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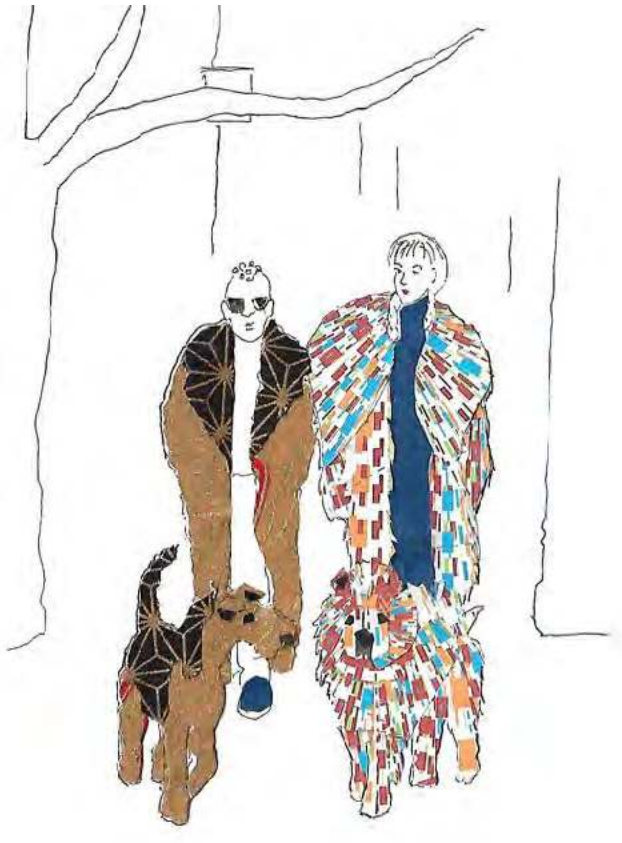
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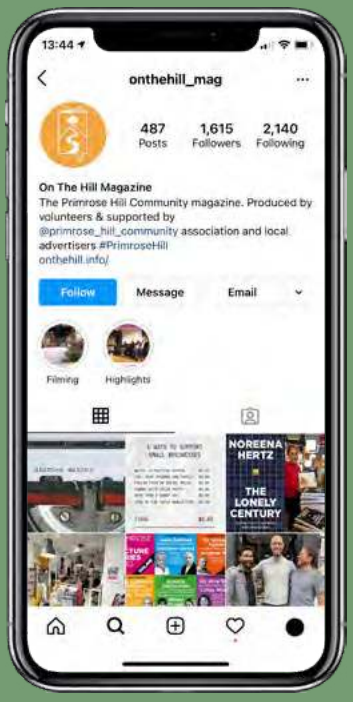


"It's a clear case of cultural appropriation . . .
I find it really annoying."



On The Hill On The Go

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ON THE HILL
PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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AUTUMN 2023

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FOR SALE:
Primrose Hill Railway Station Sign

This is the original sign from Primrose Hill railway station. It was bought from British Rail after the station closed, and is in very good condition.

Its current owner is now putting it up for sale, and any proceeds above £200 will be donated to Age UK Camden's Primrose Hill Good Neighbours Scheme. To make an offer, please contact James on 07832 294080.

The Good Neighbours Scheme matches trained and checked volunteers with people aged 65+ in the Primrose Hill area. Befriending matches are based on personality and common interests. Volunteers visit on a regular basis providing company and a friendly chat, and are able to identify any issues or concerns for appropriate support. Scheme members benefit hugely from its links with PHCA, including meals delivered by Neighbourhood Nosh, the Library, and other local services.

Age UK Camden also offers a Good Neighbours Scheme in NW3, and a Camden-wide telephone befriending service (Telefriends).

Age UK Camden
Good Neighbours Scheme:
gns@ageukcamden.org.uk

Telefriends:
telefriends@ageukcamden.org.uk

Volunteering:
www.ageuk.org.uk/camden/get-involved

Or telephone: 020 7239 0400
We would love to hear from you!

On The Hill would be interested to hear if readers have memories of the station they would like to share. If so, please contact **editor@onthehill.info**



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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

Editor's Letter



Welcome to October

It's been good to see Primrose Hill getting back into gear after the summer exodus. We've certainly hit the ground running with some impressive events: Michael Palin; Yotam Ottolenghi in conversation with Hadley Freeman; and the Primrose Hill Opera Cabaret, to name but a few.

Our front cover this month features Caroline Moorhead, whose latest book, *Edda Mussolini: The Most Dangerous Woman in Europe*, is just out in paperback. As well as being a successful writer, Caroline volunteers both at the Library and the Community Centre Wellbeing Café, serving soup and jacket potatoes.

We have many residents who enrich our community in their diverse ways. This summer's accolade must go to Lucy Sheppard and Alison Kemp who, as septuagenarians, swam across the Solent to raise money for the charity Aspire, which supports people living with spinal cord injury. Details of their swim are on page 12.

Michael Palin hasn't been slouching at home either. He took part in a talk at Cecil Sharp House to raise money for Age UK Camden. The last time he was there was in 2014 when rehearsing for the Monty Python reunion at the O2 Arena – and found to his relief that they were still funny! You can read the transcription of an interview he recorded with his daughter on the Age UK Camden website. Details are on page 18.

There's plenty going on in Primrose Hill this autumn, so enjoy yourselves. If you need a break, the Library has plenty of new books and there's Bernard George's quiz, which never fails to offer something unexpected. Did you know that either Dalí or Picasso once visited a house on Elsworthy Road in July 1938? I'll leave it to you to find out which one it was ...

Maggie Chambers

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ON THE STREET

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Charity Swim (p12)
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AND MORE



Sew Long and Farewell

Continued on p 8 ▶

Sew Long and Farewell

Roz Davies bids farewell to her shop, Sew Much Fun

In the summer of 2007 I strolled up from Camden to Primrose Hill with my golden retriever, Mozart, on the look-out for premises for the 'hobby business' that I had started in 2002 as Sew Much Fun.

I had been unhappy with my full-time job, overseeing the development of electronic measuring products for the clothing industry, for a while and I was keen to run a business entirely on my own, reflecting my personality and sharing my knowledge and skills. As I wandered round the neighbourhood, I enjoyed the wide, light-filled streets and I noticed the friendly 'village' atmosphere where people acknowledge you and smile. I then found the lovely row of shops on Chalcot Road, and to my delight some of them were empty and available for rent. This was the beginning of my long-term relationship with Primrose Hill.



