

MILLENNIUM COMMISSION

FUNDING FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM

*The Gateshead
Millennium Bridge links
the major new arts and
cultural development at
Gateshead Quays with the
revitalised Newcastle
Quayside on the north
bank of the river*
Photo: Wilkinson Eyre
Architects Limited

Nowhere in the world was the arrival of the third millennium marked in such magnificent style as here in the United Kingdom. This country has a proud tradition of mounting national exhibitions to celebrate its place in the world – the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the 1951 Festival of Britain for example – and since the new millennium was a historic moment in time, it seemed an appropriate point at which to look back on what we had done as a nation and to look forward to what might be to come.

Below: Rising from the regenerated docklands of the Salford Quays in Manchester, The Lowry is a centre for the performing and visual arts, with the world's largest collection of the works of its namesake, LS Lowry.

Opposite: The British Museum Great Court has a glittering, lattice-work glass roof, spanning the inner courtyard of this magnificent Grade I listed building

It was this desire to mark the millennium that provided the inspiration for a huge investment in the United Kingdom that has left a lasting legacy for the people of Britain, a programme of investment of over £2 billion for the benefit of the entire nation.

The source of this funding was the National Lottery, the establishment of which came as something of a surprise to the people of the United Kingdom, since the British Government had always had a strong anti-gambling ethos. The Government of the day, however, under Prime Minister John Major, found itself facing reduced tax incomes and ever-growing calls on public funds. It became acutely aware of the wide areas of activity that contributed enormously to public well-being but which were always at the end of the queue when public moneys were distributed. It was also clear that national lotteries provided a possible source of such income and were doing very well in other countries, so the decision was taken to establish a National Lottery that would provide a source of funding for good causes which was not under the direct control of the Treasury.

The celebration of the new millennium was one of the good causes to benefit from the establishment of a National Lottery and some £2 billion was therefore allocated to the establishment of a wide range of large and small projects right across the United Kingdom.

Crucial to the success of this unprecedented investment was the creation of the organisation to be charged with the responsibility of both distributing and administering the millennium funds. No existing body was suitable, so the National Lottery etc Act 1993 made provision for the estab-

lishment of the Millennium Commission. One of a number of bodies responsible for the distribution of National Lottery funds, the Millennium Commission met for the first time in February 1994. The most striking point about the 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.

As with the other Lottery distributor bodies, the Commission was not set up to fund its own ideas but to seek out and support other people's ideas. Commissioners sought applications for grants to projects that would reflect either the nation's achievements or its aspirations for the future. It produced a wealth of ambitions, which ranged from planting woodlands to refurbishing village halls, from building bridges to setting up community support groups, from organising carnivals to establishing science centres.

The Millennium Commission is governed by nine Commissioners, of whom two are government ministers, one a nominee of the Official Opposition and six are independent. This body has been remarkably stable – four out of the nine appointed in 1994 are still in post. The Commissioners came to the table with a wide variety of expertise, but with no axe to grind – they do not represent any particular interest group. Their role was finite and the existence of a time limit has made the Commission the most exciting and dynamic organisation on which to serve.





THE MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL

Most of the Commission's work has been permanent, but it was right that there should be some emphasis on celebration – to ensure that the year 2000 and the passing of the second millennium would be a joyous occasion, and to give every person in the United Kingdom an opportunity to join the party. The Commissioners therefore allocated just over £30 million of Lottery funding to a year-long programme of community festivals across the whole of the United Kingdom.

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

One of the most important benefits of these festivals was the effect on local communities. They were instrumental in increasing community pride and in drawing 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 opportunities for volunteers to become involved.

The centrepiece of the Millennium Festival celebrations was the Millennium Experience, located in the Dome on the Greenwich Peninsula. Designed to open for the duration of the year 2000 only, the Dome housed a range of attractions, live events and activities that involved schools, voluntary groups, churches and businesses across the United Kingdom.

