ON THE HILL

FREE

JUNE 2023



Hadley Freeman
on Journalism
and Anorexia

PLUS

From Russia to Primrose Hill:
One Year On

Primrose Hill in WWII

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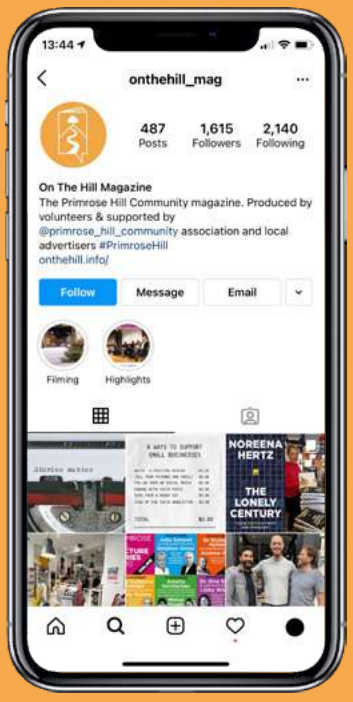
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SUMMER 2023

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PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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www.phca.cc

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

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Sarah Louise Ramsay

Thanks to the Princess, the Lansdowne and Sam's Cafe

ISSN 20-6175

Editor's Letter



Welcome to June

It's strange to think that the last time we celebrated a coronation, we were fresh out of the Second World War. Many people in Primrose Hill lost their lives and were injured, and many houses were damaged. There were anti-aircraft guns at the top of Primrose Hill and air raid shelters at the foot of the hill. It's hard to imagine now, but Martin Sheppard brings a taste of what our neighbourhood was like in wartime on page 22.

The recent coronation sparked street parties in the area which were joyous celebrations of community. It was lovely reconnecting with neighbours I'd met at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations last summer. The best part was having the street closed and all the kids playing football together. Must we always wait for the Royals to do something significant before we fraternise with our neighbours!

However, there are still plenty of opportunities to socialise throughout the summer. The Primrose Hill Festival and Dog Show will be back on Regent's Park Road on 11 June, and the Primrose Hill Community Association will hold a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in Chalcot Square on Sunday 2 July. The Friends of Regent's Park and Primrose Hill have a full schedule of events, and the Primrose Hill Lecture Series will run through June covering a range of topical issues. Check out all the details, and more, inside.

The gloriously verdant Hadley Freeman on the front cover has been a big supporter of community events in Primrose Hill since she moved here. In this issue she speaks to the Mole on the Hill about journalism and her struggles with anorexia, which are recorded in her latest book, *Good Girls*.

So you now have all the information you need to navigate your way around Primrose Hill this summer. Enjoy!

Maggie Chambers



COSTE BENO

Come with us on a journey where beautiful architecture meets fine craftsmanship

Photo: Grade II listed building refurbishment in Primrose Hill

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ON THE STREET

The Camden Highline (p8)

Primrose Hill Quiz (p9)

Friends of Chalcot Square (p12)

From Russia to Primrose Hill (p13)

AND MORE

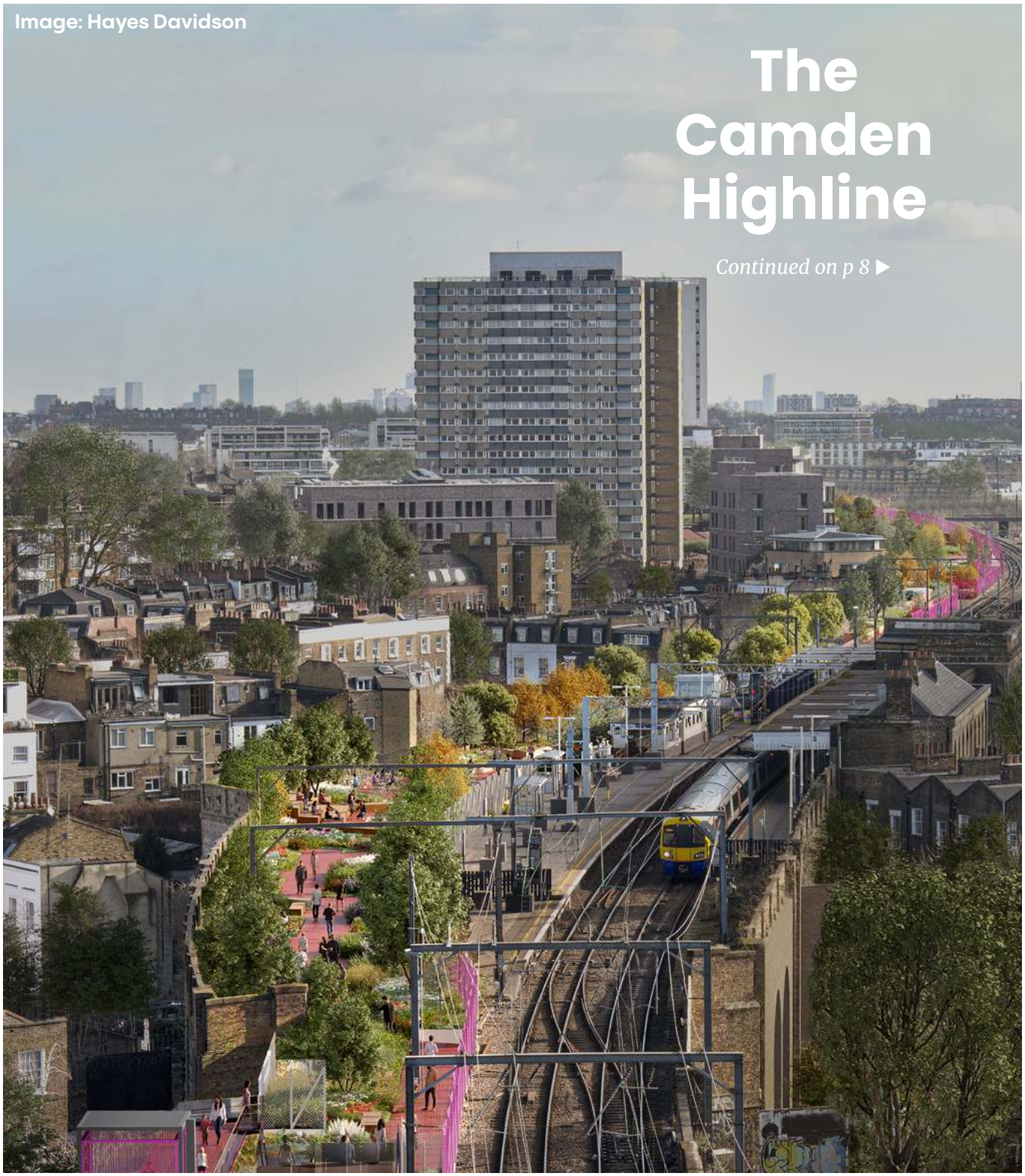
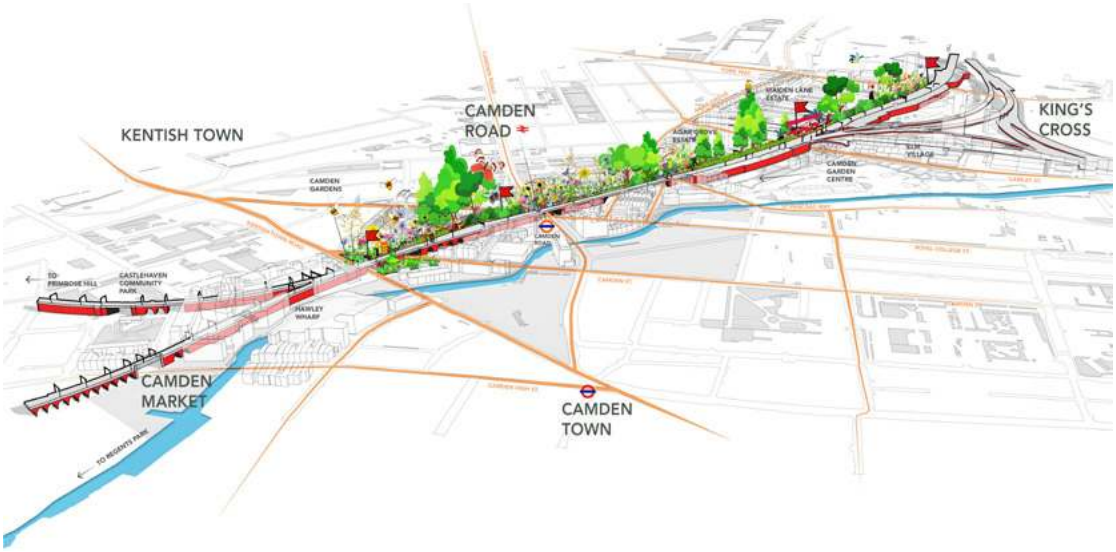


Image: Hayes Davidson

The Camden Highline

Continued on p 8 ▶

THE CAMDEN HIGHLINE



Primrose Hill and the surrounding area have long been associated with the railway industry, which first arrived in 1834. Victorian railway heritage is all around, most notably the Roundhouse, which was used as a shed to maintain and store goods engines, but also lesser known structures, such as the old winding vaults by Camden Lock.

Now, in an exciting new development, a 1.2 km disused stretch of Victorian railway viaduct will be transformed into an elevated walkway, connecting Camden Town to King's Cross.

The Camden Highline will bring rejuvenation to the area and provide green spaces. Raised around 8 metres above ground, it will provide respite from street-level pollution and give an aerial view of the streets below and a tranquil place to meditate and watch the world go by. Existing wildlife will be supported, and there will be areas of young woodland, meadow, hedgerow and volunteer-run allotments growing fruit and vegetables. Water will be available for wildlife and a range of nesting and roosting sites.

As well as benefits to the environment, there are plans for artistic enrichment: the Highline hopes to commission artworks that resonate, especially from local artists.

The heritage of the old Victorian railway infrastructure will be celebrated, such as the old viaduct which spans Camden Gardens and the Grade II listed Camden Road station, which will have its former entrance restored. The modern-day railway system will be visible; with raised views of freight trains and the Eurostar criss-crossing the busy network around Euston, King's Cross and St Pancras.

The project has a community aspect, offering jobs, apprenticeships, and opportunities to volunteer. An outdoor classroom for school visits will help inspire young people. It will create regeneration in the area, be globally recognised and bring in visitors. There are already similar structures in Paris and New York, and the same company that designed the New York High Line is due to design the Camden version.

The Highline will be built in three phases. The first, between Camden Gardens and Camden Road, is the widest section of the route, with space for seating, gardening and events; this is due to open in 2025. The second stage is between Camden Road and Camley Street. The final section runs between Camley Street and York Way, ending by the Camden–Islington border at the old Maiden Lane station.

The Camden Highline is an independent charity with the sole aim of delivering the Highline and the community programmes around it. They're now fundraising to build the first section. To sign up for updates, learn how you can get involved, or make a donation, visit **www.camdenhighline.com.**

PRIMROSE HILL QUIZ

By Bernard George

1. Name all the pubs in Primrose Hill, from the canal in the south to King Henry's Road in the north. You can miss one and still score.

2. In the same area, are there more pubs or estate agents?

3. If you walked from Chalk Farm tube, over the bridge and along Regent's Park Road, buying a coffee from every vendor of takeaway coffee you passed, how many cups would you have by the time you reached the hill?

4. Which one of these nationalities is not mentioned in shop signage along Regent's Park Road?

- Italian
- American
- Asian
- English

5. Which one of these products or services will you also not find mentioned?

- Cranio-Sacral Therapy
- CoolSculpting – Fat Freezing
- Curated Independent Eyewear
- Hot Pies

6. Match the shop to the product.
You need to get them all right.

Shops: *Cowshed, Soulstice, CP Hart, Richard Dare, Clifton*
Products: *Crystals, interior design, grooming products, kitchen goods, bathrooms*

7. Where is the only place in Primrose Hill that you can buy a bucket?

8. How much is the most expensive bottle of wine (standard-sized, still) in Bottle Apostle, to the nearest £50?

9. How much is the most expensive loaf from The Little Bread Pedlar in Erskine Road, to the nearest 50p?

10. Which one of these slogans will you not see in Primrose Hill?

- 'A place of well-being'
- 'To inspire and nurture the human spirit – one person, one cup and one neighbourhood at a time'
- 'Sew much fun'

Answers on p 30



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Postcards from Primrose Hill

This is England's Lane, which hasn't changed much over the years. There were plenty of shops along the street in 1905, just as today, and by enlarging the image we can decipher a few names. At number 40 was Thomas Gurney Randall, a butcher you can spot the meat hanging outside. Next door, at number 38, was Henry W Lee, a fruiterer, as you can tell from his produce displayed on the pavement. Next door again, at number 36, was harness-maker Richard Gidden. He was the 'auto mechanic' of his day, since harnesses were needed for all the horse-drawn transport in the area.

This postcard was sent in late November 1905 by 'Auntie' to her nephew, saying: 'Dear Ronny, have you been to school today, would you like to be over here to see me baking such a lot of cakes next Wednesday, I wonder what you are doing now, love and kisses to you.'



The card was addressed to 'Master Gordon Williams' at 196a Mare Street in Hackney, where the 6-year-old boy lived with his parents Thomas and Ada Williams, his grandparents Thomas and Martha Williams, and great aunt Maria Perkins. The 1901 census records that all the adults in the household had the same occupation, which was 'Fancy card box makers'.

As an industry, box-making began in the 19th century. People produced a wide range of boxes for packaging pills, perfumery, fans, chocolate, ribbons, soap and gloves. My guess is that the family worked from home, and sadly they would have been paid low wages to assemble these boxes.

@old_primrosehill_postcards



NEWS & INFORMATION

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

from Primrose Hill Community Association

Your regular update from PHCA, publisher of On The Hill

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

It feels like summer is at last upon us, and we are much looking forward to our fun-filled Mad Hatter's Tea Party, our big summer event in Chalcot Square. This will be on Sunday 2 July from 2pm to 5pm, so put the date in your diary. There will be live music throughout the afternoon, with refreshments of tea, cake, sandwiches, Pimm's and beer stalls. For children, there's a special magic show; and for everyone, a 'Best Hat' competition, so get those design ideas flowing. This event will require plenty of volunteers to help make and serve sandwiches, cakes and drinks, set up tables, chairs, bunting, PA systems, etc. If you can help in any way, please email info@phca.cc

WELLBEING CAFÉ

It is so good to see that our Wednesday Wellbeing Café is such a hit. It opens every Wednesday between 10am and 2pm and gets very busy. Our volunteers have created a lovely atmosphere, so do come along and try it out if you haven't already. You could then stay on for Open House, held every Wednesday between 2 and 4pm with a varied programme.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOSH

The rest of our Neighbourhood Nosh offering is changing soon to make our health and safety compliance a little easier. Soon we shall be offering hot meals at Oldfield sheltered housing scheme on a Thursday, and our volunteers will also be delivering these hot meals out into the community. If you know of anyone who would benefit from such a delivery, please let us know and we can liaise directly with them. Our meals are entirely vegetarian and normally consist of home-cooked soup, a main course and dessert.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with our last two very successful events – the Disco in March and the Jumble Sale in April, which raised £1,600 and £1,300 respectively. We must also thank Mary's Living and Giving and St Mark's Church for helping us out with jumble donations.

