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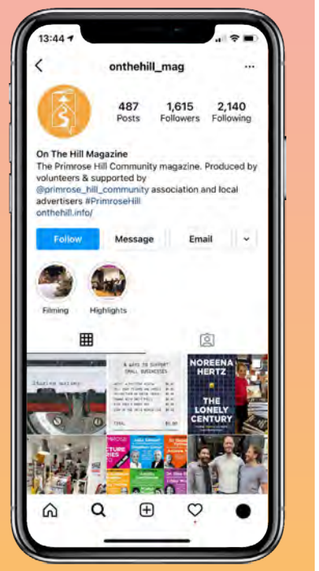
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MARCH 2026

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The Team

Editor
Maggie Chambers
editor@onthehill.info

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

Social Media and Website Editor
Jason Pittock

Subeditors
Brenda Stones

Cartoon
Bridget Grosvenor

Photographer
Sarah Louise Ramsay
www.slrphotography.co.uk

Design
John Dillon
hello@jwdillon.co.uk

Advertising Sales
Richard Ramsay
ads@onthehill.info

Special thanks to all our contributors.

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

www.phca.cc

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

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Cover Photograph
Sarah Louise Ramsay

ISSN 20-6175

Editor's Letter



Welcome to Spring

Scratch the surface of someone in Primrose Hill and you'll be amazed what lurks beneath. Take Kiran Patel who owns Princess News opposite Primrose Hill Primary School. While most of us are fast asleep, he's at the Cash and Carry buying our newspapers and lollies, and the rest of his day is spent liaising with the Himalayan Health Institute which brings medical help and health education to a remote region of the Indian Himalayas.

Another example of taking everyday sights for granted is the signs displayed above our shops. I never thought about their provenance before, but now know that a resident called Peter Jack Allen created many of them, some of which have only recently been replaced, such as the distinctive sign above Yeomans, and Sesame which has closed.

Even our cats seem to be leading a full and secret life. Read Lauren Child's tribute to Tom Thumb, the cat who deserved an Oscar for the way he played the community and got to live his best life among us.

Also in this issue, we feature local restaurateur Jeremy King who has recently relaunched the legendary Simpsons in the Strand and published a memoir, *Without Reservation – Lessons from a Life in Restaurants.*

If our current community of Primrose Hill is rather incredible, so were its past inhabitants. H.G. Wells used to live on Fitzroy Road and drew on the area for both *The Invisible Man* and *The War of the Worlds*. Martin Sheppard has written an account of his time in the area and the fictional threat of Martians to which our predecessors were subject.

Enjoy the spring, but be on the alert for aliens!

Maggie Chambers



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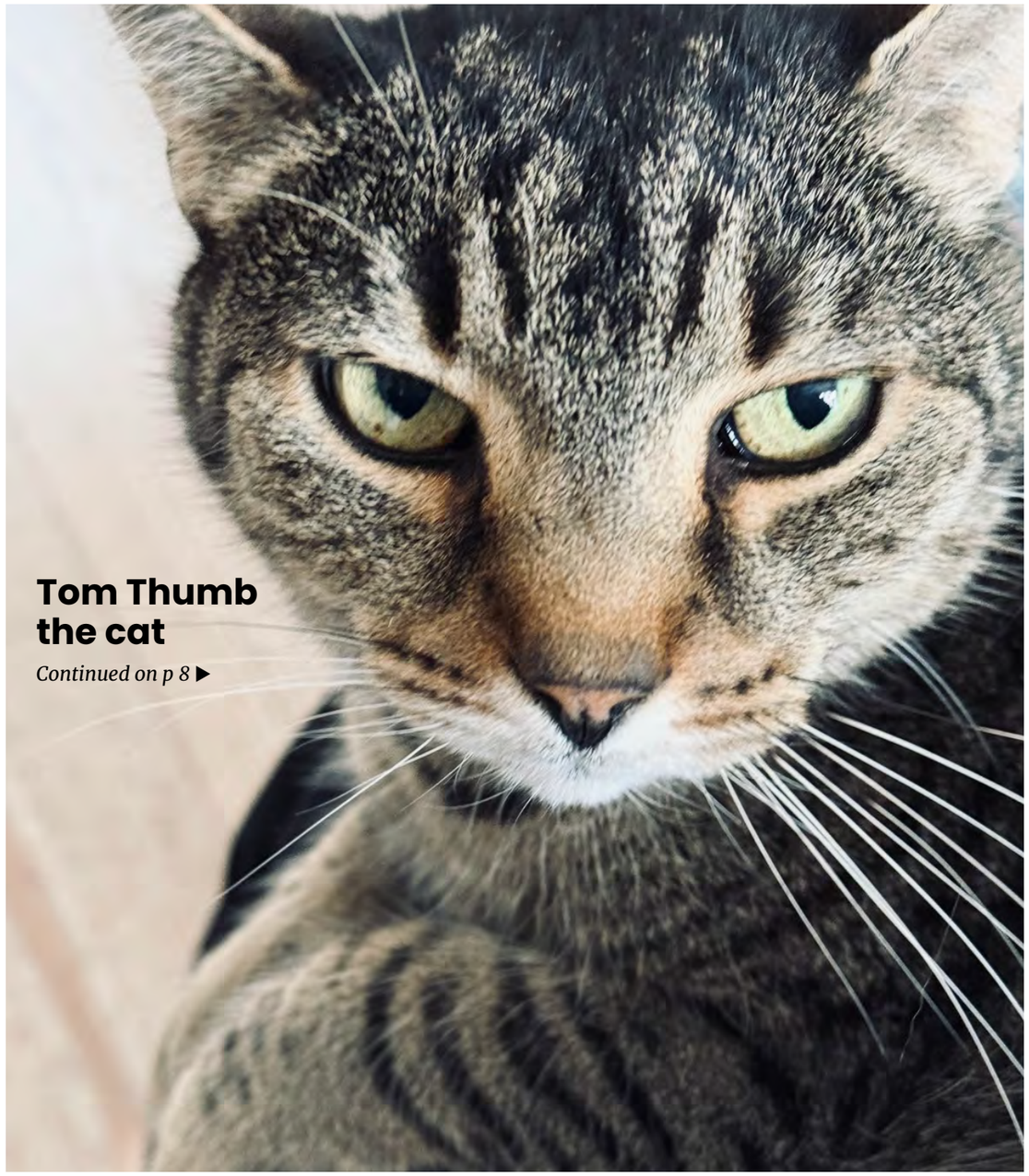
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ON THE STREET

Tom 2013 – 2026 (p8)
Engel's House (p9)
The Postal Revolution (p11)
Light Pollution (p13)
AND MORE

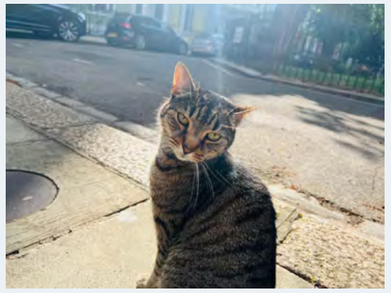


Tom Thumb the cat

Continued on p 8 ▶

Tom 2013-2026

By Lauren Child



I wanted to write a piece about Tom, not only because he was a wonderful resident of Chalcot Square, but also because *you* might be one of the many people who were kind to him, enjoyed his company and are now wondering where he is.

