefit individuals or groups other than or in addition to close relatives or to benefit the environment”. Recent research from the Centre shows that 22 million adults in the UK still take part in voluntary activity each year.



Volunteers at Vicki Cartman Millennium Green, Skipton, North Yorkshire, who help to keep the Green free of litter every week.

Volunteers at St John the Baptist Church, Tuebrook, Liverpool, pictured in the bell tower.



Through its funding of Millennium projects and Award schemes, the Millennium Commission has made a direct contribution to supporting voluntary activity in the UK.

With nearly £10 million of Commission grant, the Millennium Greens initiative has created 245 ‘breathing spaces’ – safe places for local communities to relax, play and enjoy nature and pleasant surroundings close to their homes. The successful creation of each Green is a tribute to the dedication, hard work and commitment of local people who voluntarily devised the plans, purchased the land on trust, and carried out the work required to provide and maintain a local green space. The Ringing in the Millennium project, with nearly £3 million of Commission grant, has created a nationwide network of Millennium bells in 150 churches and other buildings by casting and hanging new bells and restoring previously ‘unringable’ bells. Volunteers rang the new bells out at the close of the second millennium and the start of the third.

Having just approved the 30,000th Award winner, the Millennium Awards Scheme has a vibrant community of active volunteers. Our Social Impact study found that as a result of their Award, 73 per cent of Award winners are more likely to volunteer in community activity, and 89 per cent of them carried on their project voluntarily. On average, 148 days or 1,100 working hours are spent on each Millennium Award project – which means about 26 million hours of voluntary work in total so far, or 156 million hours of people's time!

Volunteering and regeneration are not normally terms that people link together, but in South London they are linked through the expertise of the volunteering development agency, Volunteers in Action Southwark (VIA). Its Director, John Barkus, talks more about volunteering, regeneration, and how his own Millennium Award transformed his life.

“Part of my Award involved a fact-finding trip to four very different US cities: Atlanta to



John Barkus, Director of VIA

look at the ways black and minority ethnic groups are engaged in volunteering; Los Angeles to examine an education project that has partnered schools in downtown LA and London; San Francisco to look at regeneration and community participation; and New York to look at how businesses are supporting inner-city community projects.

“Volunteering is key to regeneration, and on my visit to San Francisco I learned first-hand how Crissy Fields in the San Francisco Bay area was completely regenerated with the help of volunteers.

The area was a disused scrubland which had been used as a military airbase. Hundreds of volunteers were recruited to help regenerate this redundant space. The engagement of the community and the involvement of volunteers highlights the importance of the two in regeneration. Without community activists campaigning to release the redundant land back to the community, Crissy Fields would never have happened.

“I was able to directly transfer many of my findings when, following my project, an employment opportunity arose at VIA as Director. I truly believe that I was employed because of the knowledge and experience of community activism, regeneration and volunteering which I had learned from my Award project.

“In New York I had seen how the internet had transformed a volunteer centre with a web site through which volunteers could set up accounts and search a volunteering database. This too was



John Barkus, volunteering in the USA

something that I implemented. I worked in partnership with the national volunteering database [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) and created a web site for VIA where volunteers can now register online: [www.vias.org.uk](http://www.vias.org.uk). Today over half of all our volunteers register online. Recently the web site was completely redesigned with the help of Teresa Crook, also a Fellow, who donated over 100 hours of volunteering time. Since becoming a Fellow I have met many others and feel extremely privileged to be in such an exclusive club of social entrepreneurs.

“Today the UK government has its Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy which

highlights 88 priority areas across England that are in need of regeneration and support to address the differences between poorer and richer areas. Neighbourhood Renewal is about looking at a longer-term solution so that in the future no one should be disadvantaged because of the area in which they live. Volunteers are key to the success of Neighbourhood Renewal. In Southwark we are supporting community activists with their role within the Southwark Community Empowerment Network as part of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy to empower local people with decisions that affect their community.”

