



Location, location, location: East Finchley station, top left, and Chery Tree Wood, middle right, are among the scenes captured by artist Abi Fuller.

What does 'place' mean to you?

By Abi Fuller

As an art student at Middlesex University who has grown up in North London, I'm looking for volunteers to share their thoughts and experiences on the term 'place'. This might include specific memories of holidays that you've had or areas that you've grown up in.

As part of my end of year degree show project, I aim to produce at least four or five abstract versions for each person of the places that you describe. I shall also be taking an audio recording of the interview and placing them next to the landscape drawings.

The concept for the project is this idea of an exchange. In return for your stories, I hope to create and give back to you an image which reminds you of that special place. Free coffee shall be provided for anyone wishing to participate.

Keeping to oil pastels and

pens, I often produce vibrantly marked and small-scale drawings. Contrasting primary colours and creating visual interest, my influences include artists like David Hockney. Their use of colour and expression has always fascinated me as they manage to force the viewer to escape reality,

evoking happiness.

For the project, I would like to maintain my colourful style whilst also exploring the freedom of my imagination. You can reach me by email at abiifuller@outlook.com or mobile 07958 361872 if you would like to get involved.

Get away from it all... next to the North Circular

Among the many pockets of woodland and parkland within easy reach of East Finchley there's one that's easily missed but definitely worth discovering if you are able to get out of the house for a circular walk.

Make your way to the most unpromising of starting points where the busy Great North Road crosses the noisy North Circular close to Finchley Lido leisure park. Walk down the slip road as if heading onto the North Circular but veer left immediately into the Glebelands Local Nature Reserve.

Hidden treasures

Here you find yourself enclosed in trees and on the banks of a small pond full of underwater life and home to families of ducks. You are at the start of a long strip of woodland running along the bottom of Summers Lane playing fields and ideal for weaving through.

At the far end a small track takes you through to the hidden treasure of Coppetts Wood. Like walking through a door from the city to the countryside, you are suddenly surrounded by magnificent oak trees and hornbeams, and the noise of

the traffic has gone.

Survival from the past

Coppetts Wood is full of enchanting paths, hollows and hideaways that are fun to explore. This peaceful relic of the ancient Finchley Common is home to breeding birds, wild flowers and several rare species of insects. It's hard to believe it exists behind the urban harshness of the Tesco superstore and Clown Town complex on Colney Hatch Lane.

Wander at will and soon you find the heart of the wood opens up into a wide expanse of waving grass and younger trees. Choose the path that continues east and steps will take you down past the back gardens of houses and out onto Colney Hatch Lane itself.

One more wood

There is no mistaking that you are back in the city so turn right and walk briskly past Tesco, over the bridge and up Trott Road to Coppetts

Road. There you can find a path between the houses to reach the Muswell Hill Playing Fields and once more slip

into a woodland sanctuary, this time Coldfall, which of course delivers you onto Creighton Avenue and thence back home.



Best edition yet for N2 Poetry

By Daphne Chamberlain
"Best edition yet". "Nicest launch yet, and I've been coming to a few." These were some of the appreciative comments at the launch of N2 Poetry, Issue 8. The poets themselves would like to thank the many stalwarts who braved a fierce wind and freezing cold on the last night of February. Thanks as well to St Mary's Catholic Church on the High Road for providing a warm and user-friendly hall.

The aim of N2 Poetry is to be "interesting, thought-provoking and accessible". The 43 poems in this edition are the writers' thoughts inspired by a range of subjects, including Holloway Road, heathland, battles, allotments, knitting, memories and dreams.

Many contributors have attended monthly workshops run by East Finchley poet Dennis Evans, who founded N2 Poetry. One or two contributors come from another time; like Ovid, translated into English, and Christina Rossetti, translated into Portuguese. Well, the best poetry represents all times and all nationalities.

N2 Poetry is sponsored by Max Oldfield, the late Pam Kent, Rashda Alvi, Said Abdallah and Sawsan El-khadem. It is published at least once a year, and contributions for the next edition were already being submitted before the launch of this one. New contributors are very welcome, and can submit up to four poems each.

Please send to n2poetry@outlook.com, including name and contact details, or typed on white A4 paper to Shereen Abdallah, Managing Editor, N2 Poetry, 3 Leslie Road, N2 8BN, including covering letter and SAE. N2 Poetry Issue 8, ISSN 2047-2242 is published by Steph Bramwell, 35 Pember Road, NW10 5LT.

Let there be light

East Finchley Open Artists are helping to raise money to install improved lighting on the gallery wall of the Phoenix Cinema, which regularly plays host to exhibitions by local artists. Find out more at www.east-finchleyopen.org.uk