FREE FOOD MARKET

Our free food market will continue on Wednesdays from 10 to 11am, with fresh fruit, vegetables and provisions as well as frozen meals to give out to anyone who needs them.

LEGACIES OF BRITISH SLAVE OWNERSHIP TALK

Tuesday 20th June, 7pm for 7.15pm at Primrose Hill Community Centre

Did you know that when slavery was abolished in the British Caribbean in 1833-38, £20 million was given to around 46,000 slave owners in Britain as compensati on – and nothing to the enslaved men women and children themselves?

Dr Keith McClelland is an academic at University College London who works with the Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery, where he maintains a database and website about the slave owners in Britain.

We all still live with the legacies of colonial slavery. This talk will examine British slave ownership in the Caribbean between 1763 and 1833 and how it has shaped modern British society.

If you would like to know what's going on in the area, you can get our free weekly bulletin at **www.phca.cc/subscribe**, or to become a member go to **www.app.joinit.com/o/phca.**



The Friends of Chalcot Square Gardens Committee

By Ian S Ferguson, Chair

Chalcot Square sits right in the heart of Primrose Hill, surrounded by multi-coloured terraced houses built in the 1850s. Located just south of Regent's Park Road, accessed by Sharpleshall Street and Berkley Road, but with no through vehicle access from the top of Chalcot Road (other than fire engines), it is a haven of tranquillity.

The Gardens in the middle of the Square are the responsibility of Camden Council – in liaison with the Friends of Chalcot Square Gardens Committee. While the Committee is formally constituted as required by the Council, we very much act as resident volunteers committed to the maintenance and development of this lovely square, which is, of course, everyone's responsibility.

The Committee's role

Planting — The Committee supports and comments on Camden's plans for the trees, shrubs and other planting – including the grass, half of which was successfully reseeded over the autumn and winter. On our own behalf we have an annual daffodil planting session to ensure plenty of spring colour.

The fabric of the square — The gates, fencing, benches and small playground need constant attention. Historically, the Committee led the design, funding and installation of the playground and central benches.

Signage — In such a small but busy square, signage is essential to indicate the rules regarding dogs (none), ball games (none), care regarding the grass and planting, and parties (which we welcome provided they stick to Camden's guidance on size and noise level).

Perhaps more importantly, the Committee has a social role – in particular, running both our very popular Christmas Carol Concert and our End of Summer Party in early September.

Over the years, much effort has been expended in keeping the Square as lovely as it is – and ensuring Camden Council fulfils its duties. Fortunately, our relations with Camden are good and constructive.

Two past stalwarts of the Committee were Judy Rich, who sadly died recently but was crucial to the formation of the Committee; and Caroline Strachan, who carried the weight of garden liaison with Camden until last year (now taken over by Sandy Rattray). Other committee members have been much valued too, of course.

www.friendsofchalcotsquare.org.uk
To receive email updates of the Committee's work, emailing friendsofcsg@talktalk.net

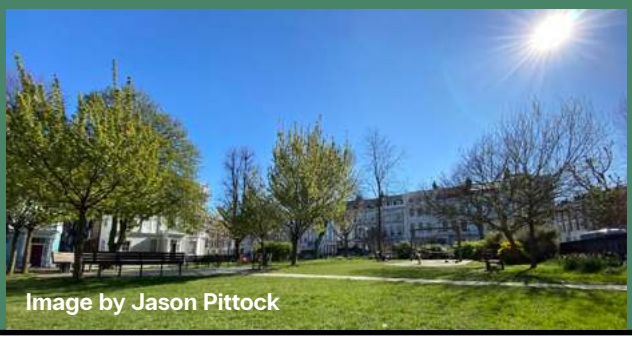
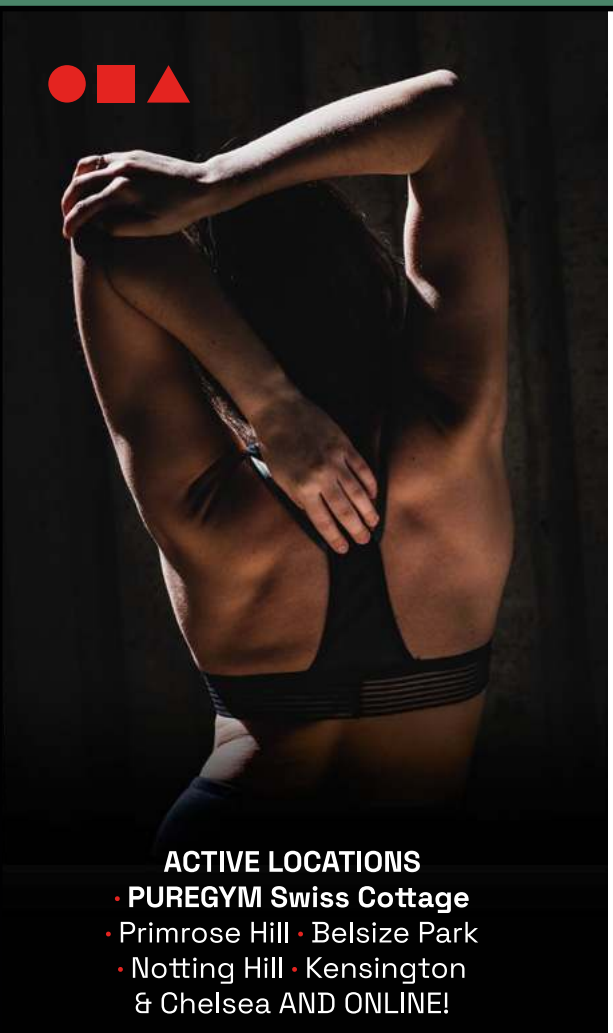


Image by Jason Pittock



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FROM RUSSIA TO PRIMROSE HILL: ONE YEAR ON

BY GLEN RUFFLE

One year ago, I found my life upended rather suddenly when Russia invaded Ukraine and I was forced to leave Moscow due to the consequences of sanctions. On 28 February I was told my position was no longer tenable; on 3 March I flew out.

The sudden end of my role in the Anglican Church in Moscow caught everyone by surprise, but thankfully the vicar of St Mark's Regent's Park, the Reverend William Gulliford, kindly offered to accommodate me while we scrambled to work out what would come next.

Since then, I have been living a life in limbo, but very much welcomed into the life of St Mark's. This year has actually been a gift to me, being able to live in Primrose Hill and serve in the church here. I've learned so much, though have also kept in touch with a number of friends in Moscow.



Photo: SARAH LOUISE RAMSAY

BACK IN MOSCOW

The news from Russia is sad. At first, life went on as normal. The day before I left, I observed Russians shopping and eating out, oblivious to the invasion that had just taken place. Life carried on, but as things progressed, information seeped out and a new rule emerged: don't mention the war.

I had spent many years teaching English in Moscow, and one thing teachers always discovered to their cost was that a lesson in politics would always fail. Students just did not want to discuss anything political. The association of 'politics' with 'danger' that had hung over them in Communist times had persisted after the fall of the USSR, and now is back with a vengeance.

This culturally ingrained fear means that people simply keep their heads down. To speak out can potentially cost you your job, your livelihood, or even your life. Yet, bizarrely, even those speaking in favour of the war now live in fear: I've heard of pro-Putin views being reported as political speech and getting people into trouble!

Of course, in the countryside, where poverty rates are higher, the only source of information is state media. Thus all they know is that Russia is 'fighting fascists in Ukraine', so subsequently, when a mobilisation takes place, it is often poor families who send their sons into what they believe is a good career and a good cause.

The mobilisation made the war more real to many: suddenly, the far-off event had immediate implications for men in Russia. The result has been that those with money or visas have left Russia or bribed their way out of army service, while the poor who cannot flee have either had to go into hiding or keep as low a profile as possible.

