



Art and craft fair at gym

Muswell Hill Club, the community gym on Fortis Green, is hosting their third Arts and Craft Fair on Thursday 24 October between 6-9pm. Admission is free and open to all. The club hosts the event to raise funds for a local charity and this year they have chosen CPotential, the Muswell Hill centre that provides rehabilitation and support for children and young adults with cerebral palsy and other movement disorders.



Available art: Visitors will be able to browse and buy

The stall holders are selected by staff member Natalie Blanks to ensure a diverse offer of goods including art, jewellery, clothes, glassware and leather goods. Based on previous years, they expect to raise at least £2,000. There will also be artworks for sale in the lobby created by the teenage artists who attend CPotential art sessions.



Iconic: Architecture and signage from along the Northern line, as featured in Jonathan James' book *Below: Archie at East Finchley Station*

Hidden history of the Northern line

By Charles Haydn

On a typical chilly autumn morning, as you rush to check the timetable before boarding a train at East Finchley, you might not give much thought to the history of this iconic part of the Underground. But perhaps you should.

Our station opened on 22 August 1867 and was originally part of the Great Northern Railway's line between Finsbury Park and Edgware, and like the rest of the Northern line, it is steeped in a fascinating history.

The Archer recently spoke with author Jonathan James, about his new book, *London Underground: The Northern Line*, and why East Finchley holds a special place in his heart.

Jonathan's passion for London's transport system shines through, bringing to life the rich heritage of London's 'mass transport system', which, much like the Northern line itself, is full of twists, turns, and untold stories.

His book charts the line's evolution over more than 130 years, showing how three separate railway companies grew and eventually merged to form the north-south backbone of London's transport network. Through vivid stories and



Author: Jonathan James

historical insights, he explores everything from the long-lost stations that once featured on the line to the reason why Highgate station's platform is longer than most.

He also tunnels into what could have been, if the development of the line hadn't been halted by war. Imagine travelling from Mill Hill East all the

way to Edgware without having to change trains... or stations!

Jonathan's love for trains, tubes, and trams dates back nearly 40 years, starting with childhood trips with his father. For a day out, they'd travel from Morden station in the south to East Finchley in the north, where he hoped to catch a glimpse of his favourite tube train... the red ones!

His enthusiasm for the line's history is infectious, and his richly illustrated book, filled with rare photographs, drawings, and sketches, offers readers a chance to rediscover a bygone era and learn about the history of the line. "I've always been interested in trains from that early time with my father and I hope this book inspires others to make their own discoveries,"



said Jonathan.

Proceeds from sales go to the *Young Minds Trust*, a mental health charity for children, which holds special, personal significance for Jonathan and his family. *London Underground: The Northern Line* is available at all good bookshops.

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Entertainer: Levi Roots on his first visit to N2 in 2022

Best of Black culture

Celebrity chef and entrepreneur Levi Roots, from TV's *Dragon's Den* and *Celebrity Big Brother*, makes a return visit to the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, this month to share more of his inspiring stories.

The Black History Month event on Monday 21 October from 2pm to 4pm will also feature a talk on Black Tudors, insights from Anne Stennett, partner at Curwens Solicitors, a live cookery demo with tasters, and vibrant African-Caribbean music. Book your free place on Eventbrite.co.uk by searching 'Levi Roots'. For questions, contact Teresa on 07502 989 403 or email teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk.