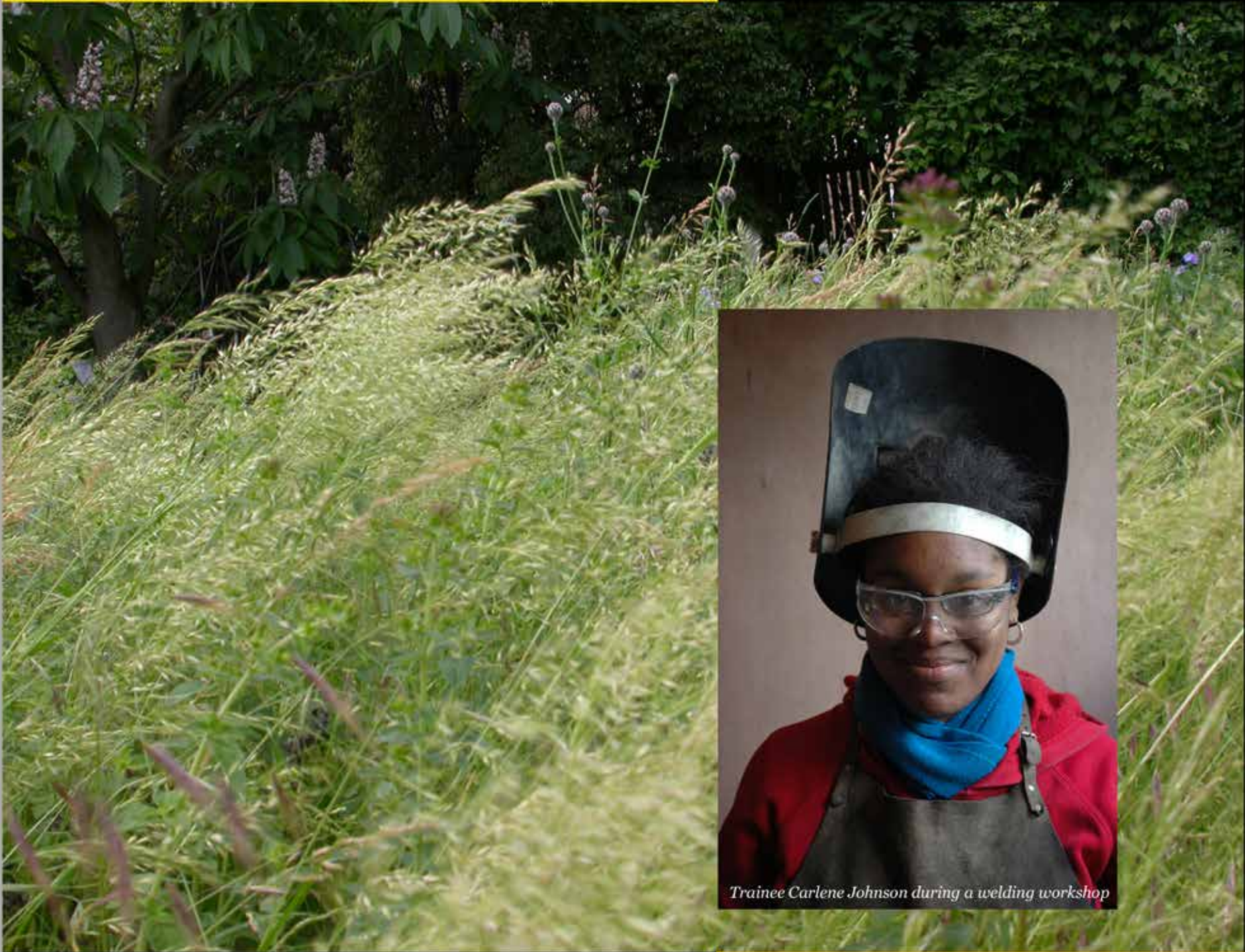


# Roots and Shoots Annual Report 2006



*Trainee Carlene Johnson during a welding workshop*



**Linda Phillips, manager**

“We have been in our new ‘green’ building for over a year now and though Roots and Shoots may appear to have changed, our ethos remains the same. We continue to serve disadvantaged and marginalised young people by providing them with vocational skills, a flexible programme of English, Maths and IT and a gentle introduction into the world of work. We are now able to deliver our training in purpose-built classrooms rather than the equivalent of a shed! Roots and Shoots was visited in spring this year by James Plaskitt MP, minister with responsibility for the European Social Fund who, with the Learning and Skills Council continue to fund our successful training programme.

We have also secured essential funding for our environmental education programme for children and the local community from supportive local Trusts. The refurbishment of the remaining war-time prefab has transformed it into our new Wildlife Garden Study Centre. It now provides a space for classroom sessions linked to the garden, video-microscopy workshops for science programmes, space for art workshops, lectures and other events. The London Beekeepers Association have also installed an indoor Observation Bee Hive to augment the beekeeping courses we run here.

