On The Hill

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PRIMROSE HILL PEOPLE

SEPTEMBER 2018 | ONTHEHILL.INFO

GUEST EDITORS

WILLIAM MILLER & DERMOT O'LEARY

launch the Primrose Hill Community Association fundraising campaign

See pp 8 & 9 for details



GLOUCESTER CRESCENT: ME, MY DAD AND OTHER GROWN-UPS

William Miller discusses his new book

THE SPARK GROWS TO A FLAME THAT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

Marcus Davey talks about the Roundhouse

Produced by Primrose Hill Community Association



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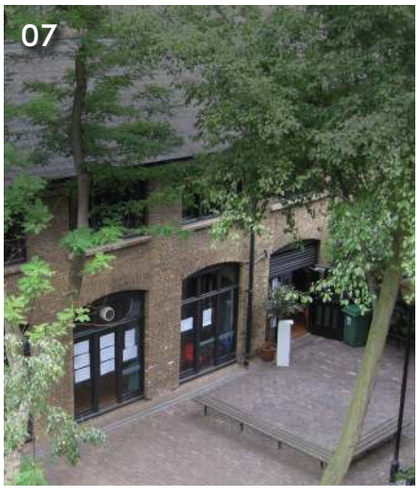
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September 2018

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Sales

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£575,000 Leasehold



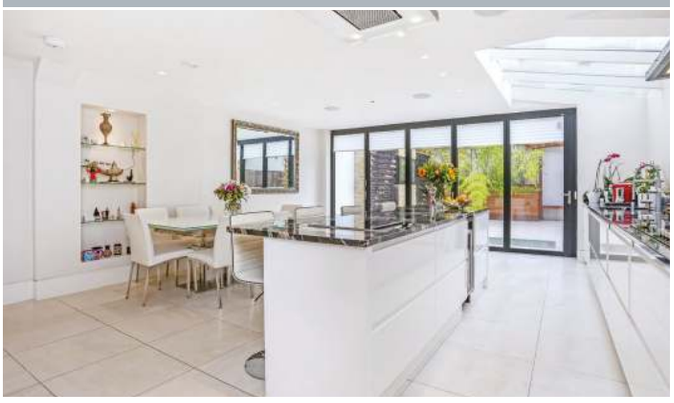
Primrose Hill, NW3

A charming third floor apartment comprises of a fully integrated kitchen with direct access to a South facing balcony, a bright and airy reception room, newly refurbished family bathroom with separate w/c and 2 generous double bedrooms. Other benefits include ample storage, a lift and delightful communal gardens. This apartment is ideally positioned to allow easy access for the restaurants and boutiques of Primrose Hill Village and the open green spaces of Primrose Hill (128 meters) and Regents Park.

Energy Efficiency Rating - C72

2 1

OIEO £2,000,000 Share Of Freehold



Primrose Hill, NW3

An outstanding property situated in an imposing period residence offering approximately 2078 sq ft of flexible living accommodation with a superb 21 ft kitchen/dining room leading directly into a private garden. It also comprises a separate reception room with direct access to a patio, 3 striking bedrooms all with en-suite shower rooms, a guest cloakroom and ample storage, the principal of which benefits from a large walk in wardrobe and a large utility room.

Energy Efficiency Rating - D67

3 2

Lettings

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£415* pw Unfurnished (£1,798 p/m)



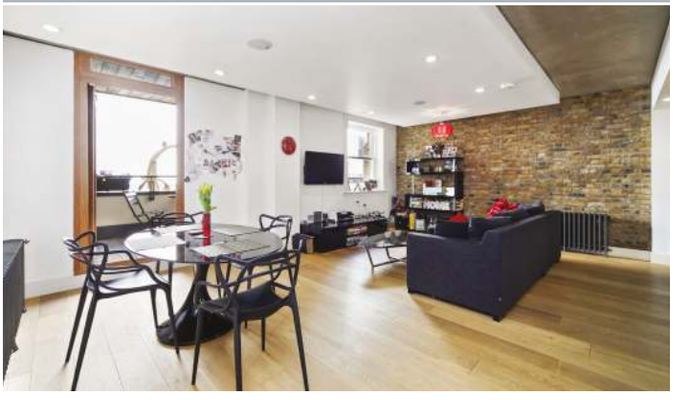
Primrose Hill, NW3

A bright 1 bedroom apartment set on the first floor of a period conversion situated moments from Primrose Hill High Street and Primrose Hill Park, and providing easy access to both Chalk Farm & Swiss Cottage Underground stations (Northern Line & Jubilee Line). The apartment is offered in excellent condition throughout and comprises an open plan kitchen/reception room with high ceilings, double bedroom and an en-suite shower room. The apartment further benefits from an addition storage room on the half landing.

