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# ON THE HILL

News and information for Primrose Hill People

www.onthehill.info

ISSUE 018 JUNE 2016

*In this issue:* **PH Opinion** – Disturbing findings on pollution levels **PH Eats** – Scrumptious recipe for summer outdoor eating **PH People** – Four candles, please




# FAIR IN THE SQUARE

Pp. 2-4

**SATURDAY 11th JUNE. 1.30-5pm**

# Primrose Hill Laughs




At 90, one doesn't need so much space, but where do one's horses go?

## Primrose Hill Summer Lectures 2016

POSITION ONLY

### Chris Bickerton & Jesse Norman MP
on Deciding Europe 7th June







### Jancis Robinson
on Everyday Wine 15th June

### Andrew O'Hagan & Jonathan Coe
on the State-of-the-Nation Novel 22nd June





29th June





### Charles Moore with Joan Bakewell
on Margaret Thatcher

### Andrea Wulf
6th July on Humboldt's Invention of Nature



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# Editor's Letter

**Welcome to our June edition**

The month of June plays host to National Picnic Week, so in recognition of this we asked Melrose & Morgan for a delicious outdoor eating recipe and Bottle Apostle for some suggestions for summertime drinks. Let's hope the weather joins in with the party!

Now the London Mayoral election is over we can concentrate on other important stuff – our annual summer fair in Chalcot Square. Take a look at pages 2-4 for Dickensian and 'Birdian' stories on fairs in Primrose Hill. In About Face, Dame "Liz" Forgan tells David Lennon about her interests and secret passions and our 'Four candles, please' article takes us along to Mercury Stores. This shop has been with us for 39 years and is now being passed down to the next generation to run and manage – so it is Goodbye and Hello. So far we have received just one letter (see page 16) about the Market Place map – and it was positive. Phew! Holding our breath over the next few weeks.

Take a look at our new Primrose Hill Reading feature, 'on my bedside table', in which a local resident tells us what they are currently reading. And in News & Views read about our budding new entrepreneur and enthusiast, nine-year-old Albion.

Oh and by the way, don't forget to vote in the referendum. As if anyone in the media will let us forget!

Janet



Janet Reuben
Managing Editor

# Preview


**Inside front cover: Primrose Hill Laughs**

**01 Welcome and Preview**

**02, 03, 04 About Face – Media, music, museums and much more**
We sent David Lennon to find out what interests Dame Elizabeth 'Liz' Forgan

**06, 07 & 08 Fair in the Square**
Take a look at what Charles Dickens wrote in his journal about fairs around Primrose Hill and how Dick Bird connects his writings with our own Summer Fair in Chalcot Square.

**10, 11 & 12 Primrose Hill People – Four candles, please**
Meet the new generation that is taking over at Mercury Stores and discover their legacy.

**13 Primrose Hill Eats**
Summer's on its way, so here's a recipe to enjoy on a picnic *on the hill*.

**14 & 15 What's On**
Find out everything that's going on in Primrose Hill in June.

**16 Primrose Hill Letters**

**17 Primrose Hill Opinion**
Learn about the shocking results from the pollution monitoring carried out by our local Transition group.

**18 & 19 Primrose Hill Passion**
Anna tells us her story about her enthusiasm for needlepoint, stitch and bitch groups and her designs.

**20 Primrose Hill Reading**
Our latest addition – on my bedside table. Who is reading what.

**21 Primrose Hill Families**
A local resident sets up a website with information about what's going on for our youngest residents

**22, 23, 24 & 25 News & Views**
Keeping you up to date with news and opinion in Primrose Hill.

**26 & 27 Market Place**
A selection of local retailers and where to find them, for wining, dining and shopping in Primrose Hill.

**28 Market Place News**
What is new and current with our local businesses.

**28 PH Business Services**
The new *OTH* listing, which we hope our readers will find useful.

**Back cover: Hello, Primrose Hill**
With so much going on in May, see who was out and about.



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**This publication is created by the community and for the community of Primrose Hill on behalf of your local charity, the Primrose Hill Community Association (PHCA). We hope you enjoy it. www.onthehill.info**

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# About Face

Dame Elizabeth 'Liz' Forgan

MEDIA, MUSIC, MUSEUMS AND MUCH MORE



**Formidable, determined and passionately opinionated. Yet she is also funny, disarming and emollient.**

That was how *The Independent* described Liz Forgan back in 1993 when she was about to be plucked from Channel 4 where she was Director of Programmes to become Managing Director, BBC Network Radio, effectively number two at the BBC.

Chatting to Dame Elizabeth Forgan in her Primrose Hill flat the other week, I found her to be still disarming and funny, as well as determined and passionate.

After a dizzying career as a senior journalist and top media executive, she has spent the last two decades being Chair of, among others, the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Churches Conservation Trust and the Scott Trust. In 2009 she was appointed chair of the Arts Council England, the first woman to head the British arts funding organisation.

We will perform the UK Premier at the Proms this year of Lera Auerbach's "The Infant Minstrel and His Peculiar Menagerie" with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ed Gardner.

"Nothing was planned, things happened by chance, things came along," is how she explains her sparkling career. "If the phone rings and somebody offers me something interesting, I'll do it."

Along the way she picked up an OBE in 1998 and was made a Dame in 2006. "I'm not quite sure for what: I think the first was for broadcasting, the second for heritage." (Right on both counts, Liz; I checked.)

Clearly passionate about her work in journalism and public service, what are Liz Forgan's private passions, and what does this whirligig of energy do to relax?

"Mostly music. I'm a musician, used to play the flute, and the piano, badly. I sing with the Crouch End Festival Chorus, a serious amateur choir started by a bunch of people in Muswell Hill. We will perform the UK Premier at the Proms this year of Lera Auerbach's 'The Infant Minstrel and His Peculiar Menagerie' with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ed Gardner. I like a wide range of music - baroque, Palestrina. Most recently we sang Harmonium by John Adams; I loved that piece, quite difficult and exciting." "The English choral tradition is the glory of Britain. It's phenomenal, extraordinary, our tradition of amateur choirs."

Hardly surprising, then, that Liz speaks proudly of being a board member of both the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama and the National Youth Orchestra. "Museums are another passion."

Ironically, this self-declared atheist was eased into public service by the Churches Conservation Trust, "which got me into chairing things and learning about historic buildings". Then came the Heritage Lottery Fund. "I really loved that. In those early days with the huge rush of money, it was intellectually interesting because it forced us to think about the heritage of Britain. not just its buildings.

"We also made sure that our teams at the Fund got out and saw things first-hand, up close. Standing on a Scottish beach and not in Trafalgar Square things do look different and you can understand the value of the local project."

"The cultural institutions were very inward looking and we were able to offer them money to open up and do things that appealed to people who were not in the cultural club.

"We also made sure that our teams at the Fund got out and saw things first-hand, up close. Standing on a Scottish beach and not in Trafalgar Square things do look different and you can understand the value of the local project."

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Liz gets quite excited talking about working with the Arts Council and the Art Fund where she is also a director. "All the others are world experts in their fields, and when we have to consider a purchase it's like doing a course at the Courtauld."

Her third, and perhaps most surprising private passion is "our house in the Orkneys. In the early 1970s we went there looking for a 17th century ship, wrecked off the island of North Ronaldsay, the most northern of the Orkney Islands.

"We went with divers to look at the sunken wreck, explore, map and perhaps find artifacts. We didn't find artifacts and the divers eventually got fed up. But we loved the place so much that we bought a tiny house right on the edge of the sea."





# About Face



She still loves it and goes often with her partner. Travelling there is much easier now, well, relatively: it's just three separate flights and you are there. Also "you are no longer totally isolated because of broadband".

Which is just as well because Liz Forgan is totally engaged in what she does. As Chair for the past 14 years of the Scott Trust, which owns ***the Guardian***, she was due to hand over to former editor Alan Rushbridger in September, but a row broke out a few weeks ago and now the search is on for another replacement.

She is also passionate about the future of the BBC, and is almost incandescent about the government's plans which will rob it of a defender. And she is loquacious and engaged about the challenges of the post-print era of our media. But perhaps these are for another article.

Liz Forgan entered journalism by chance. Her father, an oil executive, was posted in Teheran when she came out to visit in 1967 after Oxford. She loved it and said she would like to stay a while. Her loving but stern Scottish parent told her he had spent a lot of money on her education and she had better get a job.

Casting around for work and quickly realising that perhaps her only marketable talent at that moment in Iran's capital city was her English, she asked the English-language ***Teheran Journal*** for a job.

"I was interviewed by a tough old journalist, ex ***Daily Express***, I think," says Liz. "He asked me if I could spell the name of the South African President who had been assassinated. I knew it and spelt out 'V e r w o e r d'." If that question surprised her, his reaction astonished: "Okay," he said, "you can be our Arts Editor!"

"I knew nothing about Iranian art, but felt I could write critical pieces and get away with it, but then realised that was the wrong approach. Instead I went to a group of Iranian artists and said to them, 'Look I know nothing about your art and you know nothing about getting coverage in the papers, let's work together'."

Is it any wonder she has done so well!

**David Lennon**




# Sales

## £625,000 Share Of Freehold



### Gloucester Avenue, NW1

A well thought out top floor apartment with direct views of Regents Park and communal gardens. The apartment comprises a bright living room, modern kitchen, bathroom and double bedroom with ample storage and share of the freehold. The apartment is ideally positioned to allow easy access for the restaurants, boutiques and open green spaces of Primrose Hill and Regents Park, alongside an array of quality independent shops, cafes, restaurants and bars at Camden Town.