One large firm that used to do deals valued at billions of dollars has seen some of the brightest business brains of Russia's future harvested out and sent to die in Ukraine. The cream of the crop, who chose business as a way of escaping poverty and military service, have ended up farmed out to ditches in Ukraine.

For the expatriates who are still there, visas are getting harder to come by. Some are tolerated by the state, but others are facing higher levels of persecution. The poor chaplain in Moscow had to contend with a demonstration on Remembrance Sunday as some Russians protested 'why NATO was celebrating the victory of Anglo-Saxons over Russia in World War One'. Where does one start when that level of ignorance is prevalent?

PRIMROSE HILL

I never realised how the war would impact me on a personal level. Last year I ended up averaging one new bed every two weeks. Of course, a lot of that was down to holidays and visiting friends and family, but some of it was simply down to the struggle to find places for me to stay while we worked out my future.

Yet the people of St Mark's have been so kind – they set up a meal rota, inviting me for dinner, and I have been able to lead school assemblies at St Paul's Primary School. I've been priested, led services, performed my first wedding, conducted a baptism, taught a confirmation course, hosted a book launch, and done a range of other interesting things since being here. It has been a real privilege to meet and stay with such kind people.

It is likely I will be moving back into the Diocese in Europe later this year, but the learning I have gained since being at St Mark's in Primrose Hill is something I will take with me for the rest of my ministry.

News & Views

Dumpton Place Transformed





You may have seen road works around Dumpton Place. This is an initiative of the Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee (PHCAAC), who proposed to Camden's road engineering section that this short section of cul-de-sac was unloved, abutting on the historic backdrop of railway wall and steps, and was in need of restoration and renovation.

The Council's road team has helped to achieve everyone's aspirations in design and technical terms.

There will be an enlarged seating and outdoor area for the Lansdowne pub, with bike stands, a small tree grove of two birch trees and an alder, renewed York stone paving and granite kerb to the steps, as well as a new raised entry. Once the work is finished, it will be a welcome addition to the rich and varied public spaces of Primrose Hill.

Heart Felt Tips

Heart Felt Tips organises for children suffering economic hardship to receive pencil cases packed with the pens and other creative tools that they often lack. The pencil cases are filled by children at schools and clubs, and then quickly distributed via UK frontline foodbanks, children's charities and hospitals, and faith centres.

Along with teaching the importance of recycling and donating, Heart Felt Tips also helps build empathy, enabling the luckier children who fill the pencil cases to understand that there are people in their local community who are no different to them, just in need of extra support.

Heart Felt Tips also encourages a 'can do' message with their online tips for toddlers, tens and teens, which can be used by all children.

Most of the pencil cases are kindly donated by Versapak International Ltd, who recycle their surplus material to make new pencil cases.

If you think your local school or group would like to get involved by filling pencil cases or fundraising, please email susie@heartfelttips.co.uk or alia@heartfelttips.co.uk.

As well as schools and charities, Heart Felt Tips are looking for help in providing stationery and activity books, either new or recycled, and would welcome support from both companies and individuals.

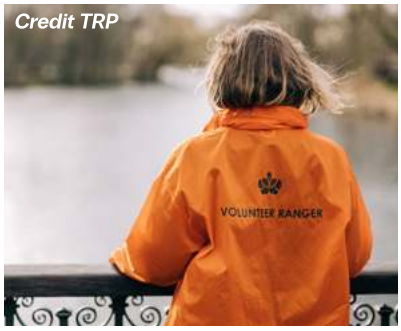




News & Views

Volunteer Rangers in Regent's Park

The Royal Parks are vital places for people and nature, and each has its own fascinating history and landscape. Following the successes at Richmond, Bushey and Greenwich Parks, this spring The Royal Parks charity has launched a Volunteer Ranger service within Regent's Park. After a huge amount of public interest, over 35 passionate people have been offered Volunteer Ranger positions.



Credit TRP

Operating in pairs, these volunteers are hoping to inspire and educate some of the eight million visitors that Regent's Park gets every year! Whether it's guiding visitors to key amenities, providing tips on the best walking and cycling routes, informing people on how to help nature thrive, sharing fascinating facts about the park's heritage or history, offering insights into upcoming events and activities, or simply providing a welcoming smile, the Volunteer Rangers in Regent's Park are here to ensure that everyone is able to understand and appreciate this unique green space.

David Birkett

Sadly, David Birkett has had to cease trading from the business he ran on the corner of Regent's Park Road and Gloucester Avenue. David has played a big role in the community for over 30 years, and he'll be much missed. We wish him well with his future plans.

Save the Date!

The Primrose Hill Opera Cabaret is back, and will be held at St Mary's church on Sunday 10 September at 6pm (doors open 5.45pm). Tickets are £25. Contact: martin.l.sheppard@gmail.com for more information or to reserve a seat or table.

On The Hillimerick

Ready, on the crown green,
where he'd parked her Rolls,
She deigned to consort
with old plimsolls,
While he on reflection,
Declining genuflection,
Did not, at her feet,
Park 'er Bowles.

Howard Richards

Gates on Primrose Hill

The Royal Parks have announced that black metal gates are to be installed on Primrose Hill. The park will be closed from 10pm until 6am on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer, and on ad hoc days at other times of the year.

Need a Dog Walker?

Do you need someone to take your dog for a walk, either regularly, or now and again? Fully insured and a member of rover.com, Jane is happy to take your dog out for its daily exercise. Contact her on 07958 052652.





Creative Writing Class

Are you looking to develop your storytelling skills? Local author, editor and writer Kate Delamere is offering weekly creative writing classes for adults and children. Whether you are a beginner or working on a longer project, all are welcome to join. For more information, contact Kate at info@katedelamere.com

What's On JUNE 2022

TUESDAY 30 MAY TO FRIDAY 2 JUNE

Circus Glory workshops
Learn aerial and floor circus games at this half-term camp. All levels welcome; no experience necessary. PHCC. 10am–3pm. Contact: www.circusglory.com.

THURSDAY 1 JUNE

Along the Road
Five brilliant international musicians, inspired by life 'seen from the road'. CSH. 7.30pm.

TUESDAY 6 JUNE

Film Show
Le Dîner de Cons
Follow the life of Pierre, a wealthy Parisian editor, who attends a weekly dinner where everyone brings an idiot as a guest. PHCL. Doors open 7.15pm. £8 including a glass of wine. Tickets from PHCL or on the door.

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH

Feminist Folk Club
Thank Folk for Feminism hosts are joined by Frankie Armstrong, Jackie Oates, Gemma Kahawaja, Maddie Morris and Jennie Higgins. CSH. 7.30pm. Book online.

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

Book and Cake Sale
Books, teas, coffees and cake on sale. PHCL. 11am–5pm. Donations of cakes for sale welcome. Free.

SUNDAY 11 JUNE

Youth Ceilidh
Fun, friendly social event for 11–19-year-olds, with energetic live music. CSH. 6pm. Book online.

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE

VRi
Three young, male, audio archaeologists from deepest, darkest chapel-going Wales. CSH. 7.30pm. Book online.

SATURDAY 17 JUNE

Jim Moray Festival
Join Jim and a host of special guests for a day of celebrations. CSH. 2pm. Book online.

SUNDAY 18 JUNE

Shovel Dance Collective
Simultaneously traditional and experimental. Supported by London Sacred Harp. CSH. 7.30pm. Book online.

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE

The Big Folky Singalong
Join the Cecil Sharp House Choir and special guests Ben and Dom for a free Make Music Day singalong. CSH. 7.30pm. Book online.

SATURDAY 24 JUNE

Spiers & Boden
'The finest instrumental duo on the traditional scene' (The Guardian). CSH. 7.30pm. Book online.

