ON THE HILL

FREE

SPRING 2025



Sam's Cafe:

A conversation with Sam Frears and Andrew O'Hagan

PLUS

Does Primrose Hill Need Therapy?

AND

Piano Factories in Primrose Hill

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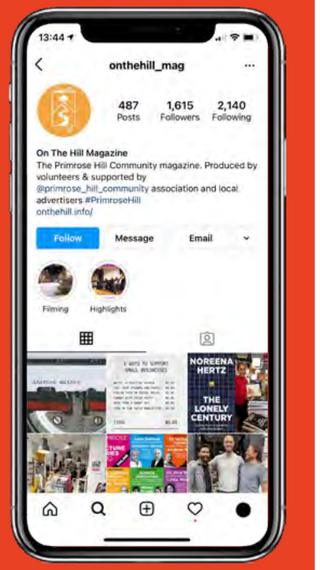
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SPRING 2025

CONTENTS & PREVIEW



p20

05
Editor's Letter

07
On The Street
A Decade of Dance, Pickford's Stables, Cosmic Events in Primrose Hill, Friedrich Engel's House, Artists and their Studios

16
What's On
Things to do this spring

18
HS2 in Primrose Hill
How HS2 could affect our area

20
Piano Factories in Primrose Hill
A tour of our rich local heritage

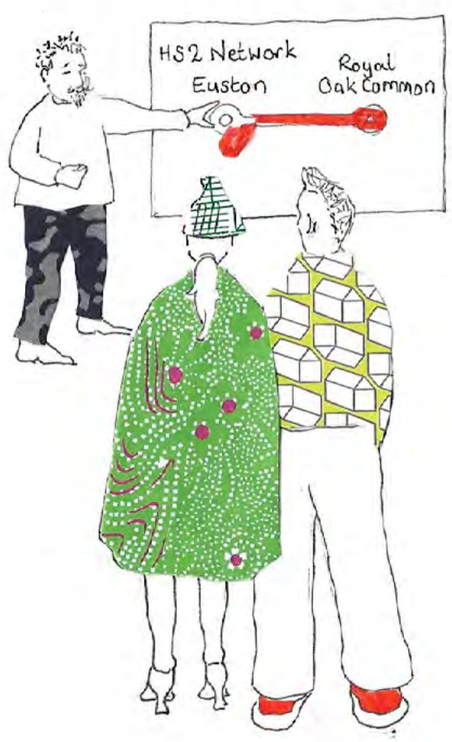
22
Does Primrose Hill Need Therapy?
Mark Frith discusses how we could all do with some emotional support

24
Sam's Cafe
A conversation with Sam Frears and Andrew O'Hagan

26
Renovated Hall at St Mary's
The grand opening of the new hall

28
Pictures from Primrose Hill

30
Visiting Zebras at the Zoo



Introducing the new HS2 network . . . 'We are proud to announce that the journey time from Old Oak Common to Euston has been slashed by eight minutes.'



The Team

Editor
Maggie Chambers
editor@onthehill.info

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

Social Media and Website Editor
Jason Pittock

Subeditors
Brenda Stones, Vicki Hillyard

Cartoon
Bridget Grosvenor

Photographer
Sarah Louise Ramsay
www.slrphotography.co.uk

Design
John Dillon
hello@jwdillon.co.uk

Advertising Sales
Richard Ramsay
ads@onthehill.info

Special thanks to all our contributors.

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

www.phca.cc

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

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Sarah Louise Ramsay

ISSN 20-6175

Editor's Letter



Welcome to Spring

One way or another, there's a lot about trains in this issue. Primrose Hill has always had strong connections to the rail and canal infrastructure, making it the ideal location for the numerous piano factories which sprang up. The raw materials arrived by train or barge and were transported to the factories by horse and cart. For more on this history, read about the location of some of these piano factories; and also the application for a National Transport Trust's Red Wheel heritage plaque for Pickford's Stables.

When the railways were first built, inevitably there was upheaval and a great deal of soot. Fast forward to today when trains are less grimy, but still prone to upheaval: most notably HS2, which has affected properties, caused traffic congestion and left a huge vacant hole in the centre of London, all for the dubious benefit of getting to Birmingham a touch faster. After a period of uncertainty, Rachel Reeves has announced that HS2 is now back on the agenda. On p 18 we give information on how this could affect us in Primrose Hill.

For non-train-spotters, PH has also been steeped in therapeutic history since Sigmund Freud first settled in Elsworthy Road on his arrival from Vienna. Local counsellor Mark Frith touches on his life and that of Carl Jung in his article 'Does Primrose Hill Need Therapy?'

Also featured are the dynamic duo of Sam Frears and Andrew O'Hagan, whose friendship created Sam's Cafe, a wonderful hub in our community which brightens the corner of Fitzroy Road and Chalcot Road.

Enjoy the spring and celebrate its arrival by shimmying down to the Village Disco on Saturday 8 March at the Primrose Hill Community Centre!

Maggie Chambers

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ON THE STREET

A Decade of Dance (p8)
Pickford's Stables (p9)
Cosmic Events in Primrose Hill (p12)
Friederich Engel's House (p13)
Artists and their Studios (p14)
AND MORE

A Decade of Dance: The Village Disco

Continued on p 8 ▶





A Decade of Dance: Primrose Hill's Village Disco Celebrates 10 Years

In the heart of Primrose Hill, a vibrant community event has been bringing neighbours together to dance for an entire decade. The Primrose Hill Village Disco has grown from a one-off simple Motown-themed party to a twice-yearly sold-out event that now spans four decades of sound.

The origins of the Village Disco go back to 2015 when Maureen Betts, then Chair of the Primrose Hill Community Association, was looking to put on a fun social event and had been considering a Motown Party. A chance encounter with Jason Pittock, a Primrose Hill resident who used to DJ professionally – and is the social media editor for ***On The Hill*** magazine – proved to be the perfect spark. With Jason's equipment and experience, the Village Disco was born.

That Motown-themed night has evolved into a musical time machine and the disco now celebrates music from 1960 to 1999, creating an eclectic party atmosphere that draws locals of all ages. The event has expanded from an annual gathering to two sold-out shows per year - one in spring and another in autumn.

The Village Disco is testament to local spirit as every aspect of the event is powered by volunteers. Jason leads the musical charge, joined by fellow guest DJs who have included Piers Warne, Petar Savic, Estelle Rubio and Tim Kirkpatrick. Among the other regular volunteers are Alice Gray and Danny Ivatt, who mix and serve the exciting (and potent) cocktails, then John and Nada Nutt, Clare Wright, Michael Moriarty, Steve Carr, Eileen Sheehan and Maureen herself.

Not forgetting Mick Hudspeth, manager of the Community Centre.