The facilities offered by our new Learning Centre make it possible to rent out the hall and meeting rooms for one-day courses, conferences and smaller meetings to organisations with an educational, environmental or social basis. We now have closer links with organisations such as Thrive, Cycle Training UK, Waterloo Green Trust, SureStart and the London Beekeepers Association.



We also now have our first dedicated shop space selling apple juice pressed and bottled on site in the Apple Barn, the honey from our bee hives, cards produced from photographs taken on site and a selection of organic and fair trade products. The shop is integrated with the retail training course thus benefiting our trainees as well as the local community and an expanding group of volunteers.

With the generous funding from the London Development Agency for the new Learning Centre we also have some grant-linked outputs to achieve, one of which is ‘improving the local economy’. We are now holding “Producers’ Markets” four times a year, linked to our existing programme of educational events and open days. The focus is on supporting small local businesses as well as green and ethical suppliers. The fairs have included a link with an organic produce cooperative bringing East Anglian crops to London, the Post Office Bakery from Brixton and local SureStart members selling a wide range of home-made foods. The fairs have been well-received by local communities and, World Cup notwithstanding, we hope they will come to be seen as something of a ‘fixture’.

Overall, the year could be said to have been one of consolidation and settling into new practices and work patterns. We continue to achieve our targets and quality standards (Investors in People status was awarded again in December 2005) but it is essential that we secure longer-term funding for training and key staff posts. We need to develop further the range of training areas and the funding for new staff positions. Both Trustees and Staff are committed to ensuring the long term future of Roots and Shoots.





*A welding workshop run by Kath Shortland, blacksmith, was funded by Awards for All*

**Vocational training at Roots and Shoots** consists of City and Guilds NVQ 1 in Horticulture or NVQ 1 in Distributive Operations (Retail). These are studied in parallel with Level 1 Certificate in 'Preparing for Employment' and City and Guilds 'Wordwise' and 'Numberwise'. As part of the training at Roots and Shoots students also attend Computer Training courses at Riverside IT and Lifestyle Awareness Training with Icon Training and Elephant and Castle Gym. Trainees are supported throughout their time at Roots and Shoots by the Employment Liaison Officer who will assist with any welfare problems. Work experience placements are central to the students' development and learning. Maturity, confidence and social skills are enhanced. Some employers have been working with us now for several years. Current partnerships include The Royal Hospital Chelsea, Buckingham Palace, Grosvenor Estate, the London Wildlife Trust, Christchurch and Upton Cafe, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and TESCO. In addition we organise trips and special events both educational and recreational - skating, welding workshops, willow workshops, garden nurseries. Horticulture trainees also learn how to establish, maintain and profit from an allotment. Retail trainees gain first-hand experience in our own shop.



*In the classroom.....work experience.....preparing ground for turfing.....for vegetables on the allotment.....decorating and stocking the new shop*



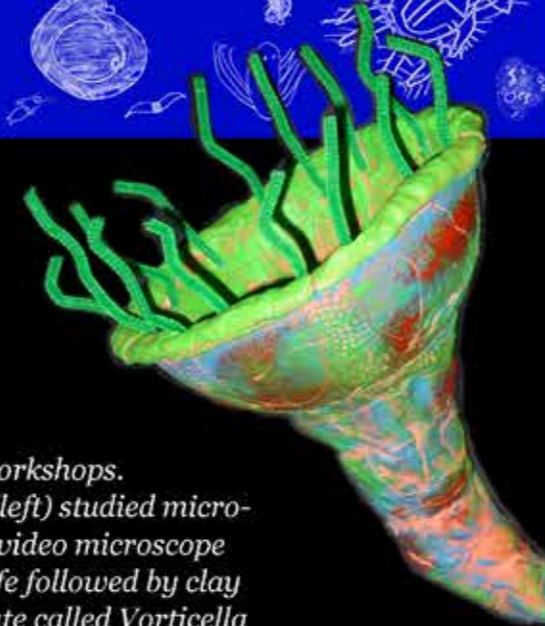
**Trainee Case Studies: Wayne and Robert, Horticulture students**

*Having finished school, though not with brilliant results, Wayne joined Roots and Shoots in September 2005. Robert came from Southwark College, where he had completed an arts course. They were both part of the first intake to attempt NVQ1 in horticulture in 40 weeks. At Roots and Shoots the Employment Liaison Officer secured a one day per week placement for Wayne with the garden department at The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. He followed this ten week placement with another at Grosvenor Estate. He worked with their gardens team on various private squares including Belgrave and Eaton Squares. Robert's first placement was with the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where he stayed for nearly 30 weeks. He then moved on to Buckingham Palace garden department for a three week block placement. Following work with Ian and Amanda they both also secured work, at first unpaid but then paid, with Andrew Gleave-Coley, a local contract gardener. Throughout this time they worked hard on their NVQ, their English and Maths and the Preparing for Employment Certificate. They completed the course and were awarded their NVQ in horticulture and other certificates. Wayne and Robert then attended a trial day organised by Quadron (parks maintenance in Southwark ) and the Connexions Service. They both stood out on the trial, being described as 'natural gardeners', and were offered apprenticeships with Quadron. They also now attend Capel Manor College for one day per week to study for NVQ 2 in Horticulture.*

## In the new Wildlife Garden Study Centre



The old office/classroom building has now been converted into the Wildlife Garden Study Centre with funding from the **Waterloo Community Regeneration Trust/ BA London Eye Community Chest**. Groups using the Wildlife Garden for environmental education now have an indoor space for expanding learning opportunities.



