ON THE HILL

FREE

DECEMBER 2025



Lauren Child celebrates a new Charlie and Lola book

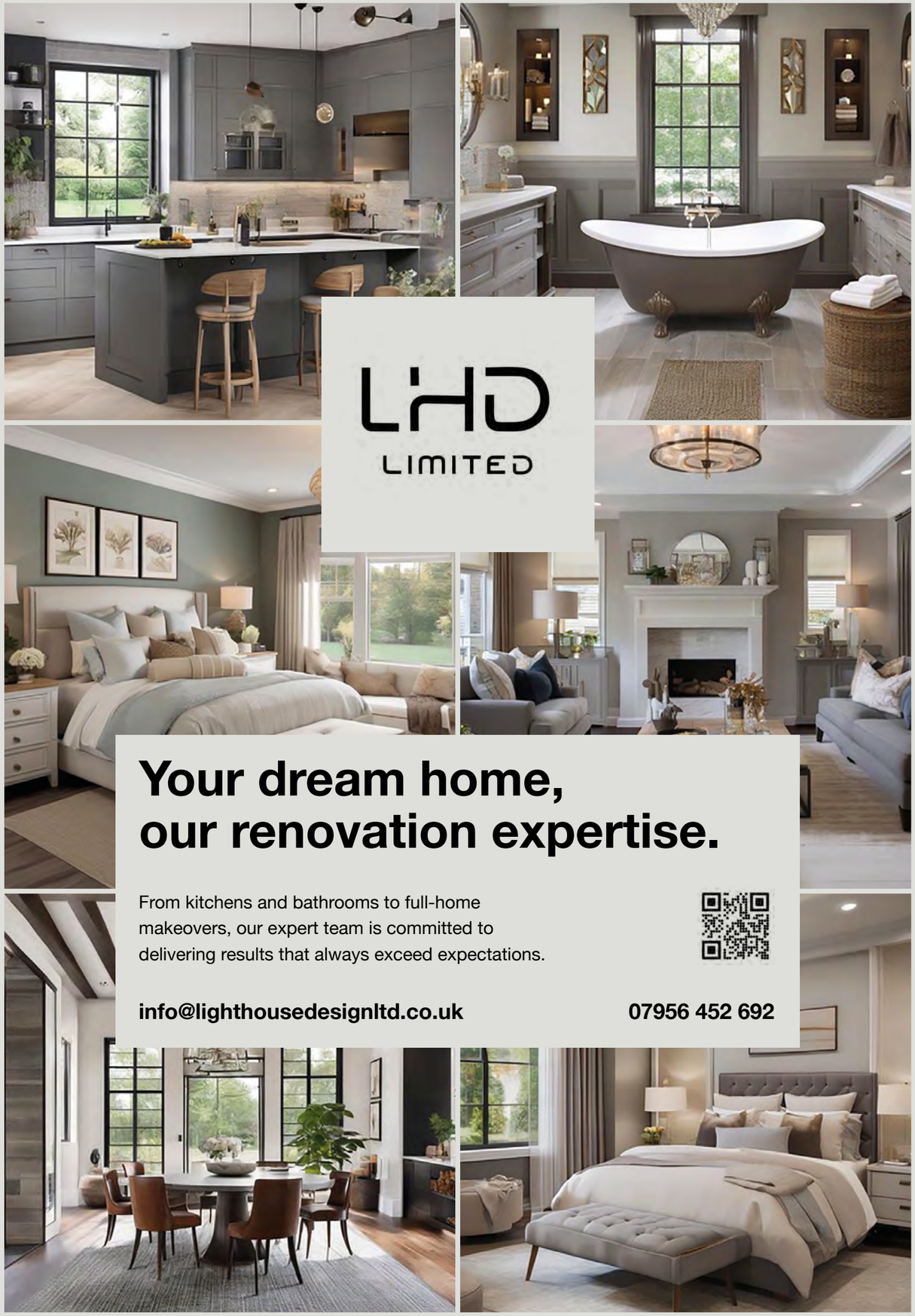
PLUS

From Woodland to Window

AND

Shop Around the Block

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



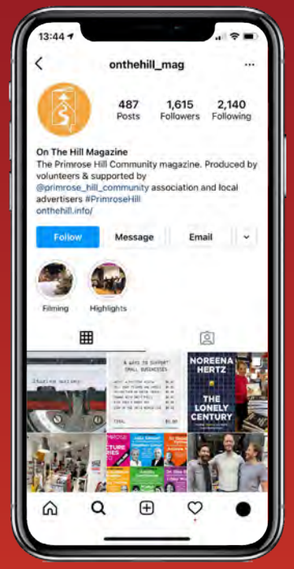
Your dream home, our renovation expertise.

From kitchens and bathrooms to full-home makeovers, our expert team is committed to delivering results that always exceed expectations.

info@lighthousedesignltd.co.uk **07956 452 692**

On The Hill On The Go

Keep up with the latest news and happenings on our social media channels.



@onthehill_mag

@onthehillinfo

@onthehillinfo

ON THE HILL
PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
onthehill.info

DECEMBER 2025

CONTENTS & PREVIEW



05
Editor's Letter

07
On The Street
Congratulations to Maureen Betts, Foodbank information, Postcards from Primrose Hill, PHCA News, Primrose Hill Community Library, Mocha Cupcakes

16
What's On
Things to do this winter

18
Shop Around the Block
Ideas for local gift shopping

20
Streets of Primrose Hill & Regent's Park
Caroline Cooper reviews the *Camden History Society* Book

22
From Woodland to Window
How Local 'Forest Florists' brought fairies back to Primrose Hill

24
Lauren Child
Ylwa Warghusen talks to Lauren Child about her new Christmas book

26
The Muggletonians
The Protestant sect in Primrose Hill

30
Pictures from Primrose Hill



"They're away with the fairies." p 22



ISSN 20-6175

The Team

Editor
Maggie Chambers
editor@onthehill.info

Editorial Group
Dick Bird, Doro Marden, Pam White, David Lennon, Mole on the Hill, Michael Johnstone, Andrew Black

Social Media and Website Editor
Jason Pittock

Subeditors
Brenda Stones

Cartoon
Bridget Grosvenor

Photographer
Sarah Louise Ramsay
www.slrphotography.co.uk

Design
John Dillon
hello@jwdillon.co.uk

Advertising Sales
Richard Ramsay
ads@onthehill.info

Special thanks to all our contributors.

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

This publication is created by the community and for the benefit of Primrose Hill on behalf of your local charity, the Primrose Hill Community Association (PHCA). All proceeds from this publication go directly to fund the charity. We hope you enjoy.

www.phca.cc

Disclaimer: the views in the magazine are not necessarily the views of the PHCA.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C017574
www.fsc.org

This product is made of material from well-managed, FSC® certified forests and other controlled sources

onthehill.info

Cover Photograph
Sarah Louise Ramsay

Editor's Letter



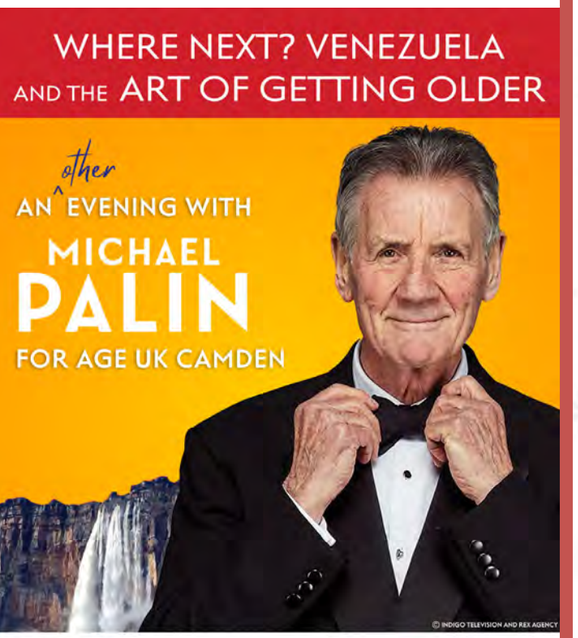
Welcome to December

This issue we'll be celebrating Lauren Child who has written a new Charlie and Lola book, *I am Wishing Every Minute for Christmas*. If, like Lola, you're finding it too hard to wait, we have plenty of ideas to keep your mind occupied with gift shopping. The key of course is to keep it local. Our shops are able to offer pretty much all we need for the coming weeks, including a couple of recommendations for food and drink. And if you're stuck for desserts, Primrose Bakery have sent us the recipe for a Mocha Cupcake, which is featured in their new book, *Mix & Match Baking Box*. Other excellent places to buy gifts are the Primrose Hill Festival on Sunday 30 November, the Designer Fair at St Mary's church and the Craft Market at St Paul's School – both on Saturday 6 December.