Jason said, "It's such a fun event; it's been great to watch it grow, and I get a chance to play the music from the eras I love. There are definitely some tunes that have become Village Disco staples, like 'The Clapping Song' by Shirely Ellis, 'Geno' by Dexys Midnight Runners, and for years we've ended the night with Madonna's 'Like a Prayer'."

But the disco isn't just about dancing; it's also about giving back, and all proceeds go to the Community Association, funding local initiatives like Neighbourhood Nosh, the weekly Open House and other community projects.

Despite its popularity, the disco faces challenges. Maureen Betts notes that while there's tremendous demand for more events, volunteer resources are limited. The call is out to community members: if you can help, the Primrose Hill Community Association would love to hear from you.

There are two discos planned for 2025 and hopefully beyond. Jason added, "If we keep going like this, then we may need to add another decade to the music policy."

The next Village Disco is Saturday 8 March, and to celebrate its 10th year the party is going back to the original format and highlighting Motown and music from the 1960s. Tickets are on sale at **www.phca.cc**.



Pickford's Stables – Celebrating the Past

By Peter Darley

The article on Pickford's Stables in the March 2023 edition of *On The Hill* described a truly remarkable complex of buildings. Built in 1857–58 to house some 250 horses, it was the largest and most sophisticated complex of stables built up to that time and remained so for the next several decades.

Pickford was the largest carrying agent throughout the 19th century for goods moved by railway, and the Camden Station of the London and North Western Railway, which the horses served, was the largest depot of the major joint stock company in the land.

Were it not for the damage inflicted by an incendiary bomb in 1943, Primrose Hill might have claimed another highly listed railway heritage site alongside the Stationary Winding Engine Vaults and the Primrose Hill Tunnel East portals (both Grade II*). The former stables adjoined and pre-dated by a quarter of a century the Grade II listed Primrose Hill School.

Surviving vestiges of the stables were demolished in the early 1970s to make way for Waterside Place. They would remain invisible were it not for the archaeological curiosity that is the Gloucester Avenue wall. A smaller section of wall remains on the boundary with Primrose Hill School. These walls reveal the stables' external façade with its architectural pattern of windows and pilasters.

Camden Railway Heritage Trust would like to celebrate Pickford's Stables and remind visitors and passers-by of their former significance by attaching a Red Wheel plaque to the Waterside Place Residents Association (WPRA) Gloucester Avenue wall. An application has been approved by the National Transport Trust (NTT) with the agreement of WPRA.

National Transport Trust's Red Wheel (RW) heritage plaque scheme seeks to highlight the most important sites of transport heritage and bring them to the attention of a wider and younger audience, by the erection of bespoke commemorative plaques backed up with comprehensive websites.

Whereas Historic England's Blue Plaques commemorate significant people, Red Wheels commemorate significant places and 'things', and are precisely the same size. The Red Wheel programme is recognised by Historic England as the principal transport heritage programme. An early Red Wheel plaque on the Roundhouse is shown here.



More recent Red Wheel plaques carry a QR code that links with NTT's website, where more information and images about the site would be found. The website would make it perfectly clear that Waterside Place is private property and out of bounds to visitors and advise that no further evidence of the former stables exists.



The NTT is already persuaded of the significance of the site, but the success of the application may also depend on a willingness to help fund the creation of the Red Wheel plaque and its installation. The installed cost is not expected to exceed £2000 and our community should be able to raise the necessary funds. There will be an appeal in a future edition of *On The Hill*, to be followed by details of the opening ceremony.

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Postcards from Primrose Hill



A lovely street scene from around 1905 of the York & Albany bridge that leads down to Parkway. It's a typically peaceful picture of Edwardian times: mothers out with their children, pushing their prams, a man with his dog, and the only traffic a horse-pulled bus.

Both buildings you can see were built by John Nash. On the right is one of the beautiful villas that make up Park Village East.

Over to the left is the York & Albany pub, built around 1826–27. Nash named the pub after his friend, the Duke of York & Albany, Prince Frederick Augustus (1763–27), second son of King George III.

The 1911 census tell us that the York & Albany pub was then run by 41-year-old Henry Arthur Mayes and his wife Maude, 35. They lived there with their 15-year-old son Harry, two barmen, one barmaid, a cook and a housemaid.

In 2009 Gordon Ramsay acquired the leasehold of the building, but is now apparently involved in a court battle with the building's owner. Sadly, the pub has therefore closed and is supposedly on the market with a guide price of £13 million.

@old_primrosehill_postcards

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NEWS & INFORMATION

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

from Primrose Hill Community Association

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **8 March** – 10th anniversary of the Village Disco, this time with a 1960s / Motown theme (see p 7 for more details).
- **12 March** - Open House at 2pm, in conjunction with Primrose Hill Primary School, which will be sending a choir to the Community Centre to bring the generations together.
- **17 March** – Art for the Mind, a monthly art session for people with memory problems. Carers and family members also welcome.
- **18 March** – *Shadow World* is a harrowing, behind-the-scenes documentary film about the global arms trade. Andrew Feinstein, writer of the film, will host a Q&A after the showing.
- **29 March** – Jumble sale, 11am to 1pm. Bring any donations (not electricals, CDs or DVDs) to the Community Centre by 27 March.
- **9 May** – Top of the Hill Quiz 2025, the ever-popular brainteaser.

JUMBLE SALE

There are not many jumble sales around these days, but to keep the spirit of recycling alive in Primrose Hill, we shall be having ours on Saturday 29 March from 11am to 1pm. There will be clothes, books, bric-a-brac, toys and games. and refreshments. We would welcome any donations of the above, which you can bring to the Community Centre by 27 March. If you would like to help out selling on one of the stalls, please get in touch on 020 7586 8327.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Primrose Hill Walks – often with a theme, occasional Thursday mornings (check the PHCA bulletin* for dates)
- Open House – a free weekly activity (talk, film, walk, museum visit) followed by tea and cake – a great way to meet new friends and socialise
- Zumba Gold – an upbeat keep-fit session for seniors
- Seniors Yoga/Pilates – chair-based yoga and pilates for people who find regular yoga/pilates difficult
- Life Drawing – with live models
- Wellbeing Cafe – every Wednesday between 10am and 2pm; pay what you can
- Weekly Sunday Bar – with a cut-price bar and pool table
- Memory Singing Circle – for people affected by memory loss (carers welcome)
- Narcotics Anonymous – Thursdays and Saturdays, a vital service to many
- Art for the Mind – currently a monthly session for people affected by memory loss (family and carers welcome)
- Qi Gong – a very popular free class (dates via the PHCA bulletin*)

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOSH

If you know of anyone who struggles to get out of their home and would benefit from a delicious vegetarian home-cooked three-course meal, then please get in touch with the team at nosh@phca.cc. They can deliver throughout the CA-J parking zone.

