



EXCLUSIVE Al Gore drops in for Ark talk

NOBEL Prize winner, filmmaker and former Vice President of the United States Al Gore made a lightning visit to the Hammersmith Ark in late November to deliver a two-hour speech to London's business elite.

Although the event in Talgarth Road attracted plenty of blue-chip firms willing to stump up the £1,700 per ticket, the eyes and ears of *h&f news* were on a few of our own local business success stories.

For instance, Hammersmith resident and caterer Harriet Benton sorted the top-of-the-range food, right down to the jam which was made from her family's garden in Guildford. And Shepherds Bush eco-charity Furnish, run by Mark Hardy, provided a meeting room of colourful, recycled mattresses for the delegates to relax on.

Organisers What If?, based in Westminster, attracted other business big-hitters, such as the new chief executive of BP's alternative energy strategy Vivienne Cox, and Ian Rowe from MTV, who spoke about the channel's environmental and social agenda.

They chose the under-renovation Hammersmith Ark because it was one of the few eco-friendly buildings in London that could accommodate an event with more than 400 people.

Colin Crooks, 47, the founder of the pioneering Green Works furniture recycling scheme with a warehouse and shop in Brent, says: "Modern businesses need a new philosophy to survive."

"We need to create value for society where previously there has been only waste."

Geoff Cowart

DR EDWARDS & BISHOP KING'S FULHAM CHARITY

(Established by the wills of
Dr Thomas Edwards in 1618 and
Bishop John King in 1620)

A TRUSTEE IS REQUIRED

for a grant-making trust which helps people in need and local organisations addressing poverty issues in Fulham. We seek someone who knows Fulham and understands poverty and community issues.

**Closing date for applications is:
21 January 08**

**Contact:
Vivienne Robb for an application
form and information pack.**

**Telephone:
020 7386 9387**

Email: clerk@debk.org.uk.

**Write to:
Dr Edwards & Bishop King's
Fulham Charity,
Percy Barton House,
33-35 Dawes Road, SW6 7DT**

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NEW BEAT BOBBIES ARE BEATING CRIME

▶ **Your streets
are safer thanks
to 24/7 policing**
▶ **Data shows
fewer assaults,
robberies and
sex offences**

BY ROB MANSFIELD

THE POLICE are winning the war on crime thanks to council-funded safer neighbourhood teams.

Since the introduction of the round-the-clock Safer Neighbourhood Bobbies in April, crime has fallen in both Fulham and Shepherds Bush.

In Fulham, new Met Police data shows that burglaries from homes have been more than halved falling from 80 this time last year to 38. Snatch offences, where a thief grabs valuables and escapes, sometimes on a scooter, have also tumbled by a phenomenal 56 per cent.

Meanwhile, car thefts have fallen dramatically – down 48 per cent – and common assault is down by more than 15 per cent.

Non-violent theft (such as shoplifting) has been reduced by more than 17 per cent – all a direct result of the radical new scheme.

The numbers also show the number of woundings down by more than 16 per cent.

Six new Neighbourhood Watch groups have started up and three crack houses have been shutdown in the past six months.

Met Police Superintendent John Sutherland, who runs the teams in Fulham and Shepherds Bush says: "All the key indicators in Fulham are pointing towards a strong downward trend. In addition to this, sound local knowledge and good use of community contacts led to the prevention of an armed robbery and the identification of a suspect wanted for murder."

"The 24/7 team in Fulham is clearly producing strong results."

"The team have been extremely proactive in preventing and cracking



THE EFFECTS OF 24/7 POLICING:

SHEPHERDS BUSH GREEN

- Robberies fall from 91 to 49 – a reduction of 46.2%
- Snatch offences down from 35 to 21 – a reduction of 40%
- Number of street drinkers down from 40 to 10 – a drop of 75%
- Drugs busts have risen from 64 to 120 – an increase of 87.5%

FULHAM BROADWAY

- Common assaults fall from 44 to 37 – a reduction of 15.9%
- Woundings reduced from 72 to 60 – a reduction of 16.7%
- Residential burglaries drop from 80 to 38 – a reduction of 52.5%
- General theft offences fall from 351 to 290 – a reduction of 17.4%

down on serious crime including assaults, burglaries and violence.

