



Up, up and away in Ilona's imagination

Pen and ink artist Ilona Istvanffy may sketch a lot of her East Finchley scenes at street level but that doesn't stop her letting her imagination soar way above the rooftops.

Her black-and-white sketch of Market Place, for instance, centres on the Royal Mail sorting office at the end of Kitchener Road yet she also shows the full sweep of Prospect Ring behind and the tube line that runs between it and East End Road. Another of her super-detailed panoramas takes in the south-facing view from the Church Lane bridge, where she spends a lot of time watching the trains with her 20-month-old son Aron.

Other drawings in her sketch book are more down-to-earth, including portraits of her favourite shops like Margot Bakery in East End Road, and Scott & Son fishmongers and Tony's Continental in the High Road.

Capturing East Finchley's character

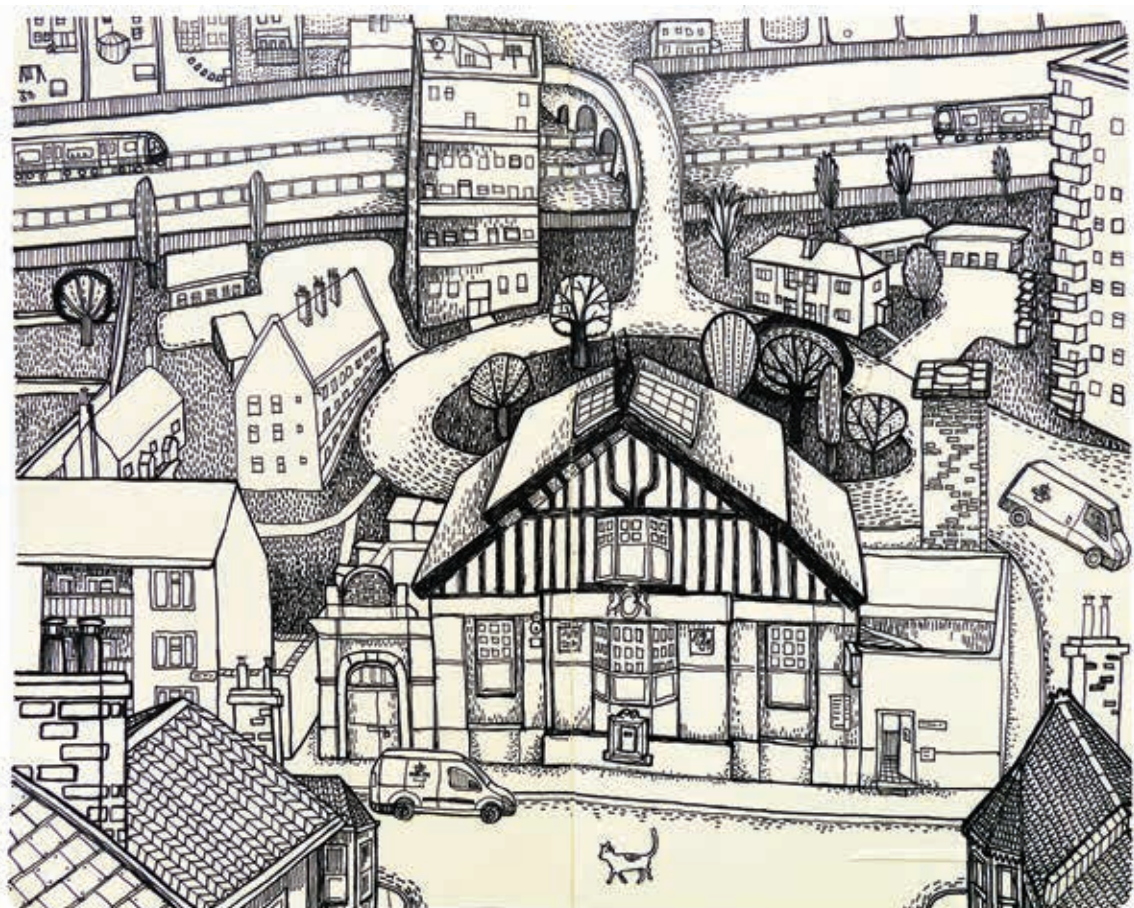
Fine art graduate Ilona was a secondary school art teacher and graphic designer in her

native Hungary before coming here with her husband Saby five years ago. She finds London a dynamic and exciting city but also takes pleasure in capturing the more intimate details of life in East Finchley seen on her daily walks with Aron.

