

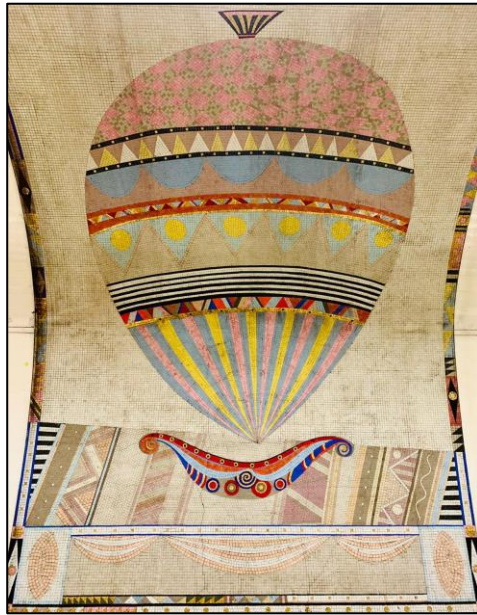
UNDERGROUND ARTWORK

It is some time since we have featured some of the artwork on the Underground, although some of it now goes back several years.

HOT AIR BALLOONS AT FINSBURY PARK

A series of vintage hot-air and helium balloons are featured along the walls of the west- and eastbound Piccadilly Line platforms at Finsbury Park. The balloons are artfully constructed in mosaic tiles and are the work of Annabel Grey (who also did similar artwork at Marble Arch). They were installed in 1983 when the station was refurbished. However, it could be a case of mistaken identity because balloon flights are more closely associated with Finsbury Fields, an open space near Moorgate, just north of the Square Mile. Finsbury Park, on the other hand, is two or three miles north of Moorgate and has no obvious connection to ballooning as far as it is known. It is just possible that whoever wrote the brief for the murals may have got their Finsburys mixed up ...?

All photos: Samantha Facey



VICTORIA SEAT RECESS TILE MOTIFS

When the first three stages of the Victoria Line opened in 1968/69, each station was given a different visual identity using tiled motifs on the platform walls, located within the seat recesses. Prominent artists and designers were commissioned to create designs which related to the name of the station or the history of its surrounding area.

A further four motifs were created as a result of the extension of the line south of Victoria, which opened in 1971 (Pimlico station in 1972).



BRIXTON, by Hans Unger. This mural is a pun on a ton of bricks

PIMLICO, by Peter Sedgley. A pattern of varied sized spots – modern art at the Tate Gallery



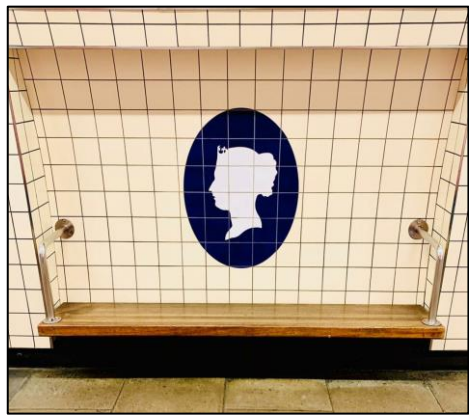
GREEN PARK, by June Fraser. Displayed 1986 to 2009. This replaced the Hans Unger tree 'dots', now reinstated.

EUSTON, by Tom Eckersley. The long-demolished doric arch.



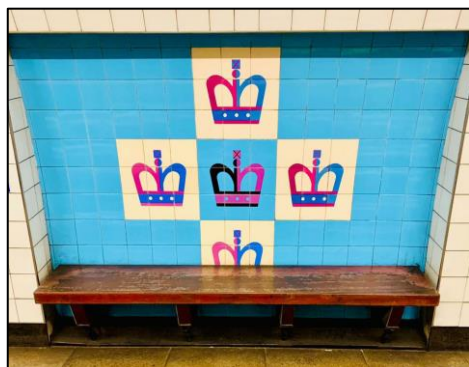
STOCKWELL, by Abram Games. Depicting a sawn, after a public house nearby the station.

VICTORIA, by Edward Bowden. A blue cameo of Queen Victoria on a pink background



OXFORD CIRCUS, by Hans Unger. The three line colors serving the station in a circle

KING'S CROSS, by Tom Eckersley. Five crowns in a cross.



VAUXHALL, by George Smith. Depicting the old Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

GREEN PARK, by Hans Unger. Coloured dots representing trees – a 2009 reinstatement.



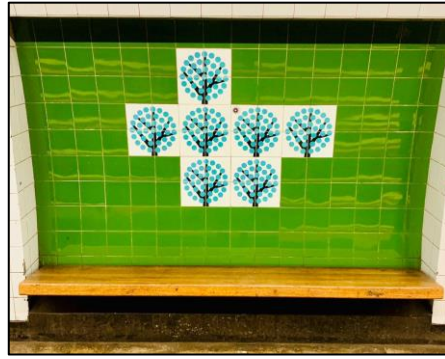
WARREN STREET, by Alan Fletcher. A maze based on the pun 'warren'.