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

Last Friday Bar
Members' Bar at the Community Centre, with pool table and occasional themes. Non-members welcome too. PHCA. 6.30–9.30pm.

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. 11–11.45am. Suggested donation: £2. Contact: 020 7419 6599.

Ready Steady Go ABC
Exploratory play, singing, dance and stories for babies and toddlers aged 6–18 months. PHCC. 11.30am–12.30pm. Contact: 020 7586 5862.

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

TUESDAY

Monkey Music
Music and play for children under 5. PHCC. 9.25am–12.10pm. Contact: 020 8451 7626.

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

Ballet
Introductory ballet sessions for children, using storytelling and imagery to teach the basics of dance. PHCL. 10–10.45am. Suggested donation: £2. Contact lilykourakou@hotmail.com.

Hartbeeps
Multi-sensory music movement and drama classes for infants and toddlers. 2–5pm. Term bookings £11 per class. Contact clarelouise@hartbeeps.com.

Bilingual Beats
Spanish through music classes for children. PHCL. 4–5pm. Book at www.bilingualbeatsonline.com.

WEDNESDAY

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

Les Petits Bellots
French and English bilingual crèche. PHCL. 9.20–11.20am. Contact: info@lespetitsbellots.com or 07401 862326.

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. 2–6.45pm. Contact: Genevieve 07973 451603.

Primrose Hill Children's Choir
Fun songs and games for ages 5–11. St Mary's NW3 3DJ. 4.10–5.10pm. 1st time free, then £10. Contact: maestromattheww@yahoo.co.uk.

THURSDAY

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

Mini Mozart
Musical story time. PHCL. 9.30am–12pm. Book at: www.minimozart.com.

First Class Learning
English and Maths tuition. PHCL. 3.30–6pm. Contact: 020 7966 484 568.

Catherine's Ballet
Ballet classes for under 5s. PHCC. 4–5pm. Contact: 020 8348 0262, info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk or chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk.

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

Club Petit Pierrot
Fun French lessons for babies and children. PHCC. 9.45–10.30am, 1–3 years old; 11–11.45am, 2–4 years old. Contact: 020 3969 2642, www.clubpetitpierrot.co.uk.

Perform
Drama, dance and singing for children 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.

The Big Book of Everything
Children's event combining puppetry, drama, music and art. PHCL. 10.25am. £3. Book in advance at: www.wegottickets.com/phcl.

SUNDAY

Perform
Drama, dance and singing for children 4–12 years. PHCC. 10am–11.30am (4–7s) and 11.30am–1pm (7–12s).

What's On JUNE 2022

ADULTS

MONDAY

Chilled Strings
Beginners' orchestra rehearsals. PHCC. 6.30–8.45pm. Contact: sueandhercello@gmail.com.

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.

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

TUESDAY

Pilates
Dynamic sessions 10.15–11am; gentle sessions 11.30am–12.15pm. PHCL. £15 per class, £120 for 10 classes. Contact: 07525 461361 or lizacawthorn@gmail.com (Liza).

Laban
Workshops based on Rudolf Laban's analysis of movement, for exercise and fun. All levels welcome. 12.30–1.30pm. £10 per session (£5 concessions). 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. Free. Check PHCA website for details.

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

WEDNESDAY

Wellbeing Café
Café space and warm bank serving delicious homemade soup and cake, teas, coffees, jacket potatoes and more. PHCC. 10am–2pm. Pay what you can.

Open House
A regular activity (film, talk, performance) followed by tea, cake and chat. PHCC. 2–4.30pm. Free.

English Folk Dance Club
Fun for dancers of all abilities and none. No partner needed. PHCC. 7.15–10pm. Contact camdenfolkdance@yahoo.com.

London Sound Project
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

Primrose Hill Walks
Weekly walk through Primrose Hill, Regent's Park and surrounding areas, sometimes with themes. 10.30am–12pm. Free. Check PHCA website for details.

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

Gentle Pilates
Gentle but effective Pilates class. PHCL. 12:45–1.45pm. £15 per session. Contact: annie@mactherapy.org

Wellbeing Café
Café space and warm bank serving delicious homemade soup and cake, teas, coffees, jacket potatoes and more. PHCC. 1–5pm. Pay what you can.

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

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

Kriya Yoga
Yoga class. PHCL. 6.45–8.15pm. Contact: info@kriyayogauk.com.

English Country Dancing Class
Learn English country, ceilidh, barn dancing, and related social folk dance styles from further afield. All welcome, no experience required. CSH. 7.30pm. Book online.

FRIDAY

Aerial Pilates
Improve strength and flexibility through movement with the support of an aerial sling. PHCC. 10–11am. Contact: circusbodies@gmail.com.

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

London Classical Choir
Great music, regular concerts for the homeless with London Classical Orchestra. Rehearsals near Chalk Farm, every second Friday, 7.30–9.30pm. £10 (£5 concessions). See londonclassicalchoir.com for location and dates.

SATURDAY

Primrose Hill Market
St Paul's School playground, Elsworthy Road, NW3 3DS. 10am–3pm. Contact www.primrosehillmarket.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 some 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

Primrose Hill Lecture Series

This summer marks the 20th anniversary of the Primrose Hill Lecture Series. The idea was conceived in 2003 by Robert Atwell, then vicar of St Mary's, as a means of encouraging discussion on society's pertinent issues. Since its inception, there have been lectures from the foremost thinkers and writers of our times, including Lionel Shriver, Tony Benn, Alan Bennett, Melvyn Bragg, Jung Chang, Shami Chakrabarti, Paddy Ashdown, Mary Beard, Andrew Marr and Jonathan Miller. The fact that the lectures are held in a Christian church doesn't mean other faiths don't have a voice. Rabbi Lionel Blue has been a speaker, and Tariq Ali gave a lecture on Islam.

The first ever series consisted of Joan Bakewell speaking on religion and belief in Britain, Fiona Bruce on the scenes behind the BBC programme *Crimewatch*, Shelley von Strunckel on how compatible astrology is with Christianity, George Alagiah on hope after war, and Nicholas Crane on how maps distort our view of the world. The theme which linked all these talks was 'Virtues and Vices: Perspectives on our world'. Each consecutive year employed a theme; the following year saw 'Trust and Betrayal: Issues in Contemporary Life' and featured Simon Jenkins, who was gratefully invited back in 2021 to give a talk on Europe's Best Cathedrals.

In a recent article in *The Guardian*, Simon Jenkins praised St Mary's and the lecture series: 'London's St Mary's Primrose Hill boasts a homeless shelter, a much-needed youth club, a children's dance centre, a lecture series, a tearoom, a design fair and even a real ale brewery. It fills the gaps in an increasingly dilapidated welfare state.' The distinguished speakers generally receive no fee for their appearance. All the proceeds go to St Mary's and the vitally important outreach work they carry out there, such as the cold weather shelter and the youthwork at Mary's Centre.

The talks are followed by question-and-answer sessions which open up the opportunity for debate. Primrose Hill Books sell copies of the speakers' books, which can then be signed.

The lectures are currently sponsored by Lume, just across the road from the church, and Earth in Kentish Town, which kindly supply snacks. This ensures the events are convivial, as well as thought-provoking!

During the pandemic, the lecture committee had to adapt the technology to make the series accessible online. This format has been carried forward, so those booking a ticket can either attend the event in person, or watch online from the comfort of their home. This also means the talks can attract a wider audience.

The 2023 series is almost upon us, and the speakers will be Neil Mullarkey on 7 June, Ben Macintyre in conversation with Kate Bingham on 'True Tall Stories' on 14 June, and Hannah Barnes on 21 June.
Neil Mullarkey began his career in the Cambridge Footlights, where he teamed up with Mike Myers. Since that time, he's become a renowned comedian on stage, TV and in two of the *Austin Powers* films. He also teaches theatre skills to individuals and companies, to help increase their confidence and ability to work together more effectively. His book, *In The Moment: Build Your Confidence, Communication and Creativity at Work*, comes out at the start of June.

