



### **BTCV Staff Volunteering Day – Finsbury Park**

As part of their personal development every BTCV employee is given one week each year in which to get out of the office and help the local community by undertaking volunteering activities.

In June 2004, as part of Volunteer Week the UK's annual celebration of volunteering, events were held across the country to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers. So, BTCV staff and volunteers from London swapped their day jobs in offices with computers, for outdoors and pickaxes. Over 65 BTCV staff and volunteers from around the London region teamed up to transform a new community garden in Finsbury Park.

The community garden was set up by the Friends of Finsbury Park, who have done a great job of raising money for the transformation, some of which was funded through BTCV's People's Places scheme. Local school children were consulted on what elements they would like to see in the garden and plans were drawn up accordingly.

This project was a garden for the whole community to enjoy as around 70% of people that live within a two mile radius of this area of space do not have their own garden. During the course of the day, the BTCV staff managed to achieve a massive amount. There is now a new pond, patio area and footpath as well as newly planted shrubs and flowers.

Tired, hungry and very thirsty, everyone then made their way to the Islington Ecology Centre, for an evening of fun and food, to say thank you to all those who volunteered. An excellent vegetarian curry was served by Food for All, on 'compostable' plates. BTCV Chair, Roger De Freitas and Chief Executive, Tom Flood CBE, both thanked the volunteers, before being awarded honorary Croydon BTCV shirts, celebrating ten years of the BTCV project in Croydon.