Dress-making, maths and physics were my strong subjects at school, but it was when I discovered a four-year course in Clothing Management at the London College of Fashion, run by the Clothing Institute, that I really found my career path. The training was excellent and we were taught all aspects of the fashion industry, from design and development to manufacturing and business management.

I enjoyed all of it, but as I am a 'maker' at heart, I felt most comfortable starting my career as a production engineer. I spent many years working for suppliers to Marks & Spencer, both in production and in design and CAD management. However, in the early 1990s this industry disappeared from the UK to be relocated the Far East.

As I had two small children by then, I seized the opportunity to set up as a freelance consultant in design management, giving me the flexibility to start up Sew Much Fun as a holiday activity.

Taking on the premises at 46 Chalcot Road was a scary prospect, with a challenging, unproven business plan. But my creative children loved the idea and my very helpful accountancy-trained husband supported it! Without any sewing creativity on the school curriculum, it was not long before my hand- and machine-sewing classes started to fill up with children, and also with adults. I reckon it took two years before we felt that the business was secure, and another three years before we were established, with only word of mouth keeping all the classes full, often with waiting lists.

Many local people are still not aware of what we do, because sewing is not their interest, but over the years we have succeeded in teaching hundreds of children and adults the joy of hand- and machine-sewing.
Our projects have varied from cushions and bags to jump-suits, wedding dresses and NHS scrubs during the pandemic! We teach people how to make patterns, and encourage everyone to sew at home. We are proud of our students who have gone on to pursue their creative interests on higher education courses, including fashion design, costume management, architecture, film-making and engineering, at renowned institutions such as Central St Martin's, London College of Fashion, Parsons (Paris and New York), the Royal College of Art and Manchester Metropolitan University.



I wish to thank all my part-time employees: Elinor, Alex, Brooke, Nyree and Anna; my teenage helpers, many of whom I have known for well over a decade; the Primrose Hill community for welcoming me to this very special corner of London; and finally my customers, for being so supportive over the last 16 years.

PRIMROSE HILL QUIZ
SPOT THE LIE

By Bernard George

One of each pair of statements is true.



1 — This oak tree on the south slope of the hill is known as 'Shakespeare's tree' as it was planted to mark the anniversary of his birth.

OR

It is known as 'Godfrey's tree' as it is said to mark the spot where the body of magistrate Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey was found in 1678.

2 —There are no primroses on Primrose Hill because they were destroyed when the hill was used to grow vegetables during the war.

OR

They do not flourish without the hedges and banks that formerly existed.

3 — AJP Taylor and Pablo Picasso met at 39 Elsworthy Road in July 1938.

OR

The meeting was between Sigmund Freud and Salvador Dali.

4 — Wadham Gardens and the western end of Elsworthy Road were built on land formerly used as a cricket ground.

OR

The land was used for horses and a riding school

5 — Gerry Rafferty's song 'Baker Street' was originally about 'winding my way up to Primrose Hill' but Rafferty could not think of a suitable rhyme for hill.

OR

The Beatles song 'It's Getting Better' was inspired by spring on Primrose Hill..

Answers on p 30

6 — The following verse has appeared previously in print:
Miss Dorothy Sayers
Never cared about the Himalayas.
The height that gave her a thrill
Was Primrose Hill.

OR

A young man from Primrose Hill
Would try anything once for a thrill
He attempted powered flight
When the wind was just right
And was last seen over Seville.

7 — Until the early 1980s there was thick shrubbery by the Elsworthy Terrace entrance to the park, but it was cut down after complaints that it had become a meeting place for gay lovers.

OR

The bushes were cleared to provide a site for public lavatories, but then the plan was abandoned.



8 — From 1865 to 1920 this building, on the corner of Regent's Park Road and King Henry's Road was a boys' home.

OR

It was a piano factory.

9 — A former plaque at the top of the hill gave its height as 256 feet above sea level, but the current plaque gives a figure of 219 feet. The difference is because the hill lost height due to wartime operations.

OR

The old plaque reflected an erroneous Wikipedia entry.

10 — In 2013 when Harry Enfield applied to convert the pub on the corner of Edis Street and Chalcot Road into housing there was some opposition, reported by the Mail Online under the headline 'Oi! Enfield! No! say Harry's neighbours.'

OR

The headline asked, 'Is it because he's considerably richer than you?'

Postcards from Primrose Hill

When walking along St Mark's Crescent, you will spot a few blue plaques in quick succession. At number 14 lived from 1946 until 1980 the artist William Roberts. Next door at number 13 was the historian AJP Taylor, who lived here for over 20 years from 1955. And two doors down at number 11, in the years 1854–1859, resided the poet Arthur Clough.

But what other interesting people lived in this street in the early 1900s, when this image was taken: people not commemorated with a blue plaque?

In 1911 the composer Henry Ernest Geehl (1881–1961) lived at number 20; the house is pictured in this image on the right side of the road. The then 29-year-old lived here with his mother Mathilda, a 58-year-old widow, and his 22-year-old twin sisters Eva and Edith, and youngest sister Kate, aged 15. Geehl was not only a composer, but also a pianist, conductor, arranger and teacher. Works include a symphony, concertos for piano and violin, and music for brass bands.



Across the road, at number 11, lived Claude Hinscliff (1875–1964), a clergyman in the Church of England. The reverend was best known for his involvement in the suffrage movement: he founded the Anglican Church League for Women's Suffrage in 1900.

But not everyone in St Mark's Crescent was keen to register their details on the 1911 census. At number 22 lived a 'Mr Crane'.

A guess was made that he was approximately 55 years old. Written across the page was: 'NOTE Above details obtained from postman, neighbours etc. Mr Crane is an eccentric gentleman, lives alone, seldom goes out, locks his front gate against callers, unable therefore to leave schedule.'

@old_primrosehill_postcards



NEWS & INFORMATION

PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

from Primrose Hill Community Association

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD NOSH AND WELLBEING CAFÉ

For those who need food support, our Neighbourhood Nosh project has a free market every Wednesday from 10am to 11am. No referrals necessary; just come along if it will be helpful to you. Produce includes items such as fruit, vegetables and bread. Pre-cooked ready meals are available too. Also on Wednesdays, you can also call into our Wellbeing Café (recently awarded a 5* hygiene rating) between 10am and 2pm to meet and chat with others, enjoy hot and cold drinks and hearty snacks such as jacket potatoes, all on a 'pay what you can afford' basis. It's a very friendly place to be and is proving popular, with newspapers to read, games to play and even a book swap. It also acts as a warm space when the weather gets colder.