* Sign up to the PHCA weekly bulletin for news and details of forthcoming events: **phca.cc/subscribe**

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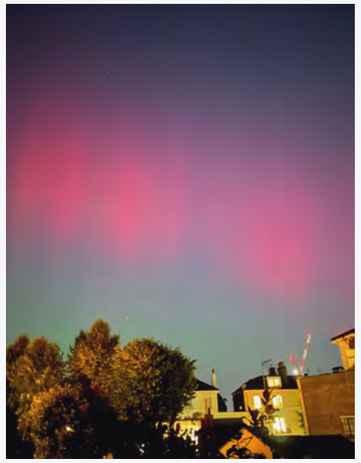
- **Passionate** about supporting the futures of thousands of young people
- **Well-connected** and willing to bring your friends and networks into the Roundhouse
- **Willing and able to dedicate time** for fundraising efforts and monthly meetings (held at the Roundhouse)

Interested? Please get in touch: **Angela Huang, Partnerships & Philanthropy Events Manager**
angela.huang@roundhouse.org.uk 01227 230803

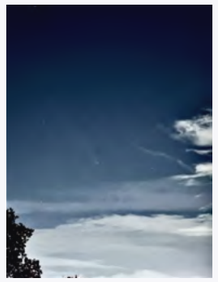
Photographing Cosmic Events in Primrose Hill

By Adriélly Calil

London might not be the ideal spot for stargazing, thanks to its almost universal light pollution. However, Primrose Hill has been stealing the show when it comes to astronomical events. In October, within the span of just a week, we were treated to two major celestial spectacles. The first was none other than the Northern Lights, which graced the skies over Primrose Hill on the evening of 10 October. The display began around 8pm, became visible to the naked eye by 9.50pm, and made another appearance at midnight. This stunning phenomenon was the result of heightened solar activity, which has been ramping up as the sun approaches the peak of its 11-year solar cycle. The auroras danced across the Primrose Hill skyline so vividly that you could even capture them on camera without using 'night' mode. That said, the most striking photos were taken with exposures of 3 to 10 seconds using night mode, which truly brought their colours to life.



Just days later, another extraordinary event took over UK skies: the passage of the comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, also known as C/2023 A3 or Comet A3. This comet last passed by Earth an astonishing 80,000 years ago and won't return for another 80,000 years. While many ventured to remote countryside locations to catch a glimpse of this rare visitor, Primrose Hill Park proved itself once again, offering a view of the comet on 18 October at around 7.45pm. Unlike the Northern Lights, which could be enjoyed with the naked eye, spotting the comet required a little more effort. A good camera was essential, along with a darker spot in the park, a westward focus, and night mode settings with similar exposures to those used for the auroras.



When it comes to stargazing, less light pollution is always better, and that's where Primrose Hill shines (or doesn't, if we're being technical). The lack of towering skyscrapers and abundance of green spaces mean our neighbourhood enjoys relatively low light pollution, making it a fantastic spot for witnessing events like these. If you were lucky enough to catch either of these celestial spectacles, they will no doubt remain unforgettable. But don't fret if you missed out on one – or even both. There are plenty more astronomical wonders on the horizon, and now you know: Primrose Hill is the perfect place to experience them.

Friedrich Engels' House

Most people know from the blue plaque that the philosopher Friedrich Engels lived at 122 Regent's Park Road from 1870 to 1894; but fewer know that in 1894 he moved to no 41, where he died almost a year later. English Heritage make no note of this on their website, but there is an interesting photo of the house taken at the time, and it has hardly changed except for the front gate. He writes in his letters about the three first-floor windows of his study, and these original windows are still in place.

Here is an excerpt from one of his letters:

"The house is situated some five hundred paces closer to town, a hundred paces from Primrose Hill and rather less from the entrance to Regent's Park. Below stairs, in the BASEMENT, there is a cosy breakfast room in addition to the kitchen, etc., on the ground floor a drawing room and dining room which could seat twenty-four people in comfort, on the first floor at the front my study, with three windows facing the street and very easy to keep warm - at the back my bedroom, also large; 2d floor: four rooms occupied by the Freyberger family; 3rd floor, likewise four rooms for maid servants, visitors, box rooms, etc. A small front garden and a larger and, for these parts, really quite pleasant one at the back. All this at a cost of £85 a year, as compared with the £60 I used to pay!



The secret lies in the fact that the LANDLORD lives in Lancashire and doesn't want to spend money, but merely to take it. So I advanced round about £200 for repairs, in return for which I shall pay no rent for two and a half years and live on the advance. The last tenant, a doctor, used to pay £130, from which you will see how much the value of houses fluctuates here."

As an interesting aside, Dr Freyberger, to whom Engels rented the 2nd floor (rent-free as Freyberger was his in-house doctor), was the chief pathologist for the Jack the Ripper murders, of which Scotland Yard suspected a certain George Chapman as the killer.

Thank you to Stephen Briggs for sending this information.

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Artists and their Studios in Primrose Hill

By Anna Moszynska

The Primrose Hill Community Association hosted a fascinating evening at the Community Centre on 14 November at which art historian Jeremy Lewison gave an illustrated introduction to the history of artists' studios in Primrose Hill from the 1960s to the 1980s. Two distinguished Royal Academicians, Michael Craig-Martin and Paul Huxley, then shared their recollections of working in the neighbourhood.

The two artists had overlapped during the 1980s, renting studios in Butcher's Yard, the plaster workshop named after its owner, Mr Butcher, at 6–10 Fitzroy Road. Each had previously lived and worked in New York lofts, which they found a very different experience. There, they discovered generously proportioned studios functioning as a joint work/home space, and providing welcome heating, if not air-conditioning. But at Butcher's Yard, Craig-Martin found his studio small, perilously cold and lacking hot water. Both remembered 'surreal', De Chirico-esque encounters with unpainted plaster columns and piles of white ceiling roses in order to reach their respective studios, and Huxley recalled how even the smell of the place became insalubrious after the workshop turned to using fibreglass instead of old-fashioned plaster.

But benefits abounded: the enticement of artist friends living or working in the area; stylish Regent's Park Road with its bookshop and other amenities; and proximity to the heart of London, plus the advantage of high ceilings in the studios themselves. Craig-Martin, who was living in a basement in Regent's Park Road, found the area more congenial than the Angel, which was yet to 'up and come'. From his own studio in the top storey of the Yard, Paul Huxley could hear the roar of lions and sea lions from the Zoo and, while painting late at night, even the howl of wolves!

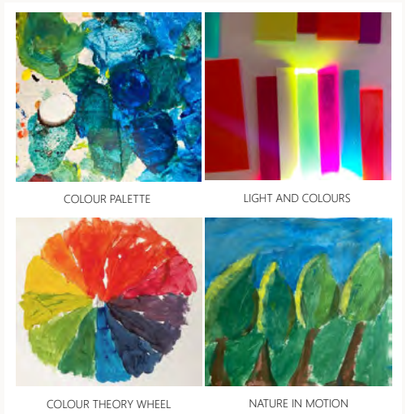
Both artists felt an effect on their art: Huxley responded to the north-facing light, and Craig-Martin particularly enjoyed being part of a properly functioning industrial environment. In this he was helped by the sculptor Julian Opie, whose welding skills led him to a phase of metal construction before his young assistant set off to pursue his own career. Huxley was surprised to learn that a live blowtorch was being used by his colleagues just a few floors below him, with gas storage tanks in close proximity. Health and safety would have a field day now!

