



Could we brand our bridge?



You've arrived! Could our railway bridge be a massive welcome sign like Camden Lock's? East Finchley image by Mike Coles. Camden photo Roger Davies, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/deed.en

*What if the Northern line bridge (in fact three separate bridges) carrying tube tracks across the High Road, N2, was a colourful landmark announcing your arrival in East Finchley? Camden Lock has branded its own bridge successfully. Why can't we do the same, asks **Peter Hale**.*

Like me, you may have stood on many occasions under the bridges at East Finchley station waiting for a bus. Not a pleasant experience. Conditions are gloomy, poorly lit at night, pigeons alive and dead, scruffy advertising hoardings and often with water running down the wall and across the pavement during rainy weather.

Approaching the bridges along the High Road you may be thinking it would be nice if they were repainted, removing the rust and redecorated with an interesting colour scheme announcing East Finchley.

Well, about ten years ago some members of the East Finchley Open Artists group had an idea for just such a project, to use their creativity to

propose a design for the bridges. In 2016 we had an initial discussion with Transport for London (TfL) and met with an engineer on site. He told us there were no plans for repainting in the foreseeable future, consequently the artists did not go ahead with the idea.

Constantly aware of the state of the bridges I decided this year to contact TfL again and

initially had a good response, being put in contact with the manager for the Northern line responsible for bridges. I was hoping that by now they would be planning to carry out maintenance work on the structures. Indeed, TfL requested photographs and a brief description of my concerns and defects that I had previously mentioned to them.

Unfortunately, so far, their response has been: "There currently aren't any planned maintenance works for any of the HB23 bridges this or next year. Any maintenance carried out will be in line with our standards and painting works will be like for like with the existing finishes."

So, this sounds rather negative, but we are not giving up. I hope through further discussion and a request to meet with TfL on site might lead to progress being made. *How do you think the face of the East Finchley tube station bridges should be painted? Send your ideas to us: news@the-archer.co.uk*

Tree collections

North London Hospice is appealing for volunteers to help with their doorstep collection service for Christmas trees in January. Collections are arranged in return for a voluntary donation, with all proceeds going to support the hospice's work in end-of-life and palliative care



The charity is looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours between Wednesday 7 and Friday 9 January to collect from the kerbside or to staff the recycling sites. Drivers and vans are especially welcome.

To volunteer, email christmastreecollection@northlondonhospice.co.uk or call 020 8446 2288. Residents can book a tree collection any time until midnight on Sunday 4 January at <https://just-helping.org.uk>

Christmas honey sale

Beekeeper Lucie Chaumeton is hosting her Miel de Lucie's Christmas sale on Sunday 14 December from 11am to 3pm indoors at 18 Beech Drive, N2. Available for sale will be set and clear honey from East Finchley, Muswell Hill or Mill Hill, beeswax food wraps, beeswax salves, furniture polish, runners balm and pure beeswax candles. Cash, cards and bank transfers are accepted and profits will be donated once again to Finchley Foodbank.

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