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- Children's colourful mural brightens bridge

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A Camden bridge – which used to be a hotspot for graffiti and vandalism – has been given a new lease of life thanks to local school children, a community group, an artist and the council.

Regent's Park Road bridge, which separates Primrose Hill and Chalk Farm, is brighter, feels safer and is graffiti free since work to improve it was completed – kick started by Primrose Hill community association.

The project began in January when the association restored a mural on one side of the bridge. They did such a great job, Camden Council took the opportunity to complete the new look. It commissioned a colourful new 40 foot mural on the opposite side to prevent graffiti and improve the area.

With the permission of Network Rail, the council brought in local artist Sinta Tantra to design the mural with the help of the local community and children from Primrose Hill primary school. Year 1 and 2 students took part in sound and nature workshops at Adelaide Road nature reserve. They took images from the local environment, including the Roundhouse, the Isokon building in Hampstead and the grasses and ferns in the nature reserve to develop the design.

Cllr Flick Rea, executive member for culture, said:

"The mural is fantastic. It really brightens the bridge. It has been a real community project, which has given the children a sense of pride, ownership and renewed respect for the area they live in. The children are incredibly excited to have been a part of it."

The mural was commissioned by the council as part of improvement works for Chalk Farm.

Sinta Tantra, a graduate of the Slade School of Art in Camden, has also worked with Camden Railway Heritage Trust to develop a walking trail uncovering Camden's local history and hidden green spaces. The trail starts on Regents Park Bridge. Free trail guides will be available from the bridge from 10am to 4pm on Sunday 24 June along with live music from Louise Golbey and Mr Smith, Jeanine Glasgow and the B Flat Band. Peter Darley, Camden Railway Heritage Trust, will give a talk on the bridge at 3pm.

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