

## WHAT MAKES YOU WANT TO VISIT AGAIN?

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137 Arlington Road, London, NW1 7ET. It's a house of misfits. It's a house that everyone wonders about when they walk past, a house that when you visit once, you just want to visit again. It might be the exotic smells coming from the Kusum flower incense sticks that Charlie brought back from Tibet that draw you back in, or it could be the unique vibrant paintings on the wall that May spent months on when she scored her first exhibition in Camden Town. Or maybe it's the conservatory which Lily decided to turn into a butterfly house, with plants and lights now filling the room, that forms your desire to return to Arlington Road. You might know Conor, 137's in-house computer genius in the attic, who can answer any technical question you may have, from your phone being terribly slow or one of your earphones suddenly not working. He might be the reason you want to visit again. When walking up the stairs, you might be transfixed by the wall to the right that is covered floor to ceiling in black messy italic writing, like a snapshot of a secret diary or the ramblings of a mad man. It might be that.

You could have stumbled into the house one Friday night, into a marathon of *Lord of the Rings*, complete with every popcorn flavour known to man and Conor's favourite jelly sweets. A Wednesday morning could have been your visit, when May has all her yoga friends round and takes over the front room and fills it with exercise balls, mats and music. Strolling down the road on a winter Sunday afternoon, noticing Charlie and his nephew

excitedly making snow angels in the front garden may have led you to stop by again.

Sometimes though, it isn't the quiriness of the inhabitants of 137 that brings you back, the eccentric oddities of each individual, but the pure feeling of craziness yet calm that the house possesses. It could be the combination of love, acceptance and bizarreness within the four walls of 137 Arlington Road that make you want to visit again.