Spare a thought for people who're struggling to feed their families this season – sadly a growing number.
The Chalk Farm Foodbank, which used to be based at the Baptist Church in Berkley Road, has now been renamed the Kentish Town Foodbank. There are several food donation points which you can find on their website, but the closest one to Primrose Hill is St Saviour's church on Eton Road. Their opening times can be found on p 9.

We'll be back in the spring, so until then, enjoy the festive season and a very Happy New Year to you all!

Maggie Chambers

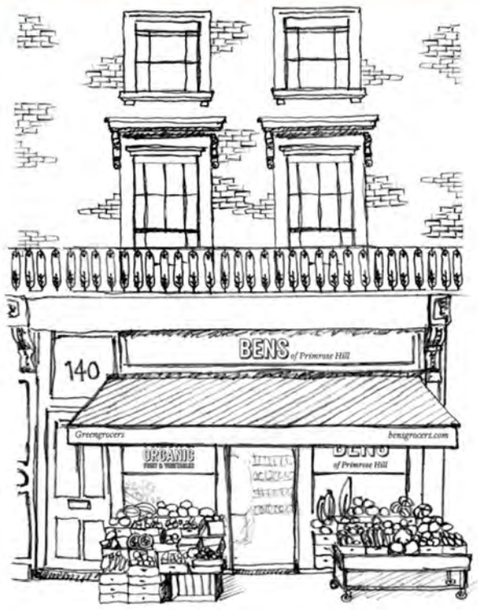




BENS of Primrose Hill

Healthy foods for a healthy mood
8am – 7.45pm every day
140 Regent's Park Road Primrose Hill,
London NW1 8XL
0207 722 2947
www.bensgrocers.com





ON THE STREET

Congratulations to Maureen Betts (p8)
Foodbank information (p9)
PHCA News (p11)
Mocha Cupcakes (p13)
AND MORE



On The Street Community – Congratulations to Maureen Betts

Continued on p 8 ▶

Photo: Tim Kirkpatrick

Congratulations to Maureen Betts

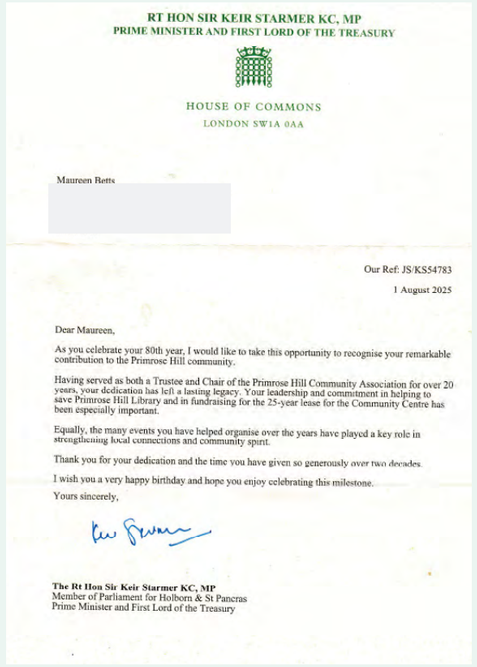
It was celebration time for Maureen Betts this year when she received a letter from the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, in recognition of all the amazing work she has done for the community.

A long-term trustee and former Chair of the Primrose Hill Community Association and on the Management Committee of the Primrose Hill Community Library, Maureen turned 80 this year.

Over the years she was part of the team that helped to save the Library and she fundraised for the Community Centre's 25-year lease.

Maureen also painted and maintained the mural on one side of Bridge Approach until Mr Doodle was commissioned to paint the entire bridge.

Lucky Maureen was also treated to a signed bottle of champagne from the House of Commons. Cheers Maureen!



RT HON SIR KEIR STARMER KC, MP
PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Maureen Betts

Our Ref: JS/KS54783

1 August 2025

Dear Maureen,

As you celebrate your 80th year, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise your remarkable contribution to the Primrose Hill community.

Having served as both a Trustee and Chair of the Primrose Hill Community Association for over 20 years, your dedication has left a lasting legacy. Your leadership and commitment in helping to save Primrose Hill Library and in fundraising for the 25-year lease for the Community Centre has been especially important.

Equally, the many events you have helped organise over the years have played a key role in strengthening local connections and community spirit.

Thank you for your dedication and the time you have given so generously over two decades.

I wish you a very happy birthday and hope you enjoy celebrating this milestone.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KC, MP
Member of Parliament for Holborn & St Pancras
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury

Kentish Town Foodbank

Formerly the Chalk Farm Foodbank, the Kentish Town Foodbank now has a local drop-off point for donations: **St Saviour's Church, Eton Road, Chalk Farm, NW3 4SU**

Food can be donated at the following times:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2–3pm
1st–4th Sundays: 10am–12 noon

Every donation must be presented to volunteers; they can't accept donations that have been left unattended. They don't accept bleach, blades, clothes or toys (except new and in original packing).

They love donations, but encourage members of the community to become regular financial donors, which would help them hire much-needed staff and expand their services to help more people. Please invest in the future of the project and provide support to people in crisis in our community.

3 ways to give

1
Via: **www.justgiving.com/charity/kentishtownfoodbank**

2
By bank transfer:
Revelation Church London,
sort code: 40-02-03, account number: 81866060

If you are a UK taxpayer, please download and complete a Gift Aid Form. This scheme is run by HMRC to allow charities to reclaim the tax on donations by UK taxpayers.

3
Download a standing order form from the website and hand this to foodbank staff.
Again, if you are a UK taxpayer, please download and complete a Gift Aid Form.

Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.

If you need help from a foodbank,
go to: **https://kentishtown.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/**

Foodbank admin team: 0207 483 3763 / 07745 693 763 / info@kentishtown.foodbank.org.uk
www.kentishtown.foodbank.org.uk

GARRY TRAINER

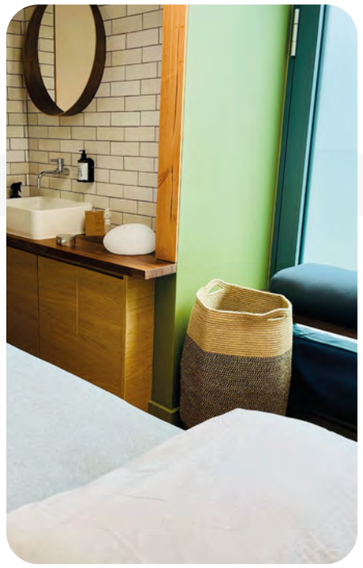
Garry Trainer has come back **HOME**

Tri-Therapy - Acupuncture, Osteopathy & Massage combined

HOME Wellness Centre
7 Erskine Road
London
NW3 3AJ
www.homewellness.uk

Appointments - **020 455 333 44**







The Art of Holistic Design

Contact us for a complimentary consultation
+44 (0)203 435 9322 | hello@be-kin.com | www.be-kin.com
110 Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill, London NW1 8HX

BE KIN

Postcards from Primrose Hill

I was very pleased to acquire this striking postcard of Chalk Farm tube station recently! To the left is Adelaide Road, and to the right is Haverstock Hill. The station is a two-storey steel-framed building, faced with red glazed terracotta blocks with wide semi-circular windows on the upper floor; it was designed by Leslie Green. Chalk Farm station was part of the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway (CCE&HR), also known as the Hampstead Tube, and now of course the Northern Line.



You can see the big sign of the line's name plastered all over the building! It opened officially on 22 June 1907, which makes the postcard easy to date. The image was taken on a very wet day, which gives the cobbles and tiles a shiny quality, and reflects the sign and lamp post in the puddles. See the brave lady with an umbrella, partly obscured by the lamp post.

@old_primrosehill_postcards

Saturday 6th December
£2 entrance
10am – 5pm

PRIMROSE HILL
DESIGNER SALE

St Mary's Church
Elsworthy Road
Primrose Hill, NW3 3DJ

Follow our Instagram:
@primrosehilldesignersale

NEWS & INFORMATION

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

from Primrose Hill Community Association

Your regular update from PHCA, publisher of *On The Hill*

WELLBEING CAFÉ

As the weather turns colder, our **Wellbeing Café** every Wednesday 10am – 2pm acts as a warm space and somewhere to meet and chat with others. It offers wholesome food on a 'pay what you can' basis. At 10am we also offer our **free market** outside for people in food need, which offers fresh fruit, vegetables and other provisions at no cost. Once the café closes, many who eat there then go downstairs for **Open House** at 2pm, which offers an activity (film, talk, outing etc.) always followed by tea/cake/social. If you need a home delivery of a home-cooked 3-course meal each week, then please get in touch.

DATES FOR 2026

We have a few dates for your new year's diary: 24 January will be our Burns Night; Saturday 21 March the Spring Disco; and on Sunday 14 June the Summer Garden Party in Chalcot Square.

AGM 2025

Primrose Hill Community Association held their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16 October 2025, when we conducted the formalities and legalities necessary to comply with charity regulations. We thank all those who attended, and Lester Hillman for giving a talk afterwards.

