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Let's meet neighbours and celebrate Japanese-style

by **Jane Harrison**
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MORE than 100 residents got together for a Japanese-themed meet the neighbours event on the Hanger Hill Garden estate.

The Summer Celebration, the first of its kind, was organised by the estate's residents' association and drew people from across the estate's diverse population – old and young, new arrivals and long standing residents of the flats and houses that make up this distinctive Mock Tudor conservation area.

Chairman Bill Bailey said: "We wanted this to be a celebration of our unique corner of west London and for everyone who lives on the estate. For instance, we have a lot of Japanese families living here because of our proximity to the Japanese School on Creffield Road, so we included a Japanese theme in the planning and we were particularly glad that so many of our Japanese neighbours came along."

The Japanese theme included a 'taste of Japan' – snacks and drinks offered by Japanese grocery Atkari and Japan Services, an

estate and letting agent located on the Estate.

Nearby restaurants Momo, Zeera, Paolo's, Villa Toscana and Bella Luna donated prizes for a raffle drawn on the day. So did the Hair Station hairdresser and Craftworks in Northfields. And top prize was a weekend for two at the luxurious Chilworth Manor Hotel, near the New Forest.

Face painting for children, a full English tea for grown-ups and gardening advice from Patrick Corcoran, of Abel Gardeners, completed the day's line-up.

Holding the event in the hall of the Church of the Holy Family on Vale Lane was an echo of the estate's glory days, when the Tudor hall – which now hosts a Japanese nursery and play group – was a country club and social centre of the estate.

Some of those present remembered playing tennis and bowls at the country club before it was sold to the Diocese of Westminster in 1962. Recalling those days in an illustrated historical talk, Mr Bailey explained the estate held land once occupied by the Acton Aerodrome.

A highly sought-after and luxurious development when it was first built in 1928-36, it had fallen



■ **MEETING THE NEIGHBOURS:** Residents on the Hanger Hill Garden estate get to know each other

Contributed

on hard times during the 1950s and 1960s before regaining popularity and coming for the first time fully under the control of its residents.

Carole McLoughlin, deputy chairwoman of the residents' asso-

ciation and the inspiration behind Saturday's event, said: "We were delighted that so many people were able to take time out of their busy lives to enjoy an afternoon with their neighbours."