

home made delights

The perfect treat for a leisurely lunch on Mother's day or afternoon tea, 3 Greens Restaurant has a menu to die for that will see you return time and time again



As I sit down on this particularly grotty Monday afternoon, I am extremely full after consuming an enormous quantity of cake.

The reason for this gross lack of self discipline is only partially my own fault. You see, today I discovered a hidden gem in Hertfordshire's catering crown – 3 Greens Restaurant at Elstree Aerodrome.

Perhaps not the most obvious location for somewhere to be a 'lady-that-lunches'; enjoy afternoon tea and home-made cakes; or take the children to enjoy a Sunday roast, the airy cafe turns out to be the perfect place to watch the planes go by and take a break from your busy schedule.

Elstree Aerodrome has always been home to a restaurant of sorts, but up until now has represented more of a lunchtime 'caff' than a restaurant catering for a multiplicity of taste-buds. Having been taken over by Caroline Whitney and her family last November the little restaurant overlooking the airfield has been completely refurbished, complete with log-fire, and the menu re-vamped.

Caroline's previous experience covers training

with the respected pastry chef John Huber; working with the Roux Brothers; a stint at Claridges where she battled her way to the fore as the only girl in the kitchen; running the English side of the Orient Express for Prue Leith; and even catering the wedding breakfast for Charles and Diana! Couple that with being a mum of three, and Elstree has found its very own superwoman!

3 Greens is currently open for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and Sunday Roasts; with the promise of extending their hours to dinners when the summer months come along, enabling Caroline to throw open the French windows and allow guests to while away the balmy evenings on the terrace.

On this somewhat less pleasant February lunch-time; dining alfresco was most certainly not an option. However, I was greeted with warm smiles and a pleasant atmosphere, and having perused the menu, happily tucked into my warm salad complete with poached egg, while my companions enjoyed toasted sandwiches, homemade vegetable soup and a side of fries for good measure.

Not only does the menu offer a wide range of choices – from salads and sandwiches to steak burgers or chilli – but Caroline is also aware of the importance of making everything affordable, and child friendly – after all, what better way to spend the afternoon with your children than watching the planes take off!? Therefore, not only are most main courses under £8 per head, but she has made sure everything is available in a half-portion should you desire it, saying: "I am a mummy, so I know how important things like that can be!" It is this attitude that has people vying to hire out the venue for birthdays. Caroline is looking forward to catering a 1st birthday party next month – excitedly drawing up ideas for the perfect finger foods.

Having enjoyed the sensible part of our meal, here came the really intensive part of our enquiry into the delectable delights on offer – the desserts. Unable to settle on just one, we opted to try them all! With all the cakes being home-made, and the option of chocolate fondant pudding to boot, this was not just dessert, this was freshly prepared from locally sourced ingredients, professionally conjured, 3 Greens dessert! After all, by now our visit had ventured into the realms of afternoon tea – so it was only prudent to behave accordingly!

Tucked up by the fire, with a cup of tea, I feel a hundred miles from the realities of credit crunches and nine 'till five working hours ... Just minutes from the M25, 3 Greens is surrounded by fields and open space, and this is exactly what has brought Caroline not only to work here, but to love it as well: "it is a world within a world", she says.

Small, welcoming, and the perfect balance of traditional with a twist, 3 Greens is the idyllic place to escape for a short time... or a long time, and watch the world fly by.

3 Greens are now taking bookings for Mother's day - a wonderful afternoon is guaranteed with a special menu and treat for mums! 🍷

3 Greens Restaurant

Elstree Aerodrome, Hogg Lane, Elstree
WD6 3AR
T: 020 8953 6013
www.3greens.com