Energy Efficiency Rating - D58

## £874,999 Share Of Freehold



### Gloucester Avenue, NW1

A bright and spacious two bedroom apartment situated on the first floor of a grand period residence. This impressive apartment comprises an outstanding reception room with stunning floor to ceiling windows leading directly onto a balcony, modern kitchen, principal bedroom, further bedroom, beautifully designed bathroom and separate study/utility space. It also has easy access to Camden's wide array of shops, restaurants and is situated 0.3 miles from Camden Town underground station.

Energy Efficiency Rating - D63

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Energy Efficiency Rating - C76

## £1,200* pw Unfurnished (£5,200.00 pcm)



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Energy Efficiency Rating - B81

Set fees apply for all tenancies: £180.00 administration fee per tenancy + £48.00 referencing charge per Tenant/Guarantor. For variable charges and deposits explained please visit www.g-h.co.uk

# Fair in the Square

## Nothing New Under The Sun

It was a breezy afternoon in JUNE 1978 when a troupe of drum majorettes led Father Christmas (!) and some Spanish dancers (from Hornsey) into Chalcot Square. The first Summer Fair had started. The recently formed Community Association was raising money for a home promised to it in the derelict Mazda lamp factory, previously a piano factory, in Fitzroy Road, which it had helped to save from the demolition brigade. And where better for a Fair than in the Victorian elegance of the Square, spacious and secluded, and now without through traffic?

The band played, the faces were painted, and the skates boarded. (The precautionary straw for the skate boarding blew up and down Chalcot Road for many months afterwards.) One, but only one, lucky winner guessed Primrose in the Name the Doll competition. Sad looking donkeys gave rides, but possibly enjoyed doing it. And children queued to Bash the Rat. It was homespun, all organised by volunteers; it was enjoyable, and even then it was old-fashioned. And it has been repeated with acclaim every year since. This year, 11 June will see the 39th Fair.

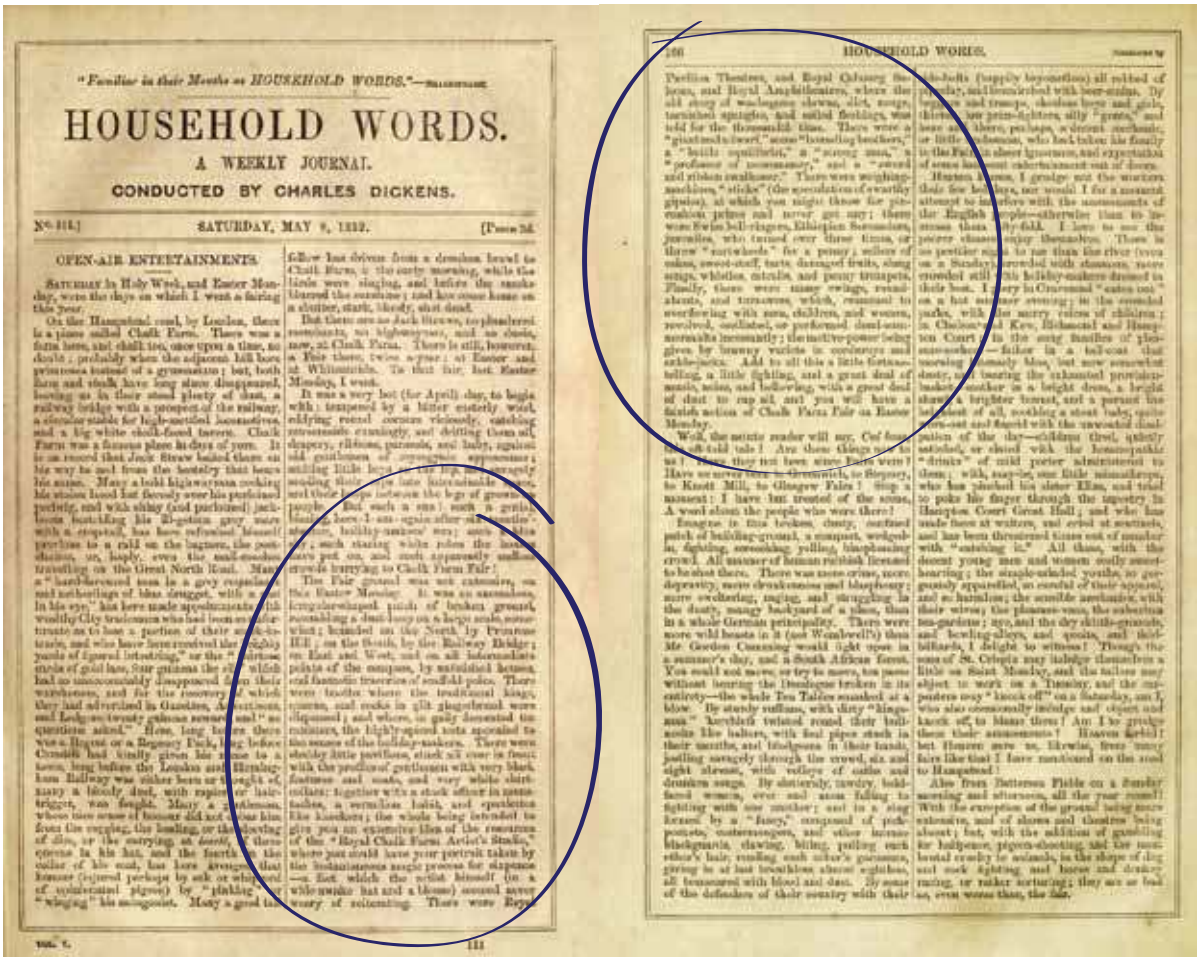
In fact there is not much new under the sun. Before our houses were built, a fair was traditionally held here twice a year at Easter and Whitsun. Until 1857 the Chalk Farm Fair was held in the gardens of the old Chalk Farm Tavern, which for at least 100 years had been the only building in our fields. The Tavern was rebuilt in 1853 as the structure now occupied by Limonia; the 'gardens', now built upon and bounded by Berkley Road, Chalcot Square and Sharpleshall Street, were separated from the Tavern by Regent's Park Road. From this centre the Fair spilled over into surrounding fields in a noisy, smelly, smoky crush of vulgar pleasure, many times more raucous than genteel Primrose Hill today. Although there were then, as now, bazaar stalls and sideshows, some of the entertainments would be difficult to repeat in 2016. 'The French dwarf that could shave himself with his toes', for example, or 'the child with two heads' for another. The Fair of 1850, apart from a 'wonderfully performing menagerie' also advertised 'the most extraordinary woman in the World'. Any questions?

'The French dwarf that could shave himself with his toes', for example, or 'the child with two heads' for another. The Fair of 1850, apart from a 'wonderfully performing menagerie' also advertised 'the most extraordinary woman in the World'.

As London began to encroach on the fields, amongst the many visitors to the fairs was the novelist Charles Dickens, who wrote this description of the Chalk Farm Fair of 1852, and published it in the leaflet 'Household Words':







"Familiar in their Mouths as HOUSEHOLD WORDS."

HOUSEHOLD WORDS.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY CHARLES DICKENS.

No. 111.] SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1850. [Price 2d.

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENTS.

SATURDAY in Holy Week, and Easter Monday, were the days on which I went a-fairing this year.

On the Hampstead road, by London, there is a place called Chalk Farm. There was a farm house, and chalk too, once upon a time, no doubt; probably when the adjacent hill bore primroses instead of a gymnasium; but, both farm and chalk have long since disappeared, leaving us in their stead plenty of dust, a railway bridge with a prospect of the railway, a circular stable for high-mettled locomotives, and a big white chalk-faced tavern. Chalk Farm was a famous place in days of yore. It is on record that Jack Straw holed there on his way to and from the bentley that bore his name. Many a bold highwayman cooling his stanch hood but fiercely wore his purloined periwig, and with shiny (and purloined) jack-boots buckling his Elizabethan garters with a sixpenny, has there refreshed himself, previous to a call on the bagmen, the postchaise, or, haply, even the mail-coaches travelling on the Great North Road. Many a "hard-favoured man in a grey cupboard and nethertongs of blue druggot, with a cast in his eye," has here made appointments with wealthy City tradesmen who had been entertainments so long a portion of their stock-in-trade, and who have here received the weighty pounds of figured intexting," or the "thirteen cords of gold lace, Star guinea the set," which had so unconscionably disappeared from their warehouses, and for the recovery of which they had advertised in Gazettes, Advertisers, and Ledgers twenty guineas reward and no questions asked." How long before there was a Regent or a Regency Park, long before Cornhill had vitally given his name to a town, long before the London and Birmingham Railway was either born or thought of, many a bloody duel, with rapier or hair-trigger, was fought. Many a gentleman, whose nice sense of honour did not allow him to face the rapier, the bullet, or the bludgeon of Jim, or the carving, at death's door, thereof in his hat, and the fourth on the collar of his coat, has here avenged that honour (injured perhaps by ink or whipped of quintessential pigeon) by "plinking," or "winging" his antagonist. Many a good fellow has driven from a drunken brawl to Chalk Farm, in the early morning, while the birds were singing, and before the sunks blurred the sunrise; and has come home on a shutter, stark, bloody, and dead.