Ben Macintyre has written several works of history and non-fiction, his most recent being *Colditz: Prisoners of the Castle*, in which he tells the inside story of the men held captive while planning their escape from Nazi Germany. He will be in conversation with Kate Bingham who was Chair of the Vaccine Taskforce in 2020.

Hannah Barnes will be discussing her book *Time to Think – the Inside Story of the Collapse of the Tavistock's Gender Service for Children*, in which she uncovers the truth behind the NHS service based at the Tavistock and Portman Trust, where ideological concerns took priority over clinical practice. She will be in conversation with Libby Wiener.

All events are held at St Mary's Church and start at 7pm (doors open at 6.30 pm). Tickets are £20 for a single lecture (£12 concessions/online) and £45 for the whole series (£30 concessions/online).

They can be bought from Primrose Hill Books, online from www.eventbrite.co.uk or by calling 020 7722 3238.

www.stmarysprimrosehill.com



PRIMROSE HILL FESTIVAL AND DOG SHOW

Twice a year, in early summer and late November, Regent's Park Road is turned into a mini-festival complete with craft stalls, a food market, traditional fairground rides, face painting, and the much-loved dog show (details below). This summer, the festival will be held on Sunday 11 June.

Karen Santi, Festival Curator and owner of the Princess of Wales pub in Primrose Hill, says, "We are so excited to return to Primrose Hill with a more updated offering to our community and friends of the festival. After adding new and updated attractions we are ready to greet everyone with open arms and share in some good old-fashioned community spirit."

Collette Cooper, the live music curator, has put together a stellar line-up of incredible musicians throughout the day.

The highlight of the Festival is the dog show, which this summer will be curated by Primrose Hill Community Dogs and dedicated to the memory of Paul O'Grady.

As well as acknowledging our wonderful local canine community, the dog show brings people together to raise money for local causes, including the Library, Community Centre, St Mary's cold weather shelter, the Foodbank and Mary's youthwork.

Elias Raymond, Manager of Savill's, was keen to be involved in the community aspect of the festival.



This summer Savill's will have a rickshaw outside their office and various props which can be utilised for photos. They will also provide an iPad as a raffle prize.

Money raised by Savill's and the dog show will go to support the Queen's Crescent Foodbank. Elias Raymond says, "We're absolutely delighted to continue to support the Festival, Dog Show and Queen's Crescent Foodbank."

Belinda, Manager of Queen's Crescent Foodbank, says, "We are overwhelmed by the love and support our neighbours from Primrose Hill have shown us. We look forward to growing our relationship and together tackling food poverty."

Primrose Hill Festival and Dog Show
Sunday 11 June, 9.30am–6pm
For more information, contact Karen Santi at:
karynjfashion@aol.com

Dog Show

The Dog Show takes places from 12pm to 1.30pm. Registration opens at 10.30am (£5 entry; cash please).
The classes are as follows:

12pm	Welcome
12.10pm	Best Puppy 12 weeks to 1 year
12.30pm	Prettiest Bitch
12.50pm	Most Handsome Male
1.10pm	Golden Oldies – over 10 years
1.20pm	Best Rescue
1.30pm	Best in Show

There will be VIP seats for local, elderly dog-lovers to be able to watch the show.



THE FRIENDS OF REGENT'S PARK & PRIMROSE HILL

BY MARK ELLIOTT, CHAIR

After the long winter, it feels good to get out into our parks and gardens again. As Chair of the Friends, I can tell you that we have been busy over the past few months and have a lot to report:

Charity status
For 30 years the Friends has been an unregistered association. Now we are a charity with registration number 1201666.

Back-office system
We have replaced our back-office system with one that will make life simpler for us all. Joining or renewing your £20 subscription will now be much easier, and you will be able to download your membership card to your phone. You can also register for our events and enrol as a volunteer.

Events
Our 2023 programme has over 70 events, including the 6th annual Bandstand festival, offering 45 free concerts (see below). Full details of all our events can be found at: **www.friendsofregentspark.org/friends-events**.

Volunteer Rangers
The Royal Parks is delighted by the number of people wanting to volunteer as part of the new rangers programme: they received 115 applications. You can see from our events and volunteering lists that almost every opportunity is open to all, even if you are not a member (we hope you will join!). Do sign up for our huge summer programme.

Regent's Park Music Festival
The Regent's Park has always been 'the Entertainment Park': in addition to the bandstands, it contains the Open Air Theatre, the Royal Academy of Music, the English Folk Dance and Song Society and the Frieze Art Fair – all of them world-class organisations. So why not add a world-class music festival?

In 2017, after nearly 20 years of silence on the bandstand, the Regent's Park Music Festival was born with one concert. In 2019, it was registered as a charity. Six years later, the 2023 season includes 45 concerts on two bandstands, running from 17 June to 17 September. For the first time in many years, we welcome opera back to the Nannies' Lawn: *La Bohème* and *The Barber of Seville*.

In August our wonderful St John's Lodge ('secret') garden will be the setting for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* (12 August) and a 'Magical Musical Evening' (13 August).

How will we develop the Festival in future years? The Trustees' plan foresees a 1-to-2-week summer festival starting in 2024. Currently, all concerts are manged by volunteers, but to build a 'real' festival we need to hire an event organiser and experienced staff. This will cost money! We have recently launched a fundraising campaign, beginning with a crowdfunding appeal. Please be ready to contribute to help us take this next step (details below) … Thank you.

www.gofundme.com/f/create-a-music-festival-in-londons-greatest-park

www.friendsofregentspark.org



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HAVERSTOCK JOURNALISTS



Jeanne Willis has been an author of children's books for over 40 years: dogs, cats, rabbits, penguins, insects, reptiles and invented characters like Bog Babies have all featured in her stories.

Her latest book *Jacko* includes insects, snakes, a rabbit and a wounded baby jackdaw which is rescued by a boy called Mick and taught to fly. *Jacko* also touches on the Second World War, which Mick's father fought in. It is all based on a true story.

Q:When you were writing the book, did it affect your moods?
J: Yes, it did affect my mood. I was working to the point when something happened to the little bird, and I actually cried when I wrote it.

Q: Was it easier to write the book because of your Grandfather's experiences in WWI?
J: I think it was, because although it was a different war, my Grandfather told me about his friends who lost their lives; so when I heard Mick's father's story, I could empathise.

Q: What did it feel like when you saw the items in Mick's father's box and read his diary for the first time?
J: Oh, it was amazing, especially when I found the little gold caterpillar badge and found out for the first time that there was a war element to the story.

Q: How did you feel when you read Mick's father's war diary?
J: It chilled me to the bone. What was really notable about the diary was that there was never any feeling of self-pity. All he was doing was recording what happened.

Q: How long did it take you to write *Jacko*? Was it difficult at times writing someone else's story?

J: Yes, I was writing somebody's life story and it wasn't a perfect story arc. I was using real-life characters, but then was told I couldn't use some of them, so I had to start again – twice!

Jeanne has written a wonderful book about real people. It shows not just how a community took a little bird into their hearts, but records the effect war has on families after it is over. The book is very different from her picture books, but *Jacko* is compelling; we didn't want to stop reading it, with its sad, funny and brilliant characters. Thank you, Jeanne Willis.

Kez, Annabella and Helen (Year 7), Lilith and Maya (Year 8), Harmony and Malachai (Year 9)

Stop Press: Jeanne's next books to be published are four rhyming *Winnie the Pooh* picture books in the voice of AA Milne.