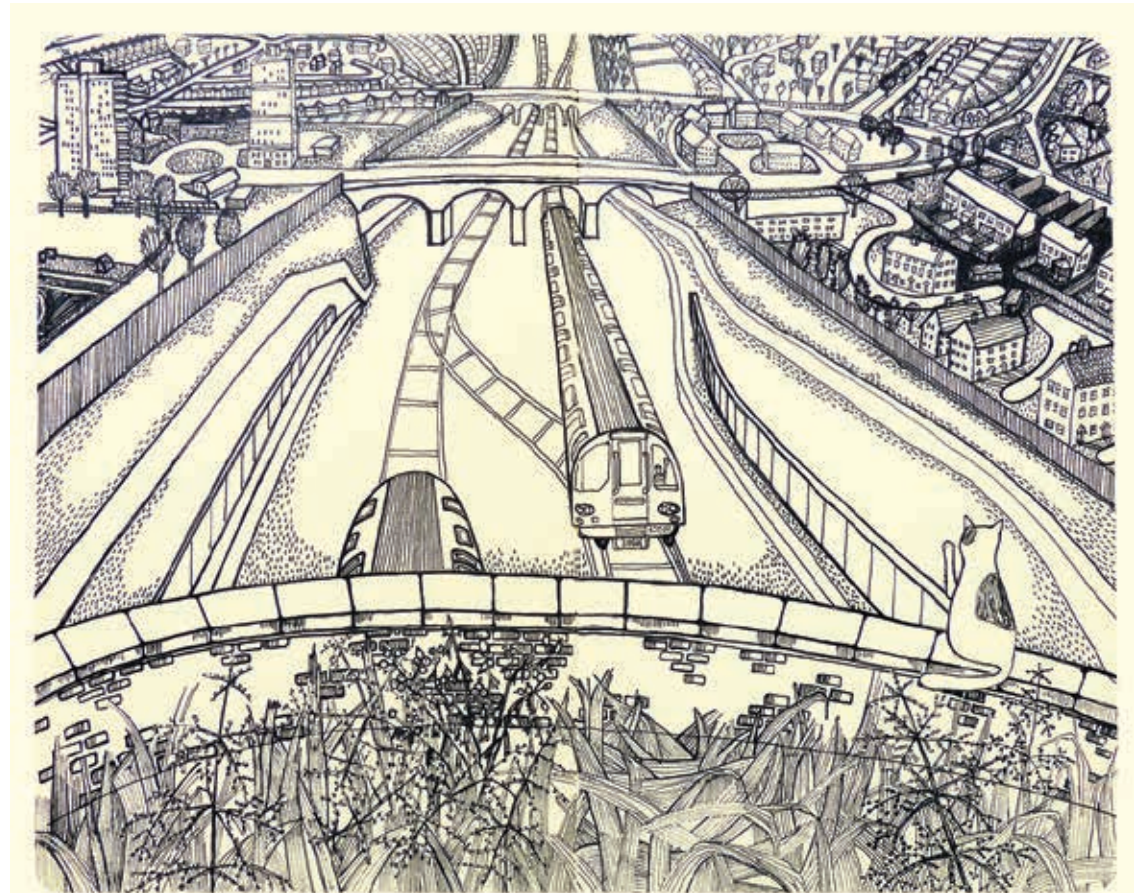
"Everything is new to him and to me," she says. "I like my buildings to be accurate but I don't want all my scenes to be naturalistic. A good drawing for me is one that finds room for everything that shows the character of the area.

"I make sketches and take photos when I'm out. Then I can spend anything from a few hours up to a week completing a drawing. Working just with a pen in black and white keeps everything simple and at the same time lets me include lots of little details."

Find out more about Ilona and her work on her blog: <http://saturart.blogspot.co.uk>.



Bird's eye view: Ilona captures Market Place and Prospect Ring with the tube line beyond



Down the tracks: Ilona's son Aron loves this view south from the bridge in Church Lane.



Ilona

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