But there are no Jack Straws, to plunderers, no highwaymen, and no duels, now, at Chalk Farm. There is still, however, a Fair there, twice a year: at Easter and at Whitsuntide. To that fair, last Easter Monday, I went.

It was a very hot (for April) day, to begin with: tempered by a bitter easterly wind, edifying round corners viciously, catching unfortunate examples and drifting them off, drapery, ribbons, parasols, and hats, against old gentlemen of unsteady appearance; smiting little boys on the legs, savagely mowing down late lamplighters, and, not their boys between the legs of grown-up people. But such a sun! such a genial blandness here—I am again afraid of my similes—such hilarity-inducing rays; such a thing as such staring white robes the heavens were put on, and such apparently endless crowds hurrying to Chalk Farm Fair!

The Fair ground was not extensive, on this Easter Monday. It was an anomalous, irregular-shaped patch of broken ground, resembling a dust-heap on a large scale, somewhat; bounded on the north by Primrose Hill; on the south by the Railway Bridge; on East and West, and on all intermediate points of the compass, by unfinished houses, and fantastic traceries of scaffold-poles. There were booths where the traditional kings, queens, and cooks in gilt gingerbread were dispensed; and where, in gaily decorated tenements, the "Royal Chalk Farm Ariel's Studio," the "Royal Chalk Farm Ariel's Studio," where just could have your portrait taken by the instantaneous sunpic process for sixpence—a fact which the artist himself (in a white smock and a house) seemed never weary of reiterating. There were Royal



Pavilion Theatres, and Royal Queensberry theatres, and Royal Amphitheatres, where the old story of wooden shows, dirt, sweep, tarnished spangles, and soiled finklings, was told for the thousandth time. There were a "giant and a dwarf," some "bounding brothers," a "bottle equilibrist," a "strong man," a "professor of necromancy," and a "sword and ribbon swallower." There were weighing-machines, "sticks" (the speculation of swarthy gipsies), at which you might throw for pincushions prizes and never get one; there were Swiss bell-ringers, Ethiopian Serenaders, juveniles who turned over three times, or threw "cartwheels" for a penny; sellers of cakes, sweet-stuff, tarts, damaged fruits, slang songs, whistles, catcalls, and penny trumpets. Finally, there were many swings, roundabouts, and roundabouts, which, resistant to swordsmen with suns, children, and women, revolved, oscillated, or performed demi-semi-quavers incessantly; the motive-power being given by brawny varlets in corduroys and ankle-jacks. Add to all this a little fortune-telling, a little fighting, and a great deal of music, noise, and bellowing, with a great deal of dust to cap all, and you will have a fairish notion of Chalk Farm Fair on Easter Monday.

Well, the astute reader will say, *Cui bono* all this odd tale? Are these things not to us? Have they not been since Paris was? Have we never been to Greenwich, to Epsom, to Knott Mill, to Glasgow Fairs? Stop a moment: I have but treated of the scene. A word about the people who were there?

Imagine in this broken, dusty, confined patch of building-ground, a compact, wedged-in, fighting, struggling, bellowing crowd. All manner of human rubbish licensed to be shot there. There was more crime, more depravity, more drunkenness and blasphemy; more swearing, raging, and struggling in the dusty, mangy backyard of a place, than in a whole German principality. There were more wild beasts in it (not Wombwell's) than Mr Gordon Cumming would fight open in a summer's day, and a South African forest. You could not move, or try to move, for pass without hearing the Decalogue broken in its entirety—the whole Ten Tables smashed at a blow. By sturdy ruffians, with dirty "kingsmen," barefooted women round their bull-necks like bolsters, with foul pipes stuck in their mouths, and bludgeons in their hands, bullying savagely through the crowd; six and eight abreast, with volleys of oaths and drunken songs. By shriekedly, tawdry, bold-faced women, ever and anon falling to fighting with one another; and to a slap herself by a "fancy," composed of pickpockets, costermongers, and other insane blackguards, drawing, biting, pulling each other's hair, ramming each other's gooseberry, giving be at last breathless about eighteen, all besmeared with blood and dust. By some of the defenders of their country with their

damaged fruits, slang songs, whistles, cat calls, and penny trumpets… Add to all this a little fortune telling, a little fighting, and a great deal of music, noise and bellowing, with a great deal of dust to cap all, and you will have a fairish notion of Chalk Farm Fair. Imagine in this broken, dusty confined patch of building ground, a compact,

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# Fair in the Square

wedged-in, fighting, screeching, yelling, blaspheming crowd; all manner of human rubbish licensed to be shot there. There was more crime, more depravity, more drunkenness and blasphemy, more sweltering, raging and struggling in the dusty, mangy backyard of a place than in a whole German principality.

There were more wild beasts in it than a South African forest…sturdy ruffians with foul pipes stuck in their mouths, and bludgeons in their hands…slatternly, tawdry, bold-faced women, ever and anon falling into fighting with one another, and a ring of pickpockets, costermongers, and other intense blackguards clawing, biting, pulling each other's hair, rending each other's garments, giving in at last breathless, almost sightless, all besmeared with blood and dust… Heaven save us fro many fairs like tat I have mentioned on the road to Hampstead." (Dickens Journal, 1852)

What a lot the Summer Fair has to live up – or down – to!

**Dick Bird**

**Primrose Hill Summer Fair**
**Chalcot Square**
**Saturday 11 June**
**13.30 – 17.00**

## Fair in the Square 2015




**Photography Lars Christiansen**




Jacob Epstein, Rhododendrons , gouache, watercolour

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Jankel Adler, Woman on Blue Chair , 1940s, unsigned watercolour

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# Primrose Hill People

## Four Candles, Please



Photography Lars Christiansen

*The Mole is just old enough to remember ironmonger shops which then became hardware shops and then DIY stores. Ironmongery made him think of steel, so he started digging and discovered that in the past two years China has produced more steel than was made in the UK since the Industrial Revolution.*

**Dominic D'Silva,** aged 71, has been serving Primrose Hill since he rented and then bought Mercury Stores in Chalcot Road 39 years ago. Why Mercury?

"I was always a bit hot-headed and could fly off the handle easily, so my nickname was Mercury. I am a Goan but I was born in Nairobi. I went to school there and became apprenticed to Rolls Royce. I remember that when I was an apprentice I was given the job of stripping down a Rolls Royce chassis. It was not a problem until I had to put it all back together again, and then I was in real trouble. I hadn't labelled any of the parts. But I am technically minded and I worked it out by trial and error. After Rolls Royce I became an engineer at East African Airways."

Dominic's family left Kenya around 1971. He could have stayed, because he was needed at East African Airways, but he decided to join the others and pitched up at Kentish Town. "Before I arrived, Kentish Town had a reputation as a rough place, but I found it all right. Once you know all the pubs you know everything. I started working in an iron foundry in King's Cross. They made the eagles for Barclays Bank, and my job was to file them down before they were buffed up. Then I worked as a guard for the London Underground. After this I decided to go in a different direction for my career: I took up plumbing and gained my plumbing qualification. Then a friend told me about the shop on Chalcot Road. Me, a shopkeeper? I'd never done any shopping in my life, never even bought an onion for my Mum. The shop had been empty for nine months, but I thought I'd give it a go. I knew it was going to be hard work, but I didn't think it would be so hard."

Dominic was one of the organisers of a New Year's Eve party for Goans at the Ally Pally. (It has since become an annual event that Goans come to from all over the country.) You can picture it. Dominic in the Ally Pally recognises the woman he knew as a girl in Nairobi. She had gone to live in Germany and they had lost touch.









By this time Dominic was married and he and Natty were expecting their first child. It's a lovely romantic story. Dominic was one of the organisers of a New Year's Eve party for Goans at the Ally Pally. (It has since become an annual event that Goans come to from all over the country.) You can picture it. Dominic in the Ally Pally recognises the woman he knew as a girl in Nairobi. She had gone to live in Germany and they had lost touch. He then… But it is unMole-like to intrude on such a scene.

The earliest records suggest that the guild of Ironmongers, then known as Ferroners, were an effective body in 1300, when they took action against the smiths of the Wealds of Kent and Sussex over the quality of iron supplied for the wheels of carts in the City of London.

"I rented the shop for £300 a month. I knew nothing about the business. The suppliers who in those days used to come to the shop told me what to get in and what to charge. My wife worked with me every day until our first daughter was born. She still does all the books today.

"We used to open up at 8.30 and work till 6.00, and after that I would do plumbing. That was what kept us going. And I would also do some carpentry. We sold timber and people would come in and ask for some shelving boards, and then they would ask me to fit them. Over the next few years I got more into plumbing so another brother of mine, Tony, joined us. I now had three daughters so we had help from them, especially my youngest, Vanessa, who would help on Saturdays. Then my brother Albert joined me. He was working at VW as a customer service manager. With him bringing his service skills and my practical know-how, we gradually built the shop up."

But as usual the Mole has to digress a little. Hardware shops are not the ironmongers they once were. The earliest records suggest that the guild of Ironmongers, then known as Ferroners, were an effective body in 1300, when they took action against the smiths of the Wealds of Kent and Sussex over the quality of iron supplied for the wheels of carts in the City of London. The Ironmongers received a grant of arms in 1455, describing them as the "Honourable Crafte and Fellasship of Fraunchised Men of Iromongers". The company's arms embody various iron and steel objects, with two salamanders as acrest, medieval salamanders reputedly being able to survive fire.