Nosh will now be opening at the Wellbeing Café for a second day on Tuesdays from 3pm to 5pm, offering cake and biscuits, and with the aim of having some extra input, games, recipe swaps, mending, food for mood, or somewhere to warm up. If you are interested in volunteering for this, please get in touch. We'd also be keen to hear from anyone who could lend a hand with the baking: contact **wellbeingcafe@phca.cc**

Nosh also cooks and hand-delivers three-course hot meals in the community for those that need them, as well as cooking for Oldfield residents, several of whom are housebound. We are proud that this service was also recently awarded a 5* hygiene rating after much work and dedication by the team. If anyone knows someone in the area who would benefit from this service, please email: **wellbeingcafe@phca.cc**

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Both the Library and the Community Centre have talks taking place throughout the year. Check out their websites to see what's going on: **www.phcl.org** (Library) and **www.phca.cc** (Community Centre). Sign up online to receive regular updates and information on events at the venues.

The next talk at the Community Centre is on 17 October, entitled 'Glimpsing the Gobi', about adventurous British travellers to Mongolia from the mid-18th to the mid-20th century. There is also a disco coming up later this year and a volunteer get-together at Christmas time.

Regular activities at the Community Centre include:

- 'Last Friday in the Month' Bar
- Weekly Sunday Bar
- Primrose Hill Walks – often with a theme, usually every other Thursday morning (check the bulletin for dates)
- Open House, which is 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 Zumba keep-fit session for seniors
- Seniors Yoga – chair-based yoga for people who find regular yoga difficult
- Life Drawing – with live models

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

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Charity Swim

In August, two septuagenarians from Primrose Hill, Lucy Sheppard and Alison Kemp, swam across to the Isle of Wight to raise money for a friend's daughter who had broken her back in a cycling accident, leaving her in a wheelchair.

Lucy trained beforehand by swimming from Neves to St Kitts in the Caribbean, and in the Strait of Corryvrecken in Scotland, home to the third-largest whirlpool in the world, which features in the film *I Know Where I'm Going!* Closer to home, if somewhat less hazardous, she swam in the Serpentine and Kentish Town Baths.

The two friends began the challenge at Stokes Bay in Hampshire and finished at Ryde on the Isle of Wight. They had to negotiate ferries, hovercraft and pleasure boats in the Solent and Lucy admitted to being 'sick with nerves' beforehand. However, they successfully completed the swim in an impressive two hours and five minutes.

At the time of going to press, they have raised over £5,500 for the charity Aspire, which helps people who have been paralysed by spinal cord injuries.

They want to raise as much money as they can to help their friend's daughter and other people who suffer such life-changing injuries.



To donate, visit: **www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lucyalison**



Film Shows in Primrose Hill

By Colin Ludlow



The monthly film shows at Primrose Hill Community Library are about to enter a new era. After almost 10 years of organising the screenings, Pam White and I are bowing out in October and handing over to a younger team.

Shortly after Camden Council withdrew its funding from the Library in 2012, a plan was hatched to host regular screenings there of 'World Cinema Classics' with a view to extending the use of the building, creating a small but steady revenue stream and having some fun.

Pam set up a small committee to oversee things, which included myself, Dick Bird, Felicity Luke and Maggie Rodford. After some well-targeted fundraising that enabled the library to purchase excellent projection equipment and 60 folding seats, the film shows were launched in January 2014 with a screening of *The Madness of King George*. This was introduced by Alan Bennett and the event was a sell-out. Subsequent evenings proved equally popular, and the film shows rapidly became an established and well-loved feature of Primrose Hill life. After all, what could be better than seeing a much-loved or previously missed film just a short walk from your home with 60 like-minded friends?

Over the course of a decade, we have shown almost 100 features from 15 different countries.

These range from the 1924 silent drama *The Signal Tower* (which was shown with live musical accompaniment) to the 2019 Oscar-winner for Best Documentary, *Free Solo*.

Some particular highlights for me include *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, which the actress Shirley-Anne Field introduced after 'making an entrance' from behind a curtain; pin-dropping silence throughout a screening of the exquisite French film *Un Coeur en Hiver*; Michael Palin telling us about the scenes that weren't included in *A Life of Brian* (Simon Peter trying to book a table for The Last Supper in the middle of Passover), and an audience comprised mostly of septuagenarians seeming to skip its way home after an exhilarating evening watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Roger dance their way through *Top Hat*.

One of the features of the programme has been the short introductory talk before each film. Many of these have been given by local residents with a particular connection to the film – a talk by fashion shop proprietor Anna Park about the style of Audrey Hepburn before a screening of *Roman Holiday* stands out in the memory, as does film-maker Colin Luke telling us about his meeting with Jean Renoir when we showed *La Grande Illusion*.

We have also been fortunate enough to welcome some very distinguished guest speakers, including the writers Hanif Kureishi and Deborah Moggach, directors Roger Michell, Gurinder Chadha, Nicholas Hytner and Julian Jarrold, actors Jude Law, Denis Lawson and Imelda Staunton, and the producers Sandy Lieberson, Roger Randall-Cutler and Steve Abbott, plus the celebrated film historian Kevin Brownlow and the legendary film and sound editor Walter Murch.

The most constant presence at the film evenings has been Phil Reavey, who until recently operated the projector, set up the chairs and supervised the clear-up for every single screening; but like Pam and myself he is now calling time.

The new team of Adam Alcolea, Bernadette Baker and Helen Highet will be taking on our roles. As part of the handover there will be a new digital ticketing scheme, allowing you to book tickets online rather than having to purchase them from the library in person. But while the film shows will quite rightly evolve under the new team (look out for more films from outside Europe and possibly more recent titles), the intention is to maintain the underlying format of the evenings. We hope that the local community will continue to enjoy and support these highly pleasurable events for many more years to come.



News & Views

The Camden Choir unveils its 2023–24 season

The Camden Choir has announced its usual varied programme of concerts for 2023–24 at St Mary's, Primrose Hill. All begin at 6pm.

