



LEWESIANA

As a fan of Mary Berry and *The Great British Bake Off*, my heart is filled with gladness at the idea of a cake-stand of baked goods. I'd heard rumour that Lewesiana served such a thing, and since my (baking queen) sister is staying for half term, it seems the perfect opportunity to seek it out. We walk through the fragrant flowershop to the elegant tearoom at the back and sit near the window. We're delighted to discover that they do indeed serve High Tea (£10.95). It's such a good name, somehow bringing to mind both Enid Blyton and the Gary Cooper movie. You get a pot of tea, finger sandwiches, scone with cream and a selection of 'tea pastries'. We add a second scone and another pot of tea to the order - my sister asks for the house blend and I have Earl Grey - then chat about life, kids and family until our leaf tea arrives with a strainer and an adorable three minute egg timer which indicates when it's time to pour. Then the three tier cake-stand is brought over. What a beauty. Delicate finger sandwiches variously filled with homemade hummus and carrot, smoked cheddar and pickle, smoked salmon, and cucumber with cream cheese. Freshly baked, excellent scones (one plain, one sultana as requested), clotted cream, raspberry jam. The top layer comprises a delicate Bakewell tart, a cream meringue, daisy-shaped shortbread sandwiched with zingy lemon curd and a tiny square of marmalade cake. We share nicely and love every bite. A superb High Tea.

Emma Chaplin

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