PRIMROSE HILL WALKS

Sanam has resurrected the walks which take place on occasional Wednesdays from 10.30am, meeting at the entrance to Primrose Hill at the junction of Regent's Park Road and Primrose Hill Road. Walk dates will be on the website and will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Themed walks are always popular, so if anyone can help Sanam out with a topic, please get in touch at **mick@phca.cc**
If you would like to contact us about anything else, our contact details are:

General enquiries (community centre)
info@phca.cc I www.phca.cc | 020 7586 8327

General enquiries (library)
admin@phcl.org | www.phcl.org I 020 7419 6599

On The Hill magazine: **editor@onthehill.info**
On The Hill ads: **ads@onthehill.info**
Neighbourhood Nosh: **wellbeingcafe@phca.cc**
Open House: **openhouse@phca.cc**

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

We run a variety of weekly and monthly sessions for all ages and interests, including:

Open House – free weekly talks, walks, films, or outings, always followed by tea and cake.
Zumba Gold – fun and upbeat keep fit for seniors.
Seniors Yoga/Pilates – free gentle, chair-based sessions for those who find regular classes tricky.
Life Drawing – for all abilities, with live models.
Wellbeing Café – every Wednesday 10am – 2pm, pay what you can.
Sunday Bar – every week, with a low-cost bar and pool table.
Memory Singing Circle – for those affected by memory loss and their carers.
Art for the Mind – 3rd Monday in the month at 2pm for those with memory challenges, carers welcome
Qi Gong – a popular free movement class (check the PHCA bulletin for dates).
Narcotics Anonymous – support groups every Thursday and Saturday.
Sadie yoga – a free semi-regular yoga class including meditation, breath work, positive intentions and Jivamukti-inspired yoga flow.

PillarCare

Outstanding care in your home for independent living

Locally based in Primrose Hill, PillarCare's friendly, experienced team have been helping people live as independently as possible in their own homes for over 20 years.

Please speak to Matt or Chloé to find out more

Great British Care Awards 2019 Regional Winner
TOP 20 AWARDS 2019 homecare.co.uk
Highly Commended 2020
TOP 20 AWARDS 2020 homecare.co.uk
HCA Dementia Care Expertise Finalist 2022
THE DEMENTIA IN CARE AWARDS FINALIST



CareQuality Commission

020 7482 2188

pillarcare.co.uk | enquiries@pillarcare.co.uk

Primrose Hill Community Library

Curl up with a good book this winter – here are the latest acquisitions at the Library.

Paperbacks

Chinua Achebe
A Man of the People

Michael Arditti
The Mellow Madam and Other Stories

Stephanie Garber
Legendary: A Caraval Novel: 2

Paula Hawkings
The Blue Hour

Anthony Horowitz
Marble Hall Murders

Jonathan Kaufman
The Last Kings of Shanghai

Benjamin Markovits
The Rest of Our Lives

Freida McFadden
The Boyfriend

Alan Moore
The Great When

Amber Smith
The Way I Am

Wallace Stegner
Angle of Repose

Ocean Vuong
On Earth We Are Briefly Gorgeous

Hardbacks

William Boyd
The Predicament

Susan Choi
Flashlight

Kiran Desai
The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny

Philippa Gregory
The Boleyn Traitor

Katie Kitamura
Audition

Ian McEwan
What We Can Know

Andrew Miller
The Land in Winter

Haruki Murakami
The City and Its Uncertain Walls

Tim Winton
Juice

Children's

Tadatoshi Fujmaki
Kurokos Basketball

Liz Pichon
Meet the Mubbles
The Mubbles: When Berry Met Terry

Rick Riordan
The Sun and the Star

Zeb Soanes
Gaspard of the Fox (1st book)

Robert Velter
Spirou and Fantasio: Attack of the Zordolts

J. T. Williams
Drama and Danger
Portraits and Poison

A Heartwarming Review from Cristina:
Honestly, Primrose Hill Community Library is my sanctuary. From the moment you step inside, you feel a sense of calm, inspiration and belonging. The collection of books is incredible, offering something for everyone, and every visit feels like a small adventure into knowledge and imagination. The volunteers who run this Library are phenomenal. Their dedication, warmth and passion for what they do shine through in every interaction. The volunteers here are truly out of this world — kind, knowledgeable, and always ready to help with a smile. This Library is more than just a place to borrow books. It is a community hub, a haven, and a source of joy for everyone who visits. I am endlessly grateful to all the amazing volunteers who make Primrose Hill Community Library such a special place.

Please check whether you have overdue library books at home; many books, especially children's books, are long overdue, and since we are a community library, funded by you, we rely on you to keep our wonderful new stocks available to the whole community.



CAVE.
INTERIORS.

End to end interior design services including kitchen design and art consultancy.

29 Princess Road
Primrose Hill
London NW1 8JR
020 7722 9222
www.caveinteriors.com

Mocha cupcake

The Primrose Bakery have sent us a recipe from their latest book, *Mix & Match Baking Box* by Martha Swift. Enjoy! Photograph by Daisy Heath

Mocha cupcake (chocolate sponge with coffee buttercream icing)

CHOCOLATE SPONGE Makes approx. 24 cupcakes or two 20cm round cakes

- 175g dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids)
- 130g unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 265g light soft brown sugar
- 3 large eggs,
- separated 375ml milk, at room temperature
- 1½ tsp good-quality vanilla extract
- 280g plain flour (for gluten-free, use gluten-free plain flour)
- 1 tsp baking powder (for gluten-free, use gluten-free baking powder)
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda ½ tsp salt

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan. Line two 12-hole cupcake tins with cases or grease and line two 20cm round cake tins.

2. Break the chocolate into pieces and melt carefully in a microwave in 30-second intervals, then set aside. In one bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar together using an electric hand-mixer until light and fluffy. Whisk the egg yolks until pale, then add these to the butter mixture. Beat on a medium speed until fully incorporated. Add the melted chocolate and mix until combined.

3. Combine the milk and vanilla in a jug. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt. Add one third of the dry mix to the chocolate mixture and beat well, then add one third of the milk and beat again. Repeat until everything has been combined.

4. Whisk up the egg whites to soft peaks. Gently fold them into the chocolate mixture. The batter will be fairly liquid in consistency.

Divide the batter equally between the cases or tins. Bake in the centre of the oven for 25–30 minutes for cupcakes or 35–40 minutes for whole cakes.

5. Let the cakes sit in their tins for 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

COFFEE BUTTERCREAM ICING

Makes enough to ice approx. 18 cupcakes or one 20cm layer cake.

- 4 tsp instant espresso powder
- 1 tbsp boiling water
- 300g unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2 tbsp milk, at room temperature
- 700g icing sugar

1. Dissolve the espresso powder in the boiling water in a small jug or bowl, then allow it to cool.

2. Place the butter, milk and half the icing sugar in a large bowl and add the cooled espresso. Beat well with an electric hand-mixer until smooth. This can take a few minutes.

3. Gradually add the remaining icing sugar and keep beating until the icing reaches a very smooth and creamy consistency.

Note: This icing can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for 3–4 days. Beat well before using.

Tip: Decorate with 2 or 3 chocolate-covered coffee beans!



PAIN COACHING AND MOVEMENT THERAPY

Pieta Ruck Keene,
MSc Pain Management



painpro.co.uk

"I feel more in control of my pain now. Our work together has also lessened the pain permanently"

Garry Trainer



Garry Trainer, who ran the Garry Trainer Clinic on Princess Road for years, is back practising in Primrose Hill again and working out of the new HOME wellness centre on Erskine Road. Garry is entering his 42nd year of practice and has treated over 100,000 people in that time – so we're pleased to have him with us again!

www.homewellness.uk
020 4553 3344

'Winter of Love' by Al Lanah Pillay



Local singer Al Lanah Pillay has produced a new ballad, 'Winter of Love'. It's avant-garde pop wrapped in nostalgia, magic and pure emotion. With his unmistakable voice soaring over a hypnotic guitar and string arrangement, it's a cinematic journey that conjures the crackle of log fires, the glow of candlelit windows and Victorian street lamps shimmering against golden pathways; a track that carries the listener through Christmas wonderlands, solstice skies and starry nights of remembrance and hope. At its core, 'Winter of Love' is a celebration of the eternal. 'Winter of Love' releases this December across all major streaming platforms.

New Year's Eve

Primrose Hill will be closed on New Year's Eve, following an increase in visitor numbers and a need to ensure public safety. The park will be closed off with a perimeter fence on 31 December and will reopen the following day, 1 January.

News & Views



Please note that Regents Park Road, Berkley Street/Berkley Grove, Chamberlain Street and Sharples Hall Street will be closed off for the day on Sunday 30 November. There will be parking restrictions on these roads and cars will need to be moved the night before. We apologise for any inconvenience and really hope you will come and join us.