Tom Thumb, to give him his proper name – so called because he was a cat with thumbs – originally belonged to the Tindale family, though I always felt people belonged to *Tom* rather than he to them. As a kitten he would strut along the pavements of Chalcot Square, catnip to enthusiastic toddlers who would chase after him; he was usually pretty nice about this so long as they didn't attempt to pick him up. Firm stroking he would tolerate, but picking up was the sort of thing the vet might try.

He grew up to be a very handsome tabby and you'd regularly spot him having his picture taken with the tourists. The Square and the surrounding streets belonged to Tom and, when the time came for the Tindales to move away, there was concern he would grieve the change.

It was decided he should move in with friend and neighbour David, who Tom had by then adopted as his own. We took on joint responsibility for his care, though it's true to say that Tom's *favourite* favourite was always David. He would meander into our kitchen upstairs only when he felt like it, and I always felt pathetically grateful when he did. Some people thought Tom was a stray, and he really hammed that up. Once my daughter caught him outside Joe and the Juice: he was being hand-fed chicken as people clucked around him; "poor cat," they cooed. Another time, when I was walking towards Sharples Hall Street on my way back from work, Tom was by the benches gazing up at a lady who delved into her shopping trolley and brought out a tin of tuna. I called out to him and he pretended not to know me. It became clear that he had some sort of *arrangement* with this lady. One day while we were sitting together in the kitchen, he heard the trundle of a shopping trolley outside. Tom was out of the house and into the street before I could stand up; you have never seen anyone move more quickly. I peered out to observe this same woman reaching into her bag to retrieve a container – again tuna, I presume – while Tom sat on the pavement, urchin-like.

Fearing that some well-intentioned person might take him for rehoming, David gifted him a collar with tracker. It revealed a life unknown to us: time spent roaming the hill and making library visits. On one cold night the tracker showed him sitting in Chalcot Crescent. Imagining Tom shivering on a doorstep, David went to fetch him home, only to discover that Tom was actually *inside* the house, sitting down to dinner. A regular guest of many in the Square, he spent Christmas Day 2025 at number 19, with Judith.

Sadly, on the weekend of 4 January Tom had an accident and could not be saved. I am struck by how much I miss him. It is even clearer now that he is gone just what a force for good he was, a brilliant connector of people. I know many neighbours all the better simply because of Tom. And what a comfort he could be.

Farewell, Tom Thumb, from all of your humans.

GARRY TRAINER

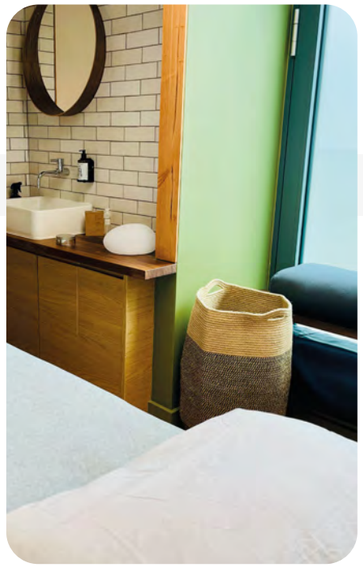
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Friedrich Engels in Primrose Hill

The trustees of Engels House write about the world-famous political philosopher's important connection to Primrose Hill.

When walking along Regent's Park Road near to Primrose Hill, you may notice the blue plaque at Number 122. It reads: 'Friedrich Engels 1820-1895 Political Philosopher lived here 1870-1894'. But many people will not know the full story of how this elegant Victorian townhouse came to hold such an important place in local, national and even world history.

Engels lived at 122 Regent's Park Road for the last 24 years of his life. By the time he arrived he was already a well-established writer and significant intellectual figure across Europe. He is best known today as the lifelong collaborator with his close friend Karl Marx, with whom he co-authored *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Yet there is much more than just political ideology that makes Engels' connection to Primrose Hill so interesting.

Engels chose this area for a reason. Then, as now, Primrose Hill was a desirable and upmarket part of London. A man of Engels' background would have fitted in quite well in this part of town. But he was a man of many contradictions: a successful factory owner during the Industrial Revolution, a keen fox-hunter and lover of good food and expensive wine, who nonetheless devoted most of his life to studying poverty and theorising revolution. Despite his own personal wealth he became a champion of the working class, who he understood to be central to social change.

It was from his first-floor study - which remains to this day - that Engels worked on many of his most influential works and edited key volumes of Marx's *Capital* after their death. His Sunday gatherings on Regent's Park Road became legendary. Each week his home became a melting pot of assorted radical politicians, trade unionists and intellectuals from across Britain and the world. These gatherings were lively, sociable affairs, with intense debate and raucous humour in equal measure. It is said that nobody left until the early hours of the morning.

Throughout his life, Engels' writings focused on issues that remain strikingly familiar today: the poor conditions of housing and the workplace, the extremes of wealth and poverty and the oppression of women. His book *The Condition of the Working Class in England* was a foundational sociological study of industrial life. His work exploring the family was pioneering within socialist feminism. His ideas about nature made him one of the earliest ecological thinkers.

This body of work is still influential across the world and hotly debated to this day. Much of it was developed right here in Primrose Hill.

While many local residents may not share all of Engels' political conclusions, the questions he raised - about poverty, inequality and environmental destruction - continue to resonate in modern Britain, especially here in the Borough of Camden, which has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country.

But other than the blue plaque, there is little to mark Engels' presence in Primrose Hill. In fact, there are no heritage sites related to Engels in Britain at all. That is why 122 Regent's Park Road matters.

The house was left in trust by Caroline Read, who sadly died in 2020 after living there for 34 years. As a school librarian of many decades she cared passionately about education, especially refugee children's access to books. She was deeply committed to protecting the building's heritage. As trustees, we see the house not simply as a memorial, but as a potential community resource: a place for learning and support.

We are keen to speak with people in the Primrose Hill community about how this remarkable heritage can be respected and shared. Whether your interest is historical, architectural or simply local, we would welcome the chance to explore together how Engels' house can make a positive contribution to this area.

You can join us at Primrose Hill Community Association for a public discussion on 'Friedrich Engels in Primrose Hill' on Monday 16 March from 7 to 9pm.



Postcards from Primrose Hill

This postcard shows Primrose Hill Road in around 1905. The exact section is uncertain, but is most likely between Ainger Road and Oppidans Road, looking north towards England's Lane.



None of the houses pictured survive today; many were damaged in the Second World War or demolished in the 1960s. The architecture, with its decorative details and fine brickwork, looks well preserved here.

The scene was probably taken in winter, as bare trees line the street. Two gentlemen pose for the photographer, while outside number 24 stand a tradesman and a servant. Census records list the Finlayson family living there with three servants, including housemaid Alice Wiffen; perhaps she is the figure in apron and cap, hands folded behind her back.

@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***

It has been a busy start to the year for our Neighbourhood Nosh food project: our cook of three years, Justine Beattie, hung up her apron in January. We thank her warmly for all her hard work, for steering the project through difficult times, and we wish her well in her future endeavours. Fortunately we have recruited a high-calibre replacement, Helen Tindale; many of you will know her as a prominent local resident for decades, campaigning and getting to grips with school meals at St Paul's school, running the café at Cecil Sharp House, and also a very busy café at Forte Hall in Enfield for many years, now bristling with energy and ideas for Nosh. Welcome to the team, Helen.

