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## LOTTERY BRINGS NEW YEAR CHEER FOR SCOTTISH GROUPS

*Over 160 Scottish groups are celebrating the New Year with National Lottery awards worth just over £1 million. Find out where funding has gone in your area by going to: <http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/scotland/news.html>.*

THE NEW YEAR has got off to a flying start for over 100 Scottish groups with the news that they are to receive National Lottery grants worth £1,042,429. The funding from the small grants scheme Awards for All goes to a range of community, arts, sports and heritage projects that will bring people and communities closer together to take part in activities and learn new skills.

Awards for All is the small grants scheme supported by the four National Lottery distributors in Scotland: **Scottish Arts Council**, **Big Lottery Fund**, **Heritage Lottery Fund** and **sportscotland**. The scheme makes awards of between £500 and £10,000 to grass roots community groups and voluntary organisations.

The **Scottish Chamber Choir** will commission a new piece of music to celebrate its 40th anniversary, thanks to an award of **£5,000**. The organisation wants young people to play their part in helping to create the piece and will use its funding to run two workshops at a local Edinburgh primary school to enable young people to contribute. The choir will then perform this new contemporary piece in a series of concerts during its anniversary season.

Children at **Craigielea Day Nursery** in Glasgow are celebrating an award of **£7,260** that will provide them with a series of dance and gymnastics classes. These will help the children to develop and improve their motor skills and will also involve parents encouraging them to be active with their children.

**Bankie Talk Talking Newspaper** has grown from strength to strength since its launch in 1989. The organisation which sends tapes to nearly 100 blind and visually impaired people every week, today receives an Awards for All grant of **£9,253** to help improve its equipment. The grant will pay for a computer, a monitor, software, a braille printer and training costs. This new computer equipment will allow the group to more efficiently transfer written information into an audio format for the consumption of blind and visually impaired people.

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Children at **Crawford Primary School** in South Lanarkshire are celebrating an award of **£1,900** today. This will allow the school to develop its grounds by building raised beds and planting a range of plants, flowers and vegetables. This newly improved environment will provide more opportunities for outdoor learning.

An **Awards for All spokesperson**, said: "Today's funding will open up a world of opportunity for thousands of people enabling them to take part in a range of activities. For older people this could mean meeting new friends and feeling less isolated while for others it could mean learning new skills or finding a new passion in life. With over a hundred groups sharing in this money there really is a reason to celebrate the New Year."

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**Full details of the Awards for All grant awards are available at:**

**[www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk)**

#### **Notes to Editors**

- *Awards for All* is a joint awards programme set up to help small groups whose income is less than £20,000 per annum. It involves four Lottery distributors: the Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Arts Council and Sportscotland.
- *Awards for All* makes grants to help people take part in arts, sport, heritage, social, environmental, health related, educational and other community activities.
- On 1 December 2006 the Big Lottery Fund was officially established by Parliament and at the same time assumed the residual responsibilities of the dissolved National Lottery Charities Board (Community Fund) the New Opportunities Fund, and the Millennium Commission. The Fund is building on the experience and best practice of the merged bodies to simplify funding in those areas where they overlap and to ensure Lottery funding provides the best possible value for money.

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