The company's buildings in Fenchurch Street escaped the Great Fire of 1666, but in the First World War during a raid by about twenty German aeroplanes on 7 July 1917 – bet you didn't know there were air-raids on London as early as 1916 – it was damaged by a bomb. After the war, the site was sold and the building demolished. The present Ironmongers' Hall now stands in Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate Street; the land was bought in 1922, and the Hall opened on 17 June 1925.




Can't you just see Dominic in his ceremonial robes, ermine-lined, presiding over the Worshipful Company? – But that is fantasy.

However, the stroke that Dominic suffered four years ago was no fantasy. He says it was a wake-up call. It was time to think of the future and to hand over to his oldest daughter Eve D'Silva and her husband Muhibur (Mo) Raham.

Eve has studied art and design with photography and is also qualified in events management; her husband Mo has studied media and art and design, but more importantly he has worked for several years in the retail industry, managing stores and displays for a major company. Between the two of them Eve and Mo seem to have what it takes to make Mercury Stores thrive.

Eve says: "Even when I was a little girl, Dad used to bring me to the shop at weekends and would pay me to helpout. And when he was doing plumbing work, I would hand him the tools and watch. Once we've got on top of the shop, I would like to start doing events work one day, and I would like to make more use of my photography."

Away from the shop Mo kicks a football around somewhere in North London a couple of nights a week and at the weekend. He plays for an amateur league team, Wood Green Old Boys. His ambition, however, is to work with Eve to maintain Mercury Stores as an essential part of the Primrose Hill community. Eve and Mo know that their relationship with the customers is what will keep them in business in the face of superstores and the internet. Indeed, they have plans and ideas for the future. Clearly space in the shop is limited, but they know that their customers would like a key-cutting service, so this is on their to-do list. Their motto might well be: "If we don't have it, we can get it for you. But if we can't get it, you don't need it."

**The Mole on the Hill**

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International Wine Challenge
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172 Regent's Park Road
Primrose Hill
NW1 8XN
bottleapostle.com
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NW1

# Primrose Hill Eats

With picnic time and outside eating upon us at last, we asked Melrose & Morgan for a tasty recipe. Here is their scrumptious suggestion.



## Sausage Rolls

The balance of flavoursome fat to meat is important for a good sausage roll. Some use pork belly, but we use streaky bacon to bring extra flavour. Breadcrumbs help retain the moisture and give a soft eating quality.

### Ingredients: makes 6

1 onion
6 sprigs of oregano
4 rashers of streaky bacon (rind cut off)
250 g ready-made puff pastry sheet
½ tbsp flavourless vegetable oil
½ tsp sea salt
300 g minced shoulder of pork
50 g dried breadcrumbs
½ tsp freshly ground white pepper
1 egg, lightly beaten
fennel and onion seeds (optional)

### Equipment

Sharp knife and chopping board
rolling pin
frying pan
mixing bowl
piping bag and 5 cm nozzle (optional)
pastry brush
baking sheet

### Preparation

Peel and finely chop the onion.
Wash and strip the oregano and chop the leaves.
Mince the bacon.
Roll out the pastry into a rough 50 x 20 cm rectangle and chill in the fridge. Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/gas mark 5.

### Method

Sweat the chopped onion and oregano in the oil in a frying pan, seasoning with the salt, until all is soft and translucent, but without colour. Set aside to cool. Mix the pork and bacon together in a bowl and add the onions, breadcrumbs and white pepper. Stuff into a piping bag fitted with a 5 cm nozzle, if you like. Pipe the meat down the length of the pastry. Or form it into a sausage shape and place it there. Brush one side of the pastry with the egg. Flip the other side of the pastry over to cover the meat. Seal the pastry with a fork and cut into six neat rolls.

Place on a baking sheet. Glaze with more egg and, if you like, sprinkle with the seeds. Bake for 25 minutes until golden brown and cooked through.

Best served warm.

**Melrose & Morgan,**
**42 Gloucester Avenue**
**NW1 8JD 020 7722 0011**

**This is what Bottle Apostle suggests you might like to drink with it:**

**Adega de Moncao Vinho Verde 2015 £9**
A classic picnic wine with a bright citrus core, hints of stone fruit and a dry refreshing spritz.

**Pittnauer Velvet NV £13**
A fruity medium-bodied wine with juicy acidity, gentle tannins and a dark bramble fruit core.

**And here are some other suggestions from Bottle Apostle for wine and beer to enjoy when eating outdoors this summer:**

**Colet Tradicional Extra Brut NV £15.80**
Elegant with lifted citrus notes persisting on the palate and a fine dry finish. A perfect aperitif.

**Pittnauer Rosé 2015 £13**
Making the cut as our house rosé. Versatile, aromatic with subtle berry fruit and silky on the palate.

**Beavertown Neck Oil Session IPA (33cl can) £2.20**
Light, crisp and too drinkable! Delicate aromas of grapefruit and an expertly balanced hop profile.

**Kernel Brewery Table Beer (33cl) £2**
A full-flavoured hop-driven style made specifically with an alcohol level rarely surpassing 3.2%. Made for long days in the sun.

**Bottle Apostle**
**172 Regent's Park Road**
**NW1 8XN 020 3805 5577**

**Turn to Market Place on pages 26-27 for all opening times.**



# What's On



## Dates to put in your June diary

**WEDNESDAY 1**

**'Needlepoint Exhibition'**
Come along to this very special exhibition. 29 King Henrys Road.10am - 4.30pm. For further details contact Anna: 020 7419 9941.

**Open House: Roundhouse Tour**
Meet at 1.15pm at The Roundhouse in Chalk Farm Road, NW1 8EH. Followed by tea and cake.

**THURSDAY 2**

**Author talk at the Library**
Local author Liza Klaussmann celebrates publication day of the paperback of her novel *Villa America*. PHCL. 7pm, £2 at the door, including a glass of wine.

**SUNDAY 5**

**Escape the Hamster Wheel**
"All the ordinary made extraordinary." Ecotherapy on the Hill: Mindfulness in Nature. 11am-12pm. £12.
More details at
www.smelltheraindrops.com.

**Primrose Hill Opera Cabaret**
An enchanting evening with a touch of glamour, an outstanding young opera and a fun dining experience. Cecil Sharp House. 6pm -10pm. For tickets visit: http://www.operacabaret.org/

**TUESDAY 7**

**Film Show at the Library**
***"The past is a foreign country . . ."***
The Go-Between, (1970), starring Alan Bates & Julie Christie, director Joseph Losey. PHCL, 7.30pm. £8 including a glass of wine.

**Primrose Hill lecture series: Chris Bickerton & Jesse Norman MP - on Deciding Europe**
A chance to clarify your thoughts about the greatest political decision of our generation. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ. Buy tickets online:
www.stmaryprimrosehill.com/events.

**Exhibition of new paintings by Adrian Hemming**
Private View. Michael Nadra Restaurant 18:30 – 20:00 Canapés & drinks
http://restaurant-michaelnadra.co.uk/primrose

**WEDNESDAY 8**

**Open House:**
**'With clarinet and rifle'**
Dr Kevin Bucknall survived military service in Malaya, dance bands up North, and university teaching. Music and the spoken word. PHCC. 2pm. Followed by tea and cake.

**★★★ EDITOR'S CHOICE ★★★**

**SATURDAY 11**

**Primrose Hill Summer Fair**
Join us at the Primrose Hill Community Association Annual Summer fair.
A fun day for all the family with performances, games, food and much more. Chalcot Square NW1. 1.30-5pm.

**Bottle Apostle**
**Presents: Saturday Sparkling**
A taste of our top sparkling wines this season – all under £20. Bottle Apostle, Primrose Hill.1-5pm. FREE.

**SUNDAY 12**

**Primrose Hill Tree Walk**
Identify interesting trees with Bettina, tree enthusiast, member of International Society of Dendrology. Meet by gate corner of PH Road and RP Road. 2.30-4.30pm. Free, donations welcome. www.transitionprimrosehill.org.

**TUESDAY 14**

**Primrose Hill Patient Participation Group**
Open Meeting: Dr Lim will answer questions about general practice.Plus updates from Age UK and Health Watch Camden.All PH Surgery patients welcome.PHCL. 6.30–8pm. Contact: primrosehillppg@gmail.com

**WEDNESDAY 15**

**Primrose Hill lecture series: Jancis Robinson - on Everyday Wine**
A pithy and myth-busting guide to everyday drinking. Liberate your preconceptions and join us for an evening to savour. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ. Buy tickets online:
www.stmaryprimrosehill.com/events.

**THURSDAY 16**

**'Half Hitch Sampling' at the Queens**
Mark Holdsworth has reinvigorated memories of 'Juniper Crescent' and brought back gin distillation to Camden. Hear his story and sample his perfect serve. Queens's pub, from 7pm

**SATURDAY 18**

**Bingo for over 60s**
Hosted by 6th formers with free raffle and refreshments. Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill. 2-4pm. 60p/£3. For enquires contact Nikki on: 02074248366.

**SUNDAY 19**

**Escape the Hamster Wheel**
"All the ordinary made extraordinary." Ecotherapy on the Hill: Mindfulness in Nature. 11am-12pm. £12. More details: www.smelltheraindrops.com.

