Double 'Postcards from the Park' winner is snap happy!

23/07/2010

The eye-catching photos, entitled, ‘The silence of stone’ and ‘Whiskers and fur’, hugely impressed the judges who included celebrated photographer Mike McCartney (brother of Paul), Angela Nicholson from Amateur Photographer Magazine and Tim Kerr from the Press Association.

As part of his prize, Geoffrey will enjoy an overnight stay in a London hotel and get to see his winning photos exhibited at the Café Gallery in Southwark Park, London. The overall winner of the competition, who will also receive £1,000 worth of vouchers, will be announced at the Café Gallery on **Friday 3 September** at a special opening event where competition judges, celebrity photographer Mike McCartney and environmentalist Chris Packham will be meeting winners and talking about what the future holds for parks funding.

The winning photos will also be turned into postcards and distributed at Lottery-funded venues and parks across the UK.

Geoffrey Hill, said: “I’m delighted to have won in two categories of the ‘Postcards from the Park ‘competition; it’s so exciting to have both my photos exhibited in a London gallery. I spend a lot of time in Hardwick Park, mostly to photograph and monitor wildlife and weather. I took these photos in 2007 and 2009 and was inspired by the full family of wood mice and the light produced due to a snow storm.”

Professional photographer and main judge, Mike McCartney, said: "It’s wonderful to see people out and about enjoying their parks and photography. Geoffrey’s photos are two of many great shots that demonstrate the popular appeal of parks.”

Loving our public parks
‘Postcards from the Park’ highlights the unique part that parks play in community life and promotes HLF and BIG’s joint funding programme which has to date invested £600m in improving and transforming the UK’s public parks and green spaces.

Environmentalist and presenter, Chris Packham, said: “We’re so lucky in the UK to have such wonderful and varied green spaces which not only offer massive benefits in terms of health, quality of life and well-being, but also offer brilliant opportunities to get up close and personal with nature. It’s essential we keep on investing in them as there is still plenty of work to be done to look after them all properly. Every community deserves to be near a great park!”

Carole Souter, Chief Executive of HLF, said on behalf of HLF and BIG: "Parks are vital places that give people an opportunity to escape the daily hustle and bustle and enjoy the fresh air. The huge number of photographs that were entered for this competition shows just how popular they are right across the country. That is why HLF and BIG support parks with such a massive investment of our funding.”

Paul Bramhill, CEO of GreenSpace, said: "GreenSpace is delighted to be part of ‘Postcards from the Park’, as it highlights how beautiful, varied and dynamic the UK’s parks and green spaces are. The response and quality of

entrants has been outstanding and is a clear demonstration of how important these parks are to people."

Now in its fourth year, this UK-wide competition continues to grow with thousands of entries received each year. It encourages everyone to get out and about in their local public park and photograph what they love most about it. Categories include wildlife, heritage and people at play.

People love parks*
• 93% of people say that parks are a high priority for Lottery environment and heritage funds
• 95% of visits to HLF funded parks are enjoyable, peaceful and relaxing
• 86% of parents with young children and 89% of grandparents say that on a nice day their children would prefer to go to the park than watch TV

Local success stories

Hardwick Hall Park has received over £4million of HLF funding which has enabled the restoration of 200 acres of its Grade II listed, mid 18th century landscape. HLF funding has also assisted the restoration of main lake, along with three important historic buildings and a Circuit Walk. In addition, the park now benefits from new interpretation and a heritage resource centre.

View gallery of the winning entries

Notes to editors

*Information sourced by HLF.

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, public parks and historic places to archaeology, species and skills, HLF invests in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,900 projects, allocating £4.4billion across the UK.

The Parks for People programme uses Lottery funds to support the regeneration, conservation and increased enjoyment of public parks. The programme aims to improve the local environment and put parks firmly back at the heart of community life. In England the two Lottery Funds have been working in partnership from 2006 to deliver a multi-million pound investment in public parks of £150m. Over the past three years, the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) has invested £80m (in England only) with £70m coming from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the UK.

HLF is continuing to fund public park projects in 2010 with an investment of £20m each year. The next closing date for applications is 31st August 2010. The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) remains committed to working in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in making a success of the Parks for People programme and has allocated £10 million in its grant budget for 2010/11 towards the programme in England.

HLF has invested £527m in over 530 historic public parks, gardens, squares and promenades right across the UK.

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) rolls out close to £2million in Lottery good cause money every 24 hours, which together with other Lottery distributors means that across the UK most people are within a few miles of a Lottery-funded project. BIG, the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004. The Big Lottery Fund and its predecessor bodies

have invested more than £1.3billion in environmental initiatives. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

GreenSpace is a registered charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals. www.green-space.org.uk

HLF and BIG - helping to safeguard our natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. www.biodiversityislife.net

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