While Hampstead was known for its 'nest of gentle artists' in the 1930s (Hepworth, Nicholson and Moore), what this evening brought to light was just how many respected painters and sculptors, only a few decades later, worked in Primrose Hill. Besides Frank Auerbach coming in from Camden, in Fitzroy Road alone Butcher's Yard hosted Robert Adams, Stephen Buckley, Rita Donagh, Peter Kalkhof and Phillip King; while on the other side of the street, Primrose Hill Studios was home to Patrick and Pauline Caulfield (the latter still living there) and John Hoyland. Today, high London rents have made Folkestone, Margate and Hastings the go-to destinations for young artists, but as Craig-Martin pointed out, the loss of city-living has been a loss to them. And also, one might argue, to us.

Jeremy Lewison's recent book, *Paul Huxley,* published by Lund Humphries, is available from Primrose Hill Books and other bookshops



Art and Perception
Art education programme



Primrose Hill

Art Club

Art education programme designed for children focuses on art workshops that encourage imagination, creativity and critical thinking. It explores various themes related to visual fundamentals, art history and contemporary art.

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Art and Perception

News & Views

Soul Studio



Our local crystal shop, Soulstice, have now created a yoga and well-being studio: a space to nourish mind, body and soul through self-care, community and creativity. They run a variety of classes, workshops and events. Soul Studio can be found down the cobbled street of Berkley Grove off Berkley Road. There's a range of pricing, including monthly, unlimited membership for £135.
www.soulstudio.com

The Royal Parks Online Shop

The Royal Parks has launched an online shop which stocks gardening items such as tools and seeds, as well as homeware, outdoor and picnic accessories, toys, food gifts, home fragrances and books. Every purchase from the online shop benefits The Royal Parks charity and supports vital conservation efforts, restoration projects, learning and volunteering activities.
The charity manages, protects and improves the parks in a sustainable manner so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy their natural and historic environments, now and in the future.
shop.royalparks.org.uk
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The Royal Parks

On The Hillimerick

When they did, on Ilkley Moor, bar chat,
Pertaining to his inaugural tat,
Though, not quite as amiss,
Her bliss, to miss, kiss,
As she trumped him, with the width of her hat.

Howard Richards



SATURDAY 1 MARCH

Feldenkrais Workshops
EYES organise the movement. PHCC. 12.45–2.45pm.

TUESDAY 4 MARCH

Film Show
His Girl Friday, directed by Howard Hawks, is a fast-talking, razor-sharp comedy classic that redefines romance and rivalry. Starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell. PHCL. Doors open 7.15pm. £8 including a glass of wine. Tickets at phcl.org/filmshow.

SATURDAY 15 MARCH

Carmen concert performance by Primrose Hill Choirs, Let the Children Sing and London Classical Choir. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ (enter via Elsworthy Road). 6–8pm. £15, under 4s free. See www.primrosehillchoirs.com.

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH

Book Club
Every third Wednesday of the month. PHCL. 7pm. Check website for details of the book. Free.

FRIDAY 21 MARCH

Lana Sheli Concert
PHCL. Doors open 7pm. £5 online, £6 on the door. Tickets at www.phcl.org/gig.

SATURDAY 22 MARCH

Feldenkrais Workshops
POSTURE in action. PHCC. 12.45–2.45pm.

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

Jumble Sale
PHCC. 11am–1pm.

THURSDAY 10 APRIL

Circus Glory Camp
Teenager workshops, creating a mini routine and performing with music. Designed for all students, no prior experience needed. PHCC. 3–5pm. See www.circusglory.com.

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.

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

Bilingual Beats
Spanish through music classes for children. PHCL. 4–5pm. Check Library website for more details.

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

WEDNESDAY

Ready Steady Go Beginners
A gentle introduction to pre-school activities for ages 1–2 years. PHCC. 9.15am–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.

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

Primrose Hill Children's Choir
Exciting performances, fun singing. St Mary's NW3 3DJ. 4.20–5.20pm. primrosehillchoirs.com. Contact: maestromattheww@yahoo.co.uk

THURSDAY

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

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

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

After School Art Club
Art classes for ages 5–12 years. Thursdays in school term time. For booking contact info@artbuddies.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

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

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.

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

SUNDAY

Perform
Drama, dance and singing for ages 4–12 years. PHCC. 10am–11.30am (4–7s) and 11.35am–1.05pm (7-12s). Contact 020 7255 9120 or enquiries@perform.org.uk.

What's On Spring 2025

ADULTS

MONDAY

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

Chilled Strings
Beginners' orchestra rehearsals. PHCC. 6.30–8.30pm. Contact sueandhercello@gmail.com.

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

Primrose Hill Walks
Occasional guided walks through Primrose Hill, Regent's Park and surrounding areas, sometimes with themes. Meet by the entrance to the Hill, on the corner of Primrose Hill Road and Regent's Park Road. 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 jane_seal@hotmail.com.

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

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

Bridge Club
Beginners' session 5–6.15pm, advanced session 6.30–8pm. PHCL. Contact jojarrold@gmail.com.

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

FRIDAY

Aerial Pilates
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. PHCC. 2.45–3.45pm. Free. Register at phca.cc.

SATURDAY

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

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

SUNDAY

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

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

HS2 in Primrose Hill

Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced in the October budget that the government – in spite of the £22 billion black hole – will find the funds for HS2 tunnelling between Old Oak Common and Euston.

What does this mean for Primrose Hill? Martin Sheppard convened a meeting in the Primrose Hill Community Centre and invited Lord Tony Berkeley, Paul Braithwaite and Jeff Travers in order to discuss the "monster lurking next to Primrose Hill for more than 10 years".

Tony Berkeley, a Labour peer and civil engineer, told the audience, "No one has a bloody clue what's happening next." Currently there are 2,000-tonne tunnel-boring machines in Old Oak Common waiting for the government to give the green light to dig the 4.7 miles underground to Camden. Lord Berkeley, who spent 15 years building the Channel Tunnel, said, "The idea of starting to build a tunnel, if you didn't know where it's going to come out, is a novel one." His advice was to "Watch and wait. Lobby like hell if you feel like it. Talk about the money."