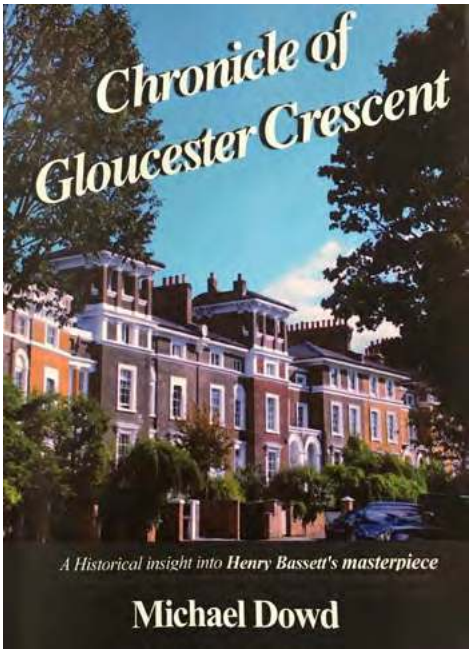
First up, on Saturday 18 November, is George Frideric Handel's thrilling dramatic oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*, which the composer wrote in 1746 to celebrate the Duke of Cumberland's victory over the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden. This concert will feature four talented soloists and an orchestra.

On Saturday 6 December the Choir's Christmas concert will include the usual festive favourites plus Cecilia McDowall's appealing *Christus Natus Est.* Music by two giants of the Renaissance era, William Byrd and Tomas Luis de Victoria, will be celebrated on Saturday 16 March 2024.

And the final concert, on Saturday 22 June 2024, is intriguingly titled *Poetry In Motion* and will include compositions by Benjamin Britten and EJ Moeran. The Choir welcomes new singers. For full details, emai: join@camdenchoir.london



Chronicle of Gloucester Crescent



For readers who would like to get hold of a copy of Michael Dowd's *Chronicle of Gloucester Crescent*, which was reviewed in the March issue of *On The Hill*, the book is available at The Coffee Jar, 83 Parkway, Camden.

News & Views

Kentish Town Library of Things



If you're planning some DIY or gardening and need a tool you'll probably only use once, the Library of Things in Kentish Town might be the answer. It hires out pressure washers, carpet cleaners, circular saws, drills, spirit levels, staple guns, sanders and even an ice-cream maker! It's a great way to reduce waste; simply reserve the item online and pick up from their kiosk outside Kentish Town Library at 262–266 Kentish Town Road, NW5 2AA

www.libraryofthings.co.uk/kentishtown

The Fixing Factory

A scheme which offers to fix your broken household goods is available in Queen's Crescent. The Fixing Factory, set up by eco-charity Possible, will be busting the myth that fixing faulty appliances is more hassle than it's worth.

'Don't Throw it Thursday' runs weekly between 11am and 2pm, and offers advice on how to mend household goods and electrical equipment, and teaches basic repair skills. Simply drop in with your broken appliance and skilled technicians will fix it for a donation.

There are also regular repair clubs where you can learn the skills to make fixes at home. See website for details.
Don't throw it away; make it last! The Fixing Factory can be found at 179 Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town, NW5 4DS.

www.fixingfactory.org



On The Hill Limerick

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Local stories and fashion in spades,
On The Hill's editor,
Vogue's Anna Wintour,
Their success secret, their penchant for shades?

Howard Richards

What's On October 2023

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

Cello Love
Weekend and one-day course for amateur cello players coached by professional cellists. PHCL. 9.45am–3.30pm. Contact sueandhercello@gmail.com.

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER

Film Show: *Sunset Boulevard*
Billy Wilder's strange and poignant elegy to Hollywood's silent era tells the story of a struggling screenwriter who is drawn into the deranged fantasy world of a former silent star. PHCL. Doors open 7.15pm. £8 including a glass of wine. Tickets at phcl.org/filmshow.

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER

Open House – Lost Girls
Join us for a chance to learn about sexual exploitation in Victorian times from cemetery guide Rowan Lennon. PHCC. 2–4pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER

Open House – Hollow Prison
Hear about the famous, and infamous, women who've been incarcerated at Holloway Prison from London history expert Stephen Barry. PHCC. 2–4pm. Free.

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

Glimpsing the Great Gobi
A talk by local Mongolia enthusiast Sue Byrne about British travellers to Mongolia, based on her recently published book. PHCC. 7pm for 7.15pm.

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

Open House – Somers Town People's Museum
Join us for a visit to Somers Town People's Museum, which works to preserve local voices and to celebrate the area's radical history. Get in touch to arrange transport. PHCC. 2–4pm. Free.

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

Gig at the Library
Join us at PHCL for an evening of music by women of colour performed by women of colour. PHCL. Doors at 7pm. £5 online, £6 on the door. Tickets at phcl.org/gig.

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER

Open House – Empire of Light
2022 British romantic drama film, directed by Sam Mendes, set in an English coastal town in the early 1980s, about the power of human connection during turbulent times. PHCC. 2–4pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER TO FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER

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

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER

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

KIDS

MONDAY

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

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

Rhyme Time
Library Rhyme Time for under 5s. PHCL. 11–11.45am. Suggested donation: £2. Contact: 020 7419 6599.

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Ready Steady Go Beginners
A gentle introduction to pre-school activities for 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.

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

Catherine's Ballet
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.

FRIDAY

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

The Big Book of Everything
Children's event combining puppetry, drama, music and art. PHCL. 10.25am. £3. Two Saturdays a month. Check dates and book in advance at phcl.org/bigbook.

SUNDAY

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

What's On October 2023

ADULTS

MONDAY

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

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

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

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: 07525 461361 or lizacawthorn@gmail.com (Liza).

Laban
Workshops based on Rudolf Laban's analysis of movement, for exercise and fun. All levels welcome. 12.30–1.30pm. £10 per session (£5 concessions). Contact jennyfrankel.laban@gmail.com.

Zumba Gold
Zumba class for seniors looking for a fun, modified low-intensity workout, made easy with simple-to-follow steps. PHCC. 2.30–3.15pm. Free. Check PHCA website for details.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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.