**Probably most people reading this article will have volunteered in the past or currently volunteer to help create a more socially inclusive society. Have a look at the national volunteering database, [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk), to find out more about what's going on in your area.**

# Linking London

**When Ron Newman received his Peabody Trust 'Leaders for London' Millennium Award for his newsletter, Community Link-Up, he wanted to network people with disabilities in London. He never imagined just how far it would take him.**

"As Chair of Disability Hackney, I have spent years debating access, transport and equality issues. However, in 2000, following the newsletter's success, I was asked to give accessibility auditing, training in IT and the Disability Discrimination Act, and recruitment advice. Also, when I'm not volunteering for nearly 10 organisations, I am doing consultation work for the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Wembley Stadium project and 2012 London Olympic Bid. This year I helped to organise a European Year of the Disabled Person

event, with 500 visitors and a lively debate chaired by Peter White, the BBC Disability Adviser and Radio 4 presenter.

"My family supports my volunteering, and I was proud when my wife and daughter applied for their own Millennium Awards to compile an anti-bullying newsletter and form a youth club. I may have to use a wheelchair for transport but this has not stopped me doing something I really enjoy. Rather, it has focused me on being independent. I was delighted to be nominated for the 2003 Disabled Person of the Year Award, to be judged in November, and also to attend the GLA's London Day. Being recognised for our contributions made me realise how much some of us, especially Fellows, really care for our communities."

*Email Ron:  
newmanr@  
getreal.co.uk*



## Bangla School

**Identifying a desire from local children to find out more about their Bangladeshi roots, Mostafa Uddin (pictured above, back row) applied for an Arwain: WCVA Millennium Award to help them.**

"In recent years our area of Cardiff has lacked any services for Bangladeshi children. They have had nowhere to learn their language and no central point at which to meet up and talk. The area also has a large proportion of low-income families. I started the Gabalfa Bangla School in February, and since then weekly classes have been held for children who want to learn about Bangladeshi culture and to learn the

Bengali language. Family support is important to the project and throughout the year we have introduced activities where the parents are encouraged to come along to the community hall and socialise. They can see their children learning together through traditional teaching methods and games.

"Before my Award, I already volunteered as an adviser with the Bangladeshi Centre and I was able to transfer knowledge and expertise from there to my project. I was also well placed to access resources from the Bangladeshi Centre in Riverside and the Bangladeshi Association, of which I'm Secretary.

"I have been greatly encouraged by the response from my local community. The project has benefited my community by providing the opportunity for all ages to meet and speak Bengali, with the additional advantage of information and support being available. I was delighted to be awarded the Lord Mayor of Cardiff's Community Award in 2001 in recognition of my local voluntary work."

# Bike to the Future

***Walking across a bridge to work was a daily task for George Glaister, made worse by the noisy cars driving below and their toxic fumes he had to inhale. But then he had the idea of taking advantage of what the Highlands of Scotland have to offer – wind.***

“I wanted to convert wind power into a mode of transportation which was environmentally friendly, economical, silent and, most of all, everlasting. My inspiration came from the realisation that petrol will soon be extinct along with the combustible energy it uses.

“My Millennium Award from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland enabled me to store invisible, renewable energy – namely wind, solar, tidal and hydro power – in a battery to then be used in transportation, mainly for my electric scooter. By putting on an exhibition and letting people try out rechargeable electric mopeds, I was able to show my community of

Ross-shire the benefits: they can do 30mph, be virtually silent, have no harmful fumes, cover a 25-mile range on a single charge and cost less than 20p to charge.

“I’d like to hold more demonstrations in how to create, store and use renewable energy, and with members of my local council present. Another of my goals is to set up local recharging centres for people with electric transportation so they can ‘top-up’ on clean energy. Anyone who is interested in one-day introductory courses about electric-powered transportation can email me at [electricmopeds@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:electricmopeds@yahoo.co.uk) or visit my web site [www.electrichorse.co.uk](http://www.electrichorse.co.uk)”



Photography: Allan Glenwright

## Life after Deaf

***Jane Atkinson (pictured centre with Fellows Betty Hall and Ian Peel) has set up an advocacy service and raised considerable funds since establishing East Durham Deafened & Hearing Impaired Support (EDDHIS) with her 'Coalfields Community Spirit' Millennium Award from County Durham Foundation.***

“Making changes was something I had always talked about doing, but I felt I was just a housewife who had lost her hearing. I knew about the traumatic effect of hearing loss but very little about the options available, and I lacked the knowledge and confidence to act. With my Award I was able to set up EDDHIS to bring together and empower people who had become isolated due to acquired hearing loss. Through fundraising and book-keeping courses, and help from Durham County Foundation and [www.starpeople.org.uk](http://www.starpeople.org.uk), I took EDDHIS from a lip-reading group to an organisation with three support groups running workshops in lip-reading, IT, health promotion and stress-busting.