Open House burst into life in January with a full house for archivist Tudor Allen's talk, 'Streets of Inspiration' about Charles Dickens and his Camden connections. The programme has also included popular films and digital workshops, and Tracey has plenty of ideas up her sleeve for the upcoming sessions. All are welcome, free of charge, and the afternoons always end with tea, cake and chat.

On the events front, we had a busy end to 2025 with a sell-out disco in November, a talk by Dan Carrier in December about the history of the local press, and Christmas drinks with the neighbours. Then in January we had a sell-out Burns night and a Friday night at the Bar bingo session in February. Future dates include:

- Saturday 18 April – Jumble Sale
- Tuesday 28 April – Talk on 'The Later Years' between Sir Peter Thornton and Jonathan Levy
- Thursday 30 April – Provisional date for local election Hustings
- Friday 15 May – Top of the Hill Quiz, with Nick and Debbie
- Sunday 14 June – Primrose Hill Summer Garden Party in Chalcot Square

All the above events take much planning and delivery, so we'd love to see some new faces and fresh ideas on our Events Committee, which meets about once a month. If you're interested, either call in and have a chat with us or email **mick@phca.cc.**

We continue to offer many free or cut-price activities, including:

- Zumba Gold
- Qi Gong
- Sadie Yoga
- Occasional guided walks
- Chair Yoga/Pilates
- Narcotics Anonymous x 2
- Monthly Art for the Mind
- Life Drawing

Our Memory Singing Circle also continues to thrive and is open to anyone suffering from any neurological disorder. It's free of charge, and carers or supporters are more than welcome to attend.

The Primrose Hill Community Library also offers a big programme of free or by donation community activities and events, including occasional author talks and these regular weekly sessions:

- Mondays, Rhyme Time in the morning, and early evening Board Games for adults
- Tuesday morning children's ballet, and on the first Tuesday of the month the Film Show; this is chargeable because the film licence is expensive
- Thursdays offer bridge sessions
- Every third Friday are special music events

Do subscribe to the Library newsletter for more information, at **phcl.org/subscribe** or to find out what's going on in the area and at the Community Centre, sign up for the free weekly bulletin at **www.phca.cc/subscribe** or become a member at **https://app.joinit.com/o/phca.**

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The Postal Evolution

By Tracey Mitchell

Dr Juraj Kittler, currently London Programme Director in Digital Media, Film and English for a group of visiting students from St Lawrence University, NY, is temporarily based in Primrose Hill, and he gave a talk for Open House at Primrose Hill Community Centre on the origins of European postal communications.

His presentation was a broad survey of the expanding long-distance communication networks which changed the nature of finance and business, politics, diplomacy, international law and personal freedom in medieval and Renaissance times.

Italian couriers, both mounted and pedestrian, were the trailblazers of a revolution that transformed medieval banking and commerce. The increase in these services during the Renaissance eventually led to the emergence of the Age of Enlightenment's long-distance intellectual community, known as the Republic of Letters.



Professor Juraj, whose mother tongue is Slovak, was a freelance journalist prior to his academic career, writing mostly for Slovak media. He worked for Vatican Radio between 1992 and 1997; then in 1997 co-founded the non-profit journalists' organisation 'People in Peril', delivering humanitarian help to post-war Kosovo, Chechnya and Serbia.

Professor Kittler's engaging talk, and entertaining graphics, brought an unusual topic to life. In turn, he enjoyed meeting our neighbours, saying 'You're a better audience than my students'!



"The trouble is, they come here, have their fun, and leave all their mess behind."

LIGHT POLLUTION

By Doro Marden

Have you seen this little notice in estate agent Savills' window in Regent's Park Road? As part of their net zero by 2030 commitment, all their branches turn off the lights at night. Could more businesses follow their example? I understand that shops want their display to be visible while people are around, but surely after 10pm we could have lights out?

Over-illuminating with artificial light has impacts on the environment – affecting birds, insects (two-thirds of insects are nocturnal, and artificial light reduces pollinators' visits to flowers by over 60 per cent) and even plant cycles. And naturally the human circadian rhythm depends on darkness to produce the sleep aid hormone, melatonin.

When did you last see deeply into the night sky? In London the 'skyglow' is a kind of orangey dome over us which prevents us from seeing the stars and planets clearly.

Some of you may remember being in Regent's Park after dusk for one of their magical 'bat walks', when even with no lighting at ground level the orange glow is visible.

How many of you recognise the concept of 'light trespass', which means unwanted light coming into your house from a neighbour who has bright lights on for 24 hours? Luckily there are solutions – blinds and curtains, of course, but also timers, movement sensors and shields which direct light downwards for outside lamps.

Over-illumination is wasting energy and contributing to global heating. Let's try to make Primrose Hill a place where light is in the right place at the right time!



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Roundhouse Celebrates 20 Years as a Youth Charity

The Roundhouse is celebrating 20 years as a youth charity, during which time it has created bold futures for 100,000 young people. Since 2006, it has transformed many young lives, establishing itself as a vital force for nurturing talent and fuelling the UK's creative industries. The youth programme now provides affordable, high-quality opportunities across music, film-making, theatre and more, and has helped launch the careers of award-winning individuals like Daniel Kaluuya, Little Simz and Jack Rooke.

The venue showcases a diversity of gigs and arts performances that have shaped the UK's reputation as a home for world-class music, boundary-breaking theatre, circus, poetry and immersive installations, entertaining audiences of over 400,000 per year.

As part of the celebrations, the Roundhouse will hold their bi-annual gala on 25 March. This will feature performances from world-renowned artists, plus an auction of once-in-a lifetime experiences and artworks from iconic creators. Profits from the evening will go towards supporting the next generation of talent, uplifting their skills and aspirations. The Roundhouse supports over 11,000 young people per year, and by attending the Gala you can help grow this reach to over 15,000.



April will see the return of the Roundhouse Three Sixty Festival, bringing exceptional artists like Kae Tempest, Amaarae and Imogen Heap to the iconic stage, alongside emerging young creatives both on and off stage.

The Roundhouse's CEO and Artistic Director, Marcus Davey CBE, will depart after 27 years at the helm, before Jenny Mollica, the pioneering CEO of English National Opera, takes up the role of CEO.

Every £1 spent at the venue directly supports the Roundhouse's vital creative youth programme. Donations can be made to support the Roundhouse's work with young people at **www.roundhouse.org.uk/creating-bold-futures/www.roundhouse.org.uk**

News & Views

New Crossings in Regent's Park to Improve Road Safety



Three new signalled pedestrian crossings are to be created at three key locations on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park: Monkey Hill Gate, Chester Gate and Kent Passage. The project is jointly funded by The Royal Parks charity and the Crown Estate Paving Commission as part of a wider programme of initiatives that aim to improve pedestrian safety on the Outer Circle and reduce friction between pedestrians and road users. This comes after several traffic incidents in the parks, in response to which The Royal Parks conducted a survey that revealed that almost three-quarters of London pedestrians had witnessed or experienced a near miss or collision with a cyclist. This inspired the 'considerate cycling' campaign in April 2025, after which CEPC has been engaging with local authorities, residents, community groups, members of the public, and Transport for London in advance of the new crossings.