Energy Efficiency Rating - D60

1 1

£650* pw Un/Furnished (£2,817 p/m)



Camden, NW1

A superb 2 double bedroom apartment forming part of one of Camden's most iconic canal side developments. The Henson Building is a uniquely converted warehouse situated on a discreet cobbled lane within the Regents Park side of Camden. The apartment comprises a spacious open plan kitchen/reception room, principal bedroom with en-suite bathroom, a further double bedroom and family bathroom. Other features include 2 separate walk-in wardrobes, exposed brickwork, hardwood engineered flooring, a private balcony, 24 hour concierge and a free bicycle pool.

Energy Efficiency Rating - B84

2 2

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

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Special thanks to all our contributors.

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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GUEST EDITORS' LETTER



Welcome to September

As Henrik Ibsen once wrote: "A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." Therefore this month two local residents have taken the helm at *On The Hill* to show our support for the incredible work that the Primrose Hill Community Association does for us all. For over forty years the Community Association has been at the centre of our vibrant community, running the Community Centre, supporting local residents and groups, as well as leading the campaign to save our Library.

There are well over 10,000 village halls and community centres across England, and each one of them plays a vital role in bringing cohesion to the communities they serve. Ours is located in the Old Piano Factory in Hopkinson's Place off Fitzroy Road, and has made itself the launch pad for so much that happens in and around Primrose Hill. It provides a range of activities for all ages, from Ready-Steady-Go nursery and Rhyme Time for young children, to over 60s Keep Fit; there is also yoga, Narcotics Anonymous, and our magnificent local choir. The Community Centre is where many go to vote for local and general elections; or it's just a place to hang out and shoot a game of pool. It also reaches out to the wider community by offering a Lunch Club at the Oldfield Estate, a series of weekly Open House events, and the annual Summer Fair.

Primrose Hill Community Association has now signed a 25-year lease from Camden Council, thereby securing the long-term future of the Community Centre. Over the coming months they will be fundraising for this cause by asking residents for donations. It's 'Hall or Nothing', so please do all you can to help keep this vital community hub running for the benefit of all.

William Miller and Dermot O'Leary

PHCA FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

To find out more about Primrose Hill Community Association, the fundraising campaign and how you can help, see pp 8 & 9 and the special insert in this issue.

THE PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Getaway Gala Evening

Tuesday 25th September 7.30pm

at Primrose Hill Community Centre









AUCTION of stays in unique holiday houses and special London experiences donated by locals

A fun evening in aid of your local community centre.

Tickets £45.00 to include a glass of fizz, supper with wine and cabaret by Annabel Leventon.