Although not the success for which the Commission had hoped, the Millennium Experience welcomed more visitors than any other paying visitor attraction in the UK in the year 2000 and only Disneyland in Paris was more popular in Europe. The vast majority of visitors had a great time and the subsequent redevelopment of the previously derelict and contaminated Greenwich Peninsula will support thousands of jobs for generations to come.

MILLENNIUM ENCORE SCHEME

Although the countrywide festivals had taken place by the arrival of the year 2001, the budget had not been entirely used up, so the Millennium Commission developed an innovative initiative to which the surplus could be allocated – the Millennium Encore Scheme. This project was launched in 2002 to encourage an appreciation of the performing arts by young people, many of whom would not normally have an opportunity of attending professional productions.

The scheme was established with a budget of over £2 million of Lottery funding, enabling over 50,000 young people to attend a wide range of productions around the United Kingdom, productions that included theatre, musical theatre, opera, ballet, orchestra and ensemble music productions.

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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. By working in partnership with these established organisations, the Millennium Commission harnessed its expertise to ensure that Lottery money was directed to causes where it would make a real difference, opening up the world of performing arts to thousands of young people right across the United Kingdom, stimulating their senses and capturing their imaginations.

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.

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

MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

The millennium projects are the most visible aspect of the Commission's work – a host of buildings and environmental projects to which over £1.3 billion of the Millennium Commission's funding was allocated. The Commission's contribution represented up to 50% of the cost of each project, the balance being made up of funding that had to be raised by the projects' creators. The selection process must surely have been one of the most testing exercises that the Commissioners had to undergo, for applications were oversubscribed ten times, resulting in nine out of every ten having to be rejected.

It would be impossible to describe a typical millennium project. The Commissioners were looking for those projects that would create a lasting benefit for the United Kingdom. They had to demonstrate public support and celebrate our heritage while taking us forward into the future. A huge range of schemes was chosen, from world class educational visitor attractions such as the Eden Project in Cornwall, to smaller, community-based developments such as village halls and local parks. Communities all around the United Kingdom reaped the benefit, with the creation of 198 projects on over 3,000 sites.



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

The multi-campus University of the Highlands and Islands has created a unique focus for education and life-long learning from Argyll to Shetland, comprising fifteen colleges and research institutions across the Highlands and Islands



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Commission received a large number of applications for visitor attractions, and the 40 or so that were awarded grants provide something for all tastes, from the scientist to the artist. They are more than just visitor attractions. Every one of them is underpinned by a sound educational base and has an important role to play as a scientific, environmental, cultural or heritage resource – or as a platform for regeneration.

The Commissioners could have taken the easy way out when it came to apportioning funding for these attractions. They could have approved only those from the 'tourist honey pots', thus ensuring a regular flow of visitors. Instead they decided to fund projects across a wide range of locations, some decidedly unfashionable, to give the whole of the United Kingdom an opportunity to share in the bounty. The Commissioners knew that they were taking some risks, but – driven by the conviction that Lottery funding should be an agent of change – they selected applications 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 – for the humid tropics and the Mediterranean climatic regions respectively – in which entire microclimates have been recreated to support the plants and trees that are native to the zones represented.



The Rocket Tower at the National Space Centre in Leicester, the United Kingdom's only visitor attraction devoted to the study of space science, and the operational control centre for the Beagle 2 lander craft which will search for evidence of life on Mars

Photo: Jim Cartwright

The Deep, the world's first "Submarium" at the confluence of the River Hull and the Humber estuary in Kingston-upon-Hull - a spectacular visitor attraction, educational facility and research centre

Photo: Richard Bryont/Arcaid

Kingston-upon-Hull might not immediately spring to mind as a tourist trap, but 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 kickstarted an ambitious regeneration programme for the city.