The team at the Primrose Hill Festival would like to thank the local community, local businesses and the events team at Camden council for their ongoing support and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



On The Hillimerick

Said Hamlet to Ophelia, please agree,
Pray, a Christmas tipple with me,
At the Queen's, then my lair,
But which jug shall we share,
Toby, or not, Toby?

By Howard Richards

Social Media and Website Editor

OTH would like to thank Jason Pittock for taking charge of our social media and website since the magazine started. He's done a fantastic job and will be missed. If anyone digitally minded would be interested in taking on this role, please email **editor@onthehill.info**

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER
Film Show: My Man Godfrey
PHCL. Doors open 7.15pm. £8 including a glass of wine. Tickets at phcl.org/filmshow

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER
Friday Bar: Christmas Musical Bingo
Come and join friends and neighbours for a Christmas get-together at Primrose Hill Community Centre. 7–9.30pm. Tickets not required.

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER
Christmas Concert
Primrose Hill Choirs, St Mary's Church NW3 3DJ (enter via Elsworthy Road). 6pm. £10 in advance (£15 door), under 4s free. See primrosehillchoirs.com

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER
Feldenkrais Workshops
HOW on Earth do you STAND – Focus on spine. PHCC. 12.45–2.45pm.

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER
Book Club
PHCL. 7pm. Check website for details of the book, phcl.org. Free.

MONDAY 15 DECEMBER TO FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER
Circus Glory Camp
10am–3pm. Visit their website for details: https://www.circusglory.com/childrens-camp

KIDS

MONDAY
Ready Steady Go Beginners
A gentle introduction to pre-school activities for ages 1–2 years. PHCC. 9.15–11am. Contact 020 7586 5862.

Ready Steady Go
Pre-school education and activities for ages 2–3 years. PHCC. 9.30am–12.30pm. Contact 020 7586 5862.

Rhyme Time
Library Rhyme Time for under-5s. PHCL. 11–11.30am. Suggested donation £2. Contact 020 7419 6599.

Circus Glory
Trapeze for ages 2½–16. All levels welcome. PHCC. 2–7.15pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451603.

Board Games
Come along to the Library for our board game evening. Bring your own or join in with one that we have. PHCL. 6pm. Free.

TUESDAY
Ready Steady Go
Pre-school education and activities for children aged 2–3 years. PHCC. 9.30am–12.30pm. Contact: 020 7586 5862.

Monkey Music
Music and play for under-5s. PHCC. 9.45am–12.15pm. Contact 020 8451 7626.

Ballet
Introductory ballet sessions for children, using storytelling and imagery to teach the basics of dance. PHCL. 10–10.30am. Suggested donation £2. Contact lilykourakou@hotmail.com.

Hartbeeps
Multi-sensory music movement and drama classes for infants and toddlers. PHCC. 2–5pm. Contact clarelouise@hartbeeps.com.

Chess Club
Every other Tuesday (14 and 28 October). PHCL. 6.30pm. Free and open to all ages and abilities. Check Library website for more details.

WEDNESDAY
Ready Steady Go Beginners
A gentle introduction to pre-school activities for ages 1–2 years. PHCC. 9.15–11am. Contact 020 7586 5862.

Ready Steady Go
Pre-school education and activities for ages 2–3 years. PHCC. 11.30am–12.30pm. Contact 020 7586 5862.

Circus Glory
Trapeze for ages 2½–16. All levels welcome. PHCC. 2–6.45pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451603.

Primrose Hill Children's Choir
Exciting performances, fun singing. St Mary's NW3 3DJ. 4.30–5.30pm. primrosehillchoirs.com. Contact: maestromattheww@yahoo.co.uk

THURSDAY
Ready Steady Go
Pre-school education and activities for ages 2–3 years. PHCC. 9.30am–12.30pm. Contact 020 7586 5862.

Mini Mozart
Musical story time. PHCL. 9.30–11.10am. Book at www.minimozart.com.

Catherine's Ballet
Nursery and primary ballet classes for ages 3–7 years. PHCC. 4–5.30pm. Contact 020 8348 0262, info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk or chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk.

Street Dance for Kids (8-12 years)
PHCC. 5.30–6.30pm. £12 drop-in per class or £10 for block bookings. Contact info@theimperialsteps.com

First Class Learning
Maths and English tuition. PHCL. 3.30–6pm. Contact primrosehill@firstclasslearning.co.uk

FRIDAY
Ready Steady Go
Pre-school education and activities for ages 2–3 years. PHCC. 9.30am–12.30pm. Contact 020 7586 5862.

Circus Glory
Trapeze for ages 2½–16. All levels welcome. PHCC. 3–7.30pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451603.

SATURDAY
Perform
Drama, dance and singing for ages 4–12 years. St Paul's CE Primary School. 9.30–11am (4–7s) and 11.15am–12.45pm (7–12s). Contact 020 7255 9120 or enquiries@perform.org.uk.

Tales with Tracy
A fun and educational session featuring a well-loved children's book, enhanced with props, expressive character voices, interactive storytelling and singing for under-5s. PHCL. 11–11.30am. £3.

Family Dance Sessions
PHCC. Under-5s: 10am. Ages 5–11 years: 10.50am. Ages 12–19 years: 11.45am. Contact info@icandance.org.uk

SUNDAY
Perform
Drama, dance and singing for ages 4–12 years. PHCC. 10am–11.30am (4–7s) and 11.35am–1.05pm (7-12s).

ADULTS

MONDAY
Board Games
Come along to the Library for our board game evening. Bring your own or join in with one that we have. PHCL. 6pm. Free.

Chilled Strings
Beginners' orchestra rehearsals. PHCC. 6.15–8.45pm. Contact sueandhercello@gmail.com.

Primrose Hill Choir
Love to sing? All styles of music, all levels welcome. PHCC. 7.30–9.30pm. Contact maestromattheww@yahoo.co.uk.

Voices on the Hill Choir
A community choir singing soul, blues, pop, jazz and classic songs. Everyone welcome. PHCL. 7.30–9pm. £10 per session. Contact voicesonthehillchoir@gmail.com.

TUESDAY
Pilates
Dynamic sessions 10.15–11am; gentle sessions 11.30am–12.15pm. PHCL. £15 per class, £120 for 10 classes. Contact patricia-pilates.com.

Laban Explorers
A small, eclectic group of actors, singers and dancers meet once a week, term-times, online and in person. PHCC. 12.30–1.30pm. Contact jennyfrankel.laban@gmail.com

Zumba Gold
Zumba class for seniors looking for a fun, modified, low-intensity workout, made easy with simple-to-follow steps. PHCC. 2.30–3.15pm. £3 per session or free for benefit claimants. Check PHCA website for details.

Memory Singing Circle
Singing and socialising sessions aimed at people with dementia or other neurological conditions and their carers. PHCC. 3–5pm. Check PHCA website for details.

Morris Dancing Class
All welcome, no experience required. CSH. 6.30pm. Book online.

Chess Club
Every other Tuesday. Free and open to all ages and abilities. PHCL. 6.30pm. Check Library website for more details.

Fellows Singers
A local chamber choir with a wide repertoire across the centuries, styles and languages. PHCL. 7.30–9pm. Contact 07901 555 785 or jeremy@jeremylewison.co.uk. More information at fellowssingers.com

Qi Gong
Introduction to mindful movement and conscious breathing. Every Tuesday 5.30–6.30pm. PHCC. Free for the general public. Contact ChiKungGuy@icloud.com for more info.

WEDNESDAY
Wellbeing Cafe
Cafe space and warm bank serving delicious home-made soup and cake, tea, coffee, jacket potatoes and more. PHCC. 10am–2pm. Pay what you can.

Open House
Talks, museum and gallery visits, films and more, always followed by tea. PHCC. 2–4pm.

Yoga
Renata teaches breath- and alignment-based yoga, aiming to foster strength and mobility, while inviting a quality of mental spaciousness and ease. Classes on 4 and 25 June. PHCC. 6–7pm. More info: renatabittencourtyoga.com.

English Folk Dance Club
Fun for dancers of all abilities and none. No partner needed. PHCC. 7.30–9.45pm. Contact camdenfolkdance@yahoo.com.

London Sound Project Choir
A friendly community-led choir in North London, performing contemporary songs with a pro band, open to all (18+). PHCL. 7.15 9.15pm. More info: ldnsoundproject.co.uk.

THURSDAY
Silver Swans Ballet
Ballet classes for over 55s. PHCC. 11am–12pm. Contact katie@primrosehillballet.co.uk.

Gentle Pilates
Gentle but effective Pilates class. PHCL. 12.30–1.30pm. £15 per session. Contact jane_seal@hotmail.com.

Narcotics Anonymous
Support for people with narcotics problems. PHCC. 1.30–3.45pm. Free. More information via NA helpline 0300 999 1212.

Primrose Hill Community Orchestra
A symphony orchestra for all strings and woodwinds. PHCC. 2–4pm. £10. Contact sueandhercello@gmail.com.

