



PRESS RELEASE

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2 April 2008

Helping Your Garden Grow...

A group of trainees from ENTa (Employment Needs Training Agency) have received a glowing thank you letter from a Great Barr resident delighted with the transformation of her garden.

ENTa trainees have been working for Age Concern for the past 3 years looking after gardens for elderly people in the Great Barr area, while learning valuable skills to help them enter the workforce, under the watchful eye and sound instruction of John Jones, ENTa's Estate Improvement Officer. This garden tidying has developed into full scale landscaping and project work which has gone from strength to strength thanks to a crop of satisfied customers.

Great Barr resident Mrs Ellen Darby has arthritis and was no longer able to manage her garden. ENTa was recommended to her and her recommendations to friends and neighbours have in turn produced three more projects.

Mrs Darby said "The lads and young lady worked well as a team often in extremely cold conditions and were enthusiastic and eager to learn. They did a very good job in transforming my garden and making it low maintenance. As I have arthritis, it will now be easy to manage for me. John was very helpful and gave sound advice to me and the team under his control. I have recommended ENTa trainees to several people who will be grateful as I was, for the help provided"

John Jones, ENTa's Estate Improvement Officer explains "The beauty of the Estate Improvement projects is that the trainees are learning real and valuable life skills - developing respect for older people and their property, and building relationships with them. They are also gaining technical and building skills such as slabbing, block paving and painting and the use of power tools such as slab cutters and chainsaws".

Trainees will take on whatever tasks are needed from weeding and lawn mowing to full landscaping, even creating play areas and providing tubs and planters which are also made by ENTA in their training centre workshop.

John Jones added "We were delighted that Mrs Darby was pleased with the work carried out by our trainees, along with the other residents and Age Concern clients whose gardens we have transformed".

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**To organise a photo with the ENTA trainees and Mrs Darby's transformed garden, please contact Charlotte Light (PR) on 0121 200 1096
charlottelight@entapeople.com**

Editors Notes

*1) ENTA has been working across Birmingham since 1977 providing learning opportunities, training, information, advice and guidance to help people think about and prepare for paid employment. **The Estates Improvement work is part of the E2E (Entry to Employment) programme for 16-19 year olds.***

As a Community Interest Company (CIC) ENTA is a not-for-profit organisation working in the community, for the benefit of the community. The work of ENTA fulfils our vision of enabling all people to achieve their potential, find their wings and fly, no matter what barriers they have faced in education, employment or training.

ENTA has 3 bases in Birmingham City Centre (head office, main training academy and IT training centre) plus 2 bases in the community on the Kingstanding Wyrley Birch Estate (Lakeside Children's and Family Learning Centre and a nearby Community Learning Centre)