



WIMBLEDON News

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**This woman wants
to give away
£1 million. Page 14**



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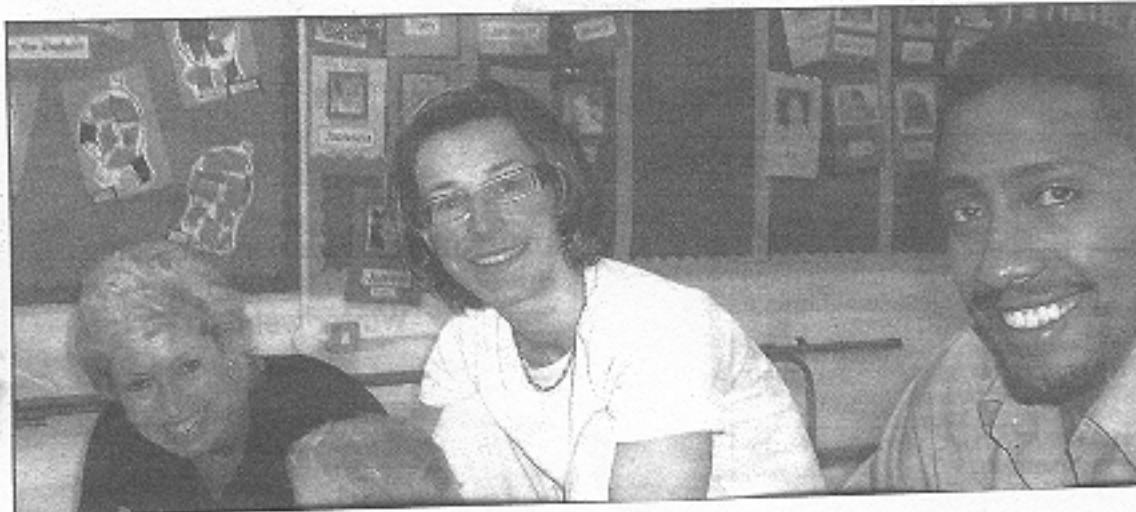
Building future homes to build a future for children

by Carron Taylor

Having an extension added to your home usually causes headaches and anxiety but in the case of Charlotte Grobien it proved an inspiration to transform young lives.

The 54-year-old was so impressed with the speed at which builders worked on an extension to her and her husband's Putney house, she decided to set up a property company which would give away all of its profits to children's groups.

Charlotte said "We lived on site while our house was being extended and had a great team of people working there. It took them about four months to complete.



months to complete.

"I had finished volunteering at Wandsworth Prison and was looking for something to do, so decided to set up the company which would help children in the area."

In February last year she founded Give it Away Limited, whose profits will be given to organisations helping young people in need.

She had never developed properties before but had extensive experience in sales, management and marketing.

The company is now building three houses in Putney, which will hopefully go on the market this spring.

All of the profits made in the sales will be distributed to a number of schemes after interest re-payments on loans and all bills have been met.

Charlotte said: "I just wanted to do something and I got this idea. My aim is to give away £1million.

"I don't know how long it will take, but we are building at the top end of the market."

The central aim of the organisation is to make a difference to the lives of young people living with injury, disability, disadvantaged circumstances or who lack social or educational opportunities for their future.

Give-It-Away is currently working with a number of groups and charities working with young people in the borough, including Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa, Fairbridge and Small Steps.



Charlotte Grobien, left, founded children's charity Give It Away Limited.

Many of these receive little or no Government funding and rely predominantly on private donations, according to Charlotte.

The organisation Skilltrain, which works with and provides support to young people in need, will be one of the beneficiaries.

Skilltrain manager Lucy Gardiner said: "I think the work Charlotte is

doing is phenomenal. I've never come across anybody who is so generous in spirit.

"Her passion is for young people which is born out of a desire to help prevent them slipping into trouble."

Charlotte said the company is always looking for sponsors to help with supplies and is currently searching for someone to help throw

a party for all of the charitable builders, after the first project completed.

She added: "At the end of the day about helping young people do and supporting them as they grow."

If you would like to support the company or want more information visit www.give-it-away.co.uk or call 020 8876 8807.