“Since completing my Award, I have raised nearly £65,000. For larger grants I targeted funders who knew me or would meet me to discuss the project, and I found that small organisations have greater success with local funders. Rather than asking one trust for £40,000, I ask one for £20,000 and two for £10,000. I also learned to read funding guidelines before filling in an application form!

“My project has been a huge success: we now have a full-time development worker and an advocacy office, and my vision is for EDDHIS to spread across County Durham. Deafness changed my life beyond recognition: my Millennium Award has given me back my self-esteem and given me something to be proud of.”

# Cue Stars

*The You and Your Community Millennium Awards, run by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, gave Sandy Rainey the perfect opportunity to combine his love and knowledge of snooker with his desire to contribute to peace building.*

Sandy is a qualified snooker coach and was aware that while young people from the two communities in Northern Ireland often don't mix a great deal, sport can offer a neutral arena, removed from the tensions that dominate relations between their communities. Thanks to his Award, he can offer free weekly snooker coaching sessions to a cross-community group of 20 boys from inner-city Belfast. These will culminate in a series of competitions against other teams from Northern Ireland.

While Sandy is dedicating a lot more of his time to the project than he originally anticipated, he is more than happy to do so. Not only has he been encouraged by the group's progress – he says he can already see some natural talent emerging – but Sandy also feels that the boys are gaining a valuable insight into each other's communities and realising they can get along regardless of the difficulties that may exist.

Photos on these pages:  
Dick Makin Imaging



# Is Kissing Gluten-Free?

*Information is empowerment – as Isobel Norris found out through her pioneering project around the issues of Coeliac disease. The condition makes people intolerant to gluten found in wheat, oats, barley and rye, and Isobel was aware that as people knew nothing about it they were unable to provide her with food she could safely eat – and this meant missing out.*

It is estimated that one per cent of the population have the Coeliac condition, but the only information Isobel could find was full of jargon and not user-friendly for young people. Determined to combat this, she applied for a You and Your Community Millennium Award to design leaflets and flyers called 'Is kissing gluten-free?' Now not only do her friends, teachers and young people in her area understand about the condition, but doctors' surgeries, schools and

restaurants also display her flyers. The charity Coeliac UK ([www.coeliac.co.uk](http://www.coeliac.co.uk)) was so impressed and inspired by Isobel's work that it has used her leaflets to launch Young Coeliac UK.

To read more about the project and relevant resources go to [www.starpeople.org.uk](http://www.starpeople.org.uk)

# Building on Success

The Millennium Commission's final tranche of major Lottery grants was announced this summer. 150 new grants were awarded, totalling over £32 million to build on the success of existing Millennium Projects around the UK.



A Millennium Village Hall

**What does this mean for existing Millennium Commission projects in your area?**

Well, it means that there are going to be new public resources and community initiatives springing up all over the country. Projects supported range from a new education centre for the Eden Project and enhanced children's play centres in Glasgow to a new Millennium Square for the City of Sheffield.

200 Millennium Projects across the UK have benefited from over £1.3 billion since

the Millennium Commission announced its first grants in 1995. Not only have Millennium Projects proven to be extremely successful as visitor attractions, they have provided access to education, science, the arts and our environment. In addition, their quality has been recognised with a host of awards which include the most prestigious tourism, building and architectural awards – in 2001 and 2002 the Stirling Prize for Architecture was won by Commission projects. These new grants will reinforce the legacy which these projects are creating for the people of the UK.

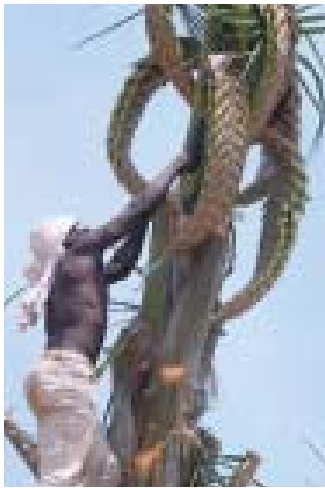
Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Chair of the Millennium Commission and Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said, "Not enough people realise the extent of the contribution the Lottery has made to the lives people lead right across the UK – perhaps that is one of the reasons why Lottery sales have declined. Hopefully, these final major

Millennium Commission grants, which build on the success of existing Commission projects, will help get the message across because they typify the benefits which the Lottery is building."

