

# Cake-a-hoop

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

## Arlo's Cake-a-hoop with role in mum's business

ARLO Squires might be just three but the youngster has already landed his dream job.

And he's not much bothered that he doesn't get paid for it because there's nothing he enjoys more than licking out the mixing bowls used by mum Zahra in her new cupcake-making business.

Cake-a-hoop is the name the 38-year-old mother-of-two has given to her venture and it's fair to say it's also a pretty accurate description of Arlo's attitude to a role which, while entirely voluntarily, he attacks with a rare gusto.

"While I concentrate on cupcakes, I've been busy making everything from lemon drizzle cakes to chocolate roulades and there's nothing Arlo doesn't jump at the chance to taste," said Zahra.

"I guess most of us enjoyed licking out the bowl as kids and he's certainly no exception. Fortunately for Arlo, with the business beginning to take off, he's getting plenty of practice at it - though he hasn't baulked at the workload yet," joked his mum.

"He seems to enjoy pretty much any type of cake though cake-pops, which are little balls of chocolate truffle cake coated in chocolate and sprinkles on a stick are a particular favourite."

Zahra, who lives in Ascerton Road, Sidmouth, moved back to her hometown with Arlo, his seven-year-old sister Imani, husband Matt and a menagerie of animals in 2008 and launched her business earlier this year following plenty of encouragement from friends and family.

"I've always enjoyed cooking," explained the former Sidmouth College student. "As an 18-year-old I spent a year in France cooking for a family there and it's been a passion ever since.

"When I moved back home to Devon I started making cupcakes for friends' birthdays and things like that. Then people began asking me to make cakes for them and it occurred to me that I might be able to turn it into a business which I could fit around looking after Arlo and Imani.

"The council's environmental health department came to check out my kitchen at the beginning of this year and Cake-a-hoop was launched as soon as I received the green light. I've been relying solely on word of mouth thus far but with everything having gone so well I'm now keen to progress to the next level."

Zahra can provide cupcakes for any occasion, from Christmas to Valentine's Day and from corporate events to children's tea parties and weddings. All her cakes are made freshly to order from the finest ingredients and come packaged in beautiful gift boxes. Prices start at £9 for a box of six large cakes or 12 mini ones.

Cake-a-hoop can produce cupcakes to your exact specifications - colours, decoration, flavour, added decorative touches, whatever it is you want Zahra promises she'll do her very best to deliver. And, it goes without saying, Arlo is sure to be on hand to ensure everything tastes as mouth-watering as it looks.

- For more details about Cake-a-hoop call Zahra on 01395 510872 or email [zahra.squires@btinternet.com](mailto:zahra.squires@btinternet.com)

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