

'A Little Explore down Richmond's Lanes'

By Georgina Wyman

Away from the hustle and bustle of George Street, you can find yourself wandering down one of Richmond's charming lanes. These are full of hidden gems, from a Children's Bookshop to, an independent Tea Merchant and everything in between.

Brewers Lane

This is the oldest lane in Richmond with a diverse mix of shops and an idyllic passageway to Richmond Green. An absolute must is to visit Gelateria Danieli serving delicious authentic Italian ice cream. There is an impressive assortment of flavours from Champagne Truffle to Sicilian Cactus Fruit at reasonable prices. Grab a scoop, stroll down to the Green and lap up the British Summertime!



Tucked away are two very lovely jewellery and gift shops, one owned by local lady Kate Hopwood, selling her own bespoke jewellery and other designers' collections. Each piece is a work of art and would make for a very special gift.

Moon & Stars sells gifts from around the world. As well as a diverse range of jewellery there are lovely bags, candles, ceramics and hand painted wine glasses, and you are sure to find a wonderful gift or a treat for yourself.



After all the exploring head to gastro-pub The Britannia where you will be treated to award winning food which includes fish and meat dishes smoked on the premises. Take a sip of one of their real ales, sit back and relax

on the serene garden terrace. They even offer a pre-theatre menu where you can enjoy 3 delicious courses for only £14.95.

Paved Court

A short walk from Brewers Lane you will find an abundance of unique little shops, cafes and eateries. If you are looking to indulge in the finer things, conveniently next door to one another are a tea & coffee merchant and an award winning chocolatier. Rosie and Java are a family owned tea & coffee merchant selling speciality teas and coffees and equipment. They also offer barista training courses to perfect your brewing skills.



Next door is the prestigious chocolatier and patissier William Curley. Exquisite chocolate and delicate pastries, you will not be disappointed by these heavenly creations crafted by a 'Britain's Best Chocolatier' and 'Pastry Chef of the year' award winner. Once you have become an accomplished barista at Rosie and Java's why not master your chocolatier skills on one of William Curley's esteemed courses or just sit outside and tuck in to these luxurious confections made for you.



Continue your exploration in to the finer things as you discover not one, not two, but three established jewellers: Susan Clarke and Hortons, both of which are more than 30 years old, and Gregory & Co. Each offer a wide selection of antique and contemporary pieces, gold, platinum and diamond jewellery, repair and engraving services. Why not continue your accessorising spree and step in to Tit fer tat, a lovely little boutique selling elegant ladies hats, wedding and fashion accessories for every occasion.

With so many places to explore you may need to sit down and unwind. Why not indulge on delicious Italian cuisine freshly prepared by chefs from Sardinia and Abruzzo at the Amadora Ristorante. An intimate setting which takes you away from the regular Italian chains and delivers on an authentic dining

experience accompanied by a wide selection of regional wines, the house red is particularly good. Dine alfresco on the paved court with a glass of vino on a summer's eve... bellissimo.

Golden Court



Golden Court is the third lane leading on to Richmond Green from George Street, it has a smaller selection of outlets but definitely worth a stroll down. If you are looking for a splash of colour for your walls, take a look at the Canvas Gallery where you will find vibrant prints, graphics and original paintings by various artists from Bob Dylan to Marvel Comics. On your way down to the Green stop off at the Mooca Café where you can sit outside and enjoy light refreshments and

excellent coffee.

If you are searching for something a little stronger head to the end of Golden Court (technically on the Green itself) and you will find one of the oldest Public Houses in



Richmond serving beer since 1770, The Cricketers. The original building burned down in 1844, but was replaced by the Grade II listed building which is there today. You can enjoy a good selection of ales which always include a local brewer as well as a pleasant bite to eat, with classic pub favourites and nibbles available. It is a great place to sit on a sunny afternoon and watch the local cricket team play on the Green.



Church Walk

Heading back up to George Street and crossing over you will find Church Walk, similar in size to Golden Court but a lovely procession up to St Mary Magdalene, Richmond's ancient parish church.

Here you will find an absolute gem, one of very few independent children's bookshops, The Alligator's Mouth. This is a magical little shop which provides a wide selection of carefully chosen children's books. They hold events regularly including book launches, a comics club and storytime.



As you walk past the Church, tucked away you will see one of the most traditional French Bistros in South West London, La Buvette. A charming place to visit and originally the refectory of the church, it has a wonderful secluded courtyard for some

alfresco wining and dining. It regularly attracts theatre, film and sports stars, politicians and artists and offers a special dining experience with their seasonal 'A la carte' menu. They have an excellent selection of wines representing the classical wine making regions of France. This is a superb place for a leisurely lunch or pre-theatre treat at very reasonable prices.



So there you have it, a whistle-stop tour of some lovely little finds in Richmond's historic lanes. There are many more boutiques, eateries and galleries to discover and even if you are not looking to purchase anything they are worth visiting for a peaceful stroll.