£3.5 million will go to build on the success of existing Millennium Projects in Scotland. Among these grants, the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute has been awarded £2.4 million for a new headquarters in Inverness and new and improved facilities for Perth College. The UHI Millennium Institute is a truly innovative project serving the educational needs of communities across a



University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute



The Millennium Seed Bank

huge area. We believe it will be a model for similar institutions in the future.

One of the great threats facing the world is the loss of our biodiversity. Every day unique plant species are lost forever – plants that might meet vital needs in the future. The Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place is protecting our biodiversity by collecting and storing seeds. Our new grant of £2.1 million will enable them to collect and preserve more seeds from across the world.

85 smaller community projects across the UK have benefited from this new round of funding. £100,000 has been allocated to village and community halls in Wales through the 20th Century Halls for Wales initiative.

Located in the city of Derry/Londonderry, the Millennium Forum is Ireland's largest purpose-built theatre. As the major arts and cultural venue in the north-west of Ireland, it supports the educational fabric of the region through its programming mix and a variety of projects such as the drama programme for pre-school children. It has excellent conference facilities and is used by a number of local groups for dance, drama and music tuition. An additional grant of £306,320 will enhance these with a new restaurant, kitchen and suite of five meeting rooms.

## Facts and Figures

- **A total of £32 million** was awarded to 150 Millennium Commission projects.
- **Nearly 100 village and community halls** received an enhancement grant.
- **Steep Village Hall** in Hampshire is using its £14,300 grant to create a community cinema facility with open access to the public. Appropriately, the match funding for this cinema will come from a bequest from Sir Alec Guinness – one of the village's most famous residents.
- **The largest grant** of £10 million went to the Eden Project in Cornwall for a new education centre.
- **The smallest grant** of £244 went to Abbots' St Mary Church in Sulhamstead, Berkshire, for a wrought iron pole and new curtains to keep out the draught!

# Earthwatch Ignites Community Action

In the past 30 years the Earthwatch Institute has enabled thousands of members of the general public to become involved in scientific field research and to work shoulder-to-shoulder with leading scientists. It is because of its commitment to the development of the individual that the Millennium Commission has worked with Earthwatch to distribute over 1,000 Millennium Awards through two Award Schemes.



Earthwatch Fellows Susanna Andrew, Margaret Willis and James McManners with an echidna on Kangaroo Island, Australia.

Earthwatch strongly believes that a sustainable future requires not only objective scientific data, but also that the scientific process must engage the general public if it is to change the world. The Earthwatch Award Schemes have given individuals the opportunity to work as part of Earthwatch's international research teams in such diverse destinations as Costa Rica and the Russian Republic, taking the vital step towards bringing back skills learnt and becoming

environmental ambassadors for local communities throughout the UK.

Building on the success of the first scheme for teachers and environmental educators, the most recent Millennium Award Scheme for the over 50s offered a grant to individuals to start their own community conservation project and an Earthwatch Community Officer to provide care, advice and a support network to enable the Award winners to move proverbial mountains! Projects included such activities as developing disused sites into community gardens; producing research studies into local wildlife; giving talks on environmental issues to the local community; and designing teaching resource packages. It is of these community conservation projects back in the UK that Earthwatch is most proud.

As the most recent Earthwatch Millennium Award Scheme draws to a close, we can count the number of achievements. The Fellows from the second scheme have contributed

48,000 working hours to their community projects. In addition, they have recruited 10,500 volunteers from their communities to help with the projects, who gave a further 72,000 hours of their time. Fellows have been spreading the word about their Awards and projects through an astonishing 209 broadcasts, 573 print interviews, 534 slide shows and 157 exhibitions. But the achievements don't stop there; 40,265 tree and hedge plants have been planted, 512 wildlife homes have been created and 143 school projects have been undertaken.

These impressive results are due to the effective and efficient working relationships between the Fellows, Earthwatch and the Millennium Commission. Working with the Millennium Commission has enabled Earthwatch to develop its Community Department. The first step for Community Officers Sarah Staunton and Tim Hall was to create a support network for the returning Fellows. By visiting the Millennium Commission's

Link & Learn events, the team was able to develop specific Earthwatch regional events to encourage their Fellows to create a network of support for each other. Working with strategic organisations, regional community workshops were organised at both Edinburgh Zoo and the National Trust-owned Stackpole Education Centre in Wales.

