



MARSH  
CHRISTIAN  
TRUST

## The Marsh Awards

**April 2008**

[www.marshchristiantrust.org](http://www.marshchristiantrust.org)

## The Marsh Awards

### ... recognising those who do it out of love, not for money

There are hundreds if not thousands of ordinary people who do something extraordinary every day of their lives - yet go unnoticed by most of us. Perhaps it's because their deeds seem only minor in the scale of today's global headlines ... but if it weren't for these individuals, our world would be a sorer place. Bold, tenacious, and enterprising, these individuals aren't heads of global businesses, just down-to-earth folk, passionate about what they do and who devote their lives to improving the world in which we live, and the world we're leaving to our children:

- *They welcome distressed young people into their homes for months at a time to help them take the first steps on the road to recovery and gain some sort of normality in their lives.*
- *They spend years of their lives painstakingly collecting data to ensure that we can continue to enjoy the sight of butterflies in our gardens, or that some of our rare breeds of British farm livestock will survive.*
- *They dedicate their entire lives to making sure that our nation's rare plants and trees are not doomed to extinction.*
- *They toil tirelessly in their free time to faithfully restore buildings of national historical value that have fallen into disrepair.*

All these things they do out of love and dedication, not for personal fame or fortune. They don't expect recognition but they deserve it, and that's what the Marsh Awards aim to do.

The Awards are the brainchild of Brian Marsh, chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust, who wanted to support areas such as conservation and volunteering but needed to identify some special way of ensuring a modest sum of money made an impact. The Marsh Awards created that vehicle and have allowed the Trust to recognise these unsung heroes and heroines from professions within the scientific fields of genetic bio-diversity and conservation biology to volunteers working with both the young and the old.

The Awards programme works with key partner organisations including the RSPB, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Barnardo's and the World Society for Protection of Animals. These partners recommend a short-list of worthy award winners, but the final decision lies with the Award Trustees, ensuring complete independence and giving real value to the winners in terms of the recognition earned.

The Marsh Awards now total 22 and continue to grow. The main areas of focus for the Awards include conservation, science, the arts, heritage, literature and volunteering.

## The Marsh Awards ... the real heroes

## Conservation



### Marsh Award for Horticultural Research 2007

(in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society)

Dr Timothy Elliott, for his pioneering studies on the genetics and breeding of the cultivated mushroom.

Dr Elliott is pictured centre, receiving his Award from Brian Marsh (left) and Peter Buckley, President of the RHS, at the 2008 London Flower Show.



### Marsh Award for Insect Conservation 2007

(in partnership with the Royal Entomological Society).

Prof Lincoln Brower (pictured with Brian Marsh at the Award Ceremony at the Linnean Society)

Dr Brower's Award was made in recognition of his lifetime's contribution to the conservation of the Monarch butterfly.



### Marsh Botany Award

(in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

Nick Stewart, (pictured at the Award presentation with Brian Marsh)

For his research and conservation work on stoneworts, a group of plants that have important ecological implications, and many of which are threatened species.



### Marsh Lepidoptera Awards

(in partnership with Butterfly Conservation)

Matthew Oates for his lifetime of lepidoptera work and Clive Farrell for his outstanding contribution to the conservation of butterflies and moths.

Pictured are Clive Farrell (left) and Matthew Oates with Millie Kenyon of the Marsh Christian Trust at the Awards Ceremony.

## Volunteering and Vocational



### **Marsh Heritage Volunteering Award 2007**

(in partnership with the National Trust)

**Winners:** The Upper Wharfedale National Trust Volunteer Group (left), for their work to preserve the heritage of the Yorkshire Dales.

The group meets weekly to restore the area's network of dry stone walls and has recently undertaken a £25,000 fundraising effort to create a new visitor and educational facility at Buckden.



### **Marsh Volunteer of the Year Award for Work with Children 2007**

(in partnership with Barnardos)

**Winner:** Angela Bluck

Angela received the Award for her outstanding commitment to Parenting Matters, working in prisons helping male prisoners rebuild relationships with their family members.



### **Marsh Award for Mental Health Work**

(in partnership with Rethink)

The 2007 winner is Prof Robin Murray.

Prof Murray (pictured receiving the Award from MCT Trustee Lorraine Ryan) runs the National Psychosis Unit at the Bethlem Royal Hospital and his work has made huge contributions to the understanding of the causes of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.



