

London Tree and Woodland Awards – award winners 2008

The most effective project connecting schools with London's trees and woodlands:



Emerson Park School

This ambitious project involved every pupil and every member of staff in this senior school in Havering. Nearly a thousand pupils and a hundred staff in total. They planted copses linked by hedges around the whole length of the school field. The intention was to help pupils take a pride in and appreciate the school grounds. They had the opportunity to be fully

involved in the preparation, planning and maintenance of the work. At the same time the project will help to shape the local landscape by providing wildlife habitat and shade as well as enhancing the environment for the local community. A Saturday Club has been formed to involve the children and one was heard to say that it was the most fun he'd had on a Saturday for a long time.

The Trainee Commitment and Achievement award:



Mr Barry Baker

The winner of this award came to the Capital Woodlands training course through referral from Aftercare services in Lambeth. He had endured a tough path with many setbacks but has proved himself a capable and motivated individual with the aptitude and attitude needed to undertake and succeed in a woodland environment. We are all very proud of his

achievements, both personal and professional, and wish him every success for the future.

The most innovative woodland project demonstrating community benefits:



Addington Conservation Team

In recent years there has been considerable work to reclaim Birch and Rowdown Woods in Croydon as a place for the community. Over the last five years a local team has cleared tons of fly tipped rubbish from the woods. They have also worked with the police to clamp down on motorbikes being ridden through the woods, re-introduced coppicing to supply products to their

local allotment society and played a key part in the delivery of the Capital Woodlands Project in Croydon. Through the project, the group has grown in strength and size

and they are now undertaking surveys to develop a management plan to ensure the woodlands long term sustainability.

The Award for the most successful community tree project:



Croydon Tree Nursery

A group of volunteers took over an allotment plot at Park Hill Allotments to grow trees from locally collected seeds in 1997. The nursery now produces on average 400 trees and shrubs which are planted out across Croydon every winter. Over the years the nursery has grown and is now a woodland demonstration garden, with two ponds, a laid hedge, log piles for stag beetles, composting site and a number of nesting

boxes. This year the project has already received a 'certificate of excellence' in the Croydon in Bloom competition in the category 'best conservation project'.

Excellence in tree and woodland work by a Friends or Community Group:



The Tree Musketeers

This community group who started as the Hackney Tree Wardens, plant, protect and care for trees within the Borough of Hackney. They focus on a few sites for a sustained long term impact. It has grown into a network of 500 local people but continues to reach out for new people through a variety of initiatives including free guided walks, an annual calendar and

seasonal cycle tours of Hackney's trees. They also promote trees through education and publications. They are an entirely voluntary group with no core funding or paid workers. Projects include replanting in Stoke Newington Common and transforming parts of Hackney Downs. As one Hackney Councillor said "they encourage young and old to value trees and actively look after them and have proved an invaluable resource for residents, parks staff and schools."