Dance Funky
Weekly Dance Workshops. Beginners welcome. PHCC. 6.30-7.30pm. £12 drop-in per class or £10 for block bookings. Contact info@theimperialsteps.com.

Bridge Club
Advanced session 6–8pm. PHCL. Contact jojarrold@gmail.com.

Life Drawing
All levels welcome; friendly group. Please bring your own materials. PHCC. 6.30–8.30pm. £12 card, £10 cash. Follow on Instagram @lifedrawingph. Just drop in or sign up online at meetup.com/Primrose-Hill-Life-Drawing-London.

FRIDAY
Aerial Pilates
PHCC. 10–11am. Feel stronger and more flexible with the support of an aerial sling. Contact Pieta at pieta.ruckkeene@gmail.com.

Chair Yoga for Seniors
PHCC. 2.45–3.45pm. Free. Register at www.phca.cc.

SATURDAY
Primrose Hill Market
St Paul's School playground, Elsworthy Road, NW3 3DS. 9.30am–2.30pm. Contact www.primrosehillfoodmarket.com.

Narcotics Anonymous
Support for people with narcotics problems. PHCC. 5.30–7pm. Free. More information via NA helpline 0300 999 1212.

SUNDAY
Sunday Bar
Primrose Hill Community Bar, a chance to meet neighbours over discounted drinks and play pool. PHCC. 12–3pm.

CONTACT DETAILS

Primrose Hill Community Centre (PHCC)
29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Road), NW1 8TN
Contact: 020 7586 8327, info@phca.cc
www.phca.cc

Primrose Hill Community Library (PHCL)
Sharpleshall Street, NW1 8YN
Contact: 020 7419 6599
events@phcl.org
www.phcl.org

Cecil Sharp House (CSH)
2 Regent's Park Road, NW1 7AY
Contact: 020 7485 2206
www.cecilsharphouse.org

SHOP AROUND THE BLOCK

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE 2025

It's more important than ever that we support our local businesses. Here's a selection of gifts to kick-start the festive season.



Boujo Hake

London-based BOUJO HAKE creates beautifully made underwear and elevated essentials. This Christmas, get 15% off their bestselling Slouch Pants – effortless, wide-legged loungewear. Use code PRIMROSE15 at checkout. Local love, always.

www.boujo-hake.com

Shepherd Foods

If you're looking for a special wine this season, Shepherd Foods stock Ca' Bolani, from a centuries-old wine estate where vines have been planted since Roman times. Ca' Bolani Sauvignon Blanc 2024 £24.95 / Ca' Bolani Merlot 2023 £25.95

www.shepherdfoods.co.uk



Regent's Park Gallery

Regent's Park Gallery will hold a festive season show in December. 'Parkscapes' will include a wide selection of original artworks of our much-loved parks from £150. Image: 'Hampstead Heath, Summer Evening' by Jacob Brown, Oil on board, 25cm x 25cm, (framed), £585

5-18 December / 17 Princess Road NW1 8JR

@regentsparkgallery
www.regentsparkgallery.com



Primrose Hill Books

Everyone needs a good book for Christmas! Browse in the shop on Regent's Park Road or on their website. A local delivery service is available and books can be posted to UK addresses.

www.primrosehillbooks.com



Primrose Hill Collection

Ethical hand-made jewellery need not cost the earth this Christmas. The Primrose Hill Collection creates bespoke sterling silver jewellery, made to order in the heart of the neighbourhood.

www.theprimrosehillcollection.co.uk
@primrosehilljewellery



Primrose Hill in old postcards

Our long-running series, Postcards of Primrose Hill, now comes to you in calendar form! Look back on how our streets used to look as you move through 2026.

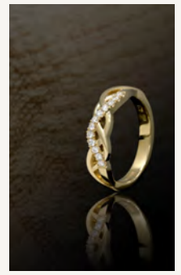
@old_primrosehill_postcards



Harriet Kelsall

One-of-a-kind eternity ring made in Fairtrade yellow gold with 11 diamonds flowing with the open strands. A break from a traditional channel set eternity ring, it symbolises paths united as one.
£2295.00

www.hkjewellery.co.uk
@harrietkelsall



Gallery 196

Gallery196 is known for its handcrafted textiles and unique gifts, celebrating the ingenuity of artisans worldwide. This stunning hand-made silk and wool felted scarf is one of many beautiful gifts you can find in the shop this festive season.

www.gallery196.com



Primo

If you fancy a dash of Italiano over the festive period, Primo are well-stocked for all your needs, with plenty of panettone, panforte, chocolates, nougats, grissini and biscotti.
Buon Natale!

@primo_primrose



Press Primrose Hill

This Black Watch Sonnet dress is a great tartan, especially because it works with neutrals like black, white and navy. The dress has a sumptuous silk velvet hem panel and zip-pull. There are some handy features, like hidden side pockets suitable for a phone, and an easy zipper at centre front.

10% of sales of this dress will go back to OTH.

www.pressprimrosehill.com



Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea independent jewellers have been established for over 20 years creating hand-made jewellery. Browse online for a treasure trove of beautiful designs, like these sapphire and gold necklaces available in a rainbow of colours.

www.sweetpeajewellery.com
@sweetpea_finejewellery



Streets of Primrose Hill and Regent's Park

By Caroline Cooper



People relaxing on Primrose Hill, sketched by William Roberts in 1949 (© estate of John David Roberts)

Primrose Hill's Victorian nickname was 'the island'. Subsequently it was known as 'Chalk Farm' until estate agents tried to market it as 'south Hampstead', later still as the more enticing 'village'. Needing to separate descriptions of walks on the 'the hill' from those through the streets, the editors of this new guide book, *Streets of Primrose Hill and Regent's Park*, adopt 'village', explaining that, unlike Kentish Town for example, there never was one here, just fields. (Thankfully there is no mention of a 'high street' – which Regent's Park Road, in the British sense, also never was.)

This book is the latest publication in Camden History Society's fifteen *Streets of…* series of guided walks. It is the third, fullest and fattest, edition to cover our area. Three walking routes (4, 5 and 6) fill fifty pages with clear local directions, complemented by a rich and eclectic selection of illustrations – for the first time in colour – showing buildings, people and plans.

Portraits and mini-biographies of former residents are the major addition, facilitated by various new websites. Many of these people are well-known enough to be marked by English Heritage blue plaques. Others are what might be called 'characters'. (Walthamstow has its own home-made 'plaque' system, such as 'Joe Bloggs, bus driver, lived here 1997-2018'. It would be fun if Primrose Hill could do something similar.).

Tactfully, there is no mention of our many living 'celebrities'.

Buildings are of course central. There are photos of many which were demolished during the destructive 1960s: the handsome terrace of Regent's Park Gardens, replaced by Oldfield Estate; the villa on Primrose Hill Road, today Hill View; the villas along Gloucester Avenue, today Darwin Court.



A 1905 postcard of Regent's Park Gardens, demolished in the mid-1960s to build the Oldfield Estate.



No.4 Primrose Hill Road, demolished around 1960 to build Hill View, was home to Fred Terry, the actor manager, and his partner, Julia Neilson.

A positive consequence of these losses was the founding of the Primrose Hill Conservation Area in 1971, our local Advisory Committee first meeting the following year. It (the PHCAAC) was influential in the saving of Hopkinson's piano factory, now our Community Centre, and in enforcing the creation of a replica of the shopfront of Sam's Cafe in Chalcot Road after the original was destroyed by the restaurant owner in the mid-1980s. The PHCAAC also persuaded the architects of no. 42 Gloucester Avenue (now housing Gail's) to incorporate the historic horse tunnels in the restaurant lower down, and to create the access slope up from the canal, making it accessible to wheelchairs and buggies. Other buildings which have been saved by local action are the facade of the long terrace, nos. 51-65 Chalcot Road (which now has modern flats behind it), and the Boys' Home Chapel (109A Regent's Park Road).

As anyone who lives here knows, Primrose Hill is now highly fashionable. Our streets and park are frequently used for film and fashion shoots. There might have been mention of the besieged residents of Chalcot Crescent calling it 'Paddington Street'.

Much information which casts historical light on today's area is unfortunately not relevant to a walks guide, but it is available in the many publications by our local historians. For example, there is a reference to 'gentrification', but no comment on the social effect which the final electrification of the Euston railway line in 1966 had on the desirability of this previously sooty area. (My parents bought a house here in 1946 so I am witness to this and many other changes.) The hill's new status as a public park is explained and its being 'enclosed around 1847', but there is no reference to the debate as to whether or when it had railings and gates, or (of course) to the current controversy about whether it should be locked at night.



The platform at Primrose Hill Station shortly before its demolition by Network Rail in 2008 (© Graham Larkby, used with permission)

This little book is a delight to hold, and – unlike many walking guides – has easy-to-follow instructions. It opens flat and would hold its own on a windy day, though unfortunately the pale blue captions are rather faint.