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On The Street

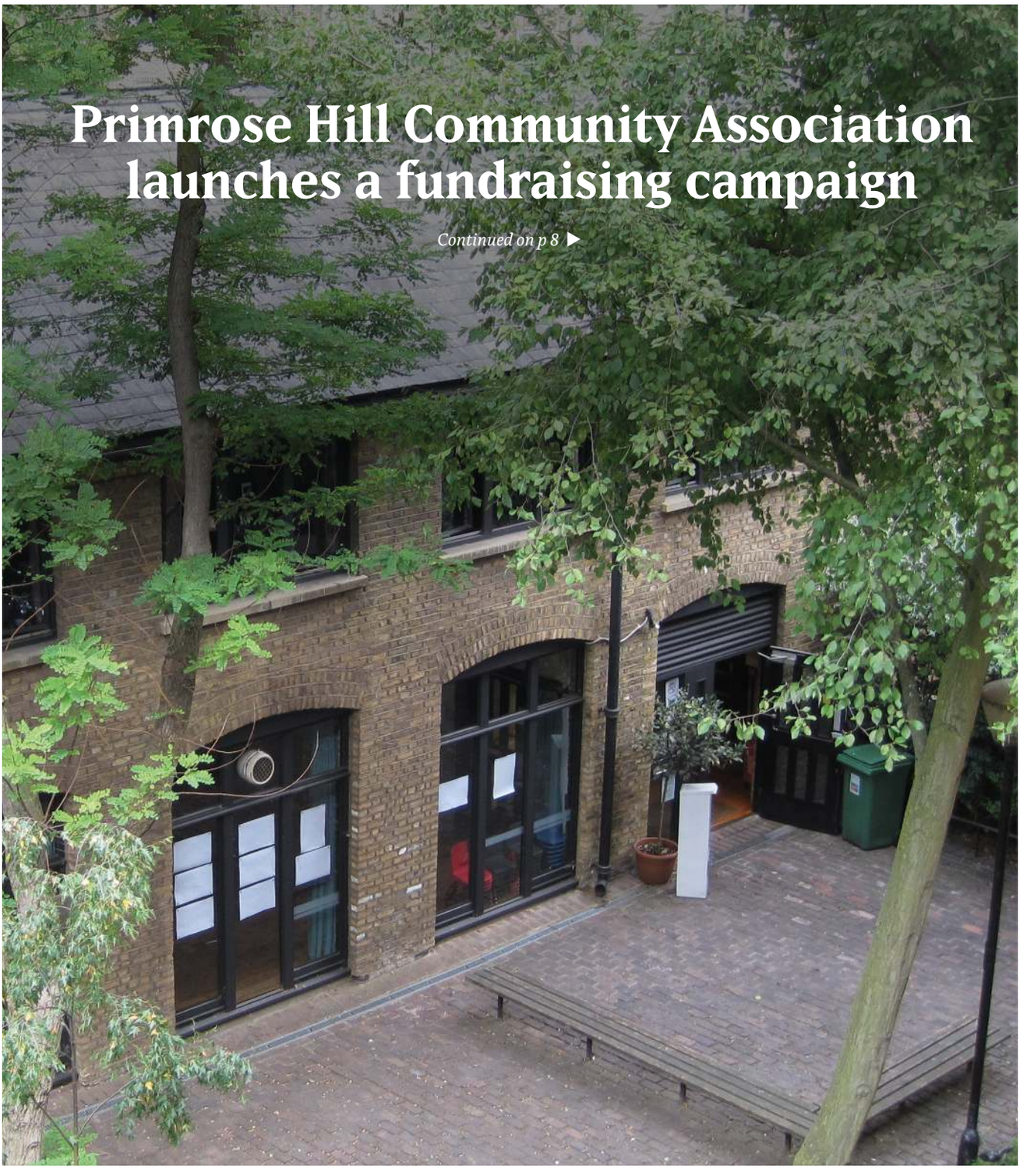
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Primrose Hill Summer Lecture Series *p 12*

AND MORE



Primrose Hill Community Association launches a fundraising campaign

Continued on p 8 ▶

News & Information

from Primrose Hill Community Association

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

The PHCA is a registered charity and exists to enhance the lives of residents and those who work in the area. It enables people to meet and enjoy the company of their neighbours and offers social, leisure, educational and recreational facilities.

The most welcome news is that the lease we have been negotiating for over ten years with Camden Council has finally been signed, meaning that we will have security of tenure at the Community Centre for the next 25 years. This does, however, come at a premium, as the cost of the buy-out of this lease is £250,000, for which we will need to fundraise. See the article opposite and the fundraising insert that explain how you can help.

The first special fundraising event, the Getaway Gala, will be on Tuesday 25 September at 7.30pm at the Community Centre. It should be a fun night with an auction, entertainment, drinks and supper at £45 per person (see p 6 for details).

On Tuesday 16 October at 7pm we shall be continuing our Local Lives series of Desert Island Discs talks with Dick Bird interviewing Richard Creasey, adventurer, film-maker, writer and resident of Regent's Park Road. Richard had driven twice around the world before he was twenty, he was 'documentaries boss' at Central TV for fourteen years, he is an enthusiastic pilot … the list goes on! Dick will discuss his incredible story and play the music he would take to his desert island.