**WEDNESDAY 22**

**Open House: 'Her Secret Rose'**
Orna Ross's novel brings to life the relationship of Yeats and Maud Gonne in 1890's Dublin, Paris and London. PHCC. 2pm. Followed by tea and cake.

**Primrose Hill Lecture Series: Andrew O'Hagan & Jonathan Coe on the State-of-the-Nation Novel**
Award-winning writers Andrew O'Hagan and Jonathan Coe will be in conversation about their state-of-the-nation novels, spotlighting the humour and pathos of how we live now. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ. Buy tickets online:
www.stmaryprimrosehill.com/events.

**FRIDAY 24**

The Fitzroy Club presents
Primrose Hill Open Mic Comedy Night
Free admission 19:00 – 22:00
PH Community Centre
http://thefitzroy.club

**SATURDAY 25**

**Primrose Hill Choir presents: 'All you need is Love'**
An evening of classic and popular love songs. St Marys NW33DJ. £10, concs £8, under 13s free

**SUNDAY 26**

**Local history walk: "Hampstead town: The famous & the poor"**
Friends of St Mary's hosts final walk of season, led by qualified guide David Brown. Flash Walk - passing the homes of notable past residents as well as the less fortunate at the old workhouse.2.30pm Tickets £10 with proceeds supporting local youth work. Available online
thefriendsofstmarys.org. Contact: 020 7722 3238.

**WEDNESDAY 29**

**Open House: Film screening 'Empire of the Sun'**
An English boy struggles to survive Japanese occupation during World War 2. PHCC. 2pm. Followed by tea and cake.

**Primrose Hill lecture series: Charles Moore with Joan Bakewell: Margaret Thatcher**
Moore offers unprecedented insight into Thatcher's years in power- and what she really thought. In conversation with Joan Bakewell. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ. Buy tickets online:
www.stmaryprimrosehill.com/events

## FURTHER DATES

**WEDNESDAY 6 JULY**

**Primrose Hill lecture series: Andrea Wulf: Von Humboldt's Legacy**
Historian Andrea Wulf brings to life the legendary brilliance of Alexander Von Humboldt, Wulf's award winning biography explores Humboldt's life and legacy which remains deeply influential today. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ. Buy tickets online:
www.stmaryprimrosehill.com/events

**Please submit entries for our July - August edition by Wednesday 25th May.**
**onthehillwhatson@phca.cc**

**PHCC**
**Primrose Hill Community Centre**
**29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Road), NW1 8TN**
**Contact: info@phca.cc**
**020 7586 8327**
**PHCL**
**Primrose Hill Community Library**
**Sharples Hall Street, NW1 8YN**
**Contact: events@phcl.org**
**02074196599**

**Please check with class organisers for end of term dates.**

## REGULAR EVENTS FOR THE GROWING

**MONDAY**

**Ready Steady Go Creative Workshops**
Dance, music and singing for children aged 15 months to 3 years. PHCC. 10.15am-11am. To Book 020 7586 5862

**Library Rhyme Time for Under 5's**
Drop-in session where adults and children sing together. PHCL 10.30 am-11.15am. Suggest £2 donation.

**Circus Glory**
Trapeze for 3-12 years old. PHCC. 3.00pm-6.30pm.
gmonastesse@googlemail.com

**Homework Club for Over 5's**
Drop-in for help with homework and reading. PHCL. 4pm-6pm. Free.

POSITION ONLY

**Perform**
Drama, dance and singing for 4-7 years. PHCC. 4pm-6pm.

## TUESDAY

**Monkey Music**
Music and play for under 5's. PHCC. 9.30am-11.30am. Trial class free, subsequent classes £11.

**Olé Kids Spanish**
Spanish classes for children aged 6months to 4 years. PHCL. 4pm-5pm. Contact: lola.ferdez@gmail.com

**Creative Movements: Weekly Workshops**
13 week workshops. Friendly and dynamic class that explores movement and creativity through story and music. Children aged 3 - 4+ years (until 12 July). 3-3.45pm. St Marys Church, NW3 3DJ. £130. www.creativemovements.co.uk

**Creative Movements: World Dance**
13 week workshops. Friendly and dynamic class that explores movement and creativity through story and music. Children aged 4 - 6 years (until 12 July) 4 - 4.45pm. St Marys Church, NW3 3DJ. £130. www.creativemovements.co.uk

**Music & Rhyme Time for the Under 4's.**
Drop in sessions at the PHCC. 4.30pm - 5pm. £1

**Strings Club**
Classes for children. PHCC. 4pm-6pm.

**Catherine's Ballet, Chalk Farm School of Dance 3 and up**
Ballet classes. Chalk Farm Baptist Church 4.15pm-6.45pm.
www.chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk
info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk
info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk

## WEDNESDAY

**Ready Steady Go Creative Workshops**
Dance, music and singing for children aged 15 months to 3 years. PHCC. 10.15am -11am. 020 7586 5862.

**Circus Glory**
Trapeze for 3 -12 years old. PHCC 2.30pm - 6.30pm.
gmonastesse@googlemail.com

**Primrose Hill Children's Choir**
Fun songs and games, exciting performances. Come along and sing with us. 4 -11 years. St Marys Church, NW3. 4pm - 5pm during term time
First time free, £8 per week.
www.primrosehillchoirs.com

## THURSDAY

**Ready Steady Go Creative Workshops**
Exploratory play, singing, dance and stories for children aged 6 -15 months PHCC. 9.45am -10.45am. To book 020 7586 5862

**Drop-in for Under 4's**
Drop in and take part in a variety of activities. PHCC. 11.15am -1pm. £2.50

**First Class Learning**
Tuition in English and Maths. Classes at the PHCL. 3.30pm - 6pm.
primrosehill@firstclasslearning.co.uk

**Catherine's Ballet for Under 5's**
Ballet classes. Located at the PHCC.4pm-5pm.
www.chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk
info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk

**Music & Rhyme Time for Under 4's**
Drop in held at the PHCC. 4.30pm - 5pm. £1

## FRIDAY

**Circus Glory**
Trapeze for 3-12 years old. PHCC. 3pm - 6.30pm.
gmonastesse@googlemail.com

**Homework Club for Over 5's**
Drop-in for help with homework and reading. PHCL. 4pm-6pm. Free

**Pitta Patta Dance for creative 5-16 years.**
Classes at the PHCC. 4pm - 5.30pm
juliet@pittapattadance.co.uk

## SATURDAY

**Catherine's Ballet 5 and up**
Ballet classes. Chalk Farm Baptist Church 9.30am -1.30pm.
www.chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk
info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co

## SUNDAY

**Perform**
Drama, dance and singing for 4-7 years. PHCC. 9.30am-1pm. 020 7209 3805

# REGULAR EVENTS FOR THE GROWN

## MONDAY

**ACOL Bridge Club**
Located at the PHCL. 1.45pm - 3.45pm £3

**Circus Glory: Trapeze For Adults**
All levels welcome. PHCC 1.30pm - 2.45pm. gmonastesse@googlemail.com

**Neighbours' Help Information Session**
Drop-in service for help with form filling and accessing services. PHCL. 2pm-4pm. Free

**Boules (Petanque)**
Friendly group meets at 5pm on Primrose Hill, next to children's playground. PHCC: 020 7586 8327

**Chilled Strings**
Small amateur string chamber orchestra, guided by professional tutor Kwesi Edman. PHCC. 6.30pm-8.45pm. £10 for each evening.
sueandhercello@gmail.com

**Bridge Club for Beginners/ Intermediates**
Located at the PHCL.7-9pm. £3. jojarrold@gmail.com

**Primrose Hill Community Choir**
Love to sing? Try us out! All welcome. PHCC. 7.30pm-9.30pm. £5. Hear us and details at: www.primrosehillchoirs.com

**The Queens Quiz**
Weekly Quiz held on Monday's. £2 to play with the winning team taking it all! Free drinks for bonus rounds and runner up. The Queens Pub & Dining rooms, Regent's Park Road NW1. 8pm.

## TUESDAY

**Pilates in the Library**
Dynamic classes 10.15am - 11.15am
Gentle classes 11.30am - 12.30pm
PHCL. Each session £12.
lizacawthorn@gmail.com

**ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)**
Exciting programme for those who live in English Speaking Countries, but English is not their first language. PHCL. 12 noon -1.30pm. Contact: jojarrold@gmail.com or 07887568822

**Spanish For Beginners**
Free class at the PHCC. 1.30pm-3.30pm. info@phca.cc

**Keep Fit for the Over 60's**
Class held at the PHCC. 3pm-4pm. Free

**General Yoga**
Classes held at the PHCC. 6.30pm-8pm. cat.b1@blueyonder.co.uk

## WEDNESDAY

**Primrose Hill Neighbour Help**
Information session in the lounge of Jacqueline House. Open to anyone for help with form-filling and accessing services. Oldfield Estate. 10am - 12 noon. Free

**Lunch Club Over 50's**
Freshly cooked, hearty meals every Wednesday and Friday at Jacqueline House, Oldfield Estate. 12.30pm. Call 020 7586 8327.

**Circus Glory: Trapeze For Adults**
All levels welcome. PHCC. 1.15pm -2.15pm
gmonastesse@googlemail.com

## THURSDAY

**Yoga**
Energising vinyasa flow, suitable for all except complete beginners. PHCL. 10am-11am. £10 drop in or £36 for 4 consecutive classes. arjeta.whitehouse @gmail.com 07595 982473

**Bridge Club for Beginners/ Intermediates**
10.30-noon. £3 jojarrold@gmail.com

**Poetry Group**
Read and discuss poems, your own or others. 11am-12 noon. Egbert Street. susan.sciama@gmail.com £10

**Gentle but Effective Pilates**
Drop-in Pilates Class. PHCL. 12.30pm - 1.30pm. annie@mactherapy.org

**Narcotics Anonymous**
At the PHCC. 1.30pm-3.45pm. Free.

**Primrose Hill Yoga**
Strengthen, stretch, relax and re-energise. Beginners welcome. 5.30pm-6.30pm. PHCC. £38 for 4 classes (£9.50/class) or £11 drop in. Student and unemployed discount available. carolineshawyoga@gmail.com

**Art Class, Life Drawing**
Class held at the PHCC. 7pm-9.30pm. £7

## FRIDAY

**Mums' Mornings**
Drop-in session for children and adults with toys and books. PHCL. 10.30 am-11.30am. Suggested donation £2

**Art classes for Adults**
Newly organised, Morning Art classes (Wednesday or Friday). Primrose Hill Village. 10.30am - 12.30pm. £35 includes all basic materials. Contact: info@art-buddies.com 07813 808 119 to register your interest

**Lunch Club for the Over 50's**
Freshly cooked, hearty meals every Wednesday and Friday at Jacqueline House, Oldfield Estate. 12.30pm. 020 7586 8327

**Circus Glory: Trapeze For Adults**
All levels welcome. Classes at the PHCC. 1.30pm-2.45pm.
gmonastesse@googlemail.com

**Bottle Apostle: Free Friday Tastings**
Join us every Friday for our free weekly tasting of our newest additions trusted favourites. We also showcase visiting winemakers and/or emerging craft breweries. 4-8pm. Contact: 020 3805 5577

## SATURDAY

**Primrose Hill Market**
Weekly Saturday food market. St Pauls School, Elsworthy Road, NW3. 10am-3pm.
www.primrosehillmarket.com

**Chalk Farm Foodbank**
Located at the Baptist Church, Berkley Road, 11am-1pm.

## SUNDAY

**Hopkinson's Bar**
Meet for a drink with your neighbours. All welcome. PHCC. 12 noon-2pm

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# Primrose Hill Letters

**Dear Editor (March issue),**

Here we go again: since when has Camden Town been part of Primrose Hill?

There is no evidence that the 'the lady in the van' who resided for many years in Alan Bennett's garden ever set foot up the road in Primrose Hill. I often saw Miss Shepherd around Camden Town and am sure that she never strayed out of her comfort zone.

As for praising the new house replacing the old recording studios, it is a monstrous 'white elephant'. I had the earth excavating machine chugging away for the best part of a year under my windows. Tons and tons of earth were removed so that the house in the mews can be connected to the old recording studio at 11a Sharplashall Street. What a waste of money! If anyone does live there, I can't imagine that it will make any contribution to our community.

**Carole Sandman**

**Dear Editor (news report April edition), Fracking on the Hill**

I am astonished and alarmed that fracking on Primrose Hill should even be suggested. Aside from the noise-pollution and view-despoliation which would be caused by this appalling idea is the violation of what has long been felt to be a sacred site.

There are many respected writings that give insights into this largely overlooked aspect of the much-loved hill. It is to be hoped that sensitive remembrance of this wisdom would put an end to the proposal.

Yours **Local resident**

*Editor: That is such a thoughtful letter. Oh dear, I hope we didn't upset our readers. We took a bit of a liberty with our April edition and the tradition of April Fool. We hand-deliver OTH to our readers and it takes about three days, so you might not have received the April issue exactly on the first day of the month, but we hope you enjoyed the joke. This year's April Fool story about 'Fracking' was supposed to lead on from last year's front cover story about the EU saying we couldn't call Primrose Hill 'Primrose' any more because we don't have primroses growing there. That caused a bit of a furore and a twitter storm. Watch out for April 2017!!!*

**Dear Editor (May issue),**

I just wanted to say that I enjoyed the new *On The Hill*; and as a past critic, I was particularly pleased to see the wonderful new map, which labels Ainger Road correctly.

**Dr Matthew Dixon**

***Editor:** Glad you liked it, Matthew.*

**Dear Editor (May issue),**

I agree entirely with Diana Milner about the demise of The Albert. Not only was it a wonderful local pub, but the food was great, particularly the steaks! To eat in the garden in summer or autumn was close to heaven, though it was always important to look out for falling apples! Sadly, the Campbell family are not coming, but have gone!

Another issue is your Market Place section. New arrivals will also need to know about our only supermarket, our celebrity pub, what is probably Primrose Hill's largest restaurant, at least three coffee houses, our only remaining ironmonger, as well as Diana Milner's own business and the very friendly newsagent on the corner by the school – all these are needed to make it complete.

I've no idea how you deal with this: perhaps when suggesting that businesses give you their information, they should be reminded that their competitors are getting publicity while they are not!

Yours sincerely,

**John Lefley**

*Editor: Thank you for your feedback, John. I must explain that the businesses that are included in Market Place do make a financial contribution to be there. At the risk of appearing too 'salesy', we have had a lot of feedback from local residents to say how useful they find this as a quick reference for opening hours and telephone numbers. We hope our readers find the Business Services section useful too.*



# Primrose Hill Opinion

## Shocking Air Pollution Figures for Primrose Hill



According to a 2015 study by King's College London, nitrogen dioxide (NO2), combined with tiny particles in the air, contributes to nearly 9,500 deaths in London every year. Some children in the worst affected areas are growing up with smaller lungs.

The World Health Organisation and the EU say that breathing in more than 20 µg of N02 per cubic meter is dangerous to health, and over 40 is illegal.

Transition Primrose Hill performed a 'citizens' science' study, putting up 20 diffusion tubes around the area for four weeks between 5 March and 2 April. The results are shocking. Not one measurement (the average over the month) was below 34 µg/m3 and no less than 15 out of 20 tubes registered over 40µg/ m3.

What can we do? The main source of NO2 is diesel engines. The number one piece of advice from Professor Frank Kelly, who carried out the King's College research, is to drive less. Even if your car is clean, it is contributing to congestion. Drivers and their passengers are actually exposed to DOUBLE the NO2 of those walking.

"Our schools are in highly polluted areas, with Swiss Cottage Academy showing 69.0, Northbridge House 54.53, St Christina's 48.55, Haverstock 46.2 and St Paul's 40.33. Even Primrose Hill School, on a residential street, had a reading of 39.5. Prince Albert Road by the children's playground registered 41.1, probably because of the coaches that park there and leave their engines running.

What can we do? The main source of NO2 is diesel engines. The number one piece of advice from Professor Frank Kelly, who carried out the King's College research, is to drive less. Even if your car is clean, it is contributing to congestion. Drivers and their passengers are actually exposed to DOUBLE the NO2 of those walking. Try to find less polluted routes to walk; the website www.walkit.com can help here, and schools can map clean air routes and promote them. On busy roads, walk as far as you can from the kerb, which really does make a difference.

Transition Primrose Hill is planning a discussion to raise awareness of this problem in October. Make sure you come along.

In the meantime let your local councillor, London Assembly Member, MP and MEP know that you want action, at every level, and fast. There should be an end to diesel subsidies and a scrappage scheme; rapid conversion of buses, taxis and other public service vehicles to electricity; hefty fines for leaving an engine idling, and much more.

See www.transitionprimrosehill.org for more links and information.

**Doro Marden**



# Primrose Hill Passion

A stitch in time



As we walk through Anna Pearson's living room, she points out a set of gorgeous dining chairs that she has re-upholstered in her own diamond pattern design, each slightly different. Downstairs in her studio the space is calm and organised, with lots of vibrantly coloured projects on display.

"I've lived in Primrose Hill for ten years; before that I lived in Notting Hill, the other Campden with a 'P', Buckinghamshire and Norfolk. I've never understood why anyone would move out of London when they retire, as there's so much going on here; and Primrose Hill is a wonderful community. Needlepoint started as a hobby; my career was in interior decorating, and I saw a gap in the market. John Lewis sells kits, but you can't customise the colours, which makes it quite limiting. I stitch each of the designs I sell myself, and then write up the instructions. It makes a great hobby: the equipment is inexpensive, and it can be done alone or in a 'stitch and bitch' group.

Many of my designs are inspired by my travels. One is based on a stunning ceiling I saw in Aleppo, just before the shootings started in Syria. That building became an ammunition store and was later blown up.



The above design is based on a ceiling in Aleppo.

Another design was inspired by cathedral tiles in Christchurch, New Zealand, since destroyed by the earthquake. It's nice to remember these places through my work.





On 1 June I am holding an exhibition and celebration of 45 years of needlepoint. It has become a passion for me and has changed my life.








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We organise trips to Italy: June will be our ninth visit to the south-west coast where we enjoy stunning sunsets over Stromboli. Many widowed or single women want to go on special interest holidays, and needlepoint is perfect. Our stitching is punctuated by ice cream breaks: if the local gelateria closed, there would be mutiny! Evenings are spent with delicious food and wine in the garden. This September we are doing our first trip to Tuscany. Everyone will do the same project: a design of a Pascal lamb, the symbol of the guild of wool merchants of Florence. Usually people do different projects, so it will be interesting to see whether all the lambs come out the same.

