

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

Wacky races on the Heygate!

Elephant estate has own go kart grand prix

By Emma Ailes

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FORGET THE Monaco Grand Prix – it was the Heygate Grand Prix this weekend as youth teams from around the borough raced their homemade go karts through the deserted estate.

Dick Dastardly and Muttley would have been left for dust by these five racing teams who designed, made and then raced their own wheels on a special track through the estate's walkways.

It was the Rockingham Estate's Repa Rapid Racers who scooped the trophy with their tiger go kart - and first prize of the chance to test their racing skills at Burgess Kart petrol track in Albany Road.

Cristina Fraser, 25, who organised the event, titled Release the Wolves: The Grand Expo, said: "The go karts looked amazing, the young people did such a good job."

"Repa, the boys that won, they came up with a tiger kart. They cut the head off a stuffed tiger and put it on the front, and the tail at the back and paws. They even made spoilers, and got old hoover bits that looked like exhausts and chromed them up. They were so hyped."

"The Pembroke Speed Frogs from Pembroke House, near East Street, they've got a community garden so they went with a garden theme. They got a load of toy frogs from the pound shop and made a garden and plants on the back. Oasis Adventure Playground in Stockwell had a team called Oasis Sonic Nightriders, and Mint Street were the Mint Street Roars and had a crocodile theme going on."

"Then there was Latin American dance group, Gotitas de Sabor. They used loads of colours, and glitter and diamante."

"They all had different coloured jump suits that they customised."

"We did time trials along one of the walkways that started on Heygate Street which the council agreed with us."

"It was so exciting! There was a really



Racers on the Heygate, and the winners, above.

good turnout on the day - a really good spectrum of people across the community not only turned up as the audience, but in different ways supported it and helped to make it happen."

Christina, who ran the project with money raised from prints by artist friend Gold Peg

after she was turned down for government funding, hopes she will be able to stage a repeat of The Grand Expo soon. "I was so impressed by all the young people, and it was so great that they were involved in the creative process from start to finish," she said.

"It was amazing and brilliant that the council supported this event - everyone was saying that, people were just really encouraged that the council were letting it happen and were recognising the needs of the community and enabling events to take place that met those needs."



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