Fire on Bridge Approach

The recent fire on Bridge Approach has badly damaged furniture and lamp shop Tann-Rokka, and impacted Sahna Hot Yoga and Pilates studio. The building they occupied used to be the former Primrose Hill Station before it closed in 1992.

On The Hillimerick

Built like Hadrian's to suppress,
New Year revellers, in excess,
Our spleens we did vent,
As we did resent,
In Royal Park's green, their fortress.

Howard Richards

Sadly, Howard Richards passed away in early February. He provided *OTH* with many limericks and press cuttings of local news. His contributions will be missed.



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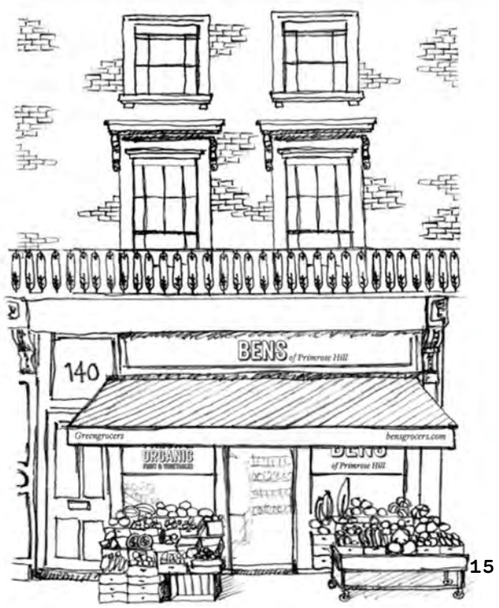
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Film Show: Persepolis
PHCL. Doors open 7.15pm. £8 including a glass of wine. Tickets at phcl.org/filmshow

SATURDAY 14 MARCH
West Side Story Concert
Primrose Hill Choirs and London Classical Choir, St Mary's Church NW3 3DJ (enter via Elsworthy Road), 6–8pm. £10, under 4s free. See primrosehillchoirs.com

MONDAY 16 MARCH
Art for the Mind
PHCC. 2–4pm. A free service funded by Right at Home for the over 60s. Carers and family members welcome.

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH
Book Club
PHCL. 7pm. Check website for details of the book, phcl.org. Free.

FRIDAY 20 MARCH
Gig at the Library
PHCL. Doors open 7.15pm. £5 online, £6 on the door. Tickets at www.phcl.org/gig.

SATURDAY 21 MARCH
Feldenkrais Workshop
PHCC. MOVING like a SKELETON – Reaching arms. 10.45–12.45pm.

TUESDAY 31 MARCH TO THURSDAY 2 APRIL
Circus Glory Camp for Children
PHCC. 10am–3pm. All levels are welcome, no experience necessary. https://www.circusglory.com

SATURDAY 18 APRIL
Jumble Sale
At the Community Centre, 11am–1pm.

FRIDAY 15 MAY
Quiz Night
PHCC. 7pm for 7.30pm. The annual 'Top of the Hill' quiz will take place at the Community Centre.

KIDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What's On March 2026

ADULTS

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

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

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

Voices on the Hill Choir
A community choir singing soul, blues, pop, jazz classic songs. Everyone welcome. PHCL. Mondays, term-time, 7:30–9pm. Contact voicesonthehillchoir@gmail.com for free taster.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

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

SIGNWRITER: REMEMBERING PETER JACK ALLEN

BY SANAM LOU

We rarely pause to consider the importance of a shop sign. Yet it is the public face of a business: a silent invitation that catches the eye and reflects its character. When done well, a sign can do far more than advertise goods or services; it can shape the identity of a street, lend warmth to a neighbourhood and create a sense of belonging.

For decades, Primrose Hill was fortunate to count among its residents one of London's finest signwriters, a craftsman whose work quietly defined much of Camden, Hampstead and Kentish Town.

On 18 February, the fourth anniversary of his passing, we remembered Peter Jack Allen, whose exceptional craftsmanship and artistic sensitivity left a mark on the streets of North London, particularly along Regent's Park Road.



Born in Luton on 8 May 1931, Peter later made Primrose Hill his home, living there from the 1970s until his death. His professional life was both rich and remarkably varied. He began with a four-year apprenticeship at Brilliant Glass between 1945 and 1950, before studying at Luton School of Art. Much later, from 1991 to 1993, he attended the Central School of Art, further deepening his mastery of traditional techniques.



His early training in glass proved formative, setting him on a lifelong path of creative exploration that encompassed stained glass, gilding, hand-painted signage and decorative lighting.

Alongside his visual artistry, Peter enjoyed a career in theatre. He worked as a stage producer and production manager at both the Old Vic and the Royal Court theatres, and later passed on his knowledge and experience as a drama teacher at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

From his studio in West Hampstead, operating under the name Theatre Sign Craft, Peter continued to refine his practice, blending traditional craftsmanship with unmistakable artistic flair.





Over the years he created more than twenty signs along Regent's Park Road alone, a handful of which remain in place today, including those for the local chemist and a stained-glass window which was part of Sesame health food shop and still remains in Aesthetics Lab. His use of materials such as acid-etched glass, hydro flouring, sandblasting and silk-screening distinguished his work, uniting technical skill with visual poetry.

Peter's talents extended far beyond sign writing. He also worked as a fairground decorator, baker and wood letter-cutter. A deeply spiritual man, he maintained a strong connection to both his faith and his community throughout his life.

He is remembered as a devoted father to Simon and Sebastian, a grandfather, a brother and a cherished friend to many. His legacy endures not only in the signs that still grace Primrose Hill and its surrounding streets, but in his spirit of craftsmanship, creativity and care.

IMAGES © BAZ ALLEN





KING OF THE HILL:

INTERVIEW WITH JEREMY KING

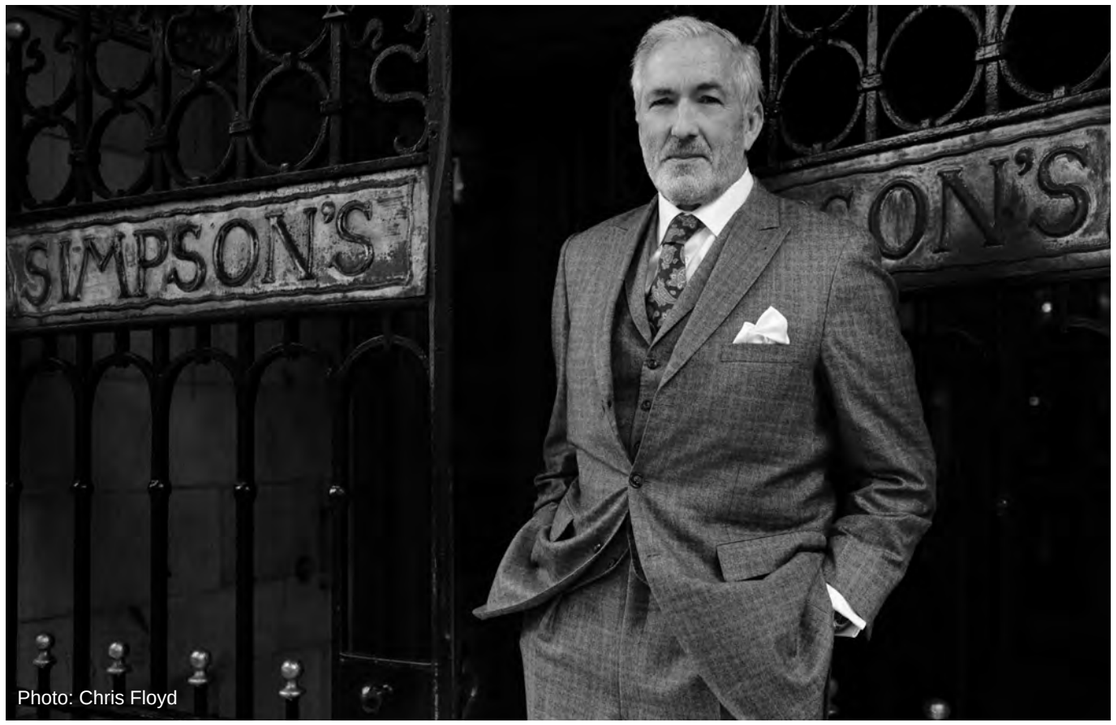


Photo: Chris Floyd

BY DAVID LENNON

Jeremy King, London's greatest restaurateur, loves Primrose Hill; and so does his lively Cockapoo dog Teddy: "She thinks she's the Queen of the Hill and would be devastated if we were ever to leave." In fact it's the dog that will probably ensure that this peripatetic resident of many London neighbourhoods may stay among us. Also, he is now so busy recreating his restaurant empire that he may not have time to drive around in his 40-year-old classic Bristol grand tourer looking for a new residence.

Teddy likes to root around in the local shops and restaurants, and Jeremy rattles off the names of the village's cafés, restaurants and shops and their owners with great familiarity.

Hardly surprising, since he first resided in Chalcot Square in 1998 before moving on and then coming back to the village in 2022.

"Primrose Hill is very important to me. The community is still very welcoming. There are so many interesting people and good places. I think what's missing for a lot of people in London is a sense of community; whereas Primrose Hill feels as though it's part of the city but at the same time has that village atmosphere."
Together with his business partner Chris Corbin, they created, owned and managed some of London's most celebrated and best-loved restaurants: Le Caprice in 1981, The Ivy in 1990, J. Sheekey in 1998, and the biggest hit of them all, The Wolseley, a former car showroom on Piccadilly, which they opened in 2003 as an all-day brasserie/grand café in the European style.

Many more restaurants were to follow in the next two decades, including The Delaunay in Aldwych, Colbert in Sloane Square, the smash hit Brasserie Zedel off Piccadilly Circus, Fischer's in Marylebone and Soutine in our neighbouring St John's Wood, all overflowing with the works of contemporary artists. When you walk into one of their creations, you are breathtaken by the design: often with the combination of Viennese grand café and French brasserie, with their relaxed, unstuffy ambience. Each restaurant has its own character, dictated by the building and its impact on Jeremy, who once considered studying architecture and design.

"The food should reflect the restaurant, but not dominate. We believe in good food, fairly priced." Hence no celebrity chefs. Clients are more likely to know the names of the Maître d's than the chef. And for regulars, this relationship is reciprocated by the staff on reception; they know you and your likes and will try to allocate a table accordingly.

Le Caprice, next to the Ritz, attracted the rich and, most famous of all, Princess Diana. Artists and theatricals were huge supporters of The Ivy from the outset. Then Lucian Freud, England's most famous painter of his generation, had a regular table at the Wolseley which was draped in a black tablecloth when he passed away in 2011.

After losing a battle for control of their restaurant empire in 2022, Corbin and King dissolved their business partnership. Many thought this was the end of an era. But after spending Covid lockdown writing his memoirs, Jeremy has stormed back onto London's restaurant scene: first with the Arlington, a recreation of Le Caprice; The Park on Queensway, an American-style take on the grand café; and this spring reopening Simpson's in the Strand – all examples of restoring faded restaurants to their former glory, as in his early days.

"I've been looking at Simpson's for over 25 years. We first put a proposal to the owners, the Savoy hotel, but that didn't work out. We tried again in 2008, and then the banking crisis meant that everything went wrong. We bid again in 2015, but then the Savoy decided to run it themselves and they carried on until Covid, when they closed it down."

This provided the opportunity to try again to get Simpson's, and finally it clicked. Jeremy King Restaurants had its prize capture: one of London's last treasured 'Grande Dame' restaurants now has an owner who loves restoring faded beauties, who understands art and above all creating the appropriate atmosphere.

In his element, Jeremy threw his heart and soul into working with the rich history and architecture of the listed building, restoring or replacing the original artworks and commissioning appropriate period portraits. The restaurateur and businessman has brought all he learned in 45 years in the trade to his latest masterpiece.

"An important thing in life is to be both proactive and reactive. I react to buildings, and that dictates what the restaurant will be. I like doing dangerous things. I like a challenge, not safety."
If you would like to know more inside stories, gossip, how to handle noisy customers, and what to do about dogs in restaurants, then you must read Jeremy's recently published memoir: *Without Reservation - Lessons from a Life in Restaurants*. Signed copies are available in Primrose Hill Books. There is also a wonderful audio version read by the great man himself, which gives you a real feeling of the delights and disasters that define the hospitality business.



Photo: Sarah Louise Ramsay

Primrose Hill, Princess News, the Himalayan Health Initiative and benign globalisation

By Tom Selwyn

Kiran Patel, owner of Princess News, the friendly all-purpose corner shop opposite Primrose Hill Primary School, is one of the co-founders and main organisers of the Himalayan Health Initiative (HHI). This organisation is a network of voluntary medical-related personnel, including surgeons, doctors, nurses, educators and administrators mainly from the UK, engaged in bringing practical medical help and health education to a remote region of the Indian Himalayas.

HHI exemplifies a form of international cooperation that is a welcome contrast to the globalisation to which we are normally subject, where the superpowers are only interested in competitive principles of 'Might is Right'. It is both refreshing and inspiring to encounter another form of globalisation, based upon the Hindu principle of service (Hindi: *seva*), which is dedicated to the well-being of the poor and needy residents of the world's geographically peripheral regions.

HHI has a sister concern, registered with the government of India as the Mori Swasthya Foundation (MSF) as a non-profit organisation in 2021, which organises bi-annual free health camps in the Himalayan state of Uttrakhand. The geographical heart of HHI's operations is the village of Kharasadi in Uttarkashi district, a small hill village surrounded by 20 or so neighbouring villages all practising small-scale subsistence agriculture. Landholdings are small and perched on terraces cultivating vegetables and fruit suited to rain-fed irrigation and natural springs. Animal husbandry includes rearing goats, sheep and other livestock such as cattle, that yield small cash earnings through sales of meat, milk and wool. Government-related efforts persist in encouraging the growth of wheat, millet and horticultural crops appropriate to temperate climates. There are also limited micro-enterprises, such as agro-processing and handicraft production. Remittances from family members abroad add to villagers' incomes.