All are invited to the PHCA AGM at the Community Centre on Thursday 4 October at 7pm, with a special guest speaker. We also have a new Events Committee (see p 20), so look out for a great, varied programme to come.







Members of the Primrose Hill community enjoying some of the many activities and events the Community Centre has to offer



One Long Hot Summer in Primrose Hill

To celebrate the end of the four month pop up shop and printmaking studio, there will be a show of work produced by Artist in Residence Kate Guy

26th to 30th September
41 Chalcot Road NW1 8LS
12 - 6 pm

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images of the area
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Workshops continue until
23rd September
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An Open Letter to all Residents

Dear Primrose Hill,

We want to ask serious questions of all who live in the area. Do you just live here, or do you belong? Is a city just a collection of boxes with unconnected people in them, or is there such a thing as community? Is Primrose Hill a neighbourhood?

There will be some who want nothing to do with other residents, and that is their entitlement, of course. But there will be others among you who feel that the quality of urban living is all the better for knowing your neighbours and sharing activities with them.

We pose these questions because this is a moment of opportunity. After several years of negotiations, the Primrose Hill Community Association has signed a 25-year lease on the Community Centre building in Hopkinson's Place, for £250,000. In the long run this will substantially save money, as Camden Council would otherwise be charging rent for the building's use. Essentially it will secure a future for the Centre.

It means, though, that we are being tested on how much we value the facility. On 1 September we are launching an appeal to raise £250,000 by asking everyone in Primrose Hill to contribute what they can afford. Enclosed in this edition of On The Hill is a leaflet with more details. Do contact us at **leaseappeal@phca.cc** if you can help in any way or if you have further questions.

Five years ago we were posed a similar challenge over the Library, another victim of local government cuts. The response was strong and generous and showed that Primrose Hill could take an independent stand when its values were being challenged. As a result we have a well-used Library of which we are all proud.

We feel strongly that the Community Centre is worth keeping. It is a flexible space for meetings and classes, for childcare and adult development, for social events for young and old, for music-making, parties, birthdays and wakes. It is an accessible space for voting, campaigning, information-giving and offering help to all callers. It is an office hub for managing bookings and Community Association initiatives elsewhere, such as the Lunch Club, the Summer Fair, the Library and On The Hill magazine. In short, it is the platform for doing together as a community what we cannot do alone. In an average day, hundreds of Primrose Hill feet, from the youngest to the oldest, pass through its doors.

It is no accident that Primrose Hill is spoken of as having a neighbourly atmosphere; this is the result of collaboration and communication over the years by our predecessors. Now it is our chance. Surely between us we can raise the money to secure the Centre at the heart of our community.

Yours hopefully,
Maureen Betts, Dick Bird, Monica Crooks, Mick Hudspeth, Doro Marden,
Colin St Johnston, Pam White

POSTCARDS FROM PRIMROSE HILL



This month's postcard features a lovely image of 31 Princess Road. We know it today as our local newsagent, Princess News, but for a very long time, from 1861 to 1940, the building housed a bakery. From 1913 until 1921 it was run by William George Bates – you can spot the name on the delivery cart and shopfront. My guess he is the chap on the left, with the moustache, in the doorway.

The postcard was posted by William himself in August 1914, and he writes to his aunt, hoping that she 'got a bus allright Sunday night'.

@old_primrosehill_postcards

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Island Magic: A Local Artist's Adventure

By Rose Glasser







It is not every day that an opportunity arises to sail to a far-flung island in the middle of the Gulf of Finland. But that is exactly where one Primrose Hill local found herself on Midsummer's Day.

Local artist Chloe Harbour embarked on a week-long trip to Klovharu, one of the many small, rocky islets lying off the coast of Porvoo in the Pellinki Islands that make up the Gulf of Finland's outer archipelago.

This special island, about 80 kilometres east of Helsinki, was once home to renowned Finnish writer and artist Tove Jannsson. Jannsson lived a remote existence on Klovharu for almost thirty summers up until the 1990s with her partner Tuulikki Pietilä. She is famous worldwide as the author and cartoonist of the *Moomin* books, one of the most beloved children's series of the twentieth century.