On a brownfield site in the city of Leicester, The National Space Centre is Britain's first visitor attraction dedicated to the study of space science. In association with the University of Leicester, it is also an educational resource and research facility. In early 2004 The National Space Centre, with additional funding from the Millennium Commission, will be instrumental in putting the United Kingdom at the sharp end of space research when it becomes the operational control centre for the Beagle 2 lander craft, which will be conducting experiments to search for evidence of life on the surface of Mars.

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A BOOST FOR ARCHITECTURE

The Millennium Commission can claim to have provided the nation's architectural and design industry with the greatest opportunity ever to devise and implement a range of landmark constructions. They rose to the occasion magnificently – using the opportunity to create 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 30 projects that include new or restored bridges – and Magna in Rotherham, a science adventure centre in the converted Templeborough Steel Mill and one of a host of new science centres funded by the Millennium Commission.

REDISCOVERING SCIENCE

In total, science-based projects represented 18% by value of the applications the Millennium Commission received. 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 an ambitious project being undertaken in conjunction with the Human Genetics Department of the University of Newcastle, attracting top international scientists to link into the analysis programme of the Human Genome project and giving the public a better understanding of what this research programme means.

This total of £315 million represents 25% of the Commission's grant to capital projects but does not include projects such as Eden in Cornwall, The National Botanic Garden of Wales or the Millennium Seed Bank, which could rightly claim to include a significant element of science education in their mission. The National Botanic Garden of Wales is dedicated to horticulture, science and education, featuring the world's largest



The renewal of spa culture in Bath reconnects the city with its reason for being – its unique, naturally occurring thermal waters which are once again available for bathing and healing

Left - right: The National Cycle Network, created by the sustainable transport charity, Sustrans, covers 6,500 miles of cycle routes right across the UK

The National Botanic Garden of Wales, with the world's largest single span oval glasshouse, plays a major role in conservation and sustainability and is dedicated to horticulture, science and education

Castle Muncaster, the classic heritage attraction on the wild, western coast of Cumbria, and headquarters of the World Owl Trust, has reinvented itself as a 21st Century experience – Third Millennium Muncaster – designed to make conservation fun
Photo: Paul O'Rourke

single span oval glasshouse, and playing a major role in conservation and sustainability. At The Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place in West Sussex some 24,000 species of the world's seed-bearing flora are being collected, and bilateral research, training and capacity-building relationships around the world are being developed to support and advance the seed conservation effort.

Although the Commissioners did not impose a plan as to how the United Kingdom should celebrate the millennium, they were not passive and did make some choices – the difference between the proportion of applications made for science and the proportion of grants given, shows that they positively favoured science.

Here then is one of the most important achievements of the Millennium Commission. It has made the most significant investment in the public understanding of science since the Science Museum in London was founded in 1909. But preference alone was not the reason why the Millennium Commission made such a huge investment in science education projects. The most important reason was that it received many high quality applications in these fields. Clearly there was a great demand, and as custodians of Lottery money, the Commissioners felt they should respond accordingly.

Success in science and technology is certainly one of the United Kingdom's greatest achievements, with a total of 59 Nobel Prizes in scientific disciplines to the nation's credit. These prizes are more than laurels to our national honour. In many cases they have underpinned our economic success. If that was true in the past, how much more important will future scientific and technological success be to our economic prospects?

Science is developing at a rapid pace and science centres can help the public understand the complex issues facing them, from biotechnology to nuclear power, in order to make informed decisions and take part in crucial debates. However, it is not

only important for the public to become more informed about science, but it is also just as important for scientists to become more involved in the wider society. Many of the science centres that the Millennium Commission has funded have close connections with academic institutions and through this collaboration scientists learn about how they can communicate better with the public.

When it agreed to fund science centres, the Commission envisaged its role as purely the provider of grants to enable them to be built. However, it recognised that in order to continue to be relevant, to continue to attract visitors, science centres need 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 allow existing museums and science centres to renew, replace, refresh or redevelop high-quality science, education and technology exhibitions. It represents an important new partnership between the Lottery and major non-Government funders.