Former Liberal Democrat councillor Paul Braithwaite compared HS2 to the Monty Python sketch in which Michael Palin has limb after limb cut off in a duel, in that various legs of HS2 have been chopped off, including extensions to Heathrow, Leeds, Manchester and Warrington. In October 2023, Rishi Sunak decreed that funding for both Euston and the tunnelling from Old Oak Common – if the leg was to proceed at all – would be paid for by private investment. He specified that the HS2 Euston station design should be reduced from 11 platforms to just six – reflecting the cancellation of the routes to both Leeds and Manchester. This removed £6.5 billion from the public purse commitment, which was then reallocated to infrastructure schemes across the country. The HS2 phase 1 costing was last estimated to be a total of £76 billion at 2019 prices, excluding Euston and the tunnels from Old Oak Common.

Jeff Travers is a local architect who told the meeting that part of his back garden had been subjected to a compulsory purchase order as he lives so close to the proposed line. Jeff has managed to get hold of the latest plans from SCS, the engineers with the contract to design and build the tunnels. As can be seen on the plans, HS2's nearer tunnel will run beneath Foxton's on Parkway, under most of Darwin Court and the electricity substation at 36 Gloucester Avenue, before crossing under Fitzroy Bridge to near the corner of Waterside Place. It will then go under 42–50 Gloucester Avenue, Sunny Mews, Whittlebury Mews East and West, 110 Gloucester Avenue, and 134 and 136 Gloucester Avenue before crossing under the road. The tunnel continues under 196 Regent's Park Road and the Chesterfields, then 1 and 6 King Henry's Road, before crossing railway land to the Adelaide Road vent shaft. HS2's other (eastern) tunnel will only affect the back of No 42 Gloucester Avenue and the beer garden of the Pembroke pub. The depth at which the tunnel will be dug is 28 metres at the beginning of Darwin Court, 29.4 metres at Dumpton Place and 36.38 metres at the Chesterfields. These measurements are all to the bottom of the tunnel, which will be 7.3 metres in diameter.



The main impact to date has been road closures. One of the houses in Adelaide Road has been badly impacted by the vent shaft, which has also destroyed a considerable area of green corridor. Most of the enabling works in the area, however, have now been completed. HS2's lorry depot, between Prince Albert Road and Gloucester Gate, has been largely unused but, if the extension to Euston goes ahead, may see increased haulage for years. In the process of its construction, one of the last strongholds of the hedgehog in central London was destroyed.

What will be the effect of the nearer (western) tunnel, if it is dug? The tunnel-boring machines are capable of boring through clay at a remarkable rate, lining the bore with concrete segments and grouting as they go, leaving a stable tunnel behind them. The walls of the tunnel are only liable to deterioration while the clay dries. However, much of the Camden Railway Yard had spoil from the Chalk Farm Tunnel and railway cuttings spread upon it in the 1830s, which may cause instability. Secondly, there may be 'boggy pockets' along the course of the tunnelling. There is an additional settlement risk from the cross passages. One of these is under the electricity substation next to the north-western end of Darwin Court; the other is behind 136 Gloucester Avenue. These will be dug not by the tunnel-boring machines but by robots.



The digging of the tunnels themselves will probably be imperceptible on the surface. With modern systems of insulation, it is also unlikely that HS2's trains, which at this point will not be travelling fast, will be heard. The noise of trains on the surface, and indeed of cars in Gloucester Avenue, is likely to remain much greater.

Many of the buildings under which HS2's nearer tunnel passes, including Darwin Court, Sunny Mews and Whittlebury Mews East and West, are modern constructions and have foundations able to withstand minor settlement. This should of course be checked. The early housing in Gloucester Avenue, by contrast, was built without foundations. Many of the houses have experienced a lesser or greater degree of settlement over the years. Although HS2's tunnelling may cause a small degree of extra settlement, this is likely to be minor. The special cases of 44 Gloucester Avenue, 196 Regent's Park Road, the Chesterfields and 1 and 6 King Henry's Road, under which the tunnel will go directly, need individual monitoring.

HS2 (or its contractor) have a legal duty to survey properties. For Primrose Hill, HS2 may be inclined to generalise, notably regarding terraced property, without checking whether structural modifications have been made, such as rear extensions which may be prone to differential settlement.

Surveys have already been completed at Park Village East, where settlement is predicted to be excessive and damaging. HS2 is currently carrying out preparatory mitigation (underpinning), causing great disruption.

The necessity for property-owners to take precautions depends on whether HS2 goes ahead with its tunnelling. Even if the tunnels are excavated as far as Parkway, because HS2's contract with SCS cannot be cancelled, there is no guarantee that they will actually reach Euston. The engineering challenges, and associated risks, of designing the enormous 'Burrow' in the throat of the Euston cutting have not to date been resolved to the point where the proposals can be officially signed off.

To these problems must be added the relatively small space available to developers on the west side of Euston. They are most unlikely to be willing to finance the tunnels, despite the government's hopes. Finally, none of the plans currently on offer address the glaring failure to replace the pitifully outdated existing Euston station.

Property owners have a number of rights and other potential guarantees at their disposal. They can also take precautionary measures if it looks as if the tunnels are about to be bored. Two elements which may have their performance affected are doors and drains. As most of the doors in the affected properties are likely to be in flats, they may be fire doors which need to meet strict tolerances. A careful record of the current state of these should be considered. We plan to provide a detailed guide to what property-owners can and should do if they consider themselves at danger from HS2's tunnelling. This will be available on the Primrose Hill Community Association website.

www.phca.cc

Thank you to Martin Sheppard and Jeff Travers for supplying the information for this article.



PIANO FACTORIES IN PRIMROSE HILL

By Maggie Chambers

The piano makers in the UK originally came from Germany in the 1700s. By the 19th century, this area had become the centre of the country's piano manufacturing industry, because the rich network of rail, canal and road networks made transportation of bulky goods relatively simple. At the peak of the industry there were approximately 360 piano factories across England, with over 100 situated between Camden Town and Tufnell Park.

One of the Thursday morning walks organised by the Primrose Hill Community Association was a tour of the former local piano factories in Camden and Chalk Farm, led by photographer Jonathan Root; and as they had been so important to Primrose Hill's history, I decided to go along.



First off was Erskine Road, where the old factory building still stands; you may remember it was once home to Triyoga (which has now moved to another piano factory in Camden). John Malcolm and Co started their business on Bayham Street in Camden, and moved to Erskine Road in 1903. Due to the nature of piano manufacturing, with its steam-powered machinery, seasoned timber, varnish, wood dust and heated animal glue, fires were an occupational hazard. A fire took hold in this factory on 21 March 1906. The building was restored at a cost of £9,000, but five months later the same thing happened again! The building has now been converted into flats.

Across the road from the Erskine Road factory is Erskine Mews, previously stables for the horse-drawn carts which towed the raw materials from the canal and the railway to the piano factories.



Our next site was The Old Piano Factory in front of the Community Centre on Fitzroy Road, with its ornate Italianate-style portico and piano-shaped gates. The yard included the factory, made of London stock brick, with six adjoining houses. The current Community Centre was originally an outbuilding for the factory.