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PRIMROSE HILL IN WWII

By Martin Sheppard

The area of Regent's Park, Hampstead Heath and Primrose Hill was initially not a prime German bombing target, due to its situation north of the heart of London and there being little or no heavy industry here. Nevertheless, those living in Primrose Hill and the Eton Estate, between Chalk Farm and Swiss Cottage, shared many of the experiences of other Londoners during the Second World War. At least 65 people were killed by bombs or V1s in the area. Many more were injured and many houses damaged.

Even before the outbreak of war, its imminent threat brought changes. At the time of the Munich Crisis of September 1938, the grove of trees on top of Primrose Hill was cut down to make way for anti-aircraft guns. Slit trenches to provide air-raid shelters were dug at the foot of the hill, and 350,000 gas masks were issued to the citizens of Hampstead and St Pancras. Later many other shelters were added, notably the Anderson shelters dug into gardens.

When war came, the Ministry of Education set about the huge operation of evacuating 600,000 children from London, including from Primrose Hill, between 1 and 4 September 1939. They were joined by many adults and organisations, leading to a dramatic drop in the local population. When little or no German bombing took place in the early months of the war, as many as half the children returned.

THE BLITZ

The Phoney War ended in June 1940 with the Fall of France. This left Hitler with no other enemies in Western Europe than the British, so airfields along the French and Belgian coast were made available to the Luftwaffe. In September 1940, London was attacked by surges of German bombers by day and night, accompanied by even larger numbers of fighters aiming to shoot down the RAF planes and positions defending the capital. But the Germans suffered such heavy losses in the Battle of Britain that they failed to achieve air superiority, a necessary prelude to invasion.

"ST MARK'S CHURCH WAS HIT TWICE IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1940"

This forced them to turn to bombing by night from mid-October 1940, the start of 57 consecutive nights of London being bombed.



In this early stage of blanket bombing, Primrose Hill suffered considerable damage. St Mark's Church was hit twice in late September 1940 leaving it a shell, and Cecil Sharp House was badly damaged. Pickford's Stables, previous occupier of the site of Waterside Place, was destroyed, with its horses let loose on the streets. A woman was killed at 23 Princess Road, and four other people in Egbert Place, between Chalcot Road and what is now Auden Place. A married couple died at 14 Gloucester Avenue in one of the villas later replaced by Darwin Court. Following a bomb on the Zoo, a Grevy's zebra escaped along the Outer Circle. On the Eton Estate on 13 September 1940, eleven people were killed by high explosive in a single house, 175 Adelaide Road, near the Marriott. The largest number of deaths in any one incident in Hampstead, however, came in Fellows Road.

A parachute mine destroyed a row of villas on the north side of the road on 17 April 1941, killing 27 people. Hancock Nunn House now stands on the site of this tragedy.



Meanwhile there were changes on the Hill. An anti-aircraft battery was established on top of Primrose Hill early in the war, with four 4.5" single-barrelled guns. These were later replaced by four double-barrelled 5.25" guns in 1943. How effective the guns were is questionable.

It has been calculated that it took 11,000 anti-aircraft rounds to bring down one German plane in September 1940. Nevertheless in October 1940, possibly hit by one of Primrose Hill's guns, a Junkers 88 crashed on the Hill, much of which was by then used for allotments.

Although it was not part of government plans to include Underground stations as bomb shelters, public pressure forced a change of policy. Both Chalk Farm and Swiss Cottage stations were used, particularly at the height of the Blitz. Swiss Cottage even had its own newsletter, 'The Swiss Cottager', with its motto 'De profundis'.

"AT LEAST 65 PEOPLE WERE KILLED BY BOMBS OR V1S "

German bombing eased off in May 1941, when Hitler changed his focus first to Yugoslavia and then to Russia. No more than sporadic bombing affected London over the following two and a half years. In the first half of 1944, German attacks began again in what was called the Baby Blitz; but better air defences and much-improved radar saw these off, causing heavy German losses.

1944 ONWARDS

Serious numbers of casualties began again later in 1944, from the German flying bomb campaign. Thirteen V1s fell on Regent's Park, destroying St Katharine's Lodge opposite the Danish church, and Holford House opposite the running track. One fell on the Zoo near St Mark's, but did little damage. At 5 am on 25 November 1944, however, a V1 landed on 63 King Henry's Road, killing eleven people, including one of Primrose Hill's local doctors, Norman Joynt. The extensive blast damage led to the demolition of many houses in King Henry's and Oppidans Road. After the war the site was compulsorily purchased by the London County Council (LCC) and became a large block of flats, Primrose Hill Court, opened in 1951. As a finale to the war, at 11.40 am on 21 March 1945, the only V2 to fall in the area struck the tea rooms on Primrose Hill, near the reservoir. Although it made an impressive hole, it killed no one.

"THE ONLY V2 TO FALL IN THE AREA STRUCK THE TEA ROOMS ON PRIMROSE HILL"

The sites that were hit by bombs are clearly marked on the remarkable LCC Bombing Maps, covering the whole of inner London. They show the level of destruction, graded from black to yellow; and also where bombing led to replacement by new buildings. But what is evident is that most new post-war building around Primrose Hill was not the result of German bombs: the Eton Estate's redevelopment plans of the 1960s led to far more extensive demolition of houses that had survived the war.

Overall, Primrose Hill was rather luckier in the war than much of central and south London. London itself was, in turn, more fortunate than Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Tokyo or Hiroshima. Finally, there were far fewer British military casualties in the Second World War than in the First.



Image courtesy of the Imperial War Museum

HADLEY FREEMAN

ON JOURNALISM AND ANOREXIA

By The Mole on the Hill



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH LOUISE RAMSAY

Kitty: Grandad, why are all those people going into that shop?
Mole: That's not a shop, Lass. That's Sam's Caff.
Kitty: Who's Sam?
Mole: Sam's a man who had a dream about starting a caff that would be the meeting point for Primrose Hill. And that's it down there.
Kitty: He's lucky. Not many people see their dreams come true.

Writer and columnist Hadley Freeman, a deeply embedded resident of Primrose Hill, is a regular at Sam's Café. She meets her friends there, takes her children there, interviews people there and, if it's not at Sam's, then it's at Lemonia.

"When I lived in in Westbourne Park, I was coming up on the 31 bus every other day for Triyoga in Erskine Place, and I realised this was my favourite part of London. I then spent a year and a half looking at what seemed like hundreds of houses until we found the one. Now I'm never leaving this area, I love it so much."

Hadley was born in Manhattan, and lived there until she was eleven. Then the family moved to West London, when her father was transferred to the London office of his company. Shortly after that he moved into diplomacy, working for the European Bank and helping to build Eastern Europe after Perestrioka.

"During the holidays, our family travelled with my Dad to Russia. This was post-Cold War with Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. Moscow looked very different then from what it is now. There were no retail stores and the best hotel, the Intourist, was a bit like a Premier Inn. We also went to Japan and Hong Kong where it was very different, much more affluent. It was a great education for me and my sister."

Back at school in West London, everything was fine. But things were about to change. In her account of her eating disorder, Hadley describes anorexia as a bomb waiting to explode.

In her case the trigger was a comment by a somewhat thin girl, "I wish I was normal like you. " Harmless enough, unless you take it to mean "I'm too fat, so I will stop eating." Hadley was hospitalised nine times over a three-year period for a total of two and a half years.

"It was not great fun. You only go to hospital if you're in danger, so it's a serious business. At first you're under bed rest and eat half-sized meals because your body is not used to food. After that you eat together and are weighed every week. There is some therapy, but mostly it's boring. It's not all young people; there are women there in their fifties. Once you're out of danger, you're allowed home and the cycle starts again."



"YOU ONLY GO TO HOSPITAL IF YOU'RE IN DANGER, SO IT'S A SERIOUS BUSINESS "

It says something that during this turmoil Hadley passed her exams and was accepted to read English at St Anne's College, Oxford. She also edited the university newspaper, *Cherwell*.