The village population numbers around 470 and is governed by a village council (*gram panchayat*). There is a clinic in the village serving as a primary health centre for residents living in Kharasadi and surrounding villages, including several at very high altitudes. The clinic is open six days a week. Patients walk in at any time to be registered and seen by the clinical staff, who take details of their health – weight, blood pressure, pulse and so on. Medical histories are taken, diagnoses made and medication provided if necessary. Throughout the year the clinic offers ante-natal and post-natal care and general primary healthcare. Three health professionals – two Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and a pharmacist – give advice and support to mothers about nutrition, hygiene, immunisation and breastfeeding.

Most HHI camps take place in the village clinic. The declared mission of HHI/MSF is "to provide quality primary healthcare services, maternal and infant services to the people of Uttrakhand, through a more personalised, kinder, professional and more family-friendly approach, focussing on prevention of diseases and health education for local healthcare workers and schoolchildren, and appropriate referrals to secondary and tertiary centres as required, free of charge to all patients".

The guiding principles of HHI include working in collaboration with the local population, making use of local governmental and non-governmental infrastructure, providing healthcare provision and health education free at the point of care. Links with local secondary and tertiary healthcare facilities have been developed for appropriate referrals when needed. To support the work of the HHI clinic, a video link/telemedicine programme has been built with UK doctors and other healthcare professionals. Workshops and seminars are promoted focussing on hygiene, immunisation and breastfeeding, including addressing period poverty and the stigma around menstruation.

The network's doctors also arrange for blood tests for regular patients with chronic conditions like hypertension, diabetes, and COPD, giving them appropriate treatment as required, all data being captured on the network's electronic database. Future plans include expanding services into the remoter villages of the area using a mobile unit; setting up a secondary local clinic in one of the villages; establishing a monthly ophthalmology unit; and starting up a training centre for local health workers by UK professionals.

Kiran works within a team of colleagues with complementary medical and administrative skills and wide experience of medical networks. For instance, the UK-based ophthalmologist Dr Surendra Upadhyay, International Medical Co-ordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Global Council (SSSGC) and Kiran's inspiration for joining the medical team, has organised and attended medical camps in Russia, the subcontinent and Africa. HHI conforms to the guiding principles of SSSGC founded by Sathya Sai Baba – acknowledged and recognised by the UN for his work in medical fields.

The work of HHI offers a counterbalance to the proliferation of individual insurance-based healthcare systems for the relatively wealthy in the global north, which exclude those on the economic and geographical periphery in the global south. Thanks to Kiran and his colleagues in HHI, Primrose Hill is now part of a global network that serves the needs of the poor and needy thanks to professionals drawn from London's Indian community and their friends.

For further information about HHI or any questions please contact either Kiran or Vinit:
Kiran kiransaicreation@hotmail.com
Vinit hhimori7@gmail.com



The Martians on Primrose Hill

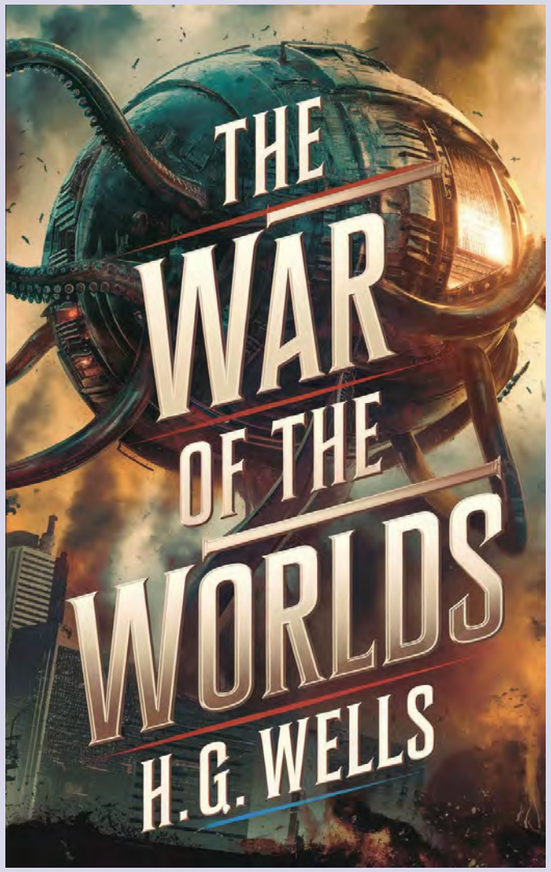
By Martin Sheppard

In 1898 hostile invaders, armed with massively superior weapons and immune to late-Victorian artillery, conquered London, most of whose inhabitants fled in panic. With large parts of the city destroyed, the invaders consolidated their gains and planned their next moves in their principal redoubt on Primrose Hill. There, as they regained their strength, ingesting captives while uttering an eerie hooting noise, they began building a great flying machine for the conquest of the world.

Fortunately, the need to save London and the world was fictional rather than real. The Martian invasion in H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* (1898), nevertheless, gave Primrose Hill a central role in one of the most remarkable novels of the late nineteenth century. It addressed not only Britain's place in Europe and the world but also our human place in nature.

H.G. Wells (1866–1946) knew Primrose Hill well. From 1888 to 1891 he lived with his aunt, Mary Wells, at 12 and then 46 Fitzroy Road, at the foot of the hill. He married his cousin, Isabel, in 1891. In the years after 1889, he taught science at Henley House, a preparatory school in Mortimer Crescent in Kilburn, where A.A. Milne, the son of the school's headmaster, was one of his pupils.

Although A.A. Milne later described Wells as not being a great schoolmaster, 'He was too clever and too impatient', Wells was clearly a success at the school. Twelve years later, A.A. Milne wrote to Wells from Cambridge:



> Do you remember a small-sized boy with long hair to whom you taught at one time all the geology he ever knew? He sat at the front desk in what was known as the 'first class room' and hazarded ideas on the strata of Primrose Hill … I am the long-haired kid …

A prolific writer and novelist, with what became a worldwide reputation, Wells had been born in humble circumstances in Bromley in Kent in 1866. After strenuous efforts to educate himself, at the age of eighteen he won a scholarship to the Normal School of Science in South Kensington, where he attended lectures by T.H. Huxley, the leading populariser of Darwin's theories.

Wells soon determined to become an author. After writing two scientific textbooks, Wells published his first scientific fantasy, *The Time Machine*, in 1895. In it a Victorian scientist is transported forward in time to A.D. 802,701 on a bicycle. This was followed by *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1896), in which a shipwrecked traveller finds himself on an island where the sinister Dr Moreau is turning animals into humans.

In *The Invisible Man* (1897), the eponymous hero, Jack Griffin, recalls the day before he became invisible:

> I remember that morning before the change very vividly. I must have gone up Great Portland Street. I remember the barracks in Albany Street, and the horse soldiers coming out, and at last I found myself sitting in the sunshine and feeling very ill and strange, on the summit of Primrose Hill. It was a sunny day in January – one of those sunny, frosty days that came before the snow this year. My weary brain tried to formulate the position, to plot out a plan of action.

Griffin is singularly unsuccessful in his plans to benefit from his own invisibility, which leads him only to frustration, unhappiness, crime and death.

H.G. Wells (1866–1946) knew Primrose Hill well. From 1888 to 1891 he lived with his aunt, Mary Wells, at 12 and then 46 Fitzroy Road, at the foot of the hill.

