



Shoppers taste a world of food and drink

By Diana Cormack

Café owners, restaurateurs and traders proved East Finchley can be a feast of food and flavours throughout a weekend of tastings and special offers.

The Eat Finchley event ran from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 March and was the third in a series organised by N2's Town Team to encourage more people to visit the High Road and use local shops and eateries.

The event covered both St Patrick's Day and Mothering Sunday so many businesses responded, for example Maddens Bar offered free Irish stew while the Cherry Tree Café also served Irish stew and held Irish dancing performances which attracted a huge audience.

The Saturday morning rain

had eased off by the time Alison Moore, the Mayor of Barnet, made her welcoming speech. She praised the work of the Town Team, the efforts of the traders and the number of people who were there, underlining the special community feeling which exists in East Finchley.

With her mayoress Helen Gordon, Alison visited a number of businesses in and around the High Road, as well as the stalls set up outside Budgens. These were hosted by East Finchley Library, Healthier High Streets, Food

Bank Aid, Layy's Kitchen, Caffè Nero, the Town Team, N2 Food Project and Martin School. The group of children on the Martin School stall were a credit to the school, explaining the relevant work on display and raising nearly £120 in donations for the school's recipe book.

Food shops, cafés and restaurants joined in by setting out tasting stalls with a variety of free samples. Several musicians entertained along the way – classic guitarist Guilio; acoustic guitarist Dayvid;



Mayor of Barnet: Cllr Alison Moore discovers the High Road offers

accordion player Yuliia and 11-year-old Gloria, winner of East Finchley's Got Talent, playing trumpet and violin.

Find out about East Finchley Town Team's upcoming events at www.iloven2.co.uk/town-team



Free samples: The crowd enjoys the bake off stall outside Budgens. Photos Mike Coles

Invisible peas

The Windsor Castle pub introduced an on-going £2 for 'invisible peas' with donations going to the Finchley Food Bank and even the Phoenix got in on the food-related action with a screening of *Ratatouille*.



Take out: The Mayor chats with Majjo's owner Farrah Naeem



Special offer: Cut-price cakes in Dan & DeCarlo



Recipe ideas: Martin School pupils fundraise with their cookbook

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BIG FUN WALK 2023

Sunday 21 May

- 8.5 mile walk East Finchley to Westminster
- London's most beautiful parks and stunning views
- Free lunch, refreshments and a goody bag

The start line is located next to The Cherry Tree Café

Pricing for adults £18, under 16 £13, and under 5s go free.

Register at bigfunwalk.co.uk

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