ENVIRONMENT IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

The quality of our environment in the third millennium was also a major area of investment for the Millennium Commission. Over £350 million has been invested in environmental improvements. Former chemical waste tips, abandoned clay pits and previously underused waterways have been transformed 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, and Sustrans' National Cycle Network has provided 10,530km (6,500 miles) of cycling and walking routes throughout the United Kingdom.

Inland waterways have been the focus of a programme that will result in 15 restorations, revitalising an important part of our national fabric. Realising a 200-year dream to connect the Lancaster Canal to the rest of the inland waterway network, the Millennium Ribble Link creates a 4.5km (2.8 miles) linear water park in Lancashire. 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, the Commissioners wanted to spread Lottery money as widely as possible, ensuring that it

reached grass roots. Very small grants made directly to individual recipients were not a cost-effective way to distribute the money, so the Commission made grants to a number of 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.

The Dales Environet scheme has produced a range of environmental and community initiatives across the Yorkshire Dales, creating new woodlands and wildlife habitats, restoring traditional field barns, completing river crossings and establishing environmental education centres, ensuring that the unique character of the Yorkshire Dales will be preserved for generations to come.

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.

Above: Linking the Peace Gardens and the Millennium Galleries in the heart of the city of Sheffield are the elegant arches of the Winter Garden, a temperate glasshouse landscaped with winding paths and tropical plants from all over the world

Photo: Burro Happold/
Mandy Reynolds



Top left: *The Millennium Commission's flagship project in Northern Ireland is Odyssey in Belfast, a multi-faceted complex situated on the east side of the River Lagan, and one of the world's most adventurous and exciting leisure and entertainment venues*

Top right: *At-Bristol, a visitor attraction designed around an imaginative mix of science, nature and art on the Bristol waterfront*

Right: *The 73,500-seater Millennium Stadium in Cardiff is an international centre for sports, cultural and social events, its retractable roof and adaptable playing area providing a quick response to weather conditions and event requirements*

REGENERATION

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 achievements of the Millennium Commission, however, has been its investment in some of our great city centres, reversing a gradual decline over recent years. Coventry, Birmingham, Durham, Belfast and Portsmouth have all seen developments that have improved accessibility and



The Manchester Millennium Quarter project has rebuilt that part of the city that was badly damaged by the 1996 bomb. The visionary landmark

created new visitor centres, encouraging tourism and economic growth.

In the heart of the city of Sheffield, a fine collection of Grade II listed buildings underpins the framework for the regeneration of the city centre. They are complemented by two contemporary structures – the Millennium Galleries, a national showcase for the visual arts, craft and design, and the elegant arches of the Winter Garden, which support a temperate glasshouse with tropical plants from all over the world.

building of Urbis houses an exhibition dedicated to the experience of life in a modern city. Cathedral Gardens is a green and tranquil area of soft landscaping and Exchange Square is the centrepiece of a series of new streetscapes and major open spaces.

The Cardiff Bay Waterfront is the site of the new Wales Millennium Centre, which is to be the home of the 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 Falkirk Wheel, the focal point of the restoration of the sea-to-sea ship canal which links the historic Forth & Clyde and Union canals between the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh

The millennium projects are nearly all complete, the first having opened in 1996 and the last due for completion in 2004. This spread of openings was planned from the outset. The Commission's final project – a new tower for St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Ipswich – will result in the completion of the last unfinished Anglican cathedral in England – a focus for national and European pilgrimage and the cradle of Magna Carta. It is somehow fitting that the Millennium Commission should complete a construction that first began at the turn of the last millennium.