The name of Hopkinson's Place stems from the piano manufacturer John Hopkinson, who moved here in 1869 and won many awards for his pianos. In 1924, Hopkinson's went into voluntary liquidation. The company turned into Rogers and Hopkinson, and in 1963 was taken over by Zender; it then became Bentley's in 1987.

In 1981, Hopkinson's Place won one of Camden's first Civic Trust Awards for the innovative way it was developed to create the homes and Community Centre there now. The Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee (PHCAAC) campaigned for the development, and prevented Camden Council from demolishing the site. A tank of fresh water was found under the Community Centre, which would have been used in the piano manufacturing process.

The area behind Chalcot Road houses another piano factory, owned by J Spencer and Co, which was established in 1884. Look through the gates just past Utopia Village and you can see the old structure. There's a building with a glass roof to let in daylight and a timber drying shed where the wood was seasoned for seven years. Visible from the back of the surrounding houses, the old factory chimney can still be seen.



Photo by Jonathan Root

On the other side of the railway tracks is the distinctive circular, Grade I listed building at 43 Gloucester Crescent, on the corner of Oval Road. It began trading as Collard & Collard in 1852, with a central yard where pianos could be winched between floors. But within a year fire raged through an open shaft and destroyed the original building which had to be entirely rebuilt. By 1860 they were selling 40 pianos a week, and for many years this was the oldest factory in the country. Charles Lukey Collard (born 1805) used to transport the pianos by rail from Paddington to his mansion in Somerset; his home had a large ballroom where Charles Collard would play the pianos by candlelight, to make sure they were all of the highest quality.

Eventually in 1929, Collard ceased trading. From 1971 to 1988 the building became the offices of Duckworth publishers, where Colin and Anna Haycraft famously published local authors like Beryl Bainbridge.



Photo by Jonathan Root

Our fifth and final site was the Chappell factory between Belmont Street and Ferdinand Street, near the Roundhouse. It was built in 1867 for Chappell and Co, whose clients included Beethoven, Strauss and Sibelius. The building went on to house Chalk Farm Photographic Studios, where David Bailey once worked, and is now a collection of luxurious loft apartments. A throwback to the area's heritage can still be seen in the old signage on Belmont Street, and at the back of the factory on Ferdinand Street can be found a sign commemorating the factory workers who gave their lives during WW1.





Yet another example of the richness of our local heritage, once you know where to look!



Photo by Sarah Louise Ramsay

Does Primrose Hill Need Therapy?

By Mark Frith

When I tell people who aren't from these parts that I'm setting up a counselling practice in Primrose Hill, there is a common response. "What have people in Primrose Hill got to worry about?" one said. "Don't do it there," said another. "Go somewhere where people have real problems."

This expectation, this stereotype, this pressure to feel that we've got it all together when we don't always feel we do ... well, it's enough to drive people to therapy.

There are many possible reasons why couples and individuals (I work with both) may need a space once a week to talk, to seek perspective or empathy, or just have an outlet, somewhere to get all their stuff out.

You could be someone who is successful in their field, but finding meaning and purpose are proving tougher these days. You had it before, so where has it gone? There might just be a nagging feeling that 'something isn't quite right'. You might feel this when you wake up in the morning; or these thoughts affect you as you try to sleep at night. If something feels not quite right, though you can't put your finger on it, talking to someone can help.

Or maybe you're a couple feeling the brunt of a tough few years: Covid lockdowns, cost of living crises (which affect us all, wherever we reside) and the personal effects of those. It's hard to be romantic, or even just patient, when bombarded with those concerns. At times like these, relationships can feel they're running on empty, kept afloat by habit and repeat patterns that feel increasingly exhausting.

Possibly you feel you've lost the sense of your individuality in your relationships: as wife, husband, partner, mum, dad, worker, provider, carer, daughter, son. As time goes on, these roles (maybe they feel more like labels?) can feel bigger than us and there's expectation that comes with each. People rely on us fulfilling those labels, depend on us for them, maybe even take them for granted. What have we lost about ourselves in the process? Where is the individual we once were, and how do we get that back? These are things you might want to discuss with a therapist, either on your own or with a partner.

Or maybe you have a perception that we should be happy, that life around here in this beautiful part of London should be good, but we're not feeling it. Maybe that is an added pressure too? The halo effect of where we live might not be filtering down to our mood, and then we feel bad because we 'should' be feeling a certain way and we're not. Official statistics from the NHS late last year revealed that the borough of Camden is the loneliest place in the UK, with 36% of people feeling 'lonely often or always'. So much for the benefits of living here.

It could be your job that is troubling you. The hours aren't getting any shorter, change is constant and we can all feel off the pace. Primrose Hill has a myriad of successful people, but maybe they're not letting on about the pressures they're feeling from work. Before becoming a therapist, I had a long career in challenging work environments, editing magazines and presenting TV programmes. If you're going through a challenging work situation, I can truly empathise.

We live in an area steeped in therapeutic history. To the north of Primrose Hill, just up from the Hampstead Theatre, is a monument to the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud. A little further along the Finchley Road is Freud's home, now a museum. Then there's Hampstead, where Carl Jung made his home. There is a great history in NW3 and NW1 of looking inward, of self-reflection, of openness to what the mind is telling us.

So does that mean that clients around here breeze into therapy as casually as they would into the flower shop? Not a bit of it. Taking that first step and looking for help can be a little nerve-wracking. Maybe you are someone who has difficulty seeking help from others. Your outward presentation to the world may be assured, that of someone who has got it together. But if you're not feeling that on the inside and the energy needed to keep that veneer is too much, you maybe could use help too.

A quick email is all it takes to get started. Counsellors like me, registered with the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy or other Professional Standards Authority endorsed organisations, offer a kind, supportive, non-judgemental environment. However, early sessions can be daunting. Words might not always come at first. Thoughts will feel confused at times. But that first step will be followed by a second, and in time you will find that help is out there and things can get better.

You can find Mark at bacp/markfrith and email him at markfrithcounselling@gmail.com



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SAM'S CAFE, HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

By The Mole on the Hill

Grandad, why are all those people sitting in that shop window?
That's not a shop, Lass. That's Sam's Cafe.
Who's Sam?
Sam Frears. He's a bit of a Primrose Hill celebrity. He's an actor and film–maker.

–

Sam, son of Sir Stephen Frears and Mary–Kay Wilmers, was born with a degenerative illness that has led to blindness and mobility difficulties; but this did not stop him from becoming an actor, performing in Chickenshed productions and having cameos in several of his father's films, plus a walk–on in *Eastenders*.

Sam is part–owner of the local Sam's Cafe with Andrew O'Hagan, a successful novelist who came from Scotland in 1991 to write for the *London Review of Books*, where Sam's mother was editor. Andrew says: "The *LRB* is an amazing place. The best writers in the world write for the paper. When I was with them it was intense and entertaining. We were working to produce the best literary paper in the world. That's where I met Sam.

