



Joe Syme (left) and Andy Prosser testing their new coffee roasting machine. Photo Mike Coles

Mine's a latte

By Sheila Armstrong

East Finchley has got its very own micro-roastery where you can drink a cup of coffee blended especially for you. Campbell and Syme on Fortis Green should be open regularly from Monday to Saturday from the start of July.

Proprietors Joe Syme and Andy Prosser learned to love coffee in the States. Now they brew their own coffee here in N2, grind and roast it for customers and also sell the beans from their premises. They want to introduce local people to

speciality grade coffee and to show them the secrets of home brewing.

Getting it just right

Making a good cup of coffee doesn't just involve careful roasting to preserve the natural flavours of the single estate beans, but also

getting right the water temperature and the length of time the water is in contact with the beans.

Andy Prosser is a trainer for the Specialist Coffee Association of Europe and hopes to run home brewing SCAE courses in the cafe. Tony's Continental on the High Road stocks their coffee and the Phoenix Cinema now serves Campbell and Syme's coffee.

Return match for choirs

By Marian Bunzl, of North London Chorus

Following our successful collaboration in Berlin last November, North London Chorus will be joined by Cantus Domus Choir in a 'return match' at the Barbican this month.

Last year we performed Benjamin Britten's War Requiem at the Berlin Konzerthaus, as part of the city's celebration of his centenary year. This Anglo/German concert was sold out; it was a deeply moving occasion and received excellent reviews.

This year, 100 years after the outbreak of the First World War, we will give a joint concert of German music, chosen in a spirit of reconciliation and remembrance; themes which were also central to Britten's pacific masterpiece.

The programme will include Mendelssohn's Grant us Peace, and the main work will be Brahms's great humanist piece A German Requiem.

The concert will take place on Monday 14 July at Milton Court Concert Hall, the elegant new concert venue at the Barbican, and will be one of the first large choral events to be held there.

We are delighted to be performing with Cantus Domus again so soon. Although we have again forsaken our home at St. James in Muswell Hill, we are within reach of North London, and we hope you will come and hear the beautiful and moving music we are performing in the spirit of this year's anniversary.

For tickets, contact the Box Office on 020 7638 8891 or barbican.org.uk

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KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Dream on, England

Here we go, here we go, here we go! England's finest tried to fuel the fantasies of glory and the fantasists fuelled up on cheap lager in the name of sport. The cross of St George flew from car windows and was draped across perfidious Albion like a skin disease. You couldn't switch on the TV without hearing some former player pretending that he was not just a has-been but a contender. Yes, folks, welcome to the fear and loathing that was England at the World Cup.

It's the same every time they qualify, the usual round of 'this time we can win it', 'football's coming home' and buy-one-get-one-half-price offers on Wayne Rooney. The usual politicians tried to put a spin on another humiliation while claiming that they had always loved the game even though they think the offside rule is Gordon Ramsay's new restaurant.

In the weird world of reality, the only thing England were ever likely to win was a plane ticket home in time to watch the semi-finals on TV. Success was about as likely as the Pope announcing he's a secret atheist.

Just look at the record: England normally crash out in the quarter finals, usually on penalties, usually to the Germans. The only times they didn't were in 1966 when a Russian linesman remembered the siege of Leningrad and said the ball had crossed the line and some of England's finest supporters celebrated by beating up German tourists. In 1990 they lost on penalties in the semi-finals, to, guess who, that's right, the Germans.

This time they did worse than usual and although someone with the intelligence of a waste paper



Spotted on the High Road

basket will claim that Spain did no better, England's young guns proved they just weren't good enough.

So, as the footballers licked their wounds, the rest of us could either tune into any channel that wasn't showing the World Cup or join the Scots, Welsh and Irish by supporting someone else. Me, I took my car's advice and supported Italy. That said, my masterpiece of Italian engineering celebrated Italy's victory over Rooney and Co by pretending that the North Circular was really Monza and blowing up spectacularly halfway round the Hanger Lane gyratory. Typical Ferrari, but I've still got the flag...

Fascinating finds

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society is hosting an event called Getting to Grips with Pots & Pipes, which will explore the archaeology of everyday artefacts from Saxon times to Queen Victoria. The one-day workshop led by Jacqui Pearce will have expert presentations and find-handling sessions. Participants are invited to bring along their own finds. It takes place at Stephens House, East End Road, N3, on Saturday 2 August from 10am to 4pm. Tickets and details from www.hadas.org.uk

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FT 514

Charity chic from Mary Portas

By Nick Young
Highgate is to be the latest venue for a branch of high-end charity shops established by television star and retail consultant Mary Portas.

Mary's Living & Giving, due to be launched this month, is part of a chain of volunteer-run shops that raises money for Save the Children. The new shop will be located on the corner of Highgate High Street and South Grove.

A Global Retail Ambassador for the charity, Ms Portas developed Living & Giving as a high-end charity shop following her 2009 TV series *Mary Queen of Charity Shops*. Described by Ms Portas's website as being as "not just a shop, but a place to inspire, share, create, meet and discover", the chain features stock by prestigious designers as well as items donated by local residents.

The first Living & Giving shop was a pop-up shop at the Westfield shopping centre, which earned the charity over £190,000 in three weeks. More than ten Living & Giving shops have since opened in London, with another one in Edinburgh.