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The Archer

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Station shines in sunny portrait

By John Lawrence

Rich browns of the brick work and plaster contrast with the delicate blues of the art deco waiting room panels and the expansive summer sky overhead... and almost unseen a northbound train departs the platform on its way up the line.

The scene is captured in Pippa King's watercolour painting of East Finchley station, proving that its beautifully maintained 1930s architecture makes it one of the handsomest stations on the entire tube network.

Pippa is actually a piano teacher by profession and only paints as a hobby but when she posted her station scene online she says she was delighted by the positive comments she received. "I put the painting up on the local Facebook group as I thought people might like to see it before it was consigned to my art folder, never to see the light of day again," said Pippa.

"I've never before made public any of my art, I just do it for a hobby but have always found it relaxing, so I was absolutely blown away by the positive comments and people asking for prints... crazy but just lovely and a complete surprise to me."

In response, Pippa is hoping to produce some prints of her painting and sell them to raise funds for the Finchley Foodbank, based at St Mary's Church Hall in the High Road, N2. Keep an eye out for details on her recently created blog at <https://paintingsbypippa.wordpress.com> where you can see other paintings she has completed.

Arts venue wins funding

North Finchley's arts depot has secured £130,000 in funding for a five-year programme to become a beacon venue for accessibility.

The money comes from City Bridge Trust, the City of London Corporation's charity arm, and will enable arts depot to increase the number of accessible performances available.



The train departing: Pippa King's watercolour shows all the art deco beauty of East Finchley station.

You never know what you might find when you browse the station book stall

By Daphne Chamberlain

It's now three years since local resident Lynn Winton set up the East Finchley Book Exchange in our underground station. While Lynn emphasises that she doesn't own it, she does of course keep an eye on it. So now she has contacted us with her thanks, reminders and suggestions.

First of all, many thanks to the anonymous person who donated a second wooden bookshelf, which "just turned up one day". Also, thanks to the station staff and "the lovely lady on the fruit stall", as well as others who keep a watchful eye on the Exchange.

Many people have told Lynn that it's been a lifesaver during lockdown. As she says, you never know what you might find. Donations have included £2,000 of law books and a beautiful Complete

Works of Shakespeare. At the time of writing, there was a great selection of cookery books and stacks of Waitrose recipe cards.

Lynn wants to remind people that any book taken from the Exchange stall can be returned there. Books left on the stall will be "recycled, reread and re-enjoyed" many times, whereas they could be just pulped if taken elsewhere.

Anyone needing help to take books or magazines to the Exchange can contact Lynn

through *The Archer* (details on page 2), leaving their own contact details, and she will do her best to collect them.

Music too?

Reading a book you enjoy is calming and uplifting. So, too, can be listening to music. At the moment, 65 London Underground stations play classical music. It has been shown to relax travellers and discourage

antisocial behaviour. Lynn is seeking approval for a sound system to be installed at East Finchley, and is prepared to find the funding.

She would appreciate hearing from anyone who could give her a rough idea of the cost. *The Archer* will forward any response to Lynn, and we would also like to know your opinions on this.

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