Above: *The Falkirk Wheel, a unique rotating boat lift at the site of the Millennium Link, the biggest canal restoration ever, linking the Forth & Clyde and Union canals between Glasgow and Edinburgh and opening up to navigation a passage from the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean*

Left: *Tate Modern, which ranks amongst the world's great museums of contemporary art, is linked to St Paul's Cathedral by the Millennium Bridge, the first new Thames crossing for central London since Tower Bridge opened in 1894.*

Photo: Ivor Nicholas



MILLENNIUM AWARDS SCHEME

A unique aspect of the work of the Millennium Commission has been the allocation of £200 million to its Millennium Awards Scheme. Millennium Awards are small grants of between £2,000 and £5,000 that are available to anyone in the United Kingdom – the two main criteria being that the grant has to be used to develop personal skills in order to fulfil a personal goal, and that this goal must have a benefit to the local community. Millennium Awards are an extraordinary example of one of our most admirable national characteristics – our sense of 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 are able to access support, knowledge and expertise throughout the lifetime of their project.

Since the year 2000, the Millennium Commission has requisitioned two independent studies into the social impact of the Millennium Awards Scheme. Both returned very positive results. An average of 2,486 people will be touched in some way by a Millennium Award project, 87%

of Award winners said that their confidence and motivation had been increased as a result of their Award and nearly 70% of 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 in the future and 30% of Award winners believe that their Millennium Award helped them to obtain a new job.

Millennium Awards are reaching every corner of the United Kingdom and all sectors of society are benefiting, with neither age nor disability being a barrier.

No two projects are identical, each stemming from the Award winner's own ideas and many drawing on their own experiences. A number of individuals have used their Award to change negative experiences into positive ones. Davinder Kaur Sandhu's experience of being bullied in the workplace led her to apply for a Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO) Millennium Award. These Awards aim to help ethnic minority volunteers to realise their potential and contribute to local communities, groups and organisations. She produced a booklet, *Bullying in the Workplace: A Survivor's Guide*, following her own problems in finding practical advice on this issue. Realising how difficult this situation must be for speakers of other languages as well, she has had her booklet translated into a number of ethnic minority languages.



Millennium Awards are spanning generations, with the youngest Award winner being 10 and the oldest 100. Leanne Beetham is a talented, 14-year-old artist who paints with her mouth. She wanted to encourage the public to spend more time in the countryside, and also to raise awareness of the need to improve disability access in countryside parks. With her Whizz-Kidz 'No Limits' Millennium Award, Leanne was able to use her skills to create paintings of local wildlife, to produce a booklet and also put on an exhibition of her work. Centenarian Florence Manton is the Millennium Commission's oldest Award winner. With the help of a Brent Generation Challenge Millennium Award and staff at Knowles House, Florence compiled a book of memoirs of Brent over the last 100 years. Through sharing her memories, she hopes to give the community and younger generations an understanding of Brent's history.

A number of Millennium Award schemes enable individuals to travel abroad to research and work in communities there, drawing on those experiences on their return to the United Kingdom to put their findings into practice or to educate others. The World Youth Millennium Awards forged a partnership between Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and The Prince's Trust, giving a number of 17 to 25-year-olds an opportunity to participate in an exchange programme with young people from a developing country overseas. It was under this scheme that Daniel Gifford and his Sri



Lankan exchange partner were able to work firstly at a youth drop-in centre in Northern Ireland and then on community and environmental projects in Sri Lanka. This gave a huge boost to Daniel's self confidence, providing him with a wide range of skills that will serve him well in the future.

Through the Earthwatch Millennium Awards, hundreds of grants have been made available to the many people over 50 who have a great interest in environmental issues and who also have the time to devote to conservation. The Awards have enabled these people to travel to places such as the Caribbean, Kenya, the Amazon, Vietnam and Iceland to study conservation projects. Having been encouraged to 'think globally', these Award winners were then given the opportunity to 'act locally' by initiating or assisting with projects in nature conservation in their own communities – people such as Tony Stebbing who used his Award to study the loss of Caribbean corals due to global warming in San Salvador, and on his return, to carry out a project monitoring the immigration of warm water fish to Cornish waters.

