



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Sherborne project wins award for its recycling commitment

The Green Shed, a project based at Castle Gardens in Sherborne, has received an award for its recycling commitment and effective use of waste products.

The **Inspiring use of waste products Award** was presented to one of the service users at The Green Shed at an awards ceremony in September and is sponsored by the Green and Sustainable Programme (GASP) and the Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust.

Day Service Officer, Barry Watts, who helps to run The Green Shed comments: "Every activity and everything we produce at The Green Shed is focused on recycling and it's great to receive an award which recognises this. We began recycling old wooden pallets and turning the pallets into kindling and our activities now include composting all waste and also knitting bags and mats from organic waste. Best of all, everything we produce is sold locally and the money we make is put right back into The Green Shed.

"Thanks must go to Sherborne Fencing who supplies us with useable offcuts which helps create many of our products, and also to the League of Friends for their continued support," finished Barry.

The Green Shed, which opened in October 2010 was part-funded by local body Chalk + Cheese, is situated in an area at the rear of Castle Gardens in Sherborne, Dorset. It was developed after the Whitehouse Resource Centre in Sherborne closed and currently opens three days a week during which time adults with learning difficulties are able to use the workshop to further develop community recycling projects, including plant pot recycling, wood recycling, compost making and veggie growing.

For more information about The Green Shed please call 01935 814548 or for more information about The Gardens Group please contact Mike Burks on tel: 01935 814633 or visit www.thegardeneronline.co.uk.

For more press information please contact Joanne or Katie at Positive PR on tel: 01935 389497 or email katie@positivepr.co.uk.

(005) September 2011

Notes to editors:

The Green Shed - Ros Urwin, Head Occupational Therapist (Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust) at The Whitehouse Resource Centre, comments: "This is a great example of how – by offering service users activities outside of the confines of a day centre – opportunities for them can really blossom. In this instance, they have already made additional plans to plant up a 'Sherborne in Bloom' flowerbed, due to their new links with the Garden Centre, and they will be ably assisted by a dedicated community support worker. The clients have ideas about how they would like to take forward woodwork and are being supported by their personal workers, some of whom have worked with them daily for many years, to develop other work and leisure opportunities in their local community."

The Gardens Group – is a group of three garden centres owned by husband and wife Mike and Louise Burks. The Garden Centres are based in Sherborne, Dorchester and Yeovil – one is based in a converted Victorian farm, one in the Walled Garden of a Castle and one in a rural setting on the edge of town – but all three have gardening experts and plants-men and women on hand to help and guide new and experienced gardeners. Plants are at the heart of each Centre – so they could be described as delis for plants not supermarkets!

Chalk + Cheese - Local Action Group – The LAG is an open decision making forum where people from the local community assess grant applications and decide where the Chalk + Cheese funding is spent. The LAG's £3.1 million funding comes from Local Action for Rural Communities (LARC) and is part of the European Union LEADER Programme funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas. The LAG is open for anyone who lives or works in the area to join and is a real example of community involvement and local democracy working.