Even before it was ready projects were waiting to move in!

The centre is ideal for microscope workshops. Students from the Redfearn Centre (left) studied microorganisms in pond water under the video microscope system. They made sketches from life followed by clay sculptures (right, a microscopic ciliate called Vorticella modelled by Craig). This work was with artist Martha Macdonald and was funded by **Deutsche Bank/Capital Community Foundation**. Archbishop Sumners Primary children also made models of the creatures they found using their sketches as inspiration (top right; top centre, a freshwater shrimp by Sophie of year 4). The Study Centre has also been used on open days and for adult and teacher training in, for example, beekeeping (with the London Beekeepers Association) and wildlife gardening for schools.

"Beastly Visions" - the 2006 National Science Week project (funding from the **Emerton Christie Charity**). Years 2 & 6 of Walnut Tree Walk Primary: the science of vision, writing and modelling inspired by insect eyes under the microscope.



Amanda's work with the UK Coalition volunteer gardeners has been very valuable to us - here in the pressing of apple juice; The Friends of Roots and Shoots help in many ways (summer garden party); our patron, Kate Hoey MP with minister James Plaskitt MP; TV gardener Chris Collins with trainee Fay Slaughter; several valuable and some very large volunteer groups from, for example, city firms through Southwark Volunteer Bureau and Bridge House Estates Trust.

**Trainees 2005 - 2006:** Colin Miller, David Priest, James Hayne, David Jenkins, Carlene Johnson, Esther Fletcher, Wayne Kirkham, Christopher Pearson, Robert Porter, Jake Carter, Patrick Quinn, Barry Stevens, Steven Cheer, Jennifer Campbell, Daniel Ingram, Fay Slaughter, Terence Stewart, Sam Whitehead, Nathan Miller. **2006:** Sam Anstee, Kerry Ayrs, Temi Baruwa, Evelyn Blake-Tulloch, Aron Burls, Emma Campbell, Rhea Costello, Akua Fremah, Ben Green, Jamie Heggie, Adrian Johnson, Laetitia Moore, Emmanuel Oroywuje, Donna Purdy, Nathan Rose, Joe Sykes, Thomas Varney, Jamie Yon, Paul Falana.

## Events, Friends, Volunteers...



Some of our favourite friends - Charlie and the children of Walnut Tree Walk Primary, the queen bee herself with some of the workers who provide all our eternally popular honey and a pink dinosaur - CBeebies used the garden for filming Springwatch this year.



The committed **Board of Trustees of Roots and Shoots** **Philip Moore** (Chair), **Boz Borowy** (Treasurer), **David Sawyer**, **Michelle Farmer**, **Glenda King**, **David Lowick**, **Derek Nolan**, **Aster Crawshaw**, **Rev. Graham Cocking**;

and the staff of **Roots and Shoots**:

**Linda Phillips** (Manager), **Elsa Cole/Johanna Kenyon** (Admin), **David Sawyer** (volunteer Accounts Officer), **David Perkins** (Environmental and Educational Resources Manager), **Ian Carruthers** (Employment Liaison Officer), **Ruth Mitchell** (Education Co-ordinator), **Amanda Rew & Bernadette Thompson** (Horticulture Trainers), **Yvonne Najair Bellinfante** (Retail Trainer)

would like to express our gratitude to all the fine people who volunteer for us throughout the year - some for many years (some are in these pages but - apologies - there isn't space for you all). Without exception, we couldn't manage without you.



The new Learning Centre at Roots and Shoots can be hired for Meetings and Conferences



## Roots and Shoots

*provides vocational training for young people from the inner city, mainly from the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark. We aim to give them the skills and self-confidence that will equip them for work.*

*Alongside this training we involve local schools and the wider community by establishing our site as an important green space and environmental resource.*

*We value people. We encourage staff, trainees, volunteers and all others involved with the project to work together, enabling them to fulfil their potential.*

**Roots and Shoots** is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, no 3400781 Reg. Charity no. 1064070/0

**Roots and Shoots is funded by the following organisations. We would particularly like to thank the Walcot Educational Foundation, The Mercers' Company, the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, St. Olave's & St. Saviour's Schools Foundation, The Westminster Foundation, Waterloo Community Regeneration Trust/BALE Community Chest.**



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Learning+Skills Council  
London Central



*As well as our human-based activities we strive to maintain our site as a valuable space for urban biodiversity. Each year we have new and unusual visitors. For 2006 this has included a beautiful broad-bodied chaser (top) and the wasp beetle (bottom). A giant velvet-black carpenter bee from Europe was our rarity this year.*



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