Because it covers a much larger area than 'ours' – a wide arc from Swiss Cottage to Warren Street – it should encourage Primrose Hillers to walk not only our streets with new interest and insight, but also to explore farther afield.

It is available from Primrose Hill Books for £14.95. Buy it. Then walk it.



No.31 Princess Road was a Baker's shop from 1861 to 1940. This postcard dates from around 1915.



Some residents of Primrose Hill Studios in 1892. John William Waterhouse standing top left.



The Poplars, between Avenue Road and Barrow Hill, demolished around 1930, was the home of Ludwig and Frida Mond. It housed their collection of early Italian pictures, now at the National Gallery.

From Woodland to Window:

How Local ‘Forest Florists’ Brought Fairies Back to Primrose Hill

By Hazel Woodstead



Photography by Sarah Louise Ramsay

You can go down about 1000 rabbit holes when you start making miniature things, says Riki Shepley, co-founder of The Wylding Floral, looking entirely at home among the moss and redwoods of the Kentish woodland her family have looked after for generations. “Suddenly you're three hours deep researching the correct way to weather a matchbox-sized barrel and wondering where your life went.”

This December, the fruits of all that delightful madness will appear at Mary’s Living & Giving on Regent’s Park Road, where a glowing fairy village has appeared in the windows: 25 tiny houses and doors hidden among a stunning Christmas woodland of trees, moss, bark and berries. The living ‘fairy Advent calendar’ will be launched at the switching on of the Christmas lights: delighting families and passersby who perhaps had spotted the secret fairy doors popping up around Primrose Hill over the last few weeks.

The project, aptly titled ‘From Woodland to Window’, feels perfectly Primrose Hill: imaginative, communal and a little bohemian. It’s a collaboration between two local professionals who have been quietly rewilding the world of floristry and one of our most loved charity shops, Mary’s Living & Giving.

“We wanted it to be an experience, not just a Christmas display,” explains Natasha Delliston, The Wylding’s other half. “Something that brought to life both the community ethos of Mary’s and the magic of nature. Once you’ve seen how extraordinary a seedhead or moss ball can be, you can’t unsee it.”

The lush, textured, wild installation epitomises The Wylding’s signature style - what they call ‘forest floristry’. Everything is grown and foraged from Riki’s family woodland: their installations use seedheads, bark, fruiting branches, even ‘volunteer plants’ (aka weeds).





The result is a kind of modern folk art: unruly, beautiful and deeply sustainable. “Think of flowers the way you think of food,” Natasha says. “Do you want something local and fresh, or something that’s been shipped halfway around the world? Imported flowers can be as much as six weeks old and are usually highly chemically treated, which is why they’ve lost their scent and they have this uniform ‘straightness’. With British stems you get that fragrance, that delicacy, and what we like to call ‘kinkiness’ - the kind of flowers that dance in the vase.”

It’s an approach that feels utterly in tune with the times. So much mainstream floristry is highly unsustainable in its use of plastic and floral foam; whereas The Wylding’s practice is foam-free and reusable. Wedding flowers become dried arrangements. Workshop leftovers are turned into jam jar posies for local old people’s homes. Even their farewell tributes - the funeral flowers they describe as “some of the most meaningful work we do” - are designed to be planted and live on.

This belief that floristry can be a force for restoration, not consumption, is what makes the Mary’s project so special. “Christmas can feel like one never-ending shopping list,” laughs Natasha. “But this is about remembering to play again. Flowers and nature give you that: they invite you to stop, look and smile!” To bring more smiles, The Wylding have produced an interactive fairy trail with more tiny houses to spot. If you hear a child (or grown-up!) squealing nearby, they may well have found one tucked into a crevice or hiding up a tree.

“We’ve both lived and raised our kids here for twenty years,” says Riki. “We love this community. So it will be fun to be able give something back via Mary’s shop.” And that, perhaps, is what makes ‘From Woodland to Window’ so very Primrose Hill: a touch of magical mischief from local ‘forest florists’ who believe that flowers can change the way we see the world.

As the light fades and the window twinkles, it’s easy to imagine the fairies stirring. Nature has brought Christmas to our community; and she’s brought the magic with her.

To join the interactive fairy trail and receive daily clues throughout December, follow **@thewyldingfloral** and DM “FAIRIES". See more of The Wylding's work and workshops at **www.thewylding.co.uk**

Buy The Wylding’s magical fairy houses, wreaths, table decorations and more at the Primrose Hill Designer Fair on 6 December at St Mary’s Church.



Crafted lovingly from found and foraged materials, each house reflects its fairy inhabitant.

Lauren Child

By Ylwa Warghusen

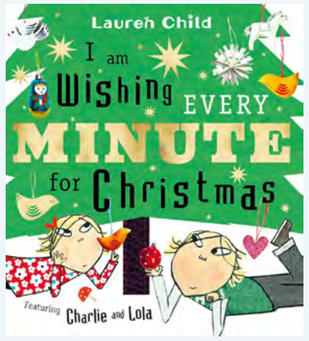
On a grey Monday in October, I'm on my way to meet Lauren Child at her studio – 'a room of her own' – tucked just down the road from her home in Primrose Hill. It's a well-organised space with shelves up to the ceiling, brimming with books, art materials, paintings and ideas.

Much has already been written about the award-winning author/illustrator and former Children's Laureate, creator of colourful characters: Charlie and Lola, Clarice Bean and Ruby Redfort amongst others. She is also known for having pioneered an innovative illustration style: a collage of drawing, paper cutouts, fabric design, photo montage and imaginative typeset.

Child is friendly and immediately relatable, elegant in a fitted black ensemble. We're here partly to talk about the new Charlie and Lola book, *I am Wishing Every Minute for Christmas*, released 25 years after the world first met the eponymous siblings.

The book is actually more about the lead-up to Christmas, rather than Christmas itself. "It's about managing the anticipation of Christmas, which is really hard for a small child, not to mention the parents," the author, a parent herself, comments. In the book, Lola's resourceful older brother Charlie comes up with ways to make the wait more fun for her. This process takes them from stomping through leaves in September, making arts and crafts in October and November, an actionable Advent Calendar in December, culminating in Christmas. It's a book that celebrates creativity.

Child sees the siblings as Danish, living in Copenhagen. She spent time in Denmark and has an affinity for Scandinavia.



One character who has become rather famous, even lending his name to an indie band, is Soren Lorensen, Lola's imaginary friend. The character is based on Child's Danish friend Sofie's 'real life' imaginary friend. Another influence is Carl Larsson, the Swedish painter (1853–1919). "He paints the details, the specifics. He creates an atmosphere – often of family life and interiors." Child has always been interested in interior design, which can be seen in her use of wallpaper and prints in her illustration. She has also designed fabric patterns for Liberty.

"The Charlie and Lola series looks at the world through the eyes of a child. I hope that reading these books will inspire conversations between adults and children and also between children." The dialogue feels totally genuine. "I really listen to things children say; it's about paying attention." Child feels that candour is important in how we interact with children: "Children are often so much more aware of things than we'd like to believe. In my work as a writer for children, it's important to be honest, but also to reassure and leave them with a sense of optimism. You have to tell the truth, but in a considerate way."

Of all her characters, Clarice Bean is the one closest to Child; they have a similar viewpoint. She is also the most relatable character, as you could imagine meeting her in real life. The reality of Clarice's family life is quite ordinary, but of course this includes events that are of momentous importance to her, like when she meets the author of her favourite book series, Ruby Redfort. The family lives in a multigenerational house, the father having quite an ordinary job – although in Clarice's eyes he's a star.

Child now lives in North London and a lot of the places in the books are based on real places in Kentish Town and Primrose Hill, such as the now-closed health food shop, Sesame, once run by Peter Haxton (Waldo Park in the books) and Primrose Corner. A Primrose Hill resident for many years, Child appreciates the area's community village feel. Some local favourites are Primrose Hill Books and Sam's Café, which being slightly off the beaten track mean that it feels like a dedicated space for residents. But her absolute favourite is the Hill itself: "It's a place where you can just be. There's something special about being high up, surrounded by the park, looking down over the houses, the skyline of London and so many trees."

I ask about Child's work routine. "I don't have one!" A self-confessed procrastinator and daydreamer, who has still managed awe-inspiring productivity, she says her principal motivation is the fear of a looming deadline. She feels that writing is quite selfish: "I am locked in my head, spending a lot of time on what appears to be staring out of the window; but without that thinking space, I couldn't do it."


Photo: Sarah Louise Ramsay

The characters come first, then the story. "I start with what interests me; I write a scene and go from there, hoping that I will reach the edges, thread things together and find an ending." She must really feel who the characters are, what they want and what they have to lose. "I *have* written adventure and fairytale, but I usually write stories about ordinary people and the extraordinary things that can happen in the everyday. This interests me more. The Charlie and Lola stories are about normal life, about the so-called little things that feel *very big* to a child."

