



Scenic seating: The new mural in La Gourmandise

An imaginary world on a café wall

By Tess van Leeuwen

You might think Joshua Drewe, local artist and illustrator, based his abundantly leafy, wall-high mural in La Gourmandise on an existing place, but you would be wrong. "Apart from the drawing of the café itself, it's all in my head," he clarifies. "I'm interested in creating imaginary worlds that break the barrier between unadulterated wilderness and human urbanisation."

His work at the High Road café patisserie develops as he goes along, each brush stroke

of lush green, bright ochre and deep cyan bringing a different shade to the evolving magical landscape, each added texture



Artist: Joshua Drewe

creating a fine pattern of detail.

Joshua isn't new to the art of the mural. His circular mural of the history of New Cross at Goldsmiths University in South-East London was shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards in 2017 and his Docklands-inspired piece on the wall of the Greenhouse café in Deptford is still a firm local favourite.

"What I love about creating murals is the interaction with the public," he explains. "People really get involved and come back every week to see the progress." But it's not just the process. "Ultimately, it's creating a piece of work that speaks to people's imagination every time they engage with it."

What better gift: a work of art that interacts with you, allowing you to discover something new every time you cross paths with it. And all that whilst enjoying a fabulous cup of coffee and a delicious cake. Win-win.

Café at the centre of life in the park

By Diana Cormack

Just four months after opening, the Cherry Tree Café is turning into a hive of activity in the heart of Cherry Tree Wood.

On Sunday 12 December dogs and their owners took part in 'Santa Paws', a mini fundraising event hosted by the café and organised by All Dogs Matter. There was plenty of dog merchandise on sale, plus the chance for the best dressed Christmas dog to win a prize. Over £400 was raised for the charity.



Part of the pack: Dogs and their owners at the Santa Paws event. Photo Mike Coles

Also fundraising was a group of singers who were rattling the tins for their school, Tetherdown Primary, with a festive sing-along. Mince pies and mulled wine added to the seasonal atmosphere.

On the previous day the People's Pantry returned to Cherry Tree Wood with their converted milk float Ernie (see *The Archer*, October 2021, page 8). They will be pitching up at the café on the first Saturday of every month, giving people the chance to live more sustainably by buying from their zero waste refill service of staple food and goods. Locals can refill their pantry whilst ditching their plastic.

Local food, local support

Café co-owner Sharon Hall told *The Archer* that everything they use in the café is biodegradable and compostable and customers who bring their own cups get 10% off drinks. Their food is all locally

sourced and baked and cooked by locals. She also announced that the Food Standards Agency has awarded the café its top level hygiene rating of 5.

The café has a notice board for community use and would welcome approaches from community groups wanting to use the board or the café. Both



The People's Pantry will make a regular appearance in the wood. Photo Alison Roberts

Sharon and her fellow owner Sharon Harding are delighted with how things have gone since opening the café last summer and spoke highly of the wonderful community spirit in East Finchley. Sharon Hall said: "We feel blessed by the magnificent response we have had from such a great community."

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Car boot re-boot

The Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale returns for 2022 on Saturday 29 January in its usual venue at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH, from 10am to 1pm. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. More information from 020 8368 8180.

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