

A sweet way to raise church funds

MEMBERS of a churchyard trust enjoyed cucumber sandwiches and a pot of tea to raise funds for the upkeep of a Finchampstead church.

Around 60 people enjoyed sandwiches and cakes at the Helen Taylor Churchyard Trust annual autumn tea afternoon, which raised £350 for the maintenance of the churchyard at St James' Church in Church Lane.

Ed Sampson, churchwarden and trust member, said: "The churchyard trust manages the churchyard by cutting the grass and trimming the hedges.

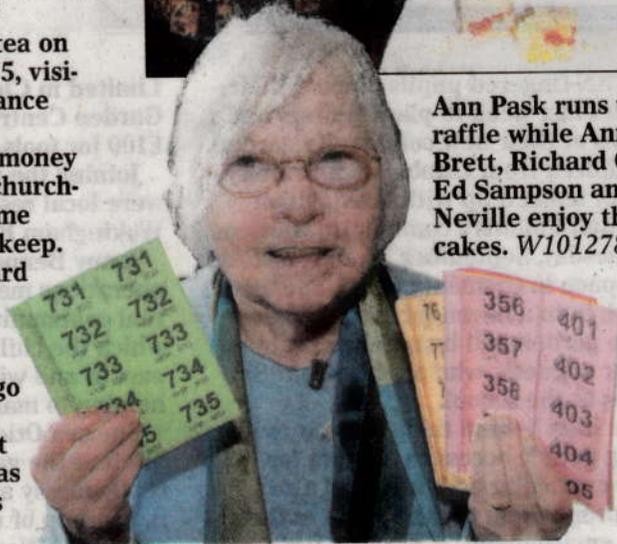
"A long time ago a lady called Helen Taylor gave a small endowment for the cost of cutting the grass and other maintenance and since then we have held all sorts of events to keep the fund going.

"Everything is donated for the afternoon and the ladies of the trust baked the cakes. They're brilliant and we had all sorts from smoked salmon sandwiches to Victoria sponge cake."

During the traditional tea on Wednesday, September 15, visitors were also able to chance their luck at a raffle.

Mr Sampson said: "All money made went towards the churchyard trust to build up some money for the church upkeep.

"We keep the churchyard tidy by doing a variety of things, for example if a grave falls over we arrange for someone to go along and pick it up. All donations go into the pot and the afternoon tea was a great success so that is fantastic for the trust."



Ann Pask runs the raffle while Annalisa Brett, Richard Owen, Ed Sampson and Isaac Neville enjoy the cakes. W101278elf/d.



Doreen Gilder and June Vogel, enjoying the refreshments, along with, right, Chris Brett, Brenda Gibson, Joan Ray, Don and Rene Monk, and Dorothy Taylor. W101278b/c.



Pictures by Steve Smyth.