

news release

BTCV is the UK's largest practical conservation charity. Founded in 1959, we help over 130,000 volunteers every year to take hands on action to improve both the rural and urban environment.

NATIONAL PRESS OFFICE: BTCV, Howbery Park, Wallingford OX10 8BA
Tel: 01491 821612 Fax: 01491 839646 e-mail: information@btcv.org.uk www.btcv.org

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23 May 2005

Prudential Grass Roots: Waste Area becomes Sensory Garden

Dallow Learning and Development Centre, Dallow Road, Luton



Before & after at the Prudential Grass Roots project at Dallow Learning and Development Centre, Luton

Prudential Grass Roots: Community Garden at Dallow Learning and Community Centre

Thursday 19 May: Luton Mayor Cllr Doris Hinkley joined volunteers to celebrate the completion of a community garden at the Dallow Learning and Community Centre by helping to plant up the raised beds of the sensory garden...

Thirty volunteers have been involved in a Prudential Grass Roots environmental project to transform the grounds of the Dallow Learning and Development Centre.

Conservation Charity BTCV, staff from the Prudential owned Arndale Shopping Centre in Luton, volunteers from CSV and the North Chilterns Trust and local residents have all helped out. The result is a fantastic new community resource that offers an outdoor classroom for food growing and wildlife gardening or an area to relax in, which is accessible to all.

Sarita Jain, centre manager for the Dallow Learning and Community Centre said: "It's been wonderful to see the garden take shape. Our thanks go to Prudential for supporting the project, to BTCV for organising the workdays and to all the volunteers who helped out with the garden's construction."

Paul Bentham, Business Procedures Manager at the Arndale Shopping Centre said "This project is a great example of what can be achieved when partnerships are formed. The effort and enthusiasm that has been shown by all the volunteers that have contributed in the creation of this garden has been exceptional and I would like to pass on my personal thanks to all the residents, volunteer groups and Arndale staff and management who have donated their time (and blisters!) to the creation of this marvellous garden."

Councillor Hinkley assisted in planting up a raised bed with various herbs before declaring the sensory garden open. She pointed out that it was fitting that the garden should be completed in Environment Month of the Year of the Volunteer, and she commended the volunteers whose involvement had made the project so successful. The Mayor

People working for a better environment

PATRON: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT ● PRESIDENT: The Lord Norrie
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said the sensory garden “will provide a pleasant area for relaxation, and as the plants grow and shelter the site it will offer some peace and quiet from the hubbub around us. It will also provide a valuable resource for the community along with the food growing area as an outdoor classroom for teaching horticulture and food growing courses”.

The Prudential Grass Roots programme helps communities improve their local environment. It is managed by BTCV and funded by Prudential plc.

Ends

For more info/photos:

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Notes to Editors

BTCV

BTCV is the UK's largest practical conservation charity. Founded in 1959, it helps over 130,000 volunteers every year take hands-on action to improve both the rural and urban environment. Activities include regular conservation tasks, UK and International Conservation Holidays, and Millennium Volunteer projects for 16-24 year olds. BTCV's Community Network provides groups with access to local support, specialist advice, publications and cost-effective insurance cover.

Tel: 01302 572200 www.btcv.org Email: information@btcv.org.uk

Prudential Property Investment Managers Ltd

Prudential Property Investment Managers Ltd is a part of M&G, the investment arm of Prudential plc in the UK, and with more than £12bn of funds under management, is the largest institutional property investment manager in the UK. Its community investment strategy is aligned to Prudential plc's approach to corporate responsibility and its commitment to supporting the local communities where it operates. PruPIM's community programme also recognises the significance of its role as a landlord in many towns and cities throughout the UK and its community activities focus on: community safety, economic regeneration and social inclusion, environment and employee volunteering.

Tel: 020 7548 6729 www.prupim.com email: responsibility@prupim.com

Prudential Grass Roots supports communities to improve their local environment. Run by BTCV, the UK's leading practical conservation charity, and funded by Prudential plc, the programme is helping to drive regeneration for people and wildlife in communities around Prudential-owned shopping centres across the UK.

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