### **Marsh Award for Volunteering Work with Older People**

(in partnership with Contact the Elderly)

Doreen Eggar (St Albans 1) and Rita Leloch and Brenda Avery (Dunstable), for their unfailing commitment to Contact the Elderly.

Pictured is Doreen Eggar (left) at the Awards Ceremony in January 2008.

## Arts and Literature



### **Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation**

in partnership with the University of Surrey, the award recognises the best translation into English of a children's book published in the previous two years.

2006 winner, Anthea Bell, for her translation of Kai Meyer's *The Flowing Queen*. (Pictured left are Wendy Cooling, Anthea Bell and Aleksandra Marsh at the Award ceremony in January 2007)

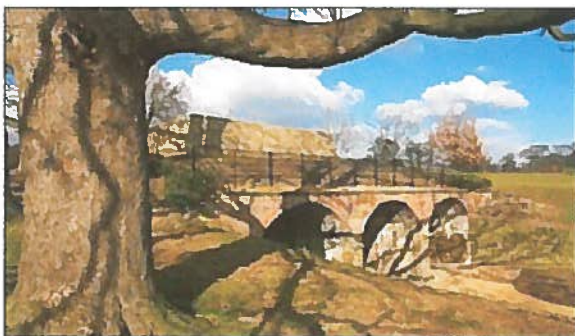


### **Marsh Biography Award**

in partnership with the English-Speaking Union.

The 2007 winner is Maggie Fergusson, for her biography; "*George Mackay Brown: A Life*".

Ms Fergusson (pictured at the Awards ceremony) said that the honour had come as a complete surprise and that it had been an incredible privilege to meet and write about George Mackay Brown, the Baird of Orkney.



### **Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture**

in partnership with the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, for a newly commissioned public sculpture, or restoration of an existing piece.

The 2007 Winner was James Turrell for his Sky Space: Deer Shelter (pictured) at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Commended in 2007 was Bryan Kneale RA for his bust of Capt Quilliam on the Isle of Man

## The Marsh Awards ... the real heroes Conservation and Ecology

<p><b>Marsh Conservation Biology Award</b> Run in association with the Zoological Society of London, this award recognises an individual for his or her contributions of fundamental science to conservation of animal species and habitat. Awarded annually since 1992, the winners since 2000 are shown on the right.</p>	2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000	Dr Sarah Wanless Prof William Sutherland Prof Chris Thomas Prof Stuart Pimm Prof Callum Roberts Dr E J Milner-Gulland Andrew Balmsford Dr John Croxall
<p><b>The Marsh Award for Marine and Freshwater Conservation</b> Run in association with the Zoological Society of London, this award recognises contributions of fundamental science and its application to conservation in marine/ freshwater ecosystems.</p>	2007 2006	Prof Hal Whitehead Professor Ian Boyd
<p><b>Marsh Award for Conservation in Genetic Bio-Diversity</b> Run in association with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, the award recognises two individuals or groups that have made significant technical, scientific and practical contributions to the field of genetic bio-diversity.  Awarded annually since 1996, the winners since 2000 are shown on the right.</p>	2006 2005 2004 2003 2001 2000	The Portland Sheep Breeders' Group and Mike Roper of Defra Dr S Townsend and Dr J Walters, and Home Farm, Temple Newsam Estate Dr Ian Gill and Geoffrey Cloke Robert Overend and Sue Stennett Debbie Davy Arthur Green
<p><b>Marsh Lepidoptera Awards</b> Run in association with Butterfly Conservation, there are two awards, run since 1999:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Outstanding contributions to the promotion of Lepidoptera conservation by either an individual or organisation</li> <li>▪ A lifetime achievement award, recognising an individual for exceptional commitment to Lepidoptera conservation</li> </ul>	2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000  2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000	Clive Farrell Network Rail Defence Estates Kingcombe Centre Bentley Wood Trustees RSPB Forest Enterprise Richard Lewington  Matthew Oates Roger Dennis Barry Goater, BSC, MIBIOL Paul Harding, MBE Roger Smith Dr Jeremy Thomas Dame Miriam Rothschild Dr Ernest Pollard

