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Workshops open doors

By Sheila Armstrong

There's an interesting community growing up behind The Broadway in Muswell Hill, in Avenue Mews to be precise, which starts near O'Neills pub and ends behind the library. The old artisan workshops are now rented out to a variety of vintage shops, including Cha Cha Cha and Can't Buy Me Love, galleries and artists' workshops. If there is a red bike out at the end of the Mews then the shops and galleries are open, usually Thursday to Saturday.

Matt Humphrey invited *The Archer* along to The Local Gallery in April and plied us with news about the upcoming exhibitions at his gallery and cups of delicious coffee, courtesy of W. Martin in The Broadway. The Local Gallery is for local artists and is the only one in Muswell Hill.

Charity project

Matt is a successful and talented self taught photographer and spent some time in Hong Kong teaching languages before returning to the UK to work as a stagehand at the Old Vic theatre. This led him to devise his charity project 31thirtyone//portraitproject. Matt spent 31 days photographing various actors and theatre luminaries, amongst them Kevin Spacey and Sam Mendes. The limited edition photos were then signed by the individuals concerned and sold off for charity.



A total of £14,000 was raised this way and The Clissold Arms in Fortis Green hosted the exhibition. In 2011 he repeated this successful formula with musicians, which at the time of writing was still on show at the Clissold Arms.

Matt's plans for The Local Gallery include film shows, courses, a photo studio and space for hire, and more group and mixed media shows. The artist in residence is Nathan John Booth who occupies the small loft studio. East Finchley artist John Jones has shown a selection of prints there as recently as April as part of a group exhibition titled muswellhillbillies.

Contact for the gallery is at www.thelocalgallery.co.uk, but go along and have a look. It's a small friendly place and just behind the main drag. Matt is at www.matthumphreyimages.com

Missing bus info

Texting Transport for London to see the actual estimated arrival time of your bus can save a lot of hassle. As explained in the March *ARCHER*, all you have to do is text the number of your bus stop to 87287.

In a very few instances, however, there is no number displayed at the stop. You can discover the number on the TFL website, www.tfl.gov.uk, where you can also report its absence from the stop. Alternatively, call 0845 300 70000. A TFL spokesperson recommended allowing two weeks and then calling again if nothing had been done.

Fancy line-up for the Silver Jubilee



The fancy dress competition gets underway at the 1977 Silver Jubilee street party in Richmond Road. Photo courtesy of Mike Herring

A Diamond Jubilee 115 years ago



The 1897 plaque in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Photo by Nick Young

While we celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee, next time you take a walk down Bedford Road, look out for an ornate plaque marking 60 years on the throne for her great-great-grandmother—Queen Victoria.

The current residents of the house are not aware why the plaque was placed here but it's certainly a fine example of Victorian craftsmanship and makes the most of Victoria's position at the head of the British Empire. Please contact us if you can tell us any more about the plaque. Our contact details are on page 2.

An astronaut, a giant Fingerbobs mouse and a clutch of kings and queens made the fancy-dress line-up for this Silver Jubilee party in 1977. Neighbours in Brighton Road, Chamberlain Road and Richmond Road set up tables in the street and enjoyed an afternoon of food, drink and games. Thirty-five years on, the three roads were staging another party on 2 June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. Mike Herring, who took the photo and still lives in Richmond Road, remembers the 1977 party as a hot and sunny day. Who won the fancy-dress competition, though? Answers on a postcard, please.

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