

Rose Hill–Littlemore Children’s Centre

Come and enjoy a delicious lunch on a Monday or Wednesday at the Rose Hill–Littlemore Children’s Centre on the Oval. St Mary’s Iffley raised almost £800 at the summer market to help Iffley Mead School set up their community café. It is designed to train students in working and independence skills. The money has already provided uniforms and cooking equipment. As the very successful café increases its service a food processor is the next purchase.

That is the background but you must try the food. It is really tasty and inexpensive. Staff at the centre have booked the Iffley Mead team to cook for their inset day and a Christmas lunch in December for fifty people. The generous portions of beef lasagne and sweet and sour chicken and rice that I tried on two occasions made my need for supper minimal. Jeff managed the apple crumble and custard too. The café opens for coffee and tea and toast at 10 a.m. and hot food from 12 to 1 p.m. The main course is around £2.50. There is always a choice of hot dishes or salad.

On my second visit I met the new manager of the Children’s Centre, Sylvia McGuckin. She is keen to welcome anyone into the centre. There is a well-stocked and stimulating children’s playroom and garden for mothers to drop in with their babies and toddlers. A crèche alongside cares for children of parents attending courses. A group was learning about food hygiene and safety then. Saturday morning is ‘Saturdads’ in the Playroom. Fathers, carers and children have a great time with activities planned by the staff. Thursdays the Asian women gather to sew, chat, and also cook a Halal lunch in the café. Tuesday finds Rafa cooking Columbian dishes. So there is something good, fresh, and home-made to eat four days a week.

Volunteers to help in reception or welcome mothers and toddlers are wanted. If you have part of a day to offer come in and speak to Sylvia.

Barbara Alderson