"Sam and I always promised each other that if the opportunity arose, we would start a cafe together. It was a dream we both had. It's difficult to make a project like this work at the best of times, but we started in the middle of a recession, and with Covid around the corner. But we planned well. We choose our staff carefully. We pay them the Living Wage and they keep 100% tips and service charge. We're trying to create a model of how to run a business that's good for the community.

"Sam has always had a gift for friendship, and he's been a force in all of our lives. This cafe radiates that friendship. It's a distillation of Sam's spirit."

So why would a successful novelist and a person of independent means open a cafe in Primrose Hill? Andrew continues: "We wanted a normal, casual, easy–going place where people could come throughout the day and into the evening. We opened the first one on Regent's Park Road; then we moved here, where I think there's a sense of being at the heart of the community. It's opposite The Princess, which is good for us. People can have dinner and a bottle of wine and then come over to us for a nightcap.

"We wanted a cafe like the *Eastenders* cafe. It's welcoming, and we keep prices as low as we can. If you come here in the morning you see all the same people: of different ages, persuasions and backgrounds, having coffee, having breakfast, talking to each other, reading newspapers that we provide. It has become a very important hub in the community over the past few years. We love Primrose Hill. People are always saying how much the cafe means in their lives. The staff know all the customers. We wanted to have a good vibe in here, everyone enjoying themselves. I think we've realised that dream. Let's hope it carries on being a success for years.

"We are encouraging people to come more in the evenings. Because it's called Sam's Cafe, people sometimes don't realise we're a restaurant that's open all day and in the evenings too. Our chef has organised a fantastic supper. We can cater for everyone and there's a wonderful atmosphere in the evening. Our role is to sustain the idea we originally had. We aren't here to make a profit, and we spend more than we make. We look beyond profit towards something else, that is a community benefit. We have art shows which involve local artists; we have launch parties, birthday parties. I'm sure people often remember a particular place from their past where they had social events; and we want Sam's Cafe to be like that. It's not like a caff in the 80s where you just got egg and chips. We've gone up in the world. People now want more."

As to the future: they want to keep the cafe open, and to do that they need the collaboration of the whole community. "This is your cafe," Sam said. Meanwhile Andrew is working on a TV adaptation of his book *Caledonian Road* and is hoping for a part for Sam somewhere in there ("as the janitor," he jokes). He has also started a new book, set in a summer of the 1970s. "My mother was a cleaner in a school. Something happened there involving a Loyalist bomber. It will be a thriller and a love story."

Sam is now in his forties. He is a great friend and leveller and is never afraid to tell his friends they are not, perhaps, quite as famous as they thought they were. In between medical appointments and despite his failing sight, Sam uses his season ticket to West Ham, goes rock–climbing and socialises. It's lucky he doesn't have any other job, because he would never be able to fit in his many friends.

So, what shall we do now Grandad? How about a hot chocolate at Sam's?
Good idea, Lass. We're bound to meet somebody interesting there.

© The Mole on the Hill



Photo by Christina Jansen

Renovated Hall at St Mary's

In February, St Mary's church saw the grand opening of St Mary's Centre on Primrose Hill Road; community spirit was in evidence, with people from all walks of Primrose Hill life joining the celebrations.

The building is 100 years old and has served its community really well up to now; but it was suffering from leaks, and various other problems. So fundraising was set up, and now the hall is warm and leak-free. This means it's much more habitable for the young people who attend Mary's Charity, and all the other organisations who use it. The renovation was done by Dow Jones Architects: it modernised the Victorian building with insulation, roof repairs, new electrics and low-energy heating. The work was completed just before Christmas.

Mary's Charity provides nearly 2,000 local young people with mentoring and intense support, operating from St Mary's Centre. Its founder, Jason Allen BEM, said "We're a lifeline for vulnerable young people. St Mary's Centre has been a home from home. We will continue making this area safer with our amazing team." Jason spoke of how much the room is used and cited examples of what a typical week involves – situations which involve working with the most vulnerable people in the borough.



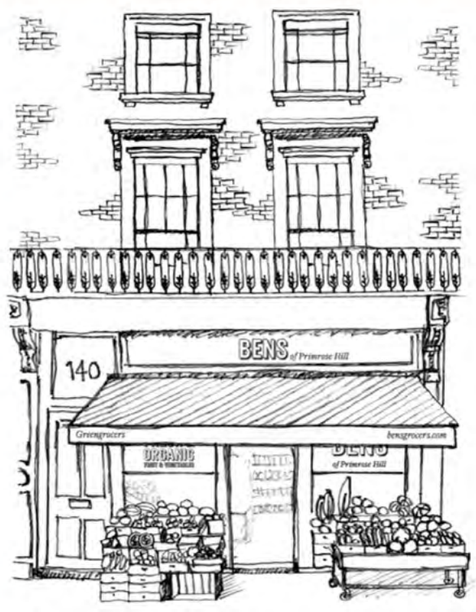
Children's author Lauren Child declared the hall officially open by cutting the ribbon and raising a toast to 'kindness'.

The renovation was funded by locals who care about the great work going on there: as well as Mary's Charity, this includes Alcoholics Anonymous and a homeless cold weather shelter. What a great achievement by the area, showing how we can make a difference!

BENS of Primrose Hill

Healthy foods for a healthy mood
8am – 7.45pm every day
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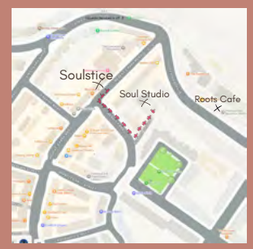


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INFO & BOOKING

Pictures from Primrose Hill

Ann Rosenthal, a Primrose Hill resident for nearly 60 years, sent us this image of her winter visitor, the fox, and Siri Schumann captured the wintry shots of the squirrel and the robin.

Turning skywards, Siri, along with Moray Maclennan, sent us images of winter skies in Primrose Hill and James Lee sent some of his recent commutes to work.

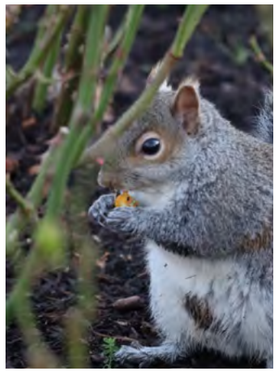
Finally, Sarah Lancrenon took some photos on her way to a meeting at the Baker Street Irregular Astronomers at the Hub in Regent's Park.

We've had some wonderful contributions for this issue, so thank you to them all!

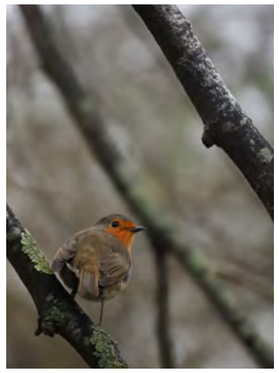
If you have any photos of the area which you'd like to share, please send them to editor@onthehill.info for possible inclusion in our next issue.