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

SUNDAY

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

CONTACT DETAILS

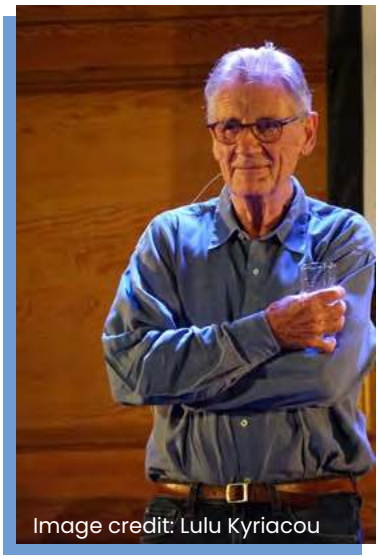
Primrose Hill Community Centre (PHCC)
29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Road), NW1 8TN
Contact: 020 7586 8327, info@phca.cc
www.phca.cc

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

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

Sir Michael Palin
Supports Age UK Camden

On Thursday 7 September, Sir Michael Palin presented a stimulating and insightful evening's entertainment, mixing anecdotes from his celebrated comedy career and world travels. Back at Cecil Sharp House for the first time since rehearsing for the Monty Python shows at the O2 in 2014, Sir Michael is a proud supporter of Age UK Camden, and this exclusive sell-out event helped to raise funds for its continuing work.


Image credit: Lulu Kyriacou

Sir Michael Palin said: "Being an elderly resident of Camden myself, I know how difficult and disorienting life can be as you get older. The modern world is changing so fast, it's sometimes difficult to keep up. Age UK Camden is there to help all of us who want to make sense of things, sort out problems and make sure that life can get better as you get older… I'll be looking back on my life with affection and disbelief. Did I really do all these things, see all those places?"

To coincide with the talk at Cecil Sharp House and to support Age UK Camden, Sir Michael gave an exclusive interview to his TV producer daughter, Rachel Palin, about the joys and challenges of getting older.
In it, he talks about how he relies on his children to help him navigate and keep up with modern technology, why he feels Google doesn't have all the answers and that there is much to learn from older generations, and how being curious and embracing humour are key to keeping energetic and engaged with the world as one ages. He also shares anecdotes from meeting older communities and wise characters, such as the Dalai Lama, on his travels to 98 countries, and offers insights into the 1971 Monty Python 'Hell's Grannies' sketch.

The full interview can viewed at:
www.ageukcamden.org.uk

All monies raised from the evening at Cecil Sharp House went to Age UK Camden, which this year has already supported more than 4,000 older people – 14% of Camden's over-65s. Among its services, it provides include information and advice, counselling and care navigation, befriending (including a specialist dementia befriending service) and digital inclusion, as well as running positive living centres in Hampstead and Kings Cross.

Mary Burd, Chair of Age UK Camden, said "We want to continue providing support to those who are already using our services, but also reach out and help even more people."

There are two easy ways to donate to Age UK Camden:

- online at **www.ageukcamden.org.uk**
- texting AUCP10 (to donate £10) or AUCP20 (to donate £20) to 70460 (texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message).

Follow online at **@ageukcamden**

HERE COMES THE FUN
with Ben Aitken

By Muriel/Aggie Murch

On Wednesday 31 May the Eurostar pulled into St Pancras promptly at 5pm, and I was only a little late to the Primrose Hill Library book event. I thought there would be a lingering drinks moment and I would be OK – but Ben Aitken was already in full-flow discussion with the lovely Brenda Stones when I arrived. I was nervous, though, seeing the title: *Here Comes the Fun: A Year of Making Merry*. Could this book be a little frivolous for my taste? Ben is popping books out at quite a rate – as he says, this is how he's making his living; not easy. But in Icon Books he has a willing and eager publisher behind him. They are betting on Ben making it really big one day – and I might place a bob or two on that along with them.

By Friday, on my volunteer library shift, a copy of *Here Comes the Fun* was ready for me to cover. Which I did: any wrinkles that you find are mine, and I will do better when the second edition comes out – which it will. I covered, Dom catalogued, and you will find *Here Comes the Fun* on the 14-day take-out and eventually in Bio – once I have returned it. I still wasn't sure of the premise, but as soon as I began reading, I was swept along for the ride. Apart from being gut-wrenchingly funny – be warned, seniors, and others with weak bladders – the Ben-led adventures (who would have thought of so many?) into information, projects, life questions and humorous insight make this book well worth the read.



I loved the swing back into reflection of what is fun, where we find it in our lives, and the gentle-to-others humour often turned on himself.

Luckily Ben gives us plenty of notes at the bottom of the pages telling us what happened when?. So many times I wanted to tick one (Yes, that's a good thought), but had to kerb my pencil fingers. This copy of *Fun* belongs to the library and must be returned: not only on time, but unmarked.

Now I must buy a copy for my own bookcase and another for a friend; we all need gifts of human kindness and delight. This book is more than fun – it is delicious.
www.murielmurch.com



Primrose Hill Vehicles in the 1940s and '50s

BY DAVID EDWARDS

There were not many cars in Primrose Hill during the war, but Mr Ruffles, who ran a laundry, had a Ford 8. He took the customers' bag wash away in it. There isn't a lot of room in a Ford 8, so the back seats were well loaded. Mr Anderson lived behind us in the mews and had a three-wheeled Reliant van. He swept chimneys. It was a job in demand then, as the Clean Air Act had yet to be thought of. Mr Simms, the off-licence owner, had an Austin Clifton that he made deliveries in. He had another car laid up in a garage 'for the duration'.



The greengrocer next door – Mr Yeoman – had a car and a van. I was fascinated by the van, and was allowed to play in it. One day I managed to let off the handbrake; to my horror it started to run down the road with half the shop's staff running after me. Ted, the driver, managed to leap onto the running board and open the door, grabbing the handbrake just in time. In the summer he took off the side panels and I watched the engine ticking over, mesmerised by the big blades of the fan.

One day a lad called Ernest Doughty, nicknamed Ernie Dirty, called the fire brigade and ran away

At the corner of Regent's Park Road and Berkley Road was the fire alarm. People didn't have phones in their homes in those days. You could ring from a wooden call box at the back of Mr Weir's chemist shop (Thompson's Pharmacy) as there was a sub-post office at the back, or there were two phone boxes at the entrance to Primrose Hill. To call the fire brigade you went to the red pillar on the corner, broke a small pane of glass and pulled out a lever. Minutes later the fire engine arrived and you then directed the firemen to the fire.

Brooke Bond Tea came in the little Trojan vans

One day a lad called Ernest Doughty, nicknamed Ernie Dirty, called the fire brigade and ran away. I watched from behind the hedge in the garden of a nearby house as a grey-painted fire engine raced up. Instead of shouting and angry voices, they simply replaced the glass and went back, presumably to Euston or the fire station near Fellowes Road. Ernie Dirty became legendary as the boy who smashed the glass and 'done the false alarm'.



