

Free Cakes for Kids Newsletter

FREE
CAKES
OXFORD

All the latest news from the Oxford baking team

Issue 4 - Winter 2011

Happy holidays to family & friends
from Free Cakes for Kids Oxford!

Feeling christmassy

Have you ever wondered what it takes to make a fabulous gingerbread house? Our recipe this year was simple. Just take 14 members of Oxford University's Newcomers Club from nine different countries, a big kitchen and a box full of baking equipment.

For a whole morning, a team of busy bakers worked their way through the Dragon School's kitchen to bake and decorate a whole population of gingerbread houses, men, women and children – with careful attention to both architectural and anatomical detail.



The products were sold with great success at the Newcomers' Christmas Fair. The baking group raised a total of £118, half of which will go to Free Cakes for Kids Oxford. The remaining eight houses and more than 35 gingerbread men and women have been donated to about 70 children from

Marston Northway, Cutteslowe and East Oxford who would not usually have home-baked goodies for their Christmas Party.

Amy from one of the Sure Start Children's Centres came to pick up the gingerbread houses and figures. As you could tell from the smile on her face, she was over the moon. And just in case you wonder: the houses and figures tasted as good as they looked.



Free Cakes for Kids (FCFK) is a community service for families who find it difficult to provide a birthday cake for their child. The cakes are baked by volunteers from the community – with the child's favourite theme or style. The service is free, friendly and confidential.

Future events

January
7 Volunteers Meeting

February
11 Barton Community Baking session

TBC Icing Masterclass for Oxford bakers

Past Events

September
10 Free Cakes for Kids UK Network Day 2011 hosted in Oxford

October
9 Prom at The Regal: Charity concert in aid of Free Cakes for Kids Oxford

10 OCVA Awards
15 Volunteers Meeting

November
18 Community Baking Session

Season's greetings to all our partners, sponsors and supporters.



Community news...

A very busy month

It seems that the third week in October is a very special one. This year, we baked five birthday cakes for five children within only five days. Here they are:



This is a new record. Many thanks to everyone who made this possible, including bakers, our partner organisations and families.

Music, charity and cake

More than 120 people packed into *The Regal* on Cowley Road on Sunday, 9 October, to listen to the East Oxford Orchestra. The musicians had decided to hold their annual prom in aid of Free Cakes for Kids Oxford and featured – among others – our very own volunteer and cellist, Heidrun Joeken.

The programme included Bach's Brandenburg Concert No 3, Marcello's Trumpet Concerto with soloist Tom Allen, The Tempest by Thomas Linley Jr. and Music from Pirates of the Caribbean with guest appearances by the Cheney School Orchestra, the SS Mary & John School String Ensemble and the East Oxford Youth Choir. Who would have thought that a film score can sound that good?



Our Cake of the Month in October was this pirate cake baked by long-time volunteer Jane Rouse for 7-year-old Ben from Oxford.



Proud...

OCVA Volunteer Award for Steph Griggs-Trevarthen

We are feeling very proud of our long-time volunteer co-ordinator, Steph Griggs-Trevarthen. At the OCVA (Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action) Awards



ceremony 2011, Steph won a Volunteer Award for her work with Free Cakes for Kids Oxford. When handing over the award, the High Sheriff, Mrs Penelope Glen, quoted from the official nomination:

“Stephanie has looked after more than 20 volunteer bakers at Free Cakes for Kids Oxford, welcoming and introducing new volunteers to the community group, making sure they understand the food safety and confidentiality policies, organising regular meetings and generally being the first point of contact for all problems and concerns”.

Congratulations!

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