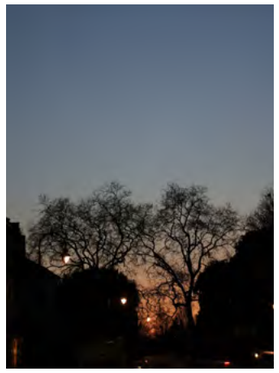
Ann Rosenthal



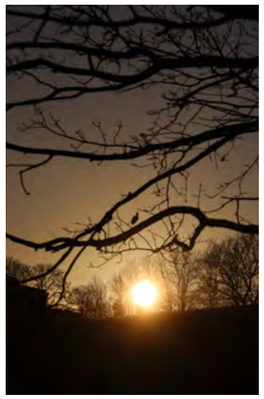
Siri Schumann



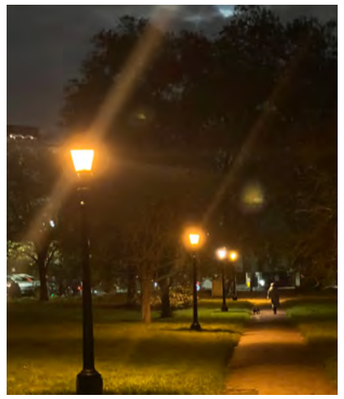
Siri Schumann



Siri Schumann



Siri Schumann



Moray Maclennan



James Lee



James Lee



James Lee



Sarah Lancrenon



Sarah Lancrenon

PAIN COACHING AND MOVEMENT THERAPY

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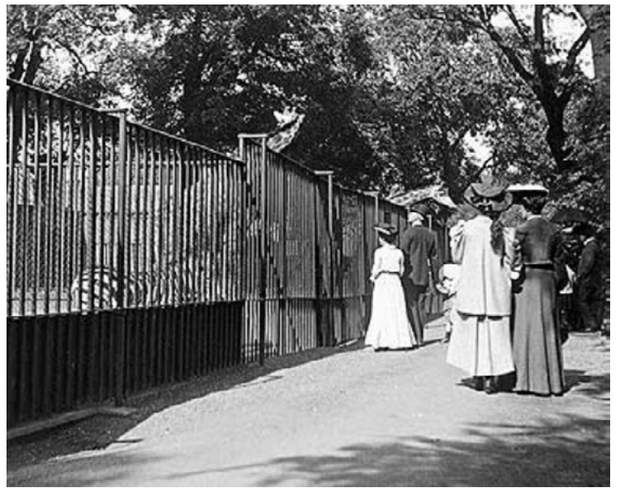


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Visiting the Zebras at London Zoo

ZSL London Zoo still houses zebras, but the people look very different these days! Here's a historical photo of an Edwardian family enjoying a trip to the zoo and visiting the zebras.



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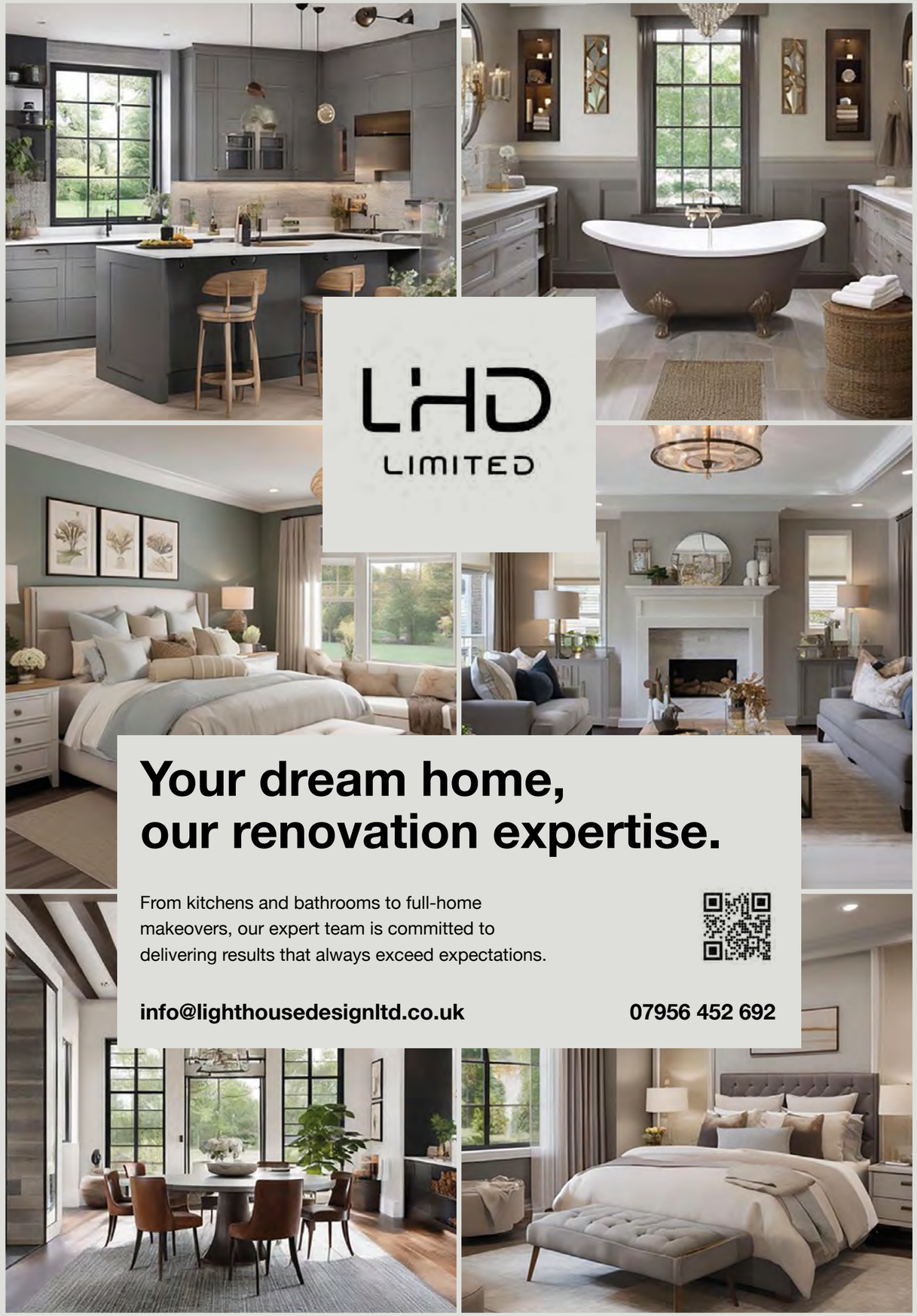
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