

Epsom Station gets an artistic makeover

11 October 2024



In the hustle and bustle of daily life, railway stations often feel like transient spaces where passengers rush through without a second thought. However, at Epsom Station, something unique is happening. Thanks to the *Art@the Station* initiative from **The Art Society UK**, along with a group of talented young students from Epsom and Ewell's own **Nescot**, the station has become a vibrant hub of art and creativity, offering a refreshing experience to commuters.

As part of the *Art@the Station* initiative, art and design students from Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology) have created striking artwork inspired by Epsom's most iconic landmarks. The project, designed to showcase emerging talent in public spaces, not only adds life to the station but also provides passengers with a more enriched and inspiring environment. The station's subway now serves as a gallery, featuring bold, colourful images that celebrate the town's rich heritage.

Angie Child from **The Art Society Epsom** led this creative transformation as project manager. The theme, ***Sense of Place***, invited students to capture the essence of Epsom—its famous racecourse, clock tower, and other key sites. The result is a stunning display that has already stopped passengers in their tracks, prompting them to admire and even photograph the eye-catching designs.

"I am delighted with the outcome of the wonderful images the Nescot students have created for Epsom station," said Angie. "The students went above and beyond to fulfil the brief. Even while we were still installing the artwork, passengers hurried past but stopped to admire and take photos of the beautiful, colourful pieces."

The project, supported by a grant from Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), is not only a boost for the station's appearance but also a significant achievement for the students involved. They had the chance to showcase their work to a wider audience, gaining real-world experience in the process. Special recognition was given to Nescot's graphic design tutor, Miles Merritt, who encouraged and guided the students throughout the project, integrating it as an exciting extension of their coursework.

Out of more than twenty designs, the standout works from George Pearson, Alfie Carr, Callum Jones, and Wiktorina Sawicka won the competition. These students, all from the local area, embraced Epsom's history and reimagined it in vibrant graphic designs. Their interpretations offer a fresh perspective on the town's heritage, creating a dynamic fusion of past and present.

GTR's Community Engagement Manager, Rob Whitehead, worked closely with the students, even providing them with rail tickets to visit an art exhibition in London as part of their creative journey. "We're thrilled to support this initiative in Epsom and showcase the incredible talent of Nescot students," Rob said. "Our Station Partners Small Grant fund has helped bring this fantastic community project to life."

The *Art@the Station* project isn't limited to Epsom. Younger students from Epsom Downs School also contributed, creating a large mural titled *Rockets* at Tattenham Corner Station. The initiative will continue into 2025, with more artwork planned for display at Ewell East Station, ensuring that local creativity continues to enrich the travel experience.

This collaboration between The Art Society, Nescot, and GTR is a powerful example of the impact community-driven projects can have. By bringing art into public spaces, these initiatives not only enhance the visual appeal of stations but also provide passengers with a deeper connection to local culture. Moreover, they offer younger generations a valuable opportunity to actively participate in and be recognised within their community.

For now, as commuters pause to admire the bright, bold designs at Epsom station, one thing is clear: art has the power to transform even the most ordinary spaces into something extraordinary.

Romana Sustar

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/romanasustar/>

Find out more:

Nescot, The Art and Design Department:

The Art Society Epsom

<https://www.theartsocietyepsom.org.uk/>

GTR

Art @ the Station

<https://theartsociety.org/arts-news-features/art-station>