

Cakes without the calories

World's First Knitted Cake Festival celebrates 40 entries and £875 raised for charity

The world's first Knitted Cake Festival, held in Helmsley, was a huge success, so far raising £875 for Malton, Norton & District Hospital League of Friends and Sheffield Children's Hospital.

With the North York Moors laying claim to the title of '[Britain's Capital of Cake](#)', and Helmsley home to many fantastic tea rooms, coffee shops, bakeries and delis, Christine Bentley, the owner of Castle Stores Wool Shop in Helmsley, and her friend and customer Anna Lupton from Ampleforth, decided to launch their own homage to the cake.

With entrants knitting or crocheting everything from strawberry tarts and cupcakes to full on three tiered wedding cakes, the winning cakes were chosen and then all the entries were put on sale to raise money for charity.

Forty entries were received from as far afield as Essex and Surrey. Mary Rudd, from Easingwold, was crowned the overall winner for her wedding cake, winning a night's stay for two at Carr House Farm in Ampleforth and afternoon tea at Ampleforth Abbey Tearooms. Other prizes included afternoon tea at Helmsley's Black Swan Hotel, a workbox or knitting bag, yarn and vouchers for Castle Stores and Carr House Farm.

Christine Bentley, the owner of Castle Stores, commented: "We were delighted to receive so many entries and the quality was so high, it was very hard to choose our winners! We'd like to thank everyone who took part and who helped us to raise so much money for some very worthy causes. There are still some cakes for sale too - they make a great conversation piece, and they're definitely zero calories!"

Ends

For further media information or images please contact: Shona Nutter on 07714 953919 or shonanutter@googlemail.com

Notes to editors:

Helmsley in Business is a group of 53 businesses working together to ensure the continuing success of the North Yorkshire town of Helmsley. Members include: Antiques and Interiors; Auntie Anne's Bakery; Bay Clinic; Bella di Notte; Black Swan Hotel; Browns of Helmsley; Castle Stores; Carters Country Wear; Celebrate Country Cake Design; Claridges; Crema Coffee Shop; Cut Price Bookshop; Duncombe Sawmill; Duncombe Park Gift Shop;

Duncombe Park Estate; Elijah Todd; English Heritage; Feversham Arms Hotel and Verbena Spa; Helmsley Art Centre; Helmsley Brewery; Helmsley Galleries; Helmsley Natural Health Clinic; Helmsley Post Office; Helmsley Town Hall; Helmsley Traditional Sweet Shop; Helmsley Walled Garden; Helmsley Wines; Honeysuckle Cottage; Hunters of Helmsley; International Centre for Birds of Prey; JEB Taxis; KVA Planning; Lazenby Visuals and Framing; Libby Butler Jewellers; Look Gallery; Marleys Butchers; No. 54 B&B; North York Moors National Park; Pennita Fashions; Porters Coffee Shop; RED taxis; Retals; Saltbox Gallery; Scotts of Helmsley Fish and Chip Shop; The Feathers; The Stickman; Think Fresh; Thomas of York; Thundercliffes; Tulchan; Viva Hair; and Yorkshire Deals.

Helmsley is a beautiful market town in the Ryedale District of North Yorkshire, with something to offer everyone - and a great place to explore the North York Moors National Park. It is popular with tourists for its characterful Market Place, historic architecture, the wide range of quality independent shops, and the excellent selection of accommodation, pubs, cafes and restaurants, many of which are award-winning. There are also plenty of interesting activities and attractions available on the doorstep including The International Centre for Birds of Prey, Helmsley Castle, Rievaulx Abbey and The Walled Gardens. Helmsley also marks the start of the Cleveland Way, which is popular with walkers and loops round the National Park to end up at the coast near Filey.

For more information log on to www.visithelmsley.co.uk