I liked the delivery vans that came to our shop. Mortlock's Modern Dairies delivered homogenised milk in waxed cartons. All the other dairies and grocers in the road had bottled milk, but ours was a bit special – no cream.

Mum used to start our fire with the empty wax carton, and we would wait for the 'whuuump' as it took fire.

Brooke Bond Tea came in the little Trojan vans, and Smith's Crisps and Kearley & Tongue delivered in vans that had a rack on the roof, where the driver threw up the empty crisp and biscuit tins. There was a ladder up the back of the van and you climbed onto the roof to sort out the tins. I always wanted to have a go at that. It had a canvas top and wooden sides that came up half the height of the back. They rolled barrels of vinegar off the sides and over the pavement. We sold bottled vinegar in our shop, but Mr Welsh, the ironmonger, sold it loose from the barrel. Customers brought in their own bottles and it was measured out in pewter half or one pint mugs.

They rolled barrels of vinegar off the sides & over the pavement

There was a coal firm called Wallace Spires who had a yard at Camden Goods by the railway at the corner of Chalk Farm Road. There were some horse-drawn wagons, but I particularly remember the two flatbed Fordsons.

They were painted orange and black. A man emerged from a room at the back of the office and took your order on a scrap of old paper, which I thought very *infra dig*: I would have had a proper pad printed! They had a super mirror with 'Wallace Spires' etched into it and I suppose, had it survived, it would be worth a few quid these days.

The coalmen used a half-crown to lever up the coal hole lid. I used to be stationed at the side door to check that they really did deliver twenty bags: at the end of the delivery the coalman would invite the customer to count the empty sacks piled up on the back of his lorry as proof of delivery. Grandma was always suspicious that they had a ready folded sack that they sneaked into the pile when the householder wasn't looking!



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SARAH LOUISE RAMSAY



A PASSION FOR ARCHIVES

& the comfort blanket of writing

By The Mole on the Hill

Kitty: What's that building down there with people going in and out?
The Mole: That's the Community Library.
Kitty: There must be lots of books there. Where do they all come from?
The Mole: The library volunteers decide what the library needs and they have a fund for buying them.
Kitty: Those volunteers must read loads of books.
The Mole: They do. Some of them write the books as well. See that woman down there. She's one of the people who chooses the books. She's also a very famous writer.

At the time of her birth in 1944, Caroline Moorehead's father, Alan Moorehead, was one of the most successful writers in English of his day. As an Australian he had reported on the war in Europe and written several books, including *Gallipoli*, which was a bestseller. Caroline's mother was the journalist Lucy Milner. With parents like that, it's no surprise that Caroline and her two brothers all became writers.

"My father was war correspondent with the Allied Forces for the whole of the Italian campaign and he fell in love with Italy. So in 1946, when I was three, we moved there, to Fiesole for three years. Then we came back to London where I did some of my schooling at the French Lycée. My father wanted to move back to Italy but my mother was not keen, so they agreed to give it a year before they decided. That summer of 1956 it rained every day in England so the decision was made. We went back to Rome and my father built a house in southern Tuscany."

HER FIRST JOB, TO HER FATHER'S HORROR, WAS WITH THE ITALIAN VERSION OF *PLAYBOY*

Off to the French Lycée in Rome then, and after that a year at a boarding school in Switzerland. By the time she was sixteen Caroline had her A Levels; but what was she to do? Too young for university. No problem. Spend some time at the Sorbonne. Eventually she read Philosophy and Psychology at New College, London. It must have been about this time, when Caroline was twenty-one, that her father had a catastrophic stroke.

"It was awful. He'd had a string of successes, he'd built the house in Italy, and suddenly he was struck down. His mind was almost entirely clear, but he couldn't read and could hardly speak. He could communicate with family and close friends, but for seventeen years he was a sort of prisoner."

While this was going on, Caroline was building her writing career, first as a journalist. She had married straight after she left university, and went to Rome with her husband, who worked there.

Her first job, to her father's horror, was with the Italian version of *Playboy*." "I wrote the captions for the girls: *'Naughty Susan Likes Knitting.'* Then I got a job as a reporter for *Time* magazine. They had a big office in Rome with three correspondents and me as their reporter. I had an excellent editor who really taught me to write. Then after three years we came back to England for Jeremy to do a PhD and me to spend a very unhappy year as a feature writer for the *Daily Telegraph*."



The next move was to be a feature writer at *The Times* for four very happy years. There her editor was William Rees-Mogg, who was 'wonderful with young writers' (shame about the son). He allowed Caroline to do six months on at *The Times* and six months off, which allowed her time to write books.

"I've never written fiction, no imagination. I'm too literal, fascinated by facts. I started writing biographies, but I wanted to move more into history. With the four books I've written about the Resistance, I feel I've achieved that. Call it 'historical biography'. I suppose it's my journalism background that ensures I have never written any books that have not been commissioned. I make a proposal to the publishers; if they like it, I get an advance which I live off until I make the next proposal. If I'm lucky there will be some royalties. It takes me three years for each book: two years for research and one year of writing.

"I was incredibly lucky with the first book of The Resistance Quartet, *A Train in Winter*. It was picked up by the Oprah Winfrey of Canada and it took off, selling well in America and France. But it's a sort of alchemy: you never know how a book will sell.

"Writing is my comfort blanket. On a typical day I start at 8.30am and work through to 5pm, seven days a week. If I'm in the library, it will be five days a week. I quite like subjects which take me just sufficiently into the past for there to be some people alive that I can talk to. When I started, I was keen on interviewing, but over twenty-five years I have acquired a passion for archives. I take an insane amount of notes. I might read 400 books for each book I'm researching, and I take 40 pages of notes on each one, written by hand in notebooks. And all those notes have to be read and organised and filed."

Alongside the writing, Caroline has always been involved in human rights. At *The Times* she had a weekly column called 'Prisoner of Conscience'. This was taken up by a colleague, Rex Bloomstein, who wanted to put her articles on TV, so Caroline wrote and co-produced the programmes. Her book, *Human Cargo*, involved her travelling around the world looking at different situations through the eyes of refugees. She helped to start a refugee legal office in Cairo, which ran for ten years until the political situation made it impossible to continue. She also met and helped Harriet, a young Ugandan refugee whom she now looks upon as her daughter.