"This is a good start but there is more to do."

SHEPHERDS BUSH
ACROSS the borough in Shepherds

Bush, robberies have declined by an impressive 46 per cent. Snatch offences, where a thief grabs valuables and escapes, sometimes on a scooter, have also tumbled by 40 per cent.

Meanwhile, anti-social behaviour

– which is mainly related to drunks and aggressive beggars – has also been dramatically reduced with the number of streets drinkers down by 75 per cent.

But perhaps the most formidable result is the number of drug dealers and drug users taken off the streets. Fifty-six more drug busts have been made in the last six months – a direct result of the radical new scheme.

The numbers also show sexual offences have fallen by nearly 43 per cent, four crack houses have been shut and the Bobbies have made more than five times the number of arrests than the regular police patrols.

And although there was a peak in theft from a motor-vehicle in June (43 crimes), September recorded the lowest number of offences on recent record – just 13.

RESIDENTS WANT PROTECTION

COUNCIL and Met Police chiefs launched Britain's first squad of 24/7 Safer Neighbourhood Bobbies by sending out a team of one inspector, five sergeants, ten police constables and 15 police community support officers to pound your streets, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Supt John Sutherland added: "Even if you take into account the falls in these crime types, across London, Shepherds Bush history as an enduring crime hotspot for robbery and snatch makes this a truly impressive achievement for the first six months of this pilot scheme."

Architect of the tough-on-crime scheme is councillor Greg Smith. He says: "Residents want protection and they want it round the clock."

"I am proud that we were the first council in Britain to provide the police with funding to put local patrols on the streets, day and night, every day of the year."

"It's not rocket science – beat Bobbies beat crime and these results prove that the streets of Shepherds Bush and Fulham are now much safer than they were this time last year."

"Now we want to drive crime down further."

HAVE YOUR SAY
Email: h&fnews@lbhf.gov.uk

TREADING ON ESTATE MENACES

▶ **Four-wheel
plan to drive yobs
into submission**

THE war on louts has hit another gear as our army of estate wardens begin new patrols on our estates.

The revamped wardens began their mission six months ago by visiting estates in the borough to meet residents and to assure the law-abiding majority that they were here to help. And as neighbours asked for more help in tackling lawless louts, our wardens have stepped in.

Now, we've sent the wardens back out to patrol day and night, both on foot and in their new 4x4s armed with night vision cameras, to bring the yobs to justice.

Council chiefs invested in the cutting-edge Land Rovers to tackle the troublemakers that plague some of the borough's estates. In the past, CCTV evidence captured on cameras was not always the best quality and could not always guarantee a conviction in court.

But councillor Greg Smith, cabinet member for crime & anti-social behaviour, explains: "Our cameras are the same as the cameras used in the *Big Brother* house – they can see in complete darkness through its infra-red sensors."

"These lights are invisible to the human eye and the person being filmed would not know that they are standing in an area that is being flooded with infrared light."

"Hooligans can run – but they can't hide."



ON THE RUN: Yobs will be kept under high-tech surveillance

ESTATE YOUTH FORUMS BEGIN



■ FORMER Los Angeles gang member Twilight Bey visited Fulham's Clem Attlee estate in November to open a fresh dialogue between young residents and the council's housing organisation, H&F Homes. During the next year, new youth forums will visit the borough's estates, helping to encourage and empower youngsters to stay in school and train for jobs. The 37-year-old father is pictured with Rory Marley and Joanne Simpson. PICTURE BY FERGUS BURNETT



FAMILIAR FACE: Lily Cole

From school to top model

FORMER Hammersmith schoolgirl turned catwalk queen Lily Cole is the new face of high street giant Marks & Spencer.

The 19-year-old supermodel, a former pupil at Latymer Prep School in King Street, will advertise the brand's M&S Limited Collection.

The teen model, who has worked with the likes of Julien Macdonald, Louis Vuitton and John Galliano, signed the exclusive deal with M&S, who will start selling the collection to the public in January.

