

## Sustainable Strawbale classroom design day

### Details

Business: Carillion Services

Date(s): July 2005

Location: Richmond Parks

Working with: The Royal Parks

### Business Benefits

Improved customer relations – Help the parks to develop and realise their new project

Improved community relations – Demonstrated Carillion's commitment to the local community and education

Employee motivation – Helped to develop the participants knowledge of alternative building technologies

*“Building with bale can be inspiring and transformative. The beauty of straw is that it combines very high Insulation properties with great load bearing potential”*

As part of Carillion's Sustainability Week, the Royal Parks, works managing agent, organised a design day to help design a new sustainable strawbale classroom for the Holly Lodge centre.

The overall purpose of the day was to utilise Carillion and Parks Staff expertise in assisting the Holly Lodge Centre with their wish to construct a sustainable classroom.

The Royal Parks employ Carillion as their works manager and we approached Dr Pat Ealy to see how we could utilise our intrinsic building and facilities management skills, to the benefit of the centre.

The day started with a talk by Barbara Jones from Amazon Nails on what can be achieved by utilising strawbale in construction and also gave an insight into the materials and techniques used. Barbara also outlined several Case Studies of other strawbale constructions from around Europe, demonstrating their flexibility and adaptability and highlighted the sustainability credentials of the buildings.

A tour was then taken of the area in Richmond Park that has been set aside for the development, to ensure that the surrounding landscape and sight lines of the area were taken into consideration during the design workshop.

We then undertook a hands-on building exercise with the strawbales to enable the participants to gain a greater understanding of what could be achieved with the material and to understand the ease with which it could be used.

To carry on the sustainable theme of the day, even the lunch was sustainable, with organic, free-range ingredients.

In the final part of the day, we split into groups and using the design brief prepared by Pat Ealy and notes from the morning, discussed and developed the classroom design.

The proposed design is now on show at Holly Lodge where visitors and Trustees are being asked to comment on it with post-it-notes.



Developing a wide range of business based activities which enrich and extend the learning experiences of young people in and out of school