

PRESS RELEASE
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Fire dog Murphy teaches Lewisham residents about staying safe

Murphy, a fire investigation dog for London Fire Brigade, stole the show at Lewisham Homes' resident Garden Party at the Albany, in Deptford, on Saturday 22 July.

The clever dog appeared with his fire inspector colleague, Mick Boyle, to help promote fire safety to more than 250 residents of Lewisham Homes, which manages 18,000 properties on behalf on Lewisham Council.

Continuously working in close partnership with London Fire Brigade to keep its residents safe, Lewisham Homes' fire safety team invited the brave pair to join them at the Garden Party. On the day, they shared fire prevention tips, encouraged residents to regularly test their smoke alarms, and raised awareness of what actions are being taken to keep their homes as safe as possible.

Murphy, who's no stranger to danger, has been specially trained in using his strong and speedy sense of smell to identify ignitable substances. This is done at the scene of a fire to help the Brigade's fire investigation team determine whether it was started deliberately.

A London Fire Brigade spokesperson said: "We'd like to thank Lewisham Homes for giving us the opportunity to deliver fire safety messages to residents, as it is vitally important that people plan and practise what to do in the event of a fire."

As well as meeting firefighting duo Mick and Murphy, attendees at Lewisham Homes' annual Garden Party were treated to an afternoon of free entertainment, including live music, puppetry, dance, and theatre from a variety of local performers. Visitors were also able to talk to staff, and take part in educational activities, such as gardening and healthy cooking workshops.

Princess Udenkolo, Resident Board Member for Lewisham Homes, said: "Thanks to everyone who braved the rain and came along to our Garden Party, sponsored by Lewisham Tenants Fund.

"As we celebrate ten years of Lewisham Homes, it was a pleasure chatting with so many residents, of all ages, from across the borough. Your feedback is important in helping to shape our future."

- Ends -

Photo attached:

1. Lewisham Homes' Rachel Askew (right) and David Pritchard (left) pose with London Fire Brigade's fire investigation dog Murphy

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Notes to editors

Lewisham Homes manages 18,000 council homes in Lewisham, operates its own repairs and maintenance company and employs more than 500 staff. It is undertaking a major investment programme to improve homes and local communities as well as building new homes in the borough.