"One of the people I worked with was Helen Bamber, an amazing woman. She started the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture, and when she started the Helen Bamber Foundation, I was a trustee; I also translated for her and took the testimonies of refugees. About this time, I was commissioned to write a history of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"I was interested because the Red Cross is the housekeeper of war. They are allowed anywhere so long as they don't make public what they find except to the government involved. It was fun to do, but it finished up a terribly fat book."

I MIGHT READ 400 BOOKS FOR EACH BOOK I'M RESEARCHING

With Caroline's experience and intimate knowledge of refugees, it's interesting to know what she thinks of the way the present government deals with refugees. "The notion in this country is that the culprits are the traffickers; if we can hit them, it will be fine. This totally begs the question of why people become refugees in the first place. Nobody wants to be a refugee.

Either their own human rights have been destroyed, or war and hardship have made it impossible for them to live where they live.

The way this government has criminalised refugees is only one of the terrible things they have done. The notion of sending them off to Rwanda is nothing short of grotesque."

Besides being on the committee that buys books for the library, Caroline volunteers at the Community Centre Wellbeing Café, washing up and serving soup, jacket potatoes and homemade cakes.

"I love it. First of all, I love not being alone, because one of the downsides of the writer's life is that I spend a lot of my life alone. There's no way to write a book other than being alone, so I really love that once a week I volunteer in the café. Secondly, I spend too much of my time locked in my head, and I realise that's a side of me that's inappropriate in the café. I have to be much more forthcoming. I can't just silently do the washing up. I have to go out and talk to people and see if I can do anything for them. I really enjoy that."



Beside the writing, one thing both Alan Moorehead and his daughter Caroline have in common is an OBE: Alan for his fearless work as a war correspondent – he was trice mentioned in dispatches – and Caroline for her contribution to literature. "To the great mirth of my children, I was awarded the OBE. They said I'd never be able to curtsey. But I practised and I got it right. So there."

Kitty: So it's quite hard work being a writer.
The Mole: Doesn't seem to be an easy way of doing it.
Kitty: I don't think could put in all that hard work.
The Mole: You never know. You might find that like Caroline you can't help it. That seems to be the way it works.

Caroline's most recent book, *Edda Mussolini: The Most Dangerous Woman in Europe*, is available from Primrose Hill books.

© The Mole on the Hill

Primrose Hill Community Library

Here are the latest acquisitions to tide you through the autumn.



Paperback

Kia Abdullah
Those People Next Door

Cressida Connolly
Bad Relations

Chris Hammer
Dead Man's Creek

Siân Hughes
Pearl

Amy Jeffs
Storyland: A New Mythology of Britain

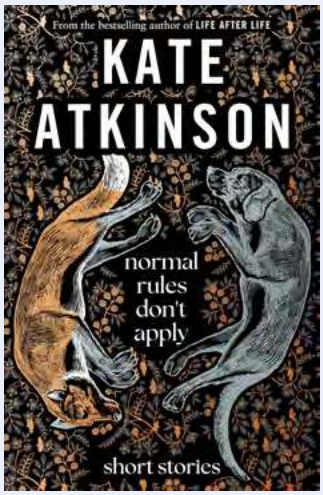
India Knight
Darling

Peter May
A Winter Grave

Anthony Quinn
Molly & the Captain

Joanna Quinn
The Whalebone Theatre

Colm Tóibín
A Guest at the Feast



Hardback

Michael Arditti
The Choice

Kate Atkinson
Normal Rules Don't Apply

Mick Herron
The Secret Hours

Claire Keegan
So Late in the Day

Richard Osman
The Last Devil to Die

Ann Patchett
Tom Lake

Zadie Smith
The Fraud

Children's

Katherine Rundell
Rooftoppers

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

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

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

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

Windows On The Past

Long-time Primrose Hill resident Caroline Cooper spent some years researching the history of every single shop, restaurant, pub and café in Primrose Hill. Using Kelly's Post Office Directories (published every five years until, sadly, they were discontinued in the 1990s), she produced a series of A4 laminated cards detailing the stories behind each address.

Many businesses displayed them in their windows, sometimes for years afterwards.

In 2006 Caroline published the complete set in a book, *Windows On The Past*, with sales in aid of the threatened Chalk Farm Library (now of course Primrose Hill Community Library).

In this occasional series, we share extracts of her work.

A history of 146 Regent's Park Road: Opium, Alcohol and Arsenic



Alderson pharmacy in 1972



... and in 1983

• CHEMIST: Edward Groves (1870)

The first chemist in the road was Barker at No 69 in 1860. However, this one at No 146 lasted longest.
Victorian chemists sold various powders, distilled elixirs, syrups and herbal essences. Chloroform and laudanum were readily sold, and were used as sedatives, painkillers, and at deathbeds. There were restrictions on the sale of arsenic. For pain and terminal illness, doctors could prescribe only opium or alcohol.

The local poor would have gone to a public dispensary, in Chalk Farm Road or Hawley Crescent.

• CHEMIST: Thomas Rutter (1875)
• CHEMIST: Richard Hulme (1880)
• CHEMIST: Powell & Morgan (1885)
• CHEMIST: David Roberts (1890–95)

Various patent medicines gradually became available: Eno's Fruit Salts; Andrews Liver Salts; Beecham's Pills; Vicks VapoRub.

• CHEMIST: Francis Moore (1900–30)
• CHEMIST: Hubert Alderson MPS (1935–85)

Mr Alderson lived above the shop with his wife. The couple are still well remembered locally, as are the huge old coloured bottles that once stood in the window.

• DELICATESSEN: Anthony's Italian delicatessen (1995–present)

This business moved here from over the road at No 67, where it had started as primarily a wine shop.

With gratitude to Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, City of London Metropolitan Archives for their help and the Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee for their original permission to use the 1972 photo.

The Primrose Hill Opera Cabaret

The Opera Cabaret started life as a small experimental event for the Stoke Newington Midsummer Festival around twenty-five years ago. It has now extended to become a regular highlight of the Primrose Hill calendar. As it's a self-financing and non-profit-making venture, it depends on good local support, which it gets in spades.

