

Free water refills at Neal's Yard

NEAL's Yard Remedies has become the first high street chain to offer free water refill stations to customers.

Partnering with Bristol-based City to Sea – a non-profit organization which campaigns to prevent marine plastic pollution at source – Neal's Yard says that it is 'proud' to be rolling out the refills across 30 participating stores nationally.

"In the UK alone we use up to 13 billion plastic bottles per year, with only three billion of these being recycled," says the brand's head of sustainability, Louise Green. "We already have sink stations with taps on



the shop floor of many of our stores, so it made sense to allow people to fill up when they drop by. We want to offer people a convenient

way to stay hydrated so they don't need to keep buying plastic bottles and contribute to the global issues around plastic waste."

Rubies in the Rubble whips up new mayos

SUSTAINABLE food producer Rubies in the Rubble has created two inventive mayonnaises – Aquafaba Mayo and Chipotle Mayo.

Aquafaba is the water drained from chickpeas or from cooking legumes, which mimics the effect of egg whites. Its mix of starches, proteins and other soluble plant solids gives aquafaba a wide spectrum of emulsifying, foaming, binding, gelatinizing and thickening properties.

Rubies whisks this water with rapeseed oil, a pinch of salt, a squeeze of lemon juice and a hint of Dijon mustard – or a dose of smoky chipotle chilli powder – to create vegan mayonnaise, which

has, says the brand, all the creaminess and texture of regular mayonnaise.

"Mayo is such a widely used staple, so it seemed like a brilliant opportunity to create something gourmet for vegans and non-vegans who will also appreciate

the sustainable approach," explains brand co-founder Jenny Costa. "Currently we source our aquafaba from a hummus producer. Every year hummus manufacturers empty gallons of water from cooking chickpeas down the sink."



GREK brews up Greek infusions

GREK is a new brand of tea that uses carefully selected herbs from Greece to produce a range of 100% organic herbal infusions.

The brews include four varieties in pyramid tea bags: Peppermint, described as smooth and intense with delicate higher notes and hints of spice; Lemon Verbena, a balmy and zestful tea with a soft, mild lemon flavour and a gentle edge; Chamomile, a calming tea with a sweet aroma; and Paradeisia Blend – crisp and floral, underscored by citrus and with a

fresh aftertaste, this combines sage, lemon verbena, lemon balm, peppermint, and is described as the brand's

flagship tea. The loose variety is Mountain tea, a mellow, floral infusion with a touch of fruit, imparting woody and earthy notes. A favourite drink in Greece, it can be served cold with a slice of lemon.

Each tea comes with an illustrated booklet featuring a short story.



MIA brings taste of Africa

NEW ETHICAL food brand MIA (Made in Africa) has launched in the UK with a six-strong range of Madagascan single-origin, bean-to-bar chocolate.

The MIA dark chocolate bars include 100% Cocoa, 75% Dark Chocolate, 65% Coconut, 65% Almond & Coconut, 65% Hazelnut & Cranberry and 65% Candied Orange. The 75g packs feature embossing and gold foil to create texture and shine designed to stand out on shelf.

"It's been a long but very rewarding journey to bring the brand to market, so we're incredibly excited to have the first MIA products in the UK for the sales push to begin," says brand co-founder Brett Beach.

"MIA is more than just our name, it's our ethos as we're dedicated to making delicious, unique food fairly in Africa. We're confident

we can put Africa on the map when it comes to producing the finest, awe-inspiring food products."

Each bar is crafted from start to finish in Africa to give greater benefit back to the communities they come from. The entire chocolate-making process takes place under one roof to ensure each bar's unique flavours of the terroir.

The Criollo, Amelonado and Trinitario cocoa used is sourced directly from independent farmers in the Sambirano Valley of north-west Madagascar.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Lily's Kitchen has launched a range of new trays designed as single servings for smaller dogs or as toppers when combined with dry food for larger dogs.

Good & Proper Tea has launched its first line of whole leaf teabags: Brockley Breakfast, Earl Grey, Jade Tips, Peppermint, Wild Rooibos and Chamomile.

Luscombe Drinks has expanded its flavoured mixer portfolio with the introduction of a new Light Devon Tonic Water available in a 20cl bottle.

No More Teabags has rebranded to better reflect, says the company, the quality and provenance of its teas, which come in fully recyclable aluminium cans.

Dairy-free yoghurt range Nush has added a new Banoffee variety to its range. It is soya- and gluten-free, has no refined sugars and is suitable for vegans.

Danone has announced that by 2025 all of its Evian natural spring water bottles will be made from 100% recycled plastic, up from the current 25%.

London organic wholesale craft bakery Honeyrose has announced that it has become a dedicated gluten-free brand. It has also been given a fresh new look.

Teapigs has introduced three new Matcha Latte sachets in Cocoa, Turmeric and Chai varieties, each containing 1g of matcha. It has also unveiled bold, bright new packaging.

Organic dairy brand Rachel's has announced the launch of its new Best Tasting Organic Natural yogurt range, comprising Organic Natural and 0% Fat Organic Natural.