



Community Self Build Agency

Building better lives **together**



Community
Self Build
Agency



**“As the self build grew,
my self esteem grew.
As my home grew, I grew.
Each brick was like
a building block
for my new life.
I guess this is how
it was for us all.
Brick by brick our lives
have been rebuilt.”**

Linda, Community Self Builder

The Community Self Build Agency is actively involved in launching and promoting self build projects across the country. Formed in 1989 by the Housing Corporation, our working knowledge and expertise is sought by Local Authorities and Housing Associations nationwide.

Nationwide projects

- 1 Nationwide projects
- 3 Sustainable communities
- 5 Positive role models
- 7 Team building activities
- 9 Working together works

Main Image Left: The building blocks of new lives cemented together

1



Brace Photography 2006

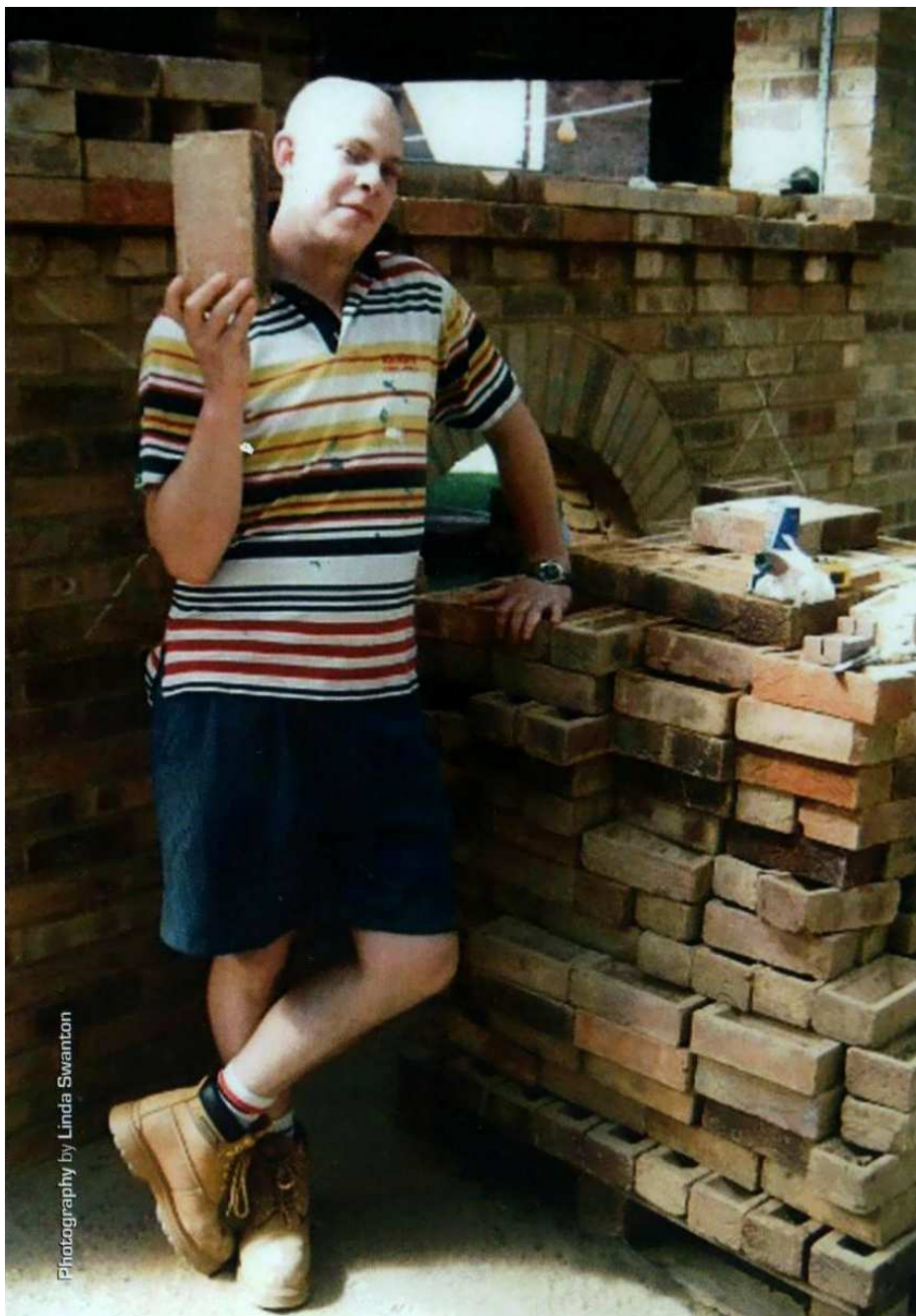
“All of our residents attended Harlow College to learn the necessary skills, such as bricklaying and carpentry. These skills can now be used to secure permanent employment now they have their own address and a comfortable place to live. Other local people in Harlow looking for accommodation are asking when the next one will be built.”

Mark Wells, Project Manager for Home (South) for Harlow Self Build

Sustainable communities

Under every home and every sustainable community you will discover firm foundations. Before work begins on site we build relationships between the people who in time will become neighbours. We also ensure that the mix of self builders reflects the social, racial and cultural diversity of the wider community from which the group is drawn. Everyone involved in our projects works to the same brief; to empower self builders to work together, and grow together, as a community.

Main Image Left: Relaxing at home with Mum after a day at school



Photography by Linda Swanton

“Self builders are determined, willing to learn new skills, sacrifice their spare time and are prepared to work a minimum of 22 hours a week in all weathers. Through their self help, enterprising and pioneering approach, self builders provide inspiration and become positive role models for others.”