This September, the event venue changed from Cecil Sharp House – where it was held until 2019 – to St Mary's church. After four years' break, it has returned with renewed vigour, a new pianist and a new, outstanding cast of singers. Produced by Martin Sheppard, the Opera Cabaret is a series of short sketches from different operas. It was hosted by the soprano Caroline Kennedy, who has written her own operatic show, *Bumbelina*, about the pressures on young women, and is involved in singing for people with dementia. Caroline introduced each piece with great panache, making the evening accessible for opera buffs and novices alike.

A couple of the singers were home-grown: mezzo-soprano Emma Roberts was brought up in Primrose Hill, and bass singer Martin Nelson is a long-term resident who sings regularly at the Royal Opera House.



Accompanying the singers was pianist Matthew Jorysz, who played the organ at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth and again at the coronation of King Charles

All the singers were top professional performers, and between them they sang extracts from *Lakmé*, *Die Fledermaus*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Samson and Delilah*, *Carmen* and *La Sonnambula*, to name but a few.

In mini-Glyndebourne style, everyone took in a picnic and shared food during the extended interval. The evening was rousingly ended by a – mainly passable – audience rendition of 'Va, pensiero' from Verdi's *Nabucco*. Grateful thanks go to John D Wood & Co for their support.



PICTURES FROM PRIMROSE HILL





Thank you to Marie Winser for the image of the pollarded tree, and Janet Dulin Jones for the Primrose Hill sunrise and sunset images. 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.





Care homes in Camden

C&C
LONDON HOMES
SINCE 1926

We support residents with all care needs, in particular dementia.

We use person-centred care, learning the interests and passions of every resident to ensure a 'Home from Home' experience.

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Chalk Farm Foodbank

Our foodbank is run by local people for local people – they rely on community support to make sure people don't go hungry. In recent years foodbank visits have tripled.

The Baptist church in Berkley Road no longer accepts in-person donations, so instead please use the following drop-off locations:

Tesco Superstore 21–29 Ballards Lane N3 1XP	7am–10pm	End of the checkout area
Chalk Farm Foodbank Warehouse c/o Revelation Church, Busworks, 39–41 North Road N7 9DP	Tues/Thurs 11.30am–1.25pm	Please call first: 020 7483 3763
Revelation Church Office United House, Busworks, 39–41 North Rd N7 9DP	Tues 9.30am–3pm	Please call to arrange a drop-off: 020 7483 3783
Burgh House New End Square NW3 1LT	Weds, Fri and Sat 10am–3pm	Please call to arrange a drop-off: 020 7431 0144

The foodbank doesn't accept bleach, blades, clothes or toys (except new and in original packing).

Regular financial donations are also vital to hire staff and expand their services to help more people. Please invest in the future of the project and provide support to people in crisis in our community.

There are three ways you can give:

1—
Via: **www.justgiving.com/ChalkFarmFoodbank**

2—
By bank transfer:
Revelation Church London
sort code: 40-02-03, account number: 81866060
(this goes directly to the Chalk Farm Foodbank account)

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

3—
Download a standing order form from the website and handing to foodbank staff.

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

Foodbank Admin Team
0207 483 3763/07745 693 763 (Mon/Thurs)
info@chalkfarm.foodbank.org.uk

Answers to Primrose Hill in Literature Quiz

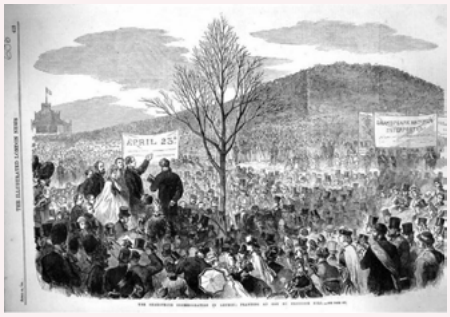


1. The tree used to bear the following plaque:

'SHAKESPEARE OAK'
Planted by Dame Edith Evans, DBE, for the Society for Theatre Research on April 23rd, 1964, to commemorate the Shakespeare Quatercentenary and to replace the oak planted by Samuel Phelps nearby on April 23rd, 1864.'

But the plaque was soon lost so now it is hard to be certain which tree it is. The photo dates from 2013.

The 1864 planting was attended by 100,000 people and was organised by the Workingmen's Shakespeare Committee. *The Illustrated London News* included this picture.



2. The hedgerows which used to provide ideal conditions for primroses were cut down in the 1840s. In 2018 Primrose Hill residents Martin Sheppard, Miranda Glossop and Jonathan Rogers tried guerrilla gardening, planting 350 primroses on the hill, but the plants did not survive.

When much of the hill was turned over to allotments during both the First and Second World Wars, the primroses were already long gone.

3. Freud had moved into Elsworthy Road, having fled Vienna following the Nazi annexation of Austria and the vicious anti-Semitism that followed.

Dali came to see him, having been much influenced by his work on the interpretation of dreams.

4. Until 1895 it was the Eton and Middlesex cricket ground, but an attempt to preserve it as open space failed due to the 'outrageous' price of over £3,000 an acre.

5. Gerry Rafferty used to stay with a friend in Baker Street when he visited London. He never wrote about Primrose Hill. But Paul McCartney was walking on Primrose Hill in spring 1967 when, inspired by the first sunny day of the year, he said to himself 'It's getting better'. The rest of the song followed.

6. The clerihew is by Edmund Clerihew Bentley, who invented this literary form. The limerick was composed for this question.

7. It was a meeting place for gay lovers.



8. The Boys' Home for the Training and Maintenance of Destitute Boys not Convicted of Crime accommodated up to 150 boys aged from six to thirteen and is shown below. Many of the boys had formerly survived as crossing-sweepers, the equivalent of our squeegee men at traffic lights.

9. It was an error in Wikipedia.

10. The full headline was 'Is it because he's considerably richer than you? Harry Enfield angers Primrose Hill neighbours with £3m plan to convert local pub into homes.' Enfield pointed out that there were two other pubs within 50 yards, four within 150 yards and six within 300 yards, so locals should be able to manage.

Score Your Answers

0–5	Tim Nice-But-Dim
6	Wayne Slob
7	Kevin the Teenager
8	Dave Nice
9	Grayson
10	Loadsamoney

Hello, Primrose Hill!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the Mad Hatter's Tea Party the great success it was. Thanks to the performers who freely gave their time, and to everyone who came along on the day. The event was organised the Primrose Hill Community Association. Photos by Jason Pittock.












Olivia Morris
feeling confused - 5h

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



2 comments



Lydia Campbell
Is that uncle Jamie?



Edith Morris
This reminds

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