

Waldorf breaks new ground with great success

The Waldorf Experience continues to delight our guests from both communities in Marlborough and Windermere. We have branched out this year, hosting larger afternoon teas within a new setting at St John's and Windermere Schools. Our aim was to create an informal café style cabaret event with all our guests enjoying a top quality afternoon tea enriched by wonderful entertainment.



afternoon tea.

First up was St John's Marlborough on a perfect spring day, in March. The team in the grand surroundings of the state of the art theatre prepared to entertain sixty guests, of more mature years, from our extended local community whilst serving them with a special

As always the standard of the food produced by the catering team, led by Sue, was exceptional. Our guests were treated to beautiful finger sandwiches accompanied by mini sausage rolls followed by numerous dainty cakes including chocolate eclairs, Eccles cakes and Victoria sponge. All of our guests thoroughly enjoyed the fare. Our new team of student hosts did themselves proud ensuring everyone was looked after and treated as very special guests. Tea and coffee were constantly on offer and the hosts seemed to have an endless supply of serving plates of food that our guests took full advantage of throughout the afternoon. The students also spent time chatting to the guests, creating a wonderfully informal atmosphere. It is always lovely to see the generations coming together and enjoying each other's company.



The musical programme was varied with George welcoming all, as they arrived, with a medley of pieces on the piano. The "Kids from Annie" brought smiles to all faces with a number of tunes from the recent school production, including the classic "Tomorrow". Lucy and Amelia treated us to classical gems on the flute and piano. Finally and once again, the Sarsen Songmen gave of

their time and immense talents entertaining all with a wide variety of numbers from the Beatles to traditional folk tunes.

All of our guests left that afternoon feeling special and hopefully with some songs to sing on the way home and fond memories of having a good time.

Next up was Windermere in June, in the midst of an uncharacteristic heat wave in the Lake District. A musical theatre afternoon was planned for guests who mainly came from the Windermere area. This afternoon tea was a new approach with a larger room venue set out café style surrounding a grand piano.



The pristine white linen and matching crockery, complemented by posies of gerbera and gypsophylla which meant that everything was ready for another successful afternoon. At 2pm the mainly new team of hosts waited to welcome the 56 guests from various local homes, sheltered accommodation and hospices.



The afternoon tea comprising a wide variety of freshly made sandwiches, mouth-sized cakes and fancies was produced by Morrison's, who have generously discounted the catering for the last two Waldorf Experiences at Windermere. All the guests thoroughly enjoyed the food expertly served

to them by the ever attentive hosts, professional as always in their green bistro aprons over black and white uniforms.

The songs from the shows continued throughout the afternoon, with, for the first time, a greater number of the junior pupils including Lucy, Isabella, Georgia, Danni and Millie being given the chance to perform. Songs from Mamma Mia, Oklahoma, Wicked, 42nd Street and My Fair Lady delighted the audience who needed no encouragement to join in.



In keeping with previous Waldorf events, the guests were reluctant for the afternoon to end and many of the hosts sat talking with their guests long after the music and food had finished.

Both Windermere and St John's will be hosting more Waldorf Experiences in the next academic year and certainly making more people realise just how special they are.