HIGHBURY & ISLINGTON, by Edward Bawden. Manor House.





FINSBURY PARK, by Tom Eckersley. Crossed duelling pistols.



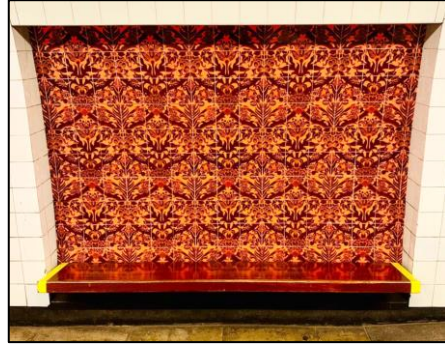
SEVEN SISTERS, by Hans Unger. Seven elm trees on a green background.



TOTTENHAM HALE, by Edward Bawden. A ferry punt – the nearby ferry crossing.



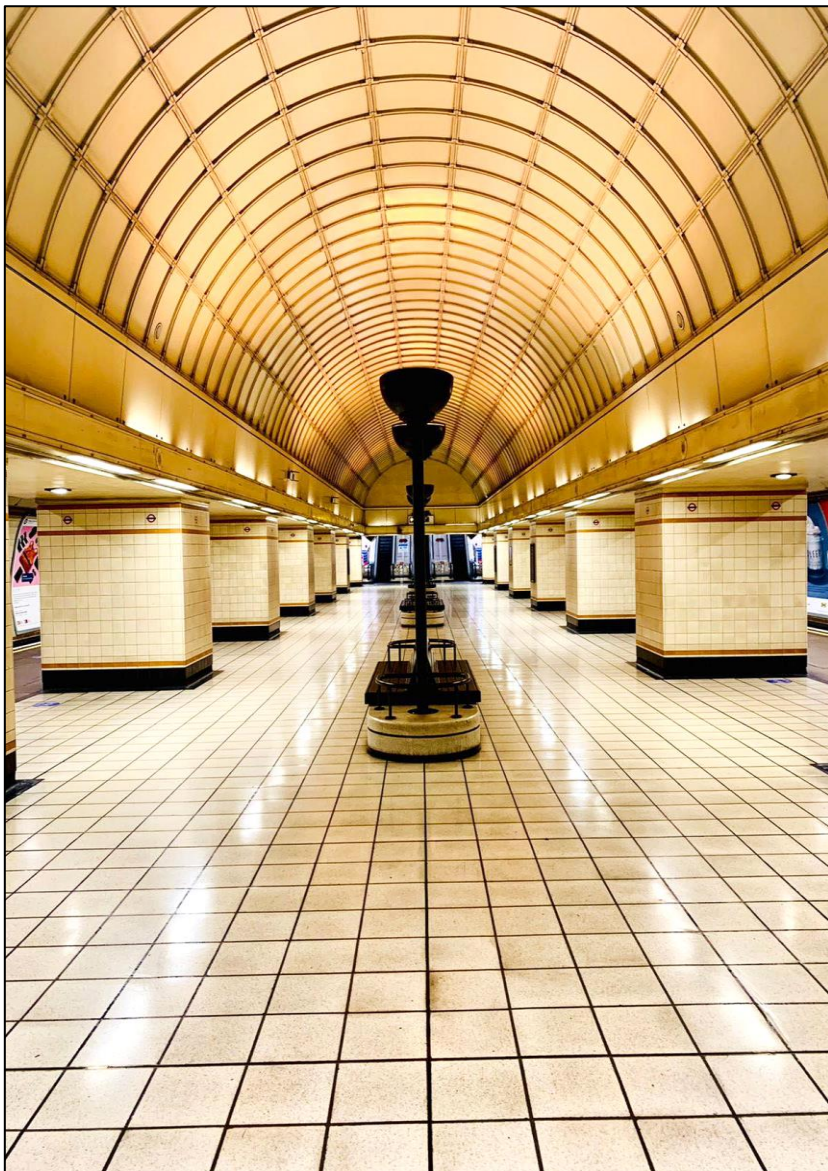
Far Left: BLACKHORSE ROAD, by Hans Unger. A black horse.



Left: A William Morris pattern at WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL by Julia Black.

All photos: Samantha Facey except for 'leaves' at Green Park, LURS Collection

CLASSIC EAST END CENTRAL LINE



ALFRED HITCHCOCK AND LEYTONSTONE

Not featured in *Underground News* before as far as we can recall, a series of mosaics adorn the walls of the corridor that leads into or out of Leytonstone station. Each one depicts a scene from the life and films of the great director, Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980), who was born in Leytonstone on 13 August 1899. The mosaics are made up of more than 80,000 small, coloured tiles and were commissioned for the centenary of Hitchcock's birth in 1999. They were created by the Greenwich Mural Workshop and were unveiled to the public on 3 May 2001. Here is a selection of nine.

All Central Line photos: Samantha Facey