Self Build, A Prospectus Of Potential Approaches, CSBA

Positive role models

Working in hand with local colleges and training providers, the CSBA creates vocational learning and development programmes for self builders. We also provide practical advice to self builders who want to further their education and increase their long term ability to find and retain work. Each person who completes one of our projects is immersed in a new work culture where everyone works in partnership to achieve results. Community leaders and role models evolve. We sow the seeds that become forests.

Main Image Left: Chris at college learning one of the necessary skills



Photography by John Gillespie

“Team building is a key element in the success of every project. The timing is essential. Every self builder has a story to tell and when these stories are shared the group grows closer. Our role is to facilitate this process and empower individuals to work together and find solutions as a community.”

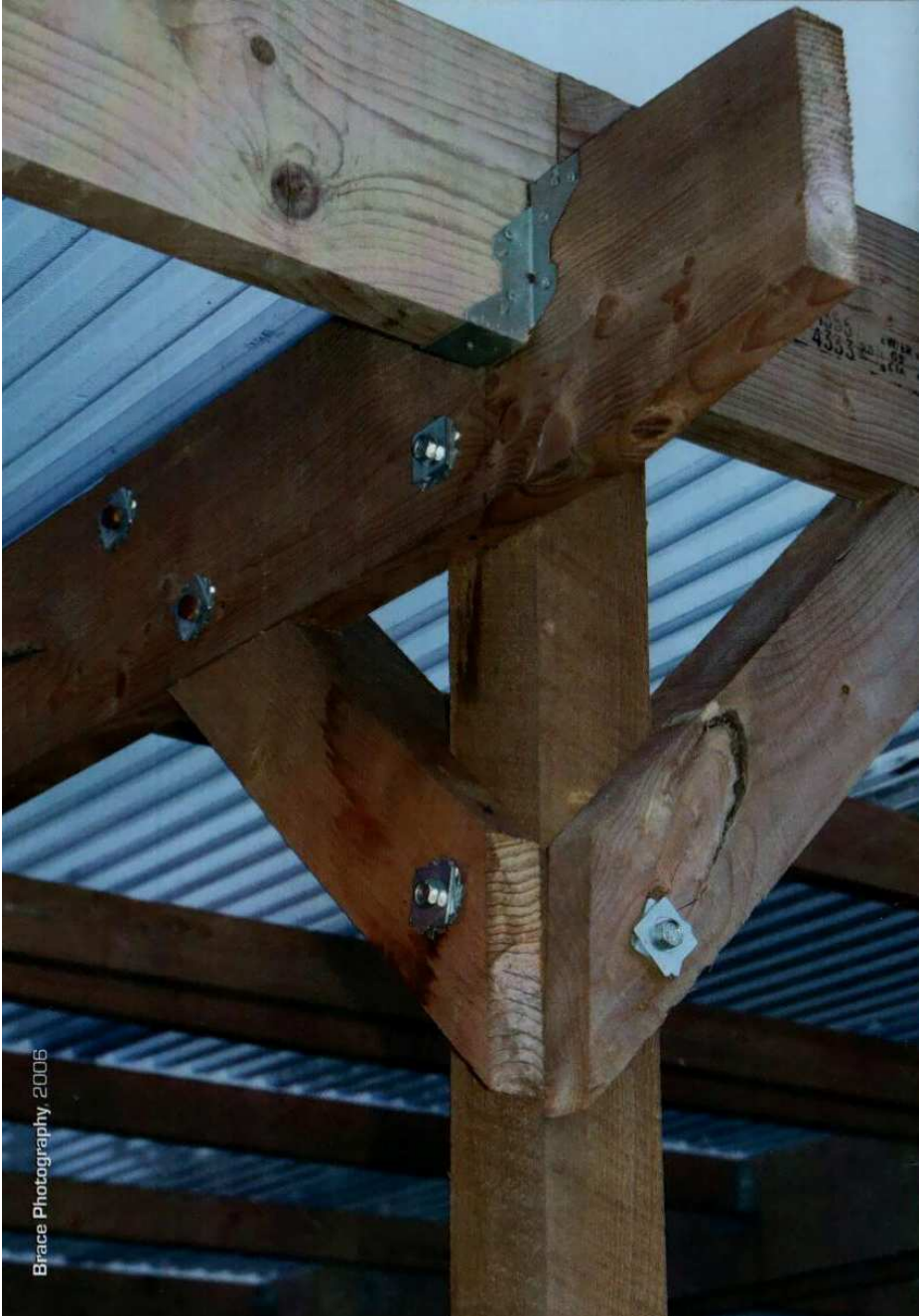
John Gillespie, Southern Development Director for CSBA

Team building activities

Facts & Figures 1: Of the self builders who attend and complete one of our team building events, provided that they begin working onsite within 12 weeks, 98% then go on to complete the project and become tenants.

Facts & Figures 2: Of the 98% that complete one of our self build projects, the lifespan of the tenancy for rented schemes goes up from a typical 18 months to a minimum of 3 years. Our current records show that CSBA related tenancies typically last 6 to 11 years.

Main Image Left: Tree-top problem solving brings self builders together



Brace Photography, 2006

“Over one hundred Community Self Build projects have now been completed, in three main tenures (outright ownership, shared ownership and for rent), providing over a thousand homes for a diverse range of people and in a variety of construction methods.”

An Introduction To Community Self Build, CSBA

Working together works

The CSBA is funded by charitable donations and consultancy work for Local Authorities and Housing Associations. Working together with a wide range of organisations and funding bodies we make affordable housing a reality for the vulnerable and disadvantaged. Experience has shown that when resources are pooled mountains can be moved and lives are turned around. For information on feasibility studies for projects in your area please call us on **01795 580 786**.

Main Image Left: Joists and supports join together to create a shelter



Motivate Educate Integrate

How to **contact us**

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'Positive communications for people dedicated to changing lives'