

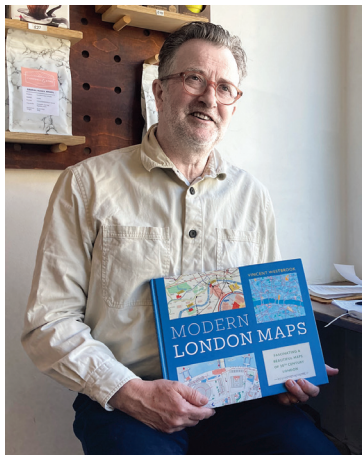


Map book uncovers multiple layers of life in London

By John Lawrence

Map-lovers will be fascinated by a new book that explores the modern history of London through a collection of colourful and intriguing illustrations.

Author Vincent Westbrook has chosen 60 maps from the London (Metropolitan) Archives that show the multiple layers of life in the capital. There is a map of footways, a map of golf courses, a map of bomb damage from the Second World War, a map of London football grounds in 1931 and a map from 2014 that heralds the city as a National Park with all its areas of greenery.



Map lover: Vincent Westbrook with his new book charting London life

Vincent, who lives in Fortis Green, N2, was commissioned to write London's Modern Maps after retiring from his career as an architect that included work on a number of iconic London projects, such as Wembley Stadium, the M16 headquarters and Embankment Place above Charing Cross Station.

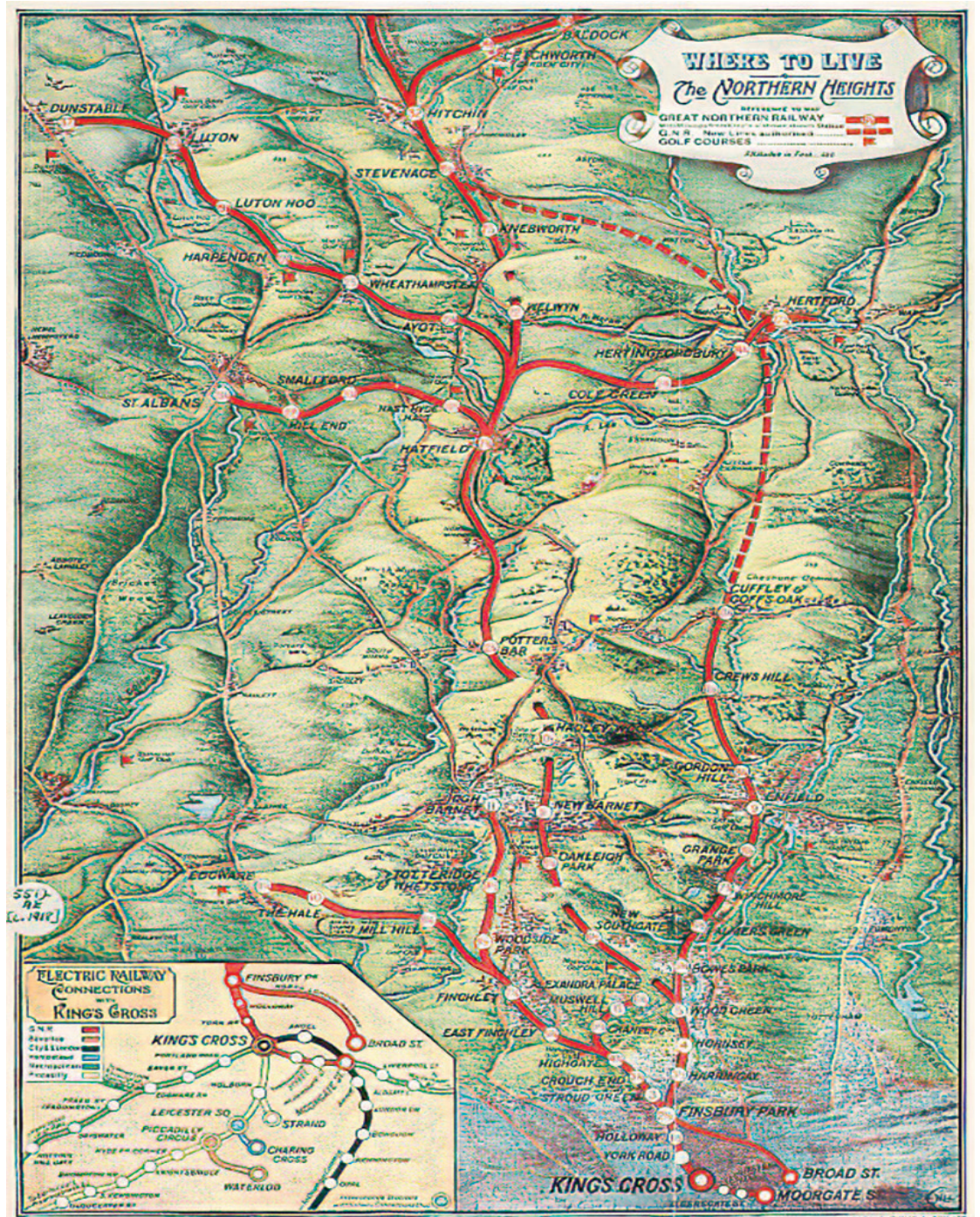
"I've always been interested in maps," he says. "I think it began when I was very young and got the Ladybird Book of Maps. For me, maps are a window into the past and I find it fascinating that they show you something in two dimensions on the page that helps you interpret how the world is in three dimensions in real life."

Vincent says the 20th century was a particularly fertile period for map-making because traditional charting was supplemented by an explosion of creative artist illustrations promoting the likes of tube and rail lines in the suburbs, and popular tourist attractions.

One of the most influential maps in the book is Stephen Walter's acclaimed The Island from 2008, a densely packed, black-and-white hand drawing of words and landmarks that gives a very personal 'mind map' of the capital.

Maps are still a big part of everyone's lives, says Vincent, most often in digital form these days, such as Google Maps or sat nav. "Although for all the new technology, it still doesn't stop us getting lost," he notes.

Modern London Maps is published by Batsford Books priced £30 in hardback. It is available from all good booksellers and from www.batsfordbooks.com



Before the Northern line: The Great Northern Railway promoted its overground services out of Kings Cross with this map in 1918 Courtesy The London Archives

Timely plea for summer flowers

By botanist Linda Dolata

Just a plea for our depleted insect populations. Firstly, if you are buying flowers for pollinators then check carefully whether they are 'bee-friendly'. So many of the showier plants are hybrids (marked X or F1 X on the labels).

Although they look lovely, they are bred to often have no nectar or ovaries, which means they flower for longer and hoverflies and bees will investigate them but they get no nectar or pollen reward, and actually lose energy each visit.

Secondly, whilst adult insects are catered for, their earlier life stages are not. Most caterpillars are monophagous, eating only one thing which, as



Feeder: A Holly Blue butterfly. Photo Donald Lyven

they have evolved with it, will be a native organism (so-called weeds). The adults seek out these species to lay eggs on.

Lastly, sterile soil takes many years to fully develop the mycorrhiza that most plants need to thrive, so do try and incorporate some of your garden soil with your shop-bought compost... or you will be shopping again next year for plants that could have overwintered.

Get results! advertise in

The Archer

Your unique access to nearly 10,000 homes and businesses in East Finchley

Generous rates for a range of sizes



For more details check www.the-archer.co.uk/ads_index.php or e-mail advertising@the-archer.co.uk