## Conservation and Ecology (cont)

<p><b>Marsh Ecology Award</b> An award run in association with the British Ecological Society to recognise outstanding achievements and contributions to the science of ecology. Awarded annually since 1996, the winners since 2000 are shown on the right.</p>	<p>2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000</p>	<p>Dr Christian Korer Prof Philip Ineson Prof Ilkka Hanski Prof Stephen Hubbell Prof Andrew Watkinson Prof Jim Brown Prof Sam Berry Prof William Sutherland</p>
<p><b>Marsh Ecology Book of the Year Award</b> An award run in association with the British Ecological Society for the best written work on ecology</p>	<p>2007  2006  2005</p>	<p>Dr David Wilkinson "<i>Fundamental Process in Ecology: An Earth Systems Approach</i>" Richard Bardgett: "<i>The Biology of Soil: a Community and Ecosystem Approach</i>" Peter Vitousek: "<i>Nutrient Cycling &amp; Limitation: Hawaii as a model system</i>"</p>
<p><b>Marsh Botany Award</b> Run in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, this award recognises an individual for a lifetime's achievement and outstanding contribution in the field of botanical conservation.</p>	<p>2007 2006 2005 2003 2002 2001 2000</p>	<p>Nick Stewart Nick Legon and Alick Henrici Alan Showler David Holyoak David Pearman Lady Rosemary Fitzgerald Dr Phil Watson</p>
<p><b>Marsh Award for Insect Conservation</b> In association with the Royal Entomological Society, an award for outstanding contribution to the field of insect conservation.</p>	<p>2007  2006 2005 2004 2003 2002</p>	<p>Prof Lincoln Brower (special lifetime achievement award) &amp; Dr Martin Speight (outstanding contribution) Dr Martin Warren Dr Keith Alexander Alan Stubbs Dr Tim New Dr Norman W Moore</p>
<p><b>Marsh Award for International Bird Conservation</b> In association with the RSPB, this award recognises a conservationist undertaking important work on a globally threatened species</p>	<p>2007 2005 2004  2003</p>	<p>Maxim Koshkin, Kazakhstan Tara George, Ascension Island Dr Alexander Kozulin, Belarus Dr Vibhu Prakash, the Bombay Natural History Society</p>

## Conservation and Ecology (cont)

<p><b>Marsh Nature Conservation Award (Kent)</b> This award run in association with the Kent Wildlife Trust recognises those volunteers who have worked tirelessly in the many areas of the KWT's responsibilities (Award running since 1997, winners since 2006)</p>	<p>2007   2006</p>	<p>Ian Shepherd, Brian Lewis, Bob Hope, Derek Chick, Peter Bassett &amp; Penny Woodgate  Geoff Orton, Jill Richards, Richard Swann, Bob Newington, Helen Nicholson, Pete &amp; Lynne Flower</p>
<p><b>The Marsh Horticultural Research Award</b> In association with the Royal Horticultural Society, this award recognises an individual for undertaking important research in the field or horticulture</p>	<p>2007 2006 2005</p>	<p>Dr Timothy Elliott David Johnson, East Malling Brian Smith, Leamington Spa</p>
<p><b>Marsh International Animal Welfare Award</b> In association with the World Society for the Protection of Animals, this inaugural award recognises a significant advancement in animal welfare by a member society.</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>Committee for Rehabilitation Aid to Afghanistan (CRAA)</p>



## The Marsh Awards ... the real heroes

## Literature

<p><b>Marsh Biography Award</b> In association with The English-Speaking Union for the best biography written in the previous 2 years about a distinguished person.</p> <p>Awarded biennially since 1987, and the longest running Award in the Scheme, the winners since 1995 are shown.</p>	2007	Maggie Fergusson for " <i>George Mackay-Brown: The Life</i> "
	2005	John Guy for " <i>My Heart Is My Own</i> "
	2003	Brenda Maddox for " <i>Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA</i> "
	2001	Anthony Sampson for " <i>Mandela</i> "
	1999	Richard Holmes for " <i>Coleridge: Darker Reflexions</i> "
	1997	Jim Ring for " <i>Erskine Childers</i> "
	1995	Selina Hastings for " <i>Evelyn Waugh</i> "

<p><b>Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation</b> In association with the University of Surrey, Roehampton, this award recognises the best translation into English of a children's book published in the previous two years</p>	2006	Anthea Bell for her translation of Kai Meyer's <i>The Flowing Queen</i>
	2005	Sarah Adams
	2003	Anthea Bell
	2000	Betsy Rosenberg
	1998	Patricia Crampton
	1996	Anthea Bell

## Arts and Heritage

<p><b>Marsh Fountain of the Year Award</b> An award run in association with the Fountain Society for the best new or restored fountain, cascade or water feature in the previous five years. Established in 1996, winners since 2004 are listed.</p>	2006	Toricelli, Alnwick Gardens, by William Pye and Thales, Queen's Jubilee Garden by Barry Mason
	2004	Grand Vista Fountains, Battersea Park and Perseus and Andromeda, Witley Court in Worcestershire

<p><b>Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture</b> In association with the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, the award is for a newly commissioned public sculpture, or a restoration.</p>	2007	James Turrell for <i>Sky Space</i> and Bryan Kneale for <i>Capt Quilliam</i>
	2006	Peter Randall-Page for " <i>Give and Take</i> ", & Jim Randall for restoration of <i>the Cholera Monument</i> in Sheffield
	2005	Maggi Hambling for " <i>Scallop</i> "

<p><b>Marsh Award for Traditional Building Skills</b> In association with English Heritage and CITB Construction Skills, the award recognises the contribution of an individual to the conservation of historic buildings and ancient monuments.</p>	2007	Ray Stevens
	2006	Prof John Ashurst, for his lifetime's work.

## The Marsh Awards ... the real heroes

## Volunteering

<p><b>Marsh Volunteer of the Year Award for Work with Children</b></p> <p>Run in association with Barnardos, the award recognises a volunteer from a shortlist selected as Regional &amp; National Volunteers of the Year for their outstanding contributions to work with children</p>	<p>2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000</p>	<p>Angela Bluck Trusha Kothari Caroline Earl Trevor Yeo and Karen Wills Staff at Palmersville Shop Staff of the Preston Nightstop Staff of the Stranraer Shop Angela Hall</p>
<p><b>Marsh Refugee Volunteer Award</b></p> <p>Run in association with the Refugee Council, the award recognises a project initiated by one of their volunteers or groups that has made a particular contribution to the lives of refugees and asylum seekers.</p>	<p>2007  2006</p>	<p>Liz Maddocks and the Common Conversation project  Hannah Hawthorn and the SHARE (Sheffield Homework and Arts Resettlement Experience) project</p>
<p><b>Marsh Award for Volunteering in Support of Older People</b></p> <p>Run in association with Contact the Elderly, the Award recognises the commitment of an individual or a group volunteering with older people in their community.</p>	<p>2007  2006 2005 2004 2003</p>	<p>Doreen Eggar, Rita Leloch and Brenda Avery. Carolyn Dennis, Bournemouth Iris Williams, Bromley 2 Maureen Hutcheson, Inverness 2 George Eddison, Leeds 1 Group</p>
<p><b>Marsh Heritage Volunteer Award</b></p> <p>Run in partnership with the National Trust, the Award recognises outstanding voluntary contribution towards their work.</p>	<p>2007 2006 2005 2004 2003</p>	<p>Upper Wharfedale Birmingham Back to Backs Needles Old Battery Llanerchaeron Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal</p>
<p><b>Marsh Award for Mental Health Work</b></p> <p>Run in partnership with Rethink, to recognise outstanding contributions to the field of mental health work.</p>	<p>2007  2006</p>	<p>Prof Robin Murray  Terry Hammond</p>

## The Marsh Awards ... the inspiration



Brian Marsh has over 40 years experience working in the financial services industry. Following his sale and agreed exit from Nelson, Hurst & Marsh (Holdings) Ltd in 1989, Brian Marsh set up B.P. Marsh & Partners Limited initially as a way of managing his remaining business interests. This grew into the publicly listed venture capital company that it is today, with Brian Marsh as its major shareholder and executive Chairman.

Brian is Chairman of the Marsh Christian Trust, one of his main non-business interests. The Trust funds the philanthropic Marsh Awards, offering a number of modest financial awards to celebrate and recognise the achievements of the unsung hero in the fields of science, conservation, literature, heritage, volunteering and the arts. He was awarded the OBE for his services to Business and Charity in 2005.

### **What was your motivation to create the Marsh Awards?**

I started the Trust in 1981 and ran it as an ordinary grant making body for a few years, gradually building it up. During that process, I realised that this worked in some circumstances but not in others and didn't offer the best value to some of the people and organisations that I wanted to support. For example, a grant of £1,000 to a significant charitable organisation with an enormous amount of money doesn't represent very much and such a grant would just be lost. So, if I wanted to do something to support something like conservation or volunteering, I had to find some special way of being able to make a modest amount of money have an impact. Establishing the Marsh Awards created the vehicle to help me do just that.

### **Is it all about giving something back?**

There are those in life who give, those who receive and those who are somewhere in the middle and I think that's where I sit. If you looked back at my life over the last 20 years since the Awards started, I think you would discover that because of these schemes both my fellow Trustees and I have learned an enormous amount about fields of human activity that we would never have had the opportunity to become involved with, had it not been for the Awards.

### **So do you want to extend that opportunity to others?**

I believe that the general public would benefit by knowing a little bit more about what a lot of ordinary individuals do that makes their lives extraordinary, adding so much to the world we live in. I hope the Awards help to raise awareness of these outstanding, if less usually recognised, achievements.

### **What was the first Marsh Award?**

The Trust launched the Marsh Biography Award in 1986. It struck us that the field of biography is neither greatly celebrated, nor greatly recognised. We thought it would be a good idea to establish a distinguished award that would celebrate and recognise the work done by biographers, and so be valued by the winner ... we wanted to create something they would be proud to receive.

**Do you have a personal interest in all the areas that the Awards recognise?**

Absolutely – some more than others, and some have unfortunately proved less successful than others and are no longer included in the scheme.

**What's the trick to making them work?**

The trick is to pick a story that's a little bit different and a partner that wants to reward the individuals that it is involved with – but that needs a third party to do it for them. If you think about it, why would a major organisation get involved with a relatively small body like the Marsh Christian Trust? It's because we share their passion for what these individuals do and can give an independent view of their achievements.

**Do you always come up with the idea for an award and contact the partner?**

No, the Royal Entomological Society for example contacted us out of the blue. Having said that, the Trustees come up with the idea nine times out of ten and then approach a suitable partner.

**Is it true to say that none of the Awards recognise headline grabbers?**

All the Award winners are unsung heroes ... the Biography Award was just the start of recognising deeds and achievements that aren't generally celebrated or publicly rewarded.

**From one award, you've grown the scheme to now number 23 ... how did that happen?**

It was always my intention to grow the Marsh Awards as there are so many areas that deserve recognition. The Trustees have had to select each one carefully – we can't compete with the likes of Whitbread and we don't have an enormous amount of money, so we need to make sure that we create an award that is an honour to receive and is valued in terms of the recognition it provides, rather than the money it represents.

**What's in the pipeline?**

We are delighted that the inaugural Marsh Archaeology Award, run in partnership with the Council for British Archaeology, will be presented for the first time in 2008. We are also working on new Awards with the British Museum, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Natural History Museum.

**Have you thought of increasing the money awarded, rather than the number of awards?**

Funnily enough, we've offered to increase individual awards on many occasions in the past but the partners we work with have almost always turned the offer down. They feel the value of the award is in the recognition, and that increasing the monetary element would actually devalue the honour itself.

**Finally, were you surprised to receive your OBE in the 2005 New Year's Honours List?**

Absolutely, and I was extremely honoured to receive it. It has also proved useful in helping both the Marsh Christian Trust and the Marsh Awards, as having a few letters after your name can help you open doors!

## **Marsh Christian Trust ... over 20 years of supporting others**

The Marsh Christian Trust is a grant making body, established in 1981 with the sum of £75,000. Having grown through investments and additional donations by the founder and current Chairman, Mr Brian Marsh, the Trust's funds currently stand at just over £5 million. It does not accept any public donations.

The Trust maintains a policy of making a comparatively large number of modest grants each year. It normally only makes grants to registered charities experienced in their chosen field of work and never to individuals. Since its establishment in 1981, the number of organisations supported has grown from just 8 to over 250 today.

The Marsh Christian Trust aims to create long-standing relationships with the organisations it supports. Trustees visit each long-term recipient charity in order to review the work done, learn of future plans and offer advice on fundraising activities and other organisational problems.

The causes supported by the Marsh Christian Trust lie broadly within six key areas of work:

- Literature, arts and heritage
- Social welfare
- Environmental causes and animal welfare
- Education and training
- Healthcare and medical research
- Overseas appeals

The Trust also allocates a small percentage of its resources to ad hoc requests from bodies outside these core areas and has supported organisations including Prisoners Abroad, The Refugee Council and Victim Support in the past.