The creation of a sound support network was just one challenge for the Earthwatch Community Team. Another was the design and manufacture of tools for Fellows. Spades and hoes were not enough; they needed concise and coherent

guides to fundraising, publicising their work, volunteer recruitment and environmental advice for achieving their community projects. Using Starpeople fact sheets, links to local organisations and the web, Community Officers were able to target these resources and make them relevant. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Community Officers provided one-to-one support, visiting an incredible 153 projects throughout the UK. Ultimately everyone's hard work has inspired individuals to take action, to 'think global and to act local'.



Graham Sheath's 'Planting Village Fields for Wildlife' Earthwatch project in Alne, Yorkshire.



Photo courtesy of Kent Messenger Group

## Sue Sullivan – My Earthwatch Project

***“For my Earthwatch Millennium Award, I firstly had a marvellous trip to New South Wales in Australia, where I helped to monitor populations of endangered frogs.***

“I then held two wildlife gardening days in my garden in East Kent. The sun shone and 35 people came to Gardeners Cottage to find out how to make their gardens more attractive to wildlife. We were assisted by Laurence Clemons, a bee and fly expert from the Kent Field Study Group, and Susannah Peckham, a conservation officer with English Nature. The picture above shows us at our wildlife pond, which was created three years ago and which is now alive with frogs, newts, dragonflies and even grass snakes.

“Many people were inspired to change their gardening habits. Some thought they might dig

new ponds to attract frogs, newts and dragonflies or plant native species of trees, whilst others were going to attempt to leave the hoe in the shed more often and allow a few wild flowers to bloom and seed. We know one couple have already begun to create their own back garden wild flower meadow.

“As a result of our Award project, we have decided to open our garden to the public next summer, and continue our process of encouraging others to create some habitat in their own gardens. If we can, in some small way, make up for habitat loss in this crowded corner of south-east England, then we feel we have achieved something worthwhile.”

# Bringing Black History to Life

Across the United Kingdom, activities have been taking place for Black History Month, which is celebrated annually in October.



Patrick Vernon

Black History Month can trace its origins back to the early 20th century in the USA. In 1915 Dr Carter Godwin Woodson, who has at times been named the father of Black History Month, launched 'Negro History Week' encouraging communities to celebrate African heritage. In the 1970s this week grew to a month, and in the 1980s Black History Month took off in the UK. Originally a celebration of links between African cultures and societies in the West, Black History Month has come to include celebrations within Indian, Irish and Chinese communities, among many others.

In line with its commitment to help communities celebrate the new Millennium, the Millennium Commission has contributed a considerable amount to the celebration of cultural history, both in terms of larger-scale projects, Millennium Festivals and individual Millennium Awards. A number of Millennium Commission Projects which reflect the achievements and

aspirations of the UK's ethnic minority communities have been awarded grants of over £4.5 million, including the Afro-Caribbean Resource Centre in Birmingham and Knights Foyer in Croydon.

In 2001, Millennium Awards Fellow Patrick Vernon (left) set up a web site, Every Generation ([www.everygeneration.co.uk](http://www.everygeneration.co.uk)), a dedicated web site and resource aimed at the black community and mainstream bodies on history, heritage and family genealogy. We asked Patrick about his other involvement in raising awareness of black history:

"Did you know that a freed Guyanese slave called John Edmonstone taught Charles Darwin how to stuff birds in Edinburgh? Or that Queen Victoria's grandmother, Queen Charlotte, was of mixed race? That Battersea had a black mayor in the early 1900s?

"Every life has a story, and remarkable lives generate remarkable stories. The stories of the people above are all the more remarkable given that

they undoubtedly faced profound obstacles, and that they seemed to be forgotten by history. For every David Beckham there is a Justin Fashanu (the first black player to be sold to another team for £1 million) or Arthur Wharton (Britain's first black footballer), for every Florence Nightingale there is a Mary Seacole, and for every William Wilberforce there is a Gustavus Vassa.

"I conceived the '100 Great Black Britons' in response to the BBC's 'Great Britons' debate which took place in 2002. Not one person of colour made it to the Top 100, although many had made significant achievements and contributions over the centuries to Britain's history. (Winston Churchill was the overall winner, and over 300,000 votes were cast during the whole BBC campaign.)