On 1 June I am holding an exhibition and celebration of 45 years of needlepoint. It has become a passion for me and has changed my life. I have met the loveliest, most fabulous people. For me, the most important things are friendly classes, good quality materials and new designs."

**As told to Tillie Sklair**

**Celebration exhibition of 45 Years of Needlepoint**
**Wednesday 1st June 2016**
**10.00 to 16.30**
**29 King Henry's Road**
**NW3 3QR**

**Photography Lars Christiansen**





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# Primrose Hill is Reading

## On my bedside table

**This is the first of a new series of articles in which local residents tell us what they're reading at the moment. Shanti used to work for the Department for Education, volunteers at the library and is now retraining as a counsellor.**

***Grief is the Thing with Feathers***
**Max Porter**
An amazing first book. I gobbled it up in one sitting. More poetry than prose, often grisly and funny, it describes how a crow helps a man and his twin sons through the loss of wife and mother.

***All the Light We Cannot See***
**Anthony Doerr**
Set in the Second World War, it is an unlikely tale of how the paths of a young blind French girl and a German engineering genius of a soldier cross. The detailed observation and Doerr's ability to enter into his characters' world made it a real page-turner.

***Alive, Alive Oh, and other things that matter***
**Diana Athill**
A memoir of Diana's life in her 100th year. A former Primrose Hill resident for over 50 years, she now lives in a retirement home in Highgate. I love the clarity of her writing. She evokes the essence of things and is refreshingly direct about her attitude to life in her 90s.

***Flood of Fire***
**Amitav Ghosh**
The last in the Ibis Trilogy, which I was so looking forward to. I found it a little disappointing after *The Sea of Poppies* and *The River of Smoke*, which were utterly engrossing and delightful. It felt as if Ghosh had moved on and lost interest. The tying up of all the plot lines was laboured and the feeling was downbeat.

***The End of Days***
**Jenny Erpenbeck**
A story of a family in Eastern Europe during the early 20th century. Translated from the German by Susan Bernofsky, it describes two scenarios of a couple escaping to America: in one, their baby dies; in the other, the baby survives and her life is traced through a set of potential outcomes.

***Faces of Love***
**Hafez** translated by **Dick Davis**
I fell in love with Hafez's poetry after I visited his birthplace, Shiraz, in Iran. A lover of wine and women, he moves effortlessly from lyrical landscape through carousing, romantic and carnal love, to the mystical in Sufism.



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# Primrose Hill Families

What's on and where – just for little ones

The idea for Pramstead came to Charlotte Samuel when she was pregnant with her first daughter in 2012. She was doing an NCT course with the famous Ruth Tamir in Belsize Park and came across many courses and meetups for expectant and new parents, but there was no centralised listings service. Many of the smaller classes didn't have websites, so parents relied on finding flyers or word-of-mouth recommendtions. Her vision was to bring all the local resources for families together in one place, with easy search functions and lists of schools, nurseries and child-friendly amenities.

The site's name comes from the affectionate nickname for Hampstead's reputation as a baby haven; and a quick glance around Primrose Hill shows how many people choose our area to raise their families.

Originally from Germany, Charlotte lived in many cities around Europe before settling in London in 2010. Moving from Marylebone in 2012, her affection for this area is evident – her second daughter is called Valerie Primrose! She is passionate about helping people through the tough periods of early parenthood. The advantages of are huge, for mental health and keeping up spirits. Charlotte did not return to her



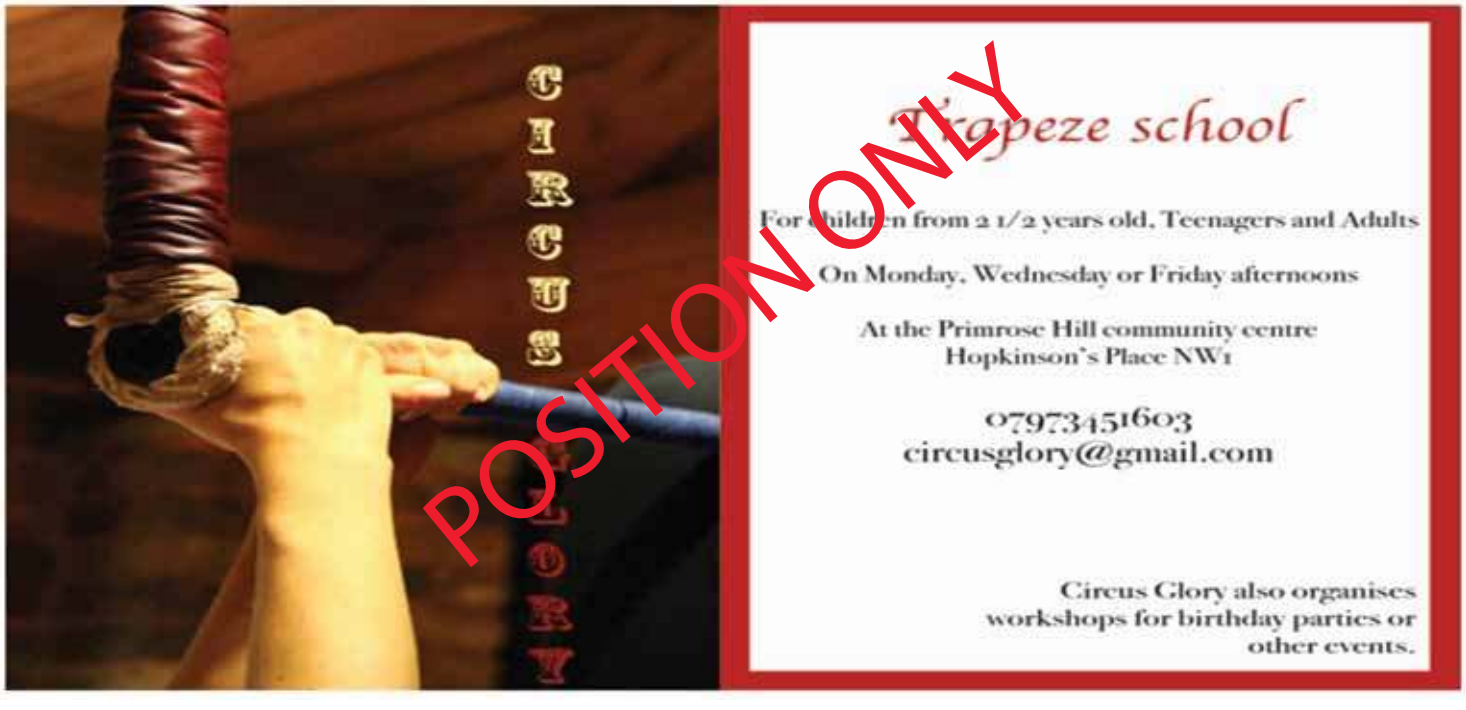


pre-baby career in medical communications – it just didn't have her heart. The Pramstead project has kept her busy and inspired and she is excited to see where it will go.

Many of the classes featured on the Pramstead website are run in community centres, so the site also promotes them to new audiences. Launched just three weeks ago, there have already been more than 4,000 page views, and Charlotte has begun to be approached by people wanting their classes to feature on the site. It is astonishing to see the variety of activities going on right here in Primrose Hill, from a specialist pram-cleaning service to baby salsa, and a dizzying array of language classes and meet-ups, showing the number of bilingual families in the area.

The site's name comes from the affectionate nickname for Hampstead's reputation as a baby haven; and a quick glance around Primrose Hill shows how many people choose our area to raise their families. A resource like Pramstead will help parents and young children flourish. After all, kids are the future of our community.

**Tillie Sklair**



# PH News & Views

## **A bird in the hand** (or on the roof!)

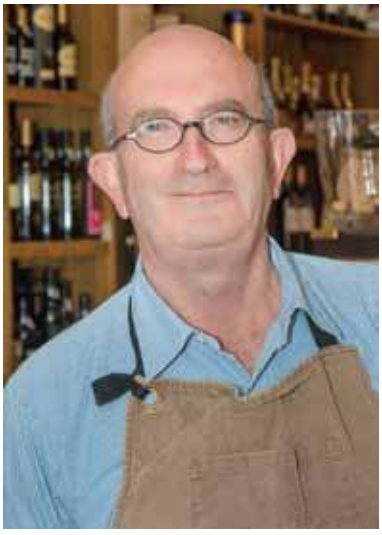
I live in view of Primrose Hill and I was sitting at my desk when look what landed on the roof. I heard him call. Happily returned to London Zoo. It was not shy and all the other birds came to see who the stranger was!

**Denise Shenton**



## Au revoir et salut

Another month, another retirement on Regent's Park Road. This time it is Stephane Guiraud; he has been manager of Nicolas for the last 16 years, and his last day in the wine shop is 30 June. "I love it in Primrose Hill, it is village-like, all the residents are so nice and enjoy a glass of wine … or a bottle. A lot of people pop in after years to say hello, because they know I'm here; I've never had a real problem with a customer, not once."



Stephane has no special plans for his retirement: "J'ai décidé de ne rien décider." He is proud to say that he has never once taken the Tube in all his time in London: when he is not working he has time to take the bus. Now he'll have even less reason to go underground.

"What is the best wine? Ah, the one that you have yet to drink, an unexpected discovery in the style you are looking for and that you didn't try yet."



## Joan Bakewell & Sue MacGregor Interview Each Other

At the recent Library conversation at Cecil Sharp House, a hushed audience contributed funds to hear Joan Bakewell and Sue MacGregor reminisce about their early days at the BBC and the pleasures of their current programmes and activities.