The illustration process is more convivial. She can have a conversation while drawing, like when her daughter Tuesday was little and sat with her while she worked. (Tuesday is quite well-known in the local community. Often people come up to Child and ask, "Are you Tuesday's mum?")

Looking forward, there is a new project in the pipeline for 2026, *Lotta and Lola*. Lotta first appeared in *I Am Too Absolutely Small for School* and is Lola's best friend. Child wanted to show just how daunting an ordinary event like starting at nursery can be for a child. The book is about the excuses Lola has for why *she* doesn't in fact need to go to school. "I've always enjoyed listening to very little children talking back and forth, the way they navigate differences, and their extraordinary ability to travel in their imagination.

Child is a passionate advocate for the power of story-telling itself, rather than as a means to literacy. For her, children's stories are about how we begin to understand each other, and the world. One joy of bedtime stories is that they are rarely read in a straight line, but are often interspersed with questions, explanations and diversions, sometimes about seemingly unrelated things. For Child, this all matters. As with any art form, it's up to us what we take away.

Consistent with that theme, she is troubled by any tendency to label ourselves and others in a way that is limiting. "At a certain point, some children and adults are told, or tell themselves, 'I'm not creative', but the truth is that we're all creative. Everyone has an imagination. We should be very slow to label anyone as lacking such a fundamental quality, especially children, as these labels can stick with them for a long time." She rejects the idea that you have to be good at something to practise it: "It shouldn't matter: if you love singing, just sing." On her website, Staring into Space, Child talks about the importance of "just being". Without the need to be productive, that blank, unscripted time allows us to discover our innate creativity.

As I say goodbye and venture outside, the leaden skies have opened and crimson leaves are twirling in the wind. Charlie and Lola would be delighted; it's already starting to feel a little closer to Christmas.

The Muggletonian Connection

By Martin Sheppard

Many people walking along Gloucester Avenue must have noticed the enigmatic sign for Lodowick Terrace on the facade of no 79. Very few could probably read much into it, other than thinking that Lodowick was an unusual name. It is an anglicisation of the Latin Ludovicus, derived from the German Ludwig and the origin of the names Lewis, Louis and Luigi. There is, however, a clear reason for the existence of the sign and an explanation of its meaning.

When the stretch of Gloucester Avenue north of the canal was built in the mid-1850s, it was as a series of terraces: Lansdowne, Southampton and Pembroke Terraces on the railway side; and Waterloo, Lodowick, Fitzroy and Cirencester Terraces opposite them. This part of the street was then known as Gloucester Road North and Southampton Road, dividing at Fitzroy Road. The numbering, however, was that of the terraces, not the streets, until the present numbering of Gloucester Avenue replaced this by order of the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1867. The houses making up Lodowick Terrace were originally 1–23 Lodowick Terrace, not, as now, 79–127 Gloucester Avenue. The sign Lodowick Terrace appears on what was once no 1 Lodowick Terrace.



The reasons behind the naming of the other terraces are conventional, or at least easily explicable. Waterloo was of course an extremely popular name for streets, terraces and houses in the years after 1815. Fitzroy was the family name of the third Lord Southampton, who until 1840 had owned the whole of the local area; while Lansdowne Terrace is named after either the first or the third Marquis of Lansdowne, both prominent politicians. Pembroke and Cirencester are both well-known place names. Lodowick, however, is a distinct oddity.

Lodowick Terrace was, in fact, named after Lodowick Muggleton (1609–1698), the co-founder of a small Protestant sect dating from 1651. Following the execution of Charles I in 1649, the Commonwealth saw a proliferation of unorthodox religious views. The actual founder was Lodowick Muggleton's cousin, John Reeve (1608–1658), but after Reeve's death Muggleton became the sect's leading figure. Reeve claimed that he and Muggleton were the two witnesses spoken of in the Book of Revelation, chapter 11. The Muggletonians believed that God came down to earth as Jesus (they disbelieved in the Trinity). They thought that God was between five and six foot tall, and that heaven was six miles above the earth. God, however, took no notice of human doings. Sin was only defined in people's own consciences. The Muggletonians rejected reason as the opponent and opposite of faith.

Little was known at the time about the Muggletonians during their three centuries of existence. A peaceful and non-evangelising sect, which had no chapels and never held formal services or public meetings, they had no leader after Muggleton. They had, however, a reading room in London between 1869 and 1918, which held the sect's records. These were removed for safety during the Blitz by Philip Noakes, a fruit farmer from Matfield in Kent, who was the last trustee of the Muggletonians' funds. In late 1940, Noakes got a petrol voucher to deliver his fruit to Covent Garden, then drove the archive back to Matfield in the empty boxes which had held the fruit. When he died in 1959, he left the Muggletonian archive to the British Library.

> "They thought that God was between five and six foot tall, and that heaven was six miles above the earth."

The combination of having a memorable name, but being little known themselves, sometimes led to their being misrepresented as fanatical extremists. One prominent author to fall foul of the Muggletonians in this way was Sir Walter Scott in his novel *Woodstock*.

He was sent a formal curse, dated 18 July 1826: "The writer of this, a believer in the Commission of the Spirit, commonly called a Muggletonian, has had his attention directed to certain expressions in disparagement of his most holy faith contained in a novel called *Woodstock* of which you are the author." After explaining the beliefs of the sect, the writer ended:

> Such are the principles of the Muggletonians, which you have pronounced to be foul and blasphemous heresy, and in so doing you have committed the unpardonable sin against the Holy Ghost which is neither forgiven in this world nor in the world to come in consideration of which I declare that you the author of *Waverley* are cursed and damned both in soul and body from the presence of God, elect men and angels to all eternity. I am, sir, your obedient servant, A Muggletonian.

Although all this connects Lodowick Terrace to Lodowick Muggleton, it does not explain why the terrace was named as it was or who named it. There is again a clear answer to this. Joseph Gandar, who bought the two lots in Lord Southampton's sale on which Lodowick Terrace and Lansdowne Terrace were subsequently built, was a prominent Muggletonian. Giving his address as 19 Addington Place, Camberwell, he paid £441 for Lot 245 and £556 for Lot 246 in 1840. Soon after buying these, he built nos 1 and 3 Fitzroy Road, the only villas near Gloucester Avenue north of the canal, on part of Lot 245. He was living at no 1 by 1851 at the latest; and in the five years which followed, he developed both Lodowick and Lansdowne Terraces.



A reasonable amount is known about Gandar, originally a successful confectioner by trade. The son of John and Sarah Gandar, he was born in Shadwell on 8 October 1787. This is recorded in the non-conformist register. He was, however, as was typical for Muggletonians, christened and married in an Anglican church. His wife, Eliza Spooner, whom he married in 1807, was eleven years older than him. Together they had a son and a daughter. According to both the 1851 and 1861 censuses, Joseph and Eliza Gandar were living at 1 Fitzroy Road with two servants.

Joseph Gandar died on 3 May 1868, aged eighty. The address delivered by John Aspland, at the Muggletonian meeting to celebrate his life, was subsequently printed.

> For more than sixty years, our dear brother was a believer in the Commission of the Spirit. For more than sixty years has he struggled and contended against the powerful 'Prince of Error', *Reason* … His store of heavenly knowledge surpassed (I think) any of the believers of the present age. And his faith shone, as the sun at noonday.

He was buried at St James's Chapel, near Euston, from which his body has now been sacrilegiously exhumed by the perpetrators of HS2, who deserve a Muggletonian curse more certainly than Sir Walter Scott.

> "The Muggletonians rejected reason as the opponent and opposite of faith."

In his will, drawn up in 1864, Joseph Gandar left freehold houses at no 1 Lansdowne Terrace, nos 15 to 22 Lansdowne Terrace and nos 5 and 7 Lodowick Terrace in trust to benefit the issue of his daughter, Eliza Mary Wilson.

The fortunate survival of a set of documents to do with the title deeds of 113 Gloucester Avenue (originally 18 Lodowick Terrace) gives an insight into how Lodowick and Lansdowne Terraces were built. With Gandar retaining the freehold, they were constructed on 99-year building leases by one of the most active builders in Camden Town during this period, Richard Batterbury. As his address at the time of his agreement with Gandar was Fitzroy Terrace, it is likely that Batterbury was also the builder of this terrace. His builder's yard was opposite Gandar's house in Fitzroy Road.