Chloe's own admiration of Jannsson came about by chance after she worked on an exhibition celebrating the artist at the Southbank Centre in 2016. This meant spending nine months living and breathing Jannsson's life while taking visitors on immersive tours of 'Klovharu', an installation of the island recreated within the exhibition.

"I dreamt about going to the island for so long that I made it my mission," Chloe said after recently giving a talk on her experience at the Primrose Community Centre.

The island is now fiercely protected by the local community and only accessible to the public for one week of the year. Visitors can also apply to the Pellinge Association to stay privately during just eleven weeks of the summer.

Almost two years after the Southbank experience, Chloe Harbour took another Primrose Hill local, Amanda Faber, a friend from her Parliament Hill gardening plot, to set sail on a June summer's day and retrace the Finnish artist's footsteps.

For seven days Chloe and Amanda lived alone on the island, just as Tove and Tuulikki did decades before them, becoming spellbound by the uniqueness and natural beauty of the landscape. One small wooden cottage is the only shelter on the small rocky islet, constructed by Jannsson and her family in 1965. They also blasted a hole in the rocks to build an underground sauna for warmth, which still heats the little building today.

Chloe said that scarcely any vegetation survives apart from a few native shrubs, yet it is home to an abundance of seabirds, including thousands of seagulls and terns nesting in the rocky enclaves.

"It was a very simple existence, but incredibly creative. The atmosphere was always changing. The sunset would hover over the horizon, and there were so many vibrant colours and sounds from the birds – they were like spitfires in the sky. I felt as if I'd gone up into space. It's hard to describe, but the whole island was so atmospheric and dreamy. We lost all track of time. The whole thing was very elemental."

Chloe says that Jannsson was drawn to islands and passionate about nature, and this was reflected in her storybooks and artwork.

"We really sensed their [Tove and Tuulikki's] presence. I felt myself becoming more adventurous and artistic as the days went on. Visually the landscape was so simple, as there were just rocks and the ocean all around us. But I felt as if someone had opened up the sky and I'd stepped in to have a look at another world. It made me want to take more risks and honour the artist in me. I felt very strengthened by it. It was so special, such a magic place."

The experience changed Chloe's perception of her drawing, reigniting an inner flame of self-confidence and strength.

Originally trained as an actor, Chloe now wears many creative hats. She takes on participatory arts and live interpretation at museums and festivals, hosts immersive tours at the Southbank Centre, works in healthcare helping patients living with dementia to improve their wellbeing through art, and is a storyteller at the Victoria and Albert museum.

She now hopes to channel her experiences from Klovharu into her own island of creativity, with the aim of establishing a studio in the local community.

"The relationship I had with the island was very strong and the rocks were incredible to live on. They were the focal point that everything centred around. I have worked with many other people, enabling their own art through creativity and playfulness of artistic expression, but now I would really like to focus on doing that more for me as well."

Tove Jannsson's *Moomin* books are available for purchase at Primrose Hill Books.

Primrose Hill Summer Lectures

A round-up of the 2018 lecture series at St Mary's



Miranda Seymour
In Byron's Wake: Women of Science

To mark 230 years since the birth of Lord Byron, literary critic and biographer Miranda Seymour spoke about the women in his life and their mastery of knowledge and science.

Few women in the nineteenth century excelled in mathematics or technology, but Byron's wife Annabella Milbanke did, and Byron called her his 'princess of parallelograms'.

After a hellish year of marriage, Annabella left Byron and took their only child, Ada, with her.

As an adult Ada developed an exceptional interest in maths and technology and became friends with Michael Faraday and Charles Babbage. She had the intelligence and imagination to develop the first computer, which went far beyond the one which Babbage invented.

In 1852 she died of cancer at 36, the same age as Byron. It was discovered she'd had a secret lover and there were blackmail claims. All her papers had been burnt, including letters she had written to her mother about science. If circumstances had worked out differently, computers could have been in use almost 200 years ago.



Mike Brearley
In conversation with David Kynaston

Since laying down his bat, Mike Brearley, the former England cricket captain, has been actively involved with the anti-apartheid movement and is now a psychoanalyst. He discussed his new book, *On Form*, with historian and author David Kynaston.

These days, emotional terrain is Mike