Among other revelations, Sue recalled her first day on the Today programme when she found a 'pre-owned' bottle of Night Nurse in the desk drawer which, on closer inspection, contained whisky from which John Timpson 'took little sips'.

Joan once covered the budget special on PM when she had to introduce the next speaker without knowing who he was. She asked tentatively, "What do you make of the situation?" The reply came, "It's cloudy in the north-east."

Sue spoke about *The Reunion* and how impossible it is sometimes when the one person needed to complete the programme will not agree to do it. An example was trying to get Peter Mandelson for a programme on Blair's election team. He was said to run a mile from Alistair Campbell, but after a year did agree to come on air.

When asked about their sexiest and their nastiest interviewees, Joan said Paul Newman and Jimmy Stewart, but Sue named Robert Maxwell as the nastiest and Charlton Heston, in his Savoy Hotel room clad only in a towel, as one of the sexiest.

They both ended with warnings about the current BBC review: Joan saying "Don't dismantle the BBC" and Sue adding that "It is a hugely dangerous time for the BBC."



The new landscapes mainly have their origins in the mountain ranges of the Majella National Park, Abruzzo and a small hidden pond on the Island of Jersey. These are two totally differing environments: one is soaring snow- capped peaks and wild weather, with the other domestic in scale but no less intense and beautiful.

## Peaks on the Hill

Throughout June, the Michael Nadra Restaurant will host an exhibition of new paintings by local, internationally acclaimed landscape painter Adrian Hemming.

The new landscapes mainly have their origins in the mountain ranges of the Majella National Park, Abruzzo and a small hidden pond on the Island of Jersey. These are two totally differing environments: one is soaring snow-capped peaks and wild weather, with the other domestic in scale but no less intense and beautiful. Adrian has twice been short-listed for the Artist in Residence at the National Gallery, London. He has lectured and exhibited widely in England, Scotland, America and South Africa. His work can be found in many private and public collections, as well as on public view in Terminal One, Heathrow Airport, as a result of a major commission by BAA.

**Opening on 7 June; private view 18:30 - 20:00; canapés and drinks.**

## Chalcot Square Gardens open

The Friends of Chalcot Square Gardens have asked us to let our readers know that they have recently been notified by Camden Council that they are exploring their approach to





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locking parks, as part of an exercise to reduce costs.

Chalcot Square will be included in a pilot scheme which runs from 20 May to 26 June, during which the Square will not be locked at night. The unlocked parks will be monitored though park security and police reports.

We are urged to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour to the Police on 111, or 999 in an emergency.

**Caroline and John Strachan**
Chairs, Friends of Chalcot Square Gardens

## Toot toot!

A young vintage car enthusiast, Albion Scott (9 years of age) organised a local rally for friends on Saturday 14 May. They rendezvoused outside the Lansdowne Pub and then set off on an 11-mile adventure around Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park, returning for lunch and a chat to share their experiences (and breakdowns!).

Albion explained that "I first wrote a little flyer which I put under the windscreen wipers of classic cars I liked around Primrose Hill, and the next day the ower of my favourite, a 1960s





Jensen, wrote back saying he would come along. I jumped so high with excitement I banged my head, and that's how The Primrose Hill Classic Car Rally all began!"

## SUMMER FAIR HELPERS

**We need your help. Come along and join in the fun of putting on the Chalcot Square Fair. Help us get donations, be a super salesperson on one of the stalls, mix cocktails, clear up and celebrate at the end of the day. If you could volunteer to man a stall, a sideshow or help set up, contact Mick Hudspeth on 0207 586 8327 or info@phca.cc**

**PRIMROSE HILL SUMMER FAIR, CHALCOT SQUARE, SATURDAY 11 JUNE, 13.30 – 17.00**

## PHCA IT HELPERS

**We also need specialist IT help all year round:**
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**Website Wizard**
**Update our website on a regular basis.**
**Ebay Expert**
**PHCA is often gifted things to sell, from bicycles to artworks. Could you take on getting a good price for them on eBay?**
**Contact Mick on 0207 586 8327 to talk about these and other tasks.**



**Sophie Levi**

## Contemporary Landscapes

During May, artist Sophie Levi (based in Primrose Hill) collaborated with fellow artist Tess Recordon for an exhibition of their work at Highgate Gallery. Sophie explained: "It has been a great opportunity to showcase our work and we have been thrilled by the response." To see more of their paintings, go to www.sophielevi.com and www.tessrecordon.com

We have just heard that Sophie's painting 'Camden Town Rail Bridge' is included in the New English Art Club exhibition, 16-26 June at Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1 and 35 new limited edition prints of her paintings are available online at: www.sophieleviprints.com



**Tess Recordon**

## Waiter/ress/Barperson

Do you enjoy serving food and drinks and cheerful chatting? The lunch club on Wednesdays and Fridays and the Hopkinson's Bar on a Sunday are for you! If you would like to volunteer, please telephone for more information on 020 7586 8327 or email info@phca.cc

**News & Views Editor: Sarah Smith**





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If you would like your business to appear on these pages please contact: onthehillads@phca.cc

# PH Business Services

Here is a new *OTH* listing that we would like to expand over the months to come. We hope our readers will find it useful.

**The Posh Locksmith**

Matthew Green set up KEYS GALORE locksmith service for Primrose Hill in 1982. Local door opening and Master Locksmith service 24/7. Installing the best-registered locks, insurance and police approved security devices HS BS EU. Call: 07738573247
Email: matthew@poshlocksmith.com

**Radi Lyubenov Osteopath**

Sport Massage and Acupuncture therapist. 7 Adelaide Road, Chalk Farm, NW3 3QE Thursdays 09.00 - 17.00. 10% discount for children, students and pensioners. Call: 07871 373680 Email: osteopath.radilyubenov@gmail.com www.northlondon-osteopathy.co.uk

**Piano tuning and restoration**

Local specialist with experience of working with a range of clients including ENO, recording studios, professional musicians, schools, private homes. Soon for sale, refurbished Steinway model "O" grand, beautiful touch and tone. Call: 07989139916 Email: mssurrey@yahoo.com www.londonpianotuner.com

**J. P. Walker, Painting and Decorating**

A professional service provided by a locally based tradesman with over 25 years experience. Free estimates and advice. Call: 07517 99 59 89 Email: nw3handy@gmail.com

**Sort & Survive**

Advice and practical help with cataloging, donation or sale of artworks, antiques and books.
Call: 07747 111561
sortandsurvive@scudamore.demon.co.uk

**If you would like to include your business in this directory please contact onthehillads@phca.com**

# PH Market Place News in June

This column brings our readers a selection of what is new and current with our local businesses.

**Pamela Shiffer (30)**

Stepping into Pamela Shiffer this summer will take you on a journey around all your favourite destinations. She has all your essential holiday wardrobe covered along with your favourite summer styles, including wedding and event outfits. Come in and let us take you on that journey. Tel: 020 7483 4483

**Privato (49)**

Get gorgeous into summer with the very best hair and beauty services delivered by PRIVATO Primrose-Hill! Their talented international team are please to offer a 25% discount till the 30 June. Tel: 020 7586 6887

**Primrose Bakery (17)**

We are offering a delicious and refreshing selection of cold drinks for Spring/Summer, including iced coffees and tea, coke floats, and a wide range of milkshakes such as Oreo, Nutella and many more! Tel 020 7483 4222

**Ripe Kitchen(11)**

Come and freshen up this summer with our new breakfast menu, also introducing our new and long awaited Green, Yellow and Red Smoothies, Cold Brew Coffee and Iced Teas. Tel : 07572 480 102

**Sweet Pea Jewellery (7)**

Our boutique on Gloucester Avenue is a jewellery treasure trove offering our own 18ct gold handmade, delicate designs alongside other designers including Polly Wales, Phoebe Coleman, Brooke Gregson. We also offer a bespoke service
Tel : 020 7722 9292

**Negozio Classica (34)**

Very happy to announce that we have extended our wine selection with a new range of organic and bio-dynamic ones for the most demanding wine lovers. Tel: .0207 483 4492

Knight Frank




# CELEBRATING 1 YEAR IN OUR HOME

Since opening our doors in 2015 we have been delighted to help people find their perfect homes. Whether you are looking to buy, rent, sell or let, our team in Belsize Park are perfectly positioned to market your property or help you in your search.

Thank you for your support over the year please do not hesitate to contact us.

POSITION ONLY

**020 3815 3350**
**KnightFrank.co.uk/belsizepark**

# Hello Primrose Hill

With so much going on in May, see who was out and about.

PH Library Open Mic
An evening with Joan Bakewell and Sue MacGregor
Primrose Hill Festival



Don, Ellen, Sarah & Uravi @ Open Mic



Paul & Rick "The Elderly Brothers" @ Open Mic



Jess & Maureen @ Open Mic



Adam & Katherine @ Joan & Sue



Anna & Susan @ Joan & Sue



Paul & Gwenneth @ Joan & Sue



Edith & Peter @ Joan & Sue



Garry & Zeti @ Joan & Sue



Natasha & Catherine @ Joan & Sue



DJ Freddie Bongos, Collette & Mike @ Festival



Kristina & Tania @ Festival



Caroline & Simon @ Festival

**Photography Lars Christiansen**




G&H's new Camden Office

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