"The creation of '100 Great Black Britons' will give national attention to the history of the black community in Britain over the last 1,000 years. This list, and the

debate that it will generate, is a long-awaited celebration – a great celebration of the unsung heroes who helped change and shape the political, social and cultural landscape of Britain. It is not only a celebration of the talents and greatness of the past, but also an opportunity to celebrate current and well-known black individuals.

“London’s mayor, Ken Livingstone, selected the campaign to officially launch Black History Month in London. The site received 250,000 hits in its first week, and extensive national media



Broadcaster Sir Trevor Macdonald

coverage. As a result of the campaign I have been approached by the BBC to explore ideas of a documentary on 100 Great Black Britons.

“People can vote until 1 January 2004, with the final results announced in February 2004 to coincide with Black History Month in America. You can vote online at [www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com) or telephone 0901 0233330 (charged at 25p per minute). Adult voters will be entered into a prize draw to win a trip to The Gambia!

“We also design web sites and multimedia resources for small businesses and community organisations and provide workshops and training on black heritage, genealogy and multimedia. For further information, please contact Angelina Osborne on 020 7247 5565 or email [info@everygeneration.co.uk](mailto:info@everygeneration.co.uk). We are also looking for sponsorship to develop a CD ROM for schools and mentoring projects and welcome help at [sponsorship@everygeneration.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@everygeneration.co.uk)”



Every Generation won the 2003 CRE Race in the Media Award for best web site. Patrick has also been presented with the Community Champion Award by Doreen Lawrence for his work as a volunteer mentor for young people while developing the web site and double Windrush Award for 2003 for Professional Achievement and Community Champion for the site.

Floella Benjamin, Millennium Commissioner, attended the launch of Patrick’s poll and said, “I believe the tremendous

achievements and contributions made by black and Asian people should be celebrated not just in Black History Month, but each day of the year as a reminder of the contribution made to make Britain such a rich and diverse nation. Both Patrick’s web sites, [www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com) and [www.everygeneration.co.uk](http://www.everygeneration.co.uk), provide important new resources to educate all cultures and impress upon people the varied historical background of Britain.”

## Resources

[www.100greatblackbritons.com](http://www.100greatblackbritons.com)

[www.everygeneration.co.uk](http://www.everygeneration.co.uk)

[www.black-history-month.co.uk](http://www.black-history-month.co.uk)

[www.channel4.com/blackhistorymap](http://www.channel4.com/blackhistorymap)

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/society\\_culture/multicultural](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/society_culture/multicultural)



## These recent additions to the Fellowship Library form an interesting memoir and guide to two beautiful and very different London park areas.

**Primrose Hill Remembered** was produced by Age Concern Fellows Myra Newman, Caroline Read and Jean Rossiter with Jo Killip and Sieska Cowdrey, along with Primrose Hill Primary School and Friends of Chalk Farm Library.

Divided into two sections, personal reminiscences and histories of places and organisations, the book contains stories that were submitted by residents past and present. It is an outstanding example of local history, full of the variety of experience and idiosyncrasy that makes a living community. Local people – artists and photographers among them – provided

illustrations for the book, and the group was delighted when David Holmes' front cover design (pictured) won a prize from the Association of Illustrators. Copies of the book are available from Chalk Farm Library and Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre.

Simon Jenkins says of the publication, "Primrose Hill is defined only by the rise of the Hill, the curve of Regent's Park Road, and the great railway cutting down to Euston. Yet it has a fierce and growing sense of its own identity, as evidenced in the loyalties and memories of its inhabitants. This book's memories are primarily those of long-standing residents, of the trauma of the war and

bombing and the more drastic changes brought by the property boom of the past two decades. The latter has transformed Regent's Park Road from a mostly working-class high street to rows of specialist shops and restaurants of wider than local appeal. Yet the scale of the houses and absence of large blocks of flats has kept Primrose Hill true to much of its past. This book is crowded with the insights of youth, matured by the recollection of age. It is good for any neighbourhood to stop occasionally on a milestone, rest and look back."

Eddie Adams, Help the Aged 'Citizens Action' Fellow, has been busy this year researching, collating and producing **Postcards from the Park**. The book, featuring photos and interviews about the Hyde Park area, was launched this autumn at Whiteleys Shopping Centre in Bayswater. The memories of the Gloucester Court Reminiscence Group and their friends take us back to the 20s and 30s with recollections of

summer days spent at the Round Pond fishing for tiddlers with a jam-jar and sandwiches, or boating on the Serpentine with a parent or later with a boy- or girlfriend. Of sometimes listening to the speakers at Speakers Corner, or perhaps joining in with the Welsh Choir which sung there every Sunday.

