

## Picnic in the park to include free food and drink tastings

NORMAND Park is guaranteed to be a hive of activity later this month, playing host to a community picnic and free tai chi lessons.

Fulham residents are invited to gather for a Big Lunch picnic event in the park on July 19, from noon to 4pm, which will include free food and drink tastings and fresh produce from the park's community garden. It will also include children's games and water games, if the weather is hot.

Adults of all ages are also invited to join free tai chi taster sessions in Normand Park, starting on July 21 and then every Tuesday for the next four weeks, from 2-3pm.

To book, contact Normand Park community development officer Sarah Johnson on 020 8753 3226 or email normandpark@lbhf.gov.uk

## FORMER COMMUNITY CENTRE IS SOLD FOR £735,000



**GREAT VALUE:** 59 Godolphin Road has made £735,000 to boost council coffers

A DISUSED community centre building has been sold off by the council for almost three quarters of a million pounds.

The property, at 59 Godolphin Road, was sold by auction recently (June 22) and went under the hammer for £735,000.

The three-storey building, which has been boarded up for several months, had been on the market with Savills at a guide price of £585,000.

H&F cabinet member

Antony Lillis said: "Residents will be relieved to hear that the money from the sale of this building will go towards reducing the council's overall debts (£139million for council tax-funded services) – and, of course, if we pay less interest this will ease the burden of council tax on all residents."

"Every £1m we can reduce that debt by saves us £100,000 per year in repayment charges."

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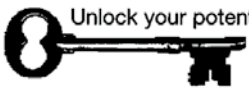
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▶ Watch co-ordinators get special commendations for going the extra mile  
▶ Hammersmith & Fulham now has 150 groups, helping improve safety in local districts

ROB MANSFIELD

**NEIGHBOURHOOD** watch co-ordinators who have gone beyond the call of duty have been honoured at a special ceremony.

Awards were handed out to selected winners as it emerged that the borough now has 150 groups – up from just six four years ago.

Co-ordinators, who attended their annual meeting on June 30, heard that the association now has a record number of groups. They also heard real-life stories of crimes prevented by local people.

Tim White from the Rylett Crescent group was commended for his efforts in helping track down and arrest a persistent fly-tipper.

He was aware that building rubbish had been dumped at the end of Rylett Road. Working from home one day, and spotting a lorry dumping rubble, he sprang into action.

Rushing outside, he jumped into his car so he could follow the lorry and photograph it. Using the intelligence gathered by Tim, Brent police stopped the lorry at a specially set up road block and arrested the driver and passengers.

Tim gave witness statements to the police, who charged the driver with two counts of fly-tipping and seized and crushed the offending lorry.

H&F cabinet member Greg Smith said: "We now have more neighbourhood watch co-ordinators in Hammersmith & Fulham than ever before and the good work that is happening on the ground deserves to be recognised."

"Normal people are doing extraordinary things in the battle against crime and, together with the police, we are all helping to crack down on crime locally."

Insp Dave Rees, who has taken over from Insp Bill Heasman as the borough's police lead for the groups,



WATCH OUT: From left, Philippa Robb, Loftus Road watch; PC Noel Duffy, Askew ward; Cathy Robertson, chairman H&F neighbourhood watch association; Caroline Banszky and Tim White, Rylett Crescent watch PICTURE BY JUSTIN THOMAS



**Normal people are doing extraordinary things in the battle against crime**

reaffirmed the police's commitment to working with co-ordinators.

Neighbourhood watch has an estimated 10 million members across Britain. It works by developing close liaison between households in a neighbourhood and the local police, aiming to help people protect them-

## GREAT WORK>>

**PHILIPPA** Robb, Loftus Road co-ordinator, was honoured for setting up an urgent public meeting following a brutal murder last December.

More than 50 Shepherds Bush residents met so that local people could talk about the shooting of Craig Brown.

Philippa fixed for deputy mayor Kit Malthouse, the police borough commander and the head of the Met's firearms unit to attend. Her special commendation was for her hard work, resulting in residents having more confidence in Shepherd's Bush police, helping to lower crime figures in the area.

selves and their properties.

It also helps to reduce the fear of crime via improved home security, greater vigilance, accurate reporting of suspicious incidents to the police and by fostering a community spirit.

Cathy Robertson, neighbourhood watch association chairman, said: "We now have a large number of keen and active neighbourhood watch co-ordinators in Hammersmith & Fulham. They are all hugely committed and help connect with people in their streets. With the support of police safer neighbourhood teams and H&F Council the once-limited network has now grown to 150. I would urge anyone interested in setting up a local scheme to get in touch."

• To become a neighbourhood watch co-ordinator in your street, email Insp Dave Rees at dave.rees@met.police.uk, call 020 8246 2746 or visit www.nhw-hammersmithandfulham.org.uk

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