Wells's most famous scientific fantasy, however, was undoubtedly *The War of the Worlds*, serialised in *Pearson's Magazine* in 1897 and published in book form in 1898. In *The War of the Worlds* the Martians land on Earth in cylinders shot from a giant gun on Mars. Their accuracy at such an enormous distance is remarkable, as seven, out of a total of ten, cylinders land within twenty miles of each other. The first arrives at Horsell Common, north of Woking in Surrey, with subsequent landings on a golf links between Woking and Byfleet, at Pyrford, Bushy Park, Mortlake, Wimbledon and, finally, on Primrose Hill. Human curiosity about the object on Horsell Common and attempts to investigate the first cylinder, which slowly unscrews itself, soon turn to horror. A delegation, bearing a white flag and including Stent, the Astronomer Royal, seeks to negotiate with whatever is in the cylinder but is destroyed by a white flame, after three puffs of green smoke are seen accompanied by a deep humming noise.

The Martians themselves, who possess 'intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic', have a degree of scientific knowledge far beyond that of humans. They have 'a big greyish rounded bulk, the size, perhaps of a bear'. They have peculiar V-shaped mouths, but no chin, immense eyes and oily brown skin. They have heads, rather than bodies, with a pair of very large, dark-coloured eyes and a kind of fleshy beak, around which are sixteen slender tentacles, like whips, arranged in two bunches of eight.

The invaders' weaponry, backed up by versatile handling-machines used for its construction, soon proves itself overwhelmingly stronger than the forces of artillery and sappers sent against them. As well as the heat-rays that destroy the delegation and burn down anything in their path, the Martians control giant fighting machines, walking tripods of immense destructive power, from which not only heat-rays can be unleashed but also black smoke.

It soon becomes clear that the Martians, who destroy everything that resists them as well as burning down numerous towns, are invincible. They do not, however, always kill the human beings they encounter but sometimes capture them as a prelude to ingestion:

> Strange as it may seem to a human being, all the complex apparatus of digestion, which makes up the bulk of our bodies, did not exist in the Martians. They were heads — merely heads. Entrails they had none. They did not eat, much less digest. Instead, they took the fresh, living blood of other creatures, and *injected* it into their own veins.

The Martians have also brought with them a red weed that grows in profusion and chokes the waterways near London, including the Thames.

There is inevitably universal panic in London. Amongst the millions trying to flee, the brother of the anonymous hero and narrator of the book fails to get on board a North-Western train at Chalk Farm, where the crowd in the goods yard is so thick that trains trying to leave plough into shrieking people. He is lucky to get hold of a bicycle, from a sacked bicycle shop in the Chalk Farm Road, but finds Haverstock Hill impassable due to several overturned horses.

The hero of the book, a scientific journalist who has many narrow escapes from the Martians in Surrey, makes his way back into London and towards Primrose Hill, via Kensington, Marble Arch and Baker Street. After being puzzled by seeing Martians standing still and making a wailing sound of 'Ulla, ulla, ulla', he is encouraged to discover a wrecked handling-machine in St John's Wood. Its Martian driver has lost control of it and, helpless, has been torn to pieces by dogs.

The hero determines to discover what has happened on Primrose Hill. He approaches it across the Regent's Canal, 'a spongy mass of dark-red vegetation' after being choked by the Martians' red weed, and via St Edmund's Terrace, where he 'waded breast-high across a torrent of water that was rushing down from the waterworks towards the Albert Road'.

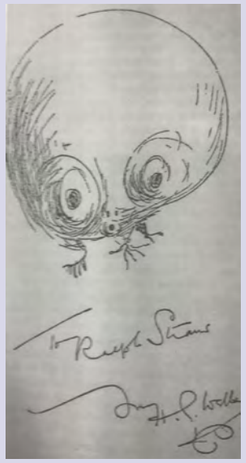
> In another moment I had scrambled up the earthen rampart and stood upon its crest, and the interior of the redoubt was below me ... And scattered about it, some in their overturned war-machines, some in the now rigid handling-machines, and a dozen of them stark and silent and laid in a row, were the Martians — *dead*! — slain by the putrefactive and disease bacteria against which their systems were unprepared...

The Martians are not proof against terrestrial bacteria. By this fortunate accident, the world is saved from conquest.

As well as being a compelling adventure story, *The War of the Worlds* not only reflects the British invasion fears of the day but adds in a number of highly original ingredients. The Martians, by landing directly from space, avoid Britain's main defensive force, the Royal Navy, although later in the book they destroy elements of it with consummate ease. Landing in Surrey and on Primrose Hill itself, they use overwhelming force, in the shape of their war machines and other advanced technology, to make a mockery of the late Victorian army's attempt to stop their advance.

The Martians have no understanding of and no respect for the humans they encounter. In their attitude to the British population, they mirror the effortless superiority of European imperialists towards the native populations with whom they came in contact. In the face of the Martians, the British are reduced to the status of the defenceless inhabitants of Tasmania, who, following the arrival of the British, became extinct in 1876. Even more humiliatingly, it is suggested that the Martians will keep a tame colony of human beings to provide themselves with a pool of food ready for ingestion. To an extra-terrestrial race of higher intelligence, human beings have no more rights than 'the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water' seen by a scientist.

The War of the Worlds is simultaneously a biting satire on colonialism, the most memorable of all invasion fantasies and the father of a major genre of Science Fiction. The book also reflects the impact of advances in science in the nineteenth century, not only in imagining the technical advances of rocketry and weaponry displayed by the Martians, but also in creating a race that, in Darwinian terms, had reached a far greater level of sophistication than human beings. More unnervingly, in its depiction of the use of overwhelming force being used against a helpless civilian population, Wells predicted features of the gruesome wars of the twentieth century.



A Martian drawing by H.G. Wells.

Primrose Hill Community Library

Here are the latest books to arrive at the library. Happy reading!

Paperbacks

Rutger Bregman
Moral Ambition

Suzanne Collins
The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

Janice Hadlow
The Other Bennet Sister

Thomas Hardy
Far from the Madding Crowd

Jacqueline Harpman
I Who Have Never Known Men

Liu CiXi
Death's End The Dark Forest

Simon Mason
A Voice in the Night

Freida McFadden
The Housemaid's Secrets The Housemaid's Watching

Jurica Pavičić
Red Water

Marjane Satrapi
Persepolis

Elif Shafak
The Gaze

Gillian Tindall
The Fields

Hardbacks

Richard Osman
The Impossible Fortune

Children's

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
The War that Saved My Life

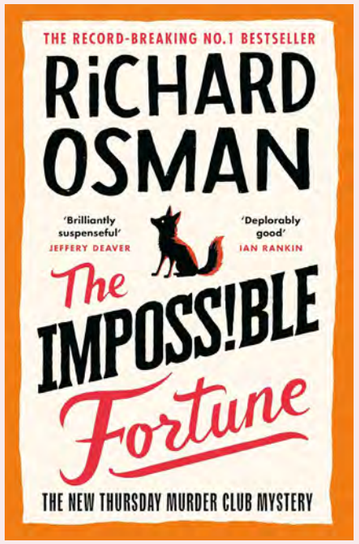
Peter Brown
The Wild Robot

Pamela Butchart
There's a Yeti in the Playground!