"The college system at Oxford was good for me. I was still quite ill, so I didn't have the 'Oxford experience'. I mainly stayed in my room, but the journalism was great fun and I made close friends on the paper who are still my friends now, many of them working in journalism. I always sent my work to my Mum and, without telling me, she sent two of my interviews to a *Daily Telegraph* competition, which I won. On the strength of that, I was offered a job at *The Guardian*.

Hadley started at *The Guardian* as assistant fashion editor and then became a columnist. She stayed there for twenty-two years. *The Guardian*, according to many including Hadley, began to change. There was subtle pressure from editors which came to a head with the debate about trans-gender issues, and Hadley resigned. No problem. She was given an offer by *The Sunday Times* and joined them as a columnist in 2022.



"I love doing interviews. Probably my best one was Mel Brooks. He is New York Jewish, the person who you watched as a kid growing up. He was compelling, lively. It was like meeting God. I interviewed him twice and he sent me a video thanking me. Then there was Judy Blume. I spent a weekend with her in Florida, and she was just as warm and lively as you would want her to be. If my ten-year-old self could have known I would be meeting her, I would have self-combusted with excitement. And then there was Keanu Reeves. I'm not normally star-struck by celebrities, but he was my big crush when I was a teenager. I could barely speak and found myself almost flirting with him. And I was nine months pregnant at the time. It must have been horrible for him."

"I'M NEVER LEAVING THIS AREA, I LOVE IT SO MUCH"

After her grandmother, Sala, died, Hadley travelled to her apartment in New York and found a shoebox filled with memorabilia. What followed was ten years of research to try to make sense of a woman she'd never really known. Hadley worked on making it a book, *House of Glass*, by piecing together letters, photos and an unpublished memoir, and the search took her from Picasso's archives in Paris, to a secret room in a farmhouse in Auvergne, to Long Island and to Auschwitz.

Add to that *Good Girls* and two earlier books – *The Meaning of Sunglasses* and *Be Awesome* – and Hadley already has a formidable body of work. So what next?

"I'm doing two pieces a week for *The Sunday Times*, and I still travel, but not as much as I used to. Then I used to spend as much as six months a year in the States. My partner is a sports journalist and has to travel, so we arrange things in a way that one of us is at home all the time. But however careful we are, we could not do this without the outstanding childcare we have, the same person since six months after the twins were born. At the moment I'm busy, but there will be something in the near future. Definitely not fiction and nothing personal. So maybe a biography."

Meanwhile, it's back to Sam's Café...

Kitty: Do all the famous people go to Sam's Caff?
The Mole: They're not all famous. You stand outside Sam's for half an hour and I guarantee you'll meet half a dozen of your friends, either passing by or popping in for a coffee and a snack...
Kitty: So his dream has come true.
That's very nice.

© The Mole on the Hill

HADLEY FREEMAN

- Born 1978 in Manhattan, New York
- Moved at the age of eleven to West London
- Educated at St Anne's College Oxford, where she read English and edited the university newspaper, *Cherwell*
- Twenty-five years at *The Guardian* as fashion writer and then columnist
- Two acclaimed books, *House of Glass: The Story and Secrets of a Twentieth-Century Jewish Family* and *Good Girls: A Story and Study of Anorexia*
- Now columnist for *The Sunday Times*



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- 12.50pm Most Handsome Male
- 1.10pm Golden Oldies - over 10 years
- 1.20pm Best Rescue
- 1.30pm Best In Show

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Primrose Hill Community Library

Here are the latest acquisitions by the library – perfect for summer reading!



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No Plan B

Michael Connelly
Desert Star

Taylor Jenkins Reid
Daisy Jones & the Six

Jack Jordan
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Andrei Kurkov
Death and the Penguin

Maddie Mortimer
Maps of our Spectacular Bodies

Laline Paull
Pod

Anna Reid
Borderland:
A Journey Through the History of Ukraine

Hardback

Anthony Seldon
Johnson at 10: The Inside Story

Children's

Dav Pilkey
Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea

Beatrix Potter
The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle

Jacqueline Wilson
Candyfloss

Donations

Agatha Christie
The Hollow

Stuart MacBride
All That's Dead

Miriam Margolyes
This Much is True

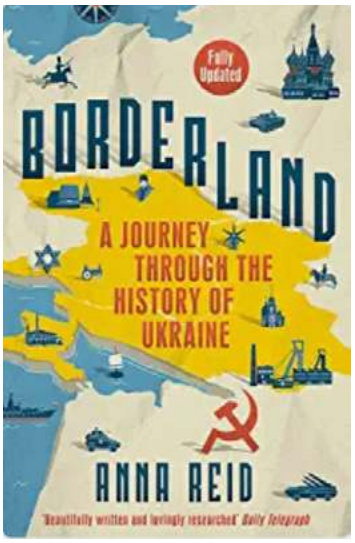
Paula McLain
The Paris Wife

Trevor Noah
Born a Crime

Mary L Trump
Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man

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Answers to Primrose Hill in Literature Quiz

1. The Engineer, The Albert, The Lansdowne, Princess of Wales, The Pembroke Castle, The Queens.

2. Pubs, by a score of 6-4. The estate agents are John D Wood, Savills, Jeremy Bass and Paul Lee & Co (lettings). David Birkett has closed.

3. Seven: Chloe's Espresso; The Little One; Joe & the Juice, Ripe Kitchen, Anthony Delicatessen, Sweet Things and Le Tea Cosy. But if you said eight because you were counting Greenberry, you can have a point as they will sell you a takeaway coffee if you ask nicely and they are not busy.

4. English, although Anna's window does boast 'Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex'. We have Primo Italian Provisions, Anthony's Delicatessen offering 'Traditional Italian Products', the American Dry Cleaning Company and the OKA Pan Asian restaurant.

5. Hot pies. The College of Cranio-Sacral Therapy is in St George's Mews; the coolsculpting is at Aesthetics Lab; and the curated eyewear is at Adam Simmonds, optometrist.

6. Cowshed offers grooming products; Soulstice sells crystals; CP Hart does bathrooms; Richard Dare sells kitchen goods; and Clifton does interior design.

7. Mercury Stores in Chalcot Road.

8. £190 for a 2019 Gevrey-Chambertin Pinot Noir Premier Cru. Apparently it is 'deeply impressive in a very non-showy way' with 'lovely clarity to the fruit' and goes well with partridge or pigeon.

9. £5.60 for an 800g sourdough loaf made using a mixture of five organic flours, 'developed over several days, resulting in a classic chewy loaf with an intense crust and a tangy, open crumb'.

10. The one about inspiring the human spirit is the slogan of Starbucks, which abandoned plans to open in Primrose Hill in 2002 after 1,300 letters of objection were submitted to Camden Council. 'A place of well-being' is on the fascia of Lavender on the Hill, and Sew Much Fun offers sewing classes in Chalcot Road.

SCORE YOUR ANSWERS

8-10: Deeply impressive in a very non-showy way

4-7: A place of well-being

0-3: Should have gone to Adam Simmonds



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Hello, Primrose Hill!

Primrose Hill celebrated the Coronation in style, with a number of street parties held over the Bank Holiday weekend. Congratulations go to Lola, Nadia, Florence and Alice Gladstone, along with Emmy, Lexie, Zane and Ace Khan, who ran a cake bake and homemade bracelet and lip balm-making stand, which raised £249.12 for the local Mary's Charity.
Photos by Barbara Watt, Siri Schumann and others

















Olivia Morris
feeling confused - 5h

Do I have to disclose my neighbour's personality before a sale?



2 comments



Lydia Campbell
Is that uncle Jamie?



Edith Morris
This reminds

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