

Tuesday 4 April 2006



LOTTERY GOAL POSTS WIDEN FOR NORTH WEST WITH AWARDS FOR ALL £10K HIKE

The Lottery's Awards for All small grants scheme just got bigger. The ceiling for funding awards for North West local communities is today being raised to £10,000 and a new lower threshold level of £300 is also being introduced.

The bigger Awards for All funding band provides more scope for communities to benefit from Lottery good cause funding for inspirational local projects in the North West.

Small scale projects that promote arts and education, encourage healthier living, develop local sports, support heritage initiatives and boost community activities are invited to put their bids in for their share of £60 million of lottery funding that will be rolled out by Awards for All to community projects this year (2006-7).

The increase to £10,000 will allow projects traditionally supported by Awards for All to extend their services further without compromising on quick turn-around, accessibility and customer friendly approach associated with this funding scheme.

The new lower £300 entry point for applications follows successful pilots of these micro grants, recognising the value that smaller grants can bring to grass roots community groups and voluntary organisations.

Awards for All England is the small grants programme run by the **Big Lottery Fund** on behalf of Lottery good cause funders - the Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. More than £287 million has been rolled out to over 78,000 projects since the scheme began eight years ago.

North West projects alone have received over **£39.2 million** through more than **10,000** awards. One project to see the benefits of Awards for All funding is **Battery Lane Allotment** in **Warrington** who have used a **£5,000** grant as part of a project to create a gardener's delight for local disabled people. The completed project, a specially designed allotment, which features raised flowerbeds and a newly adapted car park, will now enable wheel chair users to enjoy a whole range of gardening activities.

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"We are absolutely thrilled with the funding from Awards for All," says **The Battery Lane Allotment Association Secretary John Boyle**. "This grant has enabled us to provide a wonderful life enriching service for people who would normally not have access to facilities like this."

A range of not for profit organisations (including parish or town councils, schools or health bodies) can apply for Awards for All grants via a straightforward application process and most applicants will be advised within eight weeks if they have been successful.

Michelle McNamee, Big Lottery Fund Head of Region in the North West, speaking on behalf of the Awards for All funders, said "Today's announcement will mean so much to so many people across the region. Awards for All is a great way to channel Lottery good causes money to local projects, that make huge improvements to people's lives with comparatively modest amounts of money. The new funding brackets will help even more projects to grow and extend their services and thousands of people will continue to see the benefits that lottery grants can bring, when they are put straight into the hands of hard-working community groups."

For examples of funded work or to find out more about Awards for All grants, who is eligible to apply and how to submit your application, log onto www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 0845 600 2040.

*****ATTN NEWS/PICTURE DESKS*****

Photos of the Battery Lane Allotment project are available at www.picselect.com

Further Information:

**For more information on Awards for All please contact:
Big Lottery Fund**

Public Enquiries Line: 08454 102030

Textphone: 0845 6021 659

**Awards for All application packs are available on Tel: 0845 600 20 40 or by visiting
www.awardsforall.org.uk**

Notes to Editors

- Awards for All England is a joint Lottery grants programme supported by Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund*, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. Awards for All also operates in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- *Big Lottery Fund is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board (which made grants under the name of the Community Fund) and operates this scheme on behalf of the participating distributors.

**Ends//
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