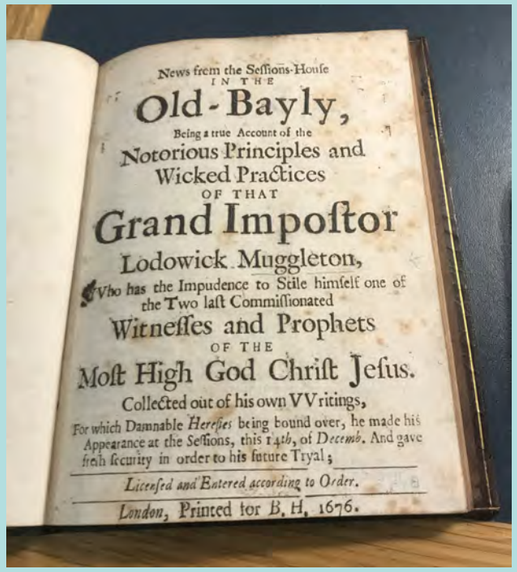
No 18 Lodowick Terrace was built in 1853 and 1854 on a 99-year building lease agreed in June 1853. On 29 August 1854 Gandar confirmed Batterbury in a 98-year lease to run from 24 June 1854, 'in consideration of the erection of the messuage', a legal word for house, on a mortgage of £1,000 at 5 per cent per annum, with a ground rent of £7 per annum.

This indicates that Batterbury had now built the house as part of the terrace. A plan in the margin of the lease shows the outline of the house with an extension. The whole plot measured 90 feet 2 inches in length and 18 feet 2 inches in width, including the 'then lately erected' eighth house 'southward from Fitzroy Road, the corner house inclusive'. Under the lease, Batterbury had an obligation to repair; to paint once every three years externally and internally every seven years; and to insure the house to three-quarters of its value in the names of Batterbury and Gandar.

No trade or manufacture (without written consent of the lessor, Gandar) was to be carried on, or sales by auction, or exhibition of goods for sale. The lessee was not to alter 'the parlour window or any part of the fore front or elevation of the said messuage'; there was to be no shop in its front; and no building at its back within 15 feet of the back wall. The lessee was to yield up the house at the end of its term and to inform the lessor of any underlease.

Batterbury immediately passed on the lease to William Fisk of Western Villas, Blomfield Road, Maida Hill for £1,200 at 5 per cent per annum interest on the security of the house; redeemable on payment of principal and interest to Batterbury. It is unclear whether Fisk lived in the house or let it out.

While Lodowick Muggleton may look down from his Muggletonian heaven with satisfaction at the terrace built in his honour, we should spare a thought for his cousin and co-founder, John Reeve, and wonder whether Joseph Gandar ought in fairness to have named the terrace opposite not Lansdowne Terrace but Reeve Terrace.


News from the Sessions-House
IN THE
Old-Bayly,
Being a true Account of the
Notorious Principles and
Wicked Practices
OF THAT
Grand Impostor
Lodowick Muggleton,
Who has the Impudence to Stile himself one of the Two last Commissionated
Witnesses and Prophets
OF THE
Most High God Christ Jesus.
Collected out of his own VVritings,
For which Damnable Heresies being bound over, he made his Appearance at the Sessions, this 14th. of Decemb. And gave fresh Security in order to his future Tryal;
Licensed and Entered according to Order.
London, Printed for B. H. 1676.

PRIMROSE HILL

Christmas Cracker Jokes

Why did Santa visit Primrose Hill Surgery?

He wanted an Elf Centre.

Who brings presents to the lions in the zoo?

Santa Claws.

Who brings presents to the sharks in the zoo?

Santa Jaws.

What do you call a reindeer behind the bar of The Engineer?

Lost.

How did the snowman go up Regent's Park Road?

On his icicle.

Thanks to Bernard George.



TAKE THE FIRST STEP

Towards Your Personal Garden Sanctuary

Book your free consultation today
and start your journey towards your Eco-Luxe garden room.

Luxury, Sustainable Garden Rooms that Don't Cost the Earth

alpaca

020 7183 0363
info@alpacagardenrooms.co.uk
alpacagardenrooms.co.uk







Offering

Pain Free Laser Hair Removal
Doctor Led Aesthetics
Profhilo
Polynucleotides
Microneedling & Exosomes - **NEW!**
Microdermabrasion
Chemical Peels
NIR Skin Tightening
Medik8 & Obagi Skincare
And More...

NuYu

@nuyu_london
nuyulondon.co.uk
info@nuyulondon.co.uk
020 3204 2020
9 Princess Rd, London NW1 8JN

PICTURES FROM PRIMROSE HILL

Thank you to Mark Stubbings for the photo of the Harvest Moon taken from the top of Primrose Hill; to Clare Latimer for the photo of Teal the Kooikerhondjes under the autumn tree on Primrose Hill and the old bridge in Regent's Park; to Janet Dulin Jones for the festive image of her dog Pendleton; to Siri Schumann for the wintry shots; to Simon Wolfe for the photo of the bird flying over snow and the lamp post; to Baz Allen for the foggy images and to Gourav Sengupta who sent us a photo dedicated 'with thanks to the sense of joy and hope the *OTH* magazine brings'.

If you have any photos of the area which you'd like to share, please send them to **editor@onthehill.info** for possible inclusion in our next issue.w



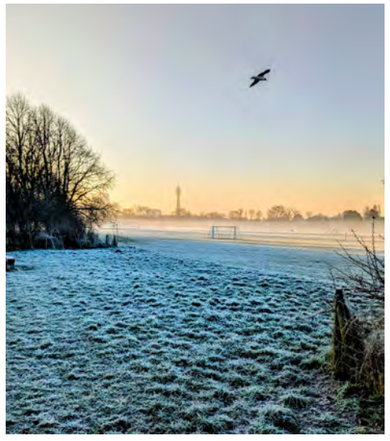
Gourav Sengupta



Janet Dulin Jones



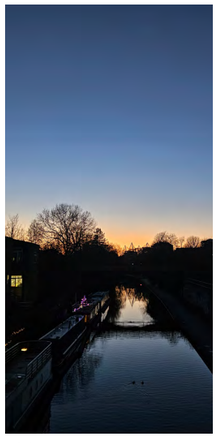
Mark Stubbings



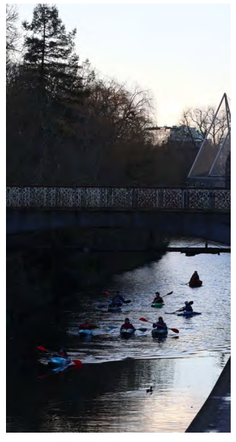
Simon Wolfe



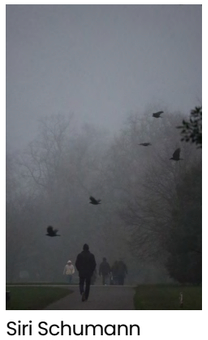
Simon Wolfe

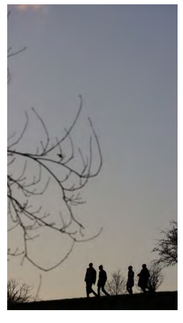


Siri Schumann

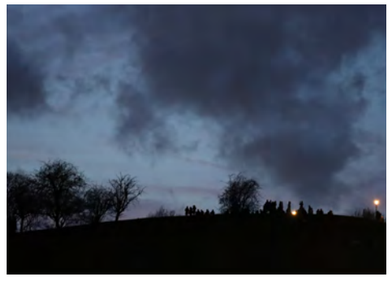


Siri Schumann





Siri Schumann



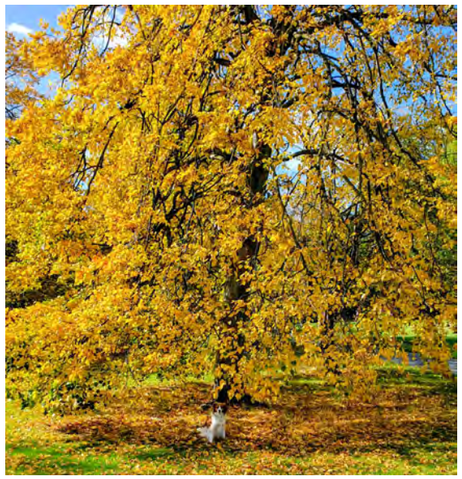




© Baz Allen Untitled, Primrose Hill 2022



© Baz Allen Untitled, Primrose Hill 2022



Clare Latimer



Clare Latimer

Local financial advice

Tailored specifically for you

Quilter Financial Advisers

Quilter Financial Advisers are locally based fully qualified financial advisers who can help you with:

- Savings and investments planning
- Tax efficient investing
- Planning for school fees
- Retirement planning
- Protecting your loved ones
- Protecting your property
- Inheritance tax planning
- Mortgage solutions

To learn more about how we can help please contact Jeremy Duke, DipFA, Financial Planning Consultant on:

T. 07747 022257
E. jeremy.duke@quilterfa.com
W. quilterfinancialadvisers.co.uk

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.
The value of pensions and investments can fall as well as rise and you can get back less than you invested.



Camden Club

THE BASEMENT

GYM+STUDIO

FULLY EQUIPPED FREE WEIGHTS
RESISTANCE + CARDIO
SAUNA + STEAM ROOM
YOGA + MAT PILATES
PERSONAL TRAINING

128 ALBERT STREET, CAMDEN, LDN, NW1 7NE
THEBASEMENTLDN.COM / @THEBASEMENTLDN