Latymer wins new accolade

PUPILS at Hammersmith's Latymer Upper School are receiving a 'high quality and extensive' education, according to a new report.

The Independent Schools Inspectorate, which visited the King Street school in September, praised its 'outstanding pastoral support and guidance'.

Headteacher Peter Winter said it was encouraging the school had improved in many areas since its 2001 inspection and 'could not be more pleased with this report'.

NASTY NEIGHBOURS GO ON HIT LIST

- ▶ Problem tenants on estates to be kicked out in new efforts
- ▶ Zero-tolerance for troublemakers causing hell with residents

YOBBERY and thuggery on the borough's estates will be a thing of the past after a zero-tolerance clampdown was ordered by council chiefs.

Thirty of the borough's most nasty neighbours have been placed on an eviction hit-list.

The range of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour includes employing a professional witness to shop the louts who are making their neighbours lives a living hell.

Launching the drive, Cabinet member for crime & anti-social behaviour Greg Smith said: "Today I am announcing a fairer deal for our estates – a set of measures aimed at tackling the problem of anti-social and criminal behaviour on our estates head-on.

"No one should have to live in fear or misery in their own home."

In the past, the council has struggled to consistently convict nuisance neighbours if there were no witnesses willing to give evidence.

But now, undercover professional witnesses will be employed to target known offenders and collect evidence to use in court.

The council has also directed H&F Homes,

who manage the council's houses, to bring in probationary tenancies so that nuisance families can be put on a final warning before being evicted if necessary.

Billy Rae, chief executive H&F Homes, says: "We are committed to improving the lives of our residents on estates and understand that anti-social behaviour is a major concern that we are determined to address."

The plan is to enhance the monitoring, maintenance and recording functions of the CCTV system – as well as expanding it through new fixed and mobile CCTV solutions.

"We are upping the ante on a range of criminality from dangerous dogs, vandalism and graffiti to people who physically and verbally assault their neighbours and drug dealers," says cllr Smith.

"The message is clear – if you are not playing by the rules of civilised society – you're out.

"We will not hesitate to go through the courts to get criminal convictions or evictions any longer."

More estate wardens are planned in a bid to boost the number of patrols and improve response times, hand in hand with a remodelling of the concierge service in some blocks of flats, to bring it into line with modern demands.

Cllr Smith added: "The yobbery that is threatening to turn London's estates into no-go areas is being banished from our borough.

"We are reclaiming our estates with this tough series of measures.

"Residents have a right to peace of mind at home and by identifying the ringleaders of the troublemakers and pursuing them relentlessly we will make this a reality."

Gangs lose parking meter war



A SPATE of thefts from pay and display machines has been stopped in tracks thanks to joint action by the police and the council.

Detectives blame Eastern European gangs, who initially stole entire machines to examine the best way to break them open.

Once they had worked out how to force entry into the roadside meters, about 40 were broken into in a year. But worryingly, there was a huge escalation last September to more than 15 a week.

Eight were broken into on one evening alone.

But now, arrests have been made and vehicles and vital evidence seized. With more than 1,100 machines in the borough and a cost of £400 each to reinforce, council officers have opted to crack down on the crooks by installing an early-warning system in the boxes.

STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL? Don't miss the deadline



There are 22 community primary schools in Hammersmith & Fulham, and 13 voluntary aided or church primary schools, offering a wide choice to parents and carers.

By law your child should start school in the school term after his or her fifth birthday. In Hammersmith & Fulham, children can start school in the reception class in either September (autumn term) or January (spring term).

For the 2008/9 intake, this means children will start school in September 2008 if their date of birth is between 1 September 2003 and 29 February 2004; in January 2009, if their date of birth is between 1 March 2004 and 31 August 2004.

If your child is due to start in the reception class in September 2008 or January 2009 you must apply by 11 January 2008.

Check out the website www.lbhf.gov.uk for more information or pick up a copy of our Starting School booklet and application form from libraries, or by calling the school admissions team on 020 8753 2627.

Apply online
Applying for primary school can be quicker and easier if you choose to apply online at www.lbhf.gov.uk/admissions