

## Art work brightens up boards and bricks

By Diana Cormack and Elizabeth James

Local resident and artist Rebecca Miller's free, nature-focused community art project for young people has produced impressive results on the building site hoardings surrounding the former GLH site opposite East Finchley station. Rebecca's two-month project (*The Archer*, March 2021) featured Saturday morning online workshops funded by the Grange Big Local's Community Grants programme along with sessions sketching trees and nature out in the fresh air.

Under Rebecca's direction, the young painters took just three days to transform the dull hoardings into an enchanting tribute to the planet.



Mural one: The hoardings on the old GLH site. Photo Mike Coles

Comments from onlookers included: "A delightful surprise to see a group of people adding life to the streets of East Finchley." There were even a couple of requests to create similar murals in an outdoor restaurant and a dog sanctuary.

Rebecca herself said: "The privilege to work with the children on the mural afforded me the chance to watch and experience the impact of public art on the community and the young artists who make it."

### What a brick

Meanwhile, at the opposite end of the High Road, members of Lymore Gardens

Girls Football Club were set an Easter Camp Team task at Martin Primary School in Plane Tree Walk, where they meet for training.

In collaboration with a design team from LABT-wnty4, a community group which uses the power of design to change lives, they were given a design brief with four days to design and paint on specific walls at the school. Using paints donated by The Little Greene Paint Company they came up with some colourful creations for the wartime air raid shelter in the car park area.



Mural two: The painted shelter at Martin School



Easel does it: Megan Rose in her garden studio. Photo Mike Coles

## An artist's view from her garden shed

By Emma Magnus

Archie's silver bow glints against a bright blue sky. It could be a summer's day but reflected below in the windows of a Northern line train are the bare, frosty branches of nearby trees.

This is local artist Megan Rose's painting of Eric Aumonier's famous Archer statue, which gained praise, and was sold to a collector, after she posted a picture of it on the East Finchley community Facebook group. "It's something I see most days," says Megan. "I was lacking inspiration, and then there it was."

The sale is a promising sign for Megan, who launched her own art business during lockdown. Having studied Art and Design, she had felt that there

were limited options to pursue art professionally. "I did the odd painting, and then I went: 'This is never going to pay the bills. Stop trying to do this.'"

But, after being furloughed from her hospitality job, she says she was encouraged to take the plunge by her partner. "He said: 'Why don't you just give it a go? Give it a time frame and try to pursue it.'"

### People, places and pets


Megan paints from her garden shed, which contains an L-shaped desk and a heater.

Her commissions so far have included pet portraits, famous figures like Bob Marley and Walter White, and wildlife paintings. She is currently working on a piece on Coldfall Wood. "I like the time with myself", says Megan. "It's like productive meditation... The time alone and in the quiet is very peaceful."








Snapped up: Megan's painting of Archie has already been bought by a collector

As her business develops, Megan would welcome commissions for local landmarks, people's homes or gardens, holiday snaps in beautiful places, buildings of significance or beauty, pet portraits, people portraits and wildlife. To find out more, search Megan Rose Artist on Facebook. Her A4 watercolour of Archie was sold in February to collector Peter Petzal, who says it evokes a powerful symbolism. He adds: "Megan has a keen eye for the absurd which she delivers with great clarity in this lovely gouache on card. It is presently being framed."


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