Educating communities is a common theme for Millennium Award projects, whether it be in literacy, health issues, environmental issues, or local histories to name but a few. The Reading Families Millennium Awards were run by the Campaign for Learning to provide opportunities for Award winners to use reading to help people develop new skills and participate in different and challenging

From left - right: Annette Bodsworth's Deafblind UK Millennium Award enabled her to make a video raising awareness of what she felt was a challenging and unique impairment. Annette (centre), who is deafblind herself, says, "My Award project was a valuable experience that enabled me to become part of the wider community."

14 year-old Leanne Beetham's Millennium Award helped her to create paintings of local wildlife, to produce a booklet and put on an exhibition of her work to encourage the public to spend more time in the countryside, and to raise awareness of the need to improve disability access in countryside parks.

Award winner, Tony Stebbing, who used the skills gained studying the loss of Caribbean corals to carry out a project monitoring the immigration of warm water fish to Cornish waters.



Right: With girls' football overtaking netball as the country's top female sport, Keith Aubrey used his Positive People Millennium Award to establish a football academy for girls ages five to ten. He was able to study for level two of the FA Coaching Certificate, and went on to train up parents in coaching skills so they could volunteer too.

Below: Millennium Award winner, Eric Samuel, who used his Award to work with the Newham Food Access Partnership to alleviate nutritional problems in the borough



new projects. These included a prison visitor helping fathers who were serving time to communicate better with their children by working together on a booklet of stories and pictures, a youth worker helping others in the community to collect oral histories that were acted out by a local theatre company and made into a video for youth clubs, and a parent helper encouraging a group of Bangladeshi women to improve their reading, writing and IT skills by working with them to set up an internet newsletter.

The dedication of Award winners has not gone unobserved, with many winning further awards of recognition, further funding and press coverage. In recognition of the positive and enduring difference he has made to the community, Eric Samuel was named Whitbread's Volunteer of the Year in 2001 for the work on his King's Fund Millennium Award. Eric Samuel worked with the Newham Food Access Partnership to alleviate nutritional problems in the borough by providing healthy eating advice to local families and making available to them supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables. Patrick Vernon and Pamela Adjei, Commedia Millennium Award winners, won the web site category of the CRE Race in the Media Awards 2003 with www.everygeneration.co.uk. Every Generation is the only dedicated web site in the United Kingdom aimed at African, Caribbean, Black British and mixed race parentage to act as a resource around family genealogy, history and heritage. The site beat 19 other web sites and was recognised by the judges as a 'resource for all

schools to have in the country in promoting history and heritage'.

THE FUTURE OF THE MILLENNIUM AWARDS

Upon the successful completion of their project, Millennium Award winners are eligible to become a member of the Millennium Fellowship. This Fellowship has been set up not only to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Award winners, but also to encourage them to share ideas and experiences with each other and to help them find support to continue projects into the future.

It is estimated that by 2004 there will be around 32,000 Award winners. It has always been the Millennium Commission's intention that the 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 – to enable the Awards Scheme to continue in perpetuity. This endowment fund will be administered by UnLtd – the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs – a charity set up by seven leading organisations in the United Kingdom.



Andrew Stibbs (pictured) and his friend, John Docker, used their Jack Asbley 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

The Eden Project in Cornwall, a living lesson in man's dependence on the plant world and the need to preserve it for the future survival of our planet
Photo: Nick Gregory/Apex

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

Everyone who has ever bought a Lottery ticket can consider themselves a stakeholder in all the initiatives the Millennium Commission has supported – these projects belong to all of us, in whichever part of the United Kingdom we live. There isn't a part of the country or a sector of the community that

hasn't in some way benefited from the huge achievements of the Millennium Commission. We, in our lifetime, shall not see its like again, but for as long as its influence continues to inspire and encourage the people of the United Kingdom, its legacy will live on.