'Postcards from the Park' was originally presented as an exhibition at the Kensington and Chelsea College, the annual Picture Postcard Show at the Royal Horticultural Halls and at Whiteleys. Eddie and the group were delighted to receive an Adult Learners Week prize for their work and Eddie was spurred on to produce the accompanying book. Richard Cracknell, Millennium Awards Officer from Help the Aged, told us: "Help the Aged are delighted to be able to work with active citizens determined to make a difference in their community, and Eddie's finished book is an excellent example of what can be achieved with hard work and genuine community support."

## Update

### How do I receive the magazine in other formats?

Contact us if you would prefer to receive Starpeople in Braille or large print, on email, disk or audiotape.

### How can I amend your mailing list?

Contact us using any of the details right to let us know of any amendments to or removals from our mailing list.

### Contact details:

The Millennium Awards Fellowship, The Millennium Commission, FREEPOST LON10626, London SW1E 5YP

### Email:

starpeople@millennium.gov.uk

**Telephone:** 020 7880 2001

**Minicom:** 020 7880 7383

**Fax:** 020 7880 2000



### Who are Millennium Awards Fellows?

They are recipients of small Lottery grants of around £2,000, who put their own bright ideas for community projects into action, fulfilling a personal goal and, in doing so, helping others. Their Awards are distributed through charities and other organisations with community networks and a track record in grant making.

### What is the Millennium Awards Trust?

The Millennium Commission has invested £100 million in establishing an endowment fund, the Millennium Awards Trust, to enable the Millennium Awards Scheme to continue in perpetuity. This Trust is administered by UnLtd, also known as the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs, which was set up two years ago by seven not-for-profit organisations. Fellows are eligible to apply for funding from the Millennium Awards Trust. Competition is fierce, so

please phone 0845 850 1122 for advice before submitting an application, or visit [www.unltd.org.uk](http://www.unltd.org.uk).

The Commission has given UnLtd a grant to develop the Fellowship by piloting training and other networking activities in London and Wales this year. The pilot has now been completed and is being assessed. It is hoped to continue to offer similar opportunities across the UK from the start of 2004. The January edition of Starpeople will feature further information on how Fellows around the UK may be able to take advantage of UnLtd's activities.

### What does the Fellowship information pack contain?

The information sheets, available on [www.starpeople.org.uk](http://www.starpeople.org.uk) or by post, cover:

- writing a press release
- getting featured in Starpeople magazine and web site

- discounted entry for Fellows at Millennium Commission projects. You will need your membership card, so get in touch if you have misplaced yours
- fundraising advice.

### Can I use the Millennium Awards branding?

Using the branding will help to build recognition of the Millennium Awards and of your achievements as a Fellow. Download the logo from [www.starpeople.org.uk](http://www.starpeople.org.uk)

or contact us for a branding sheet, stickers or a logo disk in PC or Mac format.

### How can I be featured in Starpeople magazine?

Send in a summary of your project to the postal or email address above, along with any good photos you may have. If your story is not featured in the magazine, it will be kept on file and may be used on the Fellowship web site, [www.starpeople.org.uk](http://www.starpeople.org.uk)

UnLtd\*



## Useful Numbers

### Lottery Good Causes:

telephone: 0845 275 0000  
textphone: 0845 275 0022  
[www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk)

### Camelot National Lottery Awards for All:

[www.national-lottery.co.uk](http://www.national-lottery.co.uk)  
telephone: 0845 600 2040  
[www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)

### New Opportunities Fund:

telephone: 020 7211 1800  
[www.nof.org.uk](http://www.nof.org.uk)

### Community Fund:

telephone: 020 7747 5300  
[www.community-fund.org.uk](http://www.community-fund.org.uk)

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[www.millennium.gov.uk](http://www.millennium.gov.uk)

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**Bill Alexander** – Director of Projects

**Nina Baxter** – Head of Communications

**Janet Bond** – Head of Personnel and Training

**Ian Brack** – Director of Policy

**Steve Denford** – Head of Awards

**David Kennedy** – Head of Finance

**Jerry Michell** – Director of Commercial

**David Pointer** – Head of I.S.

**Tess Sanford** – Secretary to the Commission