

Woking Food & Drink Festival 2013



Stalls to tickle your tastebuds



Mister Tuck Shop - Richard & Lesley Orme. Pictures: Grahame Larler



Woking Asian Business Forum with McLaren executive head chef Steve Tremblay offering risotto samples.



Vicki Leppard, Dominic Rane and David Paterson of the Hogs Back Brewery.



Deepak Subba with Shoba & Ray Aziz from Curry of the Year runner-up RaysIndian restaurant



Salvation Cakes, based in St Johns, was a popular choice with cake lovers at the festival.

FROM retro sweets to remind you of your childhood, to freshly baked cinnamon rolls or perfectly iced cupcakes, there was plenty to indulge in at the Woking Food & Drink Festival.

Carrying plenty of bags to fill with goodies, shoppers packed out Jubilee Square as they tickled their tastebuds with new foods while workers on their lunch breaks grabbed a bite to eat and even a stash of food to take back to their colleagues.

A sizzling barbecue from The British BBQ Society gave visitors the chance to show off their grilling skills with special cook-off sessions.

Sam Walker is the owner of

Harry's Hot Chillies based in Well Lane, Horsell. Her stall was one of many tempting the festival goers.

She grows all her own chilli plants and named the company after her son. Mrs Walker was handing out tasters of her spicy treats. She said: "We're always a little bit cautious and try and encourage people to try the milder ones first but there's quite a few brave folk out there who have gone for the Surrey Scorchers and they do tend to like it."

Bisley residents Steve Barrett and Janet Owen were enjoying the beer tent while deciding what to have for lunch.

Mr Barrett said: "It's been lovely, it should happen more often."

"I'm sure all the local restaurants would love to have a chance to put their food out there for people to taste and if you had this once every four months people would turn up."

Salvation Cakes, based in St Johns, had a successful few days, selling everything from Oreos brownies to Bounty cupcakes.

And Woking Advertiser Curry of the Year competition runner-up RaysIndian had street food on sale and their trophy and certificate on display for all to see.



Woking's Mayor Anne Roberts with Jaimon Thomas of West Byfleet's Kayal restaurant.

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Jessica Chai and Rosie Dennington of Mmm Cookie Dough.



Television baking winner Jo Wheatley with the festival's cake competition winner Claudia Nocci.

Borough's bakers rise to sponge cake challenge

CHRISTCHURCH in Jubilee Square welcomed a very different type of congregation on Sunday afternoon when a variety of delicious home-baked cakes were lined up to be judged by television baking winner Jo Wheatley.

Taking a break in between her first and second cookery demonstrations in the Tante Marie Culinary Academy Theatre, Jo was given the tough challenge of tasting the sponge cakes, which varied from a chocolate pound cake covered in chocolate fudge frosting to a carrot cake iced and topped with carrots made from icing.

One baker made a special effort decorating their cake with the festival's

name. Nibbling on the cakes, and judging them on texture, look and taste, she eventually decided on one winner and two runners-up.

Claudia Nocci was crowned the baking queen for her coffee and meringue sponge cake. She won a place on Jo's cookery class plus a signed copy of the author's first book, *A Passion for Baking*. Claudia, who is originally from Tuscany, Italy but now lives in Woking, said: "I am pretty happy, it is an honour to win a cake competition with a judge like Jo Wheatley."

The runners-up were Sophie Robson for her chocolate and cherry cake and Katie Murdoch for her carrot cake.



Jo Wheatley with cake competition runners-up Sophie Robson and Katie Murdoch. WK135354_20

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