Helena Duggan
Trouble with Perfect

Bethany Rutter
Ask Me Anything

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





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- Planning for school fees
- Retirement planning
- Protecting your loved ones
- Protecting your property
- Inheritance tax planning
- Mortgage solutions

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

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

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

PICTURES FROM PRIMROSE HILL

Acknowledgments and thanks to all our local photographers: Mark Stubbings for the early morning view of The Shard **@earlyrisermark**; Damjana Kevric who sent the street scenes of Primrose Hill **@primrosepanorama;** Lilika Alexa for the shots whilst out walking on the hill; Margaux Brahin for the picture of the dog admiring the view; David Atkinson for the images of leg stretches and the canal; Tarquin Kyle for the views from the top of the hill and sleeping foxes; Denise Shenton for capturing the lit-up chimney pots, Meadowbank and a sunrise; and Felix Weiss for the view from the top of the hill.

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.


Damjana Kevric



Damjana Kevric



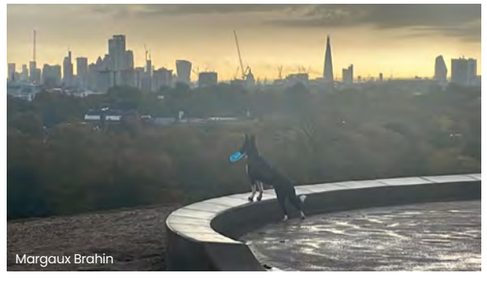
Damjana Kevric



Damjana Kevric


Felix Weiss

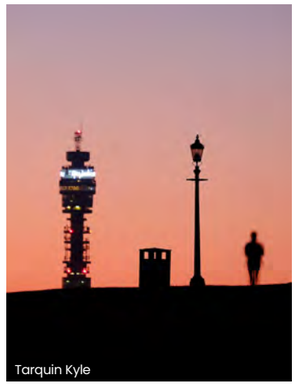

Denise Shenton


Margaux Brahin

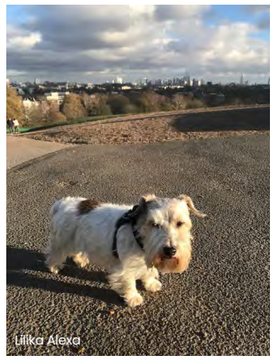

Mark Stubbings


Tarquin Kyle


Tarquin Kyle

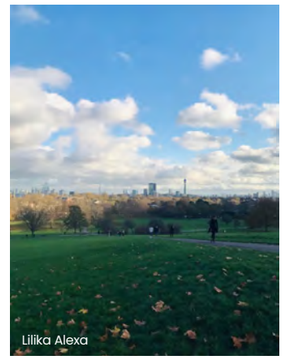

Tarquin Kyle

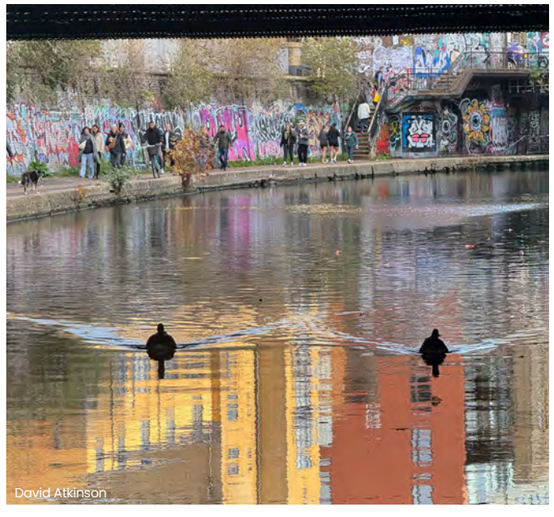

Tarquin Kyle


Lilika Alexa


Lilika Alexa


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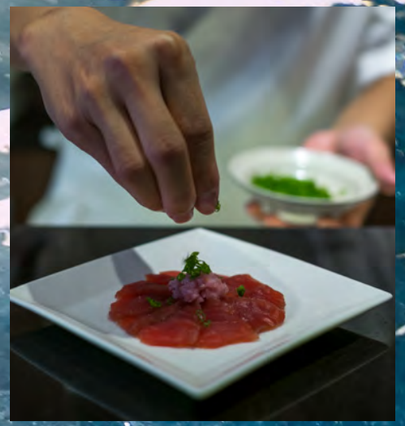

Lilika Alexa


David Atkinson


David Atkinson

COMING SOON





SEA STORY, A NEW CHAPTER IN PRIMROSE HILL

Opening in February 2026, Sea Story is proud to take over the much-loved local fishmonger, La Petite Poissonnerie, beginning a new chapter while respectfully continuing the warmth, character, and strong sense of community the shop has long represented.

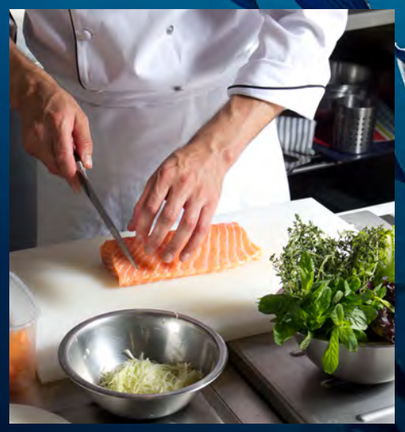
Sea Story is a boutique fishmonger founded on a passion for exceptional seafood, craftsmanship, and education. Our ambition is to make high-quality fish and shellfish both inspiring and approachable, encouraging customers to rediscover seafood as something enjoyable, creative, and accessible for everyday living.

Alongside offering the freshest seasonal catch, Sea Story will provide expertly prepared cuts, chef-prepared ready-to-cook selections, and freshly made takeaway seafood dishes. Each offering is designed to bring restaurant-quality seafood into the home while making preparation simple, convenient, and enjoyable.

Sustainability and responsible sourcing sit at the heart of Sea Story. By working closely with trusted fishermen and carefully selected suppliers, we focus on seasonal, traceable seafood that respects both the environment and the long-standing traditions of coastal fishing communities.

More than a fishmonger, Sea Story hopes to become a welcoming neighbourhood destination — a place where knowledge is shared, traditions are respected, and customers feel inspired to explore seafood with confidence. We look forward to becoming part of Primrose Hill village life, celebrating its community spirit while introducing a fresh and modern seafood experience.







CONTACTS:

Michaël 0743 203 6422
Caroline 0755 781 8980

info@seastory.co.uk
Instagram: @SeaStory

75 Gloucester Ave.
NW1 8LD

Hello, Primrose Hill!

The Primrose Hill Community Association Burns Night supper took place in January. Entertainment included music, dancing, a short film and a selection of verse by Robert Burns. Haggis, tatties and neeps were served to help celebrate the Scottish bard's birthday.

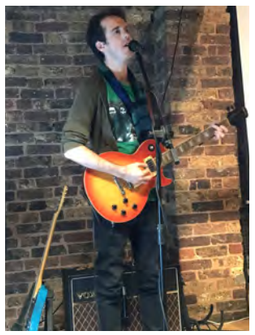
Photography by Cythare Cooper and *OTH.*









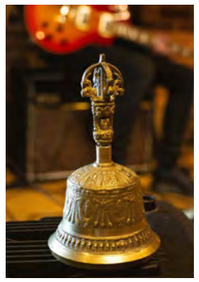




















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