

## SELECTED CASE HISTORIES

I thought I would provide some background information on some of the grants paid this year (for obvious reasons I have tended to pick ones where I have a picture!):

### **John Wesley's Chapel (The New Room), Bristol**

The New Room is the original Methodist Chapel and consequently the oldest Methodist building in the world. Major restoration works have been going on for some time with a view to restoring it to its original decoration. With the encouragement of Ward Jones, we had already made a couple of contributions, but for such an important project, the trustees wanted to make a significant contribution.



We had therefore been earmarking funds for a couple of years to build up to a total grant of £12,000, which was paid over in April 2005. This money was put towards the internal decoration and some electrical work, which cost altogether some £32,500. The Chapel had already paid out £132,500 for work to the external woodwork and roof.. All of this work has been completed, and the Chapel is open for visitors (as well as holding services) from 10.00am to 4.00pm Mondays to Saturdays.

The Chapel has its own website at <http://newroombristol.org.uk>

### **Mullion Methodist Church, Cornwall**

The original application from Mullion Methodist Church arrived December 2001. The original building had been in use since 1878, and was now used for many community activities as well as for services. In common with all older public buildings, it was becoming necessary to upgrade its facilities to improve disabled access under Disability Discrimination Act. The cost was estimated to be £70,000, but as they had only just started fund-raising, we felt the application was a bit premature, and invited them to come back later. By October 2002, they had raised £66,000, of which £10,000 had been raised through the local community by their own "small events".



We awarded a grant of £1,000 at our January 2003 meeting, subject as usual to the remainder of the funds required being raised, and a building contract being entered into. Despite the cost going up to £100,000, these conditions were met in February 2005, and the grant paid over. The work was completed at the end of July.

### **Fairfield Bridge Project, Bristol**

The Fairfield Neighbourhood and Community Group (set up over 20 years ago as a Neighbourhood watch scheme) wanted to respond to residents concern about the state of the much-used pedestrian railway bridge linking Fairlawn Road and Hurlingham Road. Through their own efforts the bridge had already been cleared up and re-painted. They now wanted to improve the lighting, which the Council, Network Rail and the police all agreed was inadequate, but were without funds to improve it. The cost of new lights, on specially crafted arches, was to be £8,000 excluding the cost of installation, which would be undertaken by Bristol City Council. They already had an offer of £2,000 when they wrote to us in June 2004 for help. We granted a total of £1,000 at our July 2004 meeting, paid November 2004 when the rest of the money had been raised. The work, excluding anti-graffiti paint to be applied in October, was completed in August.



### **RNLI Live Engine Workshop, Poole**

The RNLI were building a training college for their lifeboat crews at their base in Poole and wanted to add an extension to house a workshop with a "live" Tamar class diesel engine and equipment. The cost of the extension was £150,000, being paid from a legacy, and they were looking for funds for the engine (£75,000) and other equipment (£50,000). We awarded £1,000 towards these costs at our January 2004 meeting. The grant was paid in June 2004 and the work completed the following September; the College as a whole was officially opened by the Queen in November 2004. The College will take about 490 students a year. The RNLI website is at [www.rnli.org.uk](http://www.rnli.org.uk).



### **Exmoor Search and Rescue Team**

The Team is run entirely by volunteers, and based in Barnstaple, Devon. Their core costs are about £12,000 pa, although there are additional costs for training and dog handlers. In January 2003 we agreed to give £1,000 pa for three years towards their running costs.

### **"Raleigh Fund" Grants**

Although the trust does not give grants to individuals, we do make a practice of giving about a dozen small grants (normally £100) towards the costs of (typically) gap-year students going on Operation Raleigh-type expeditions through properly constituted charitable bodies. These students normally have to raise about £3,500 towards the cost of their trips, and the grants are paid through the organisers, not to the students themselves. Criteria I apply relate to the length of the trip and commitment required - ie not just a holiday! I encourage students to earn their grant by providing a report afterwards, of which the standard is usually pretty good. There is a transcript of the report recently received from a gap-year student from Collumpton in Devon who went to Malawi with Tearfund from March to July 2005 at <http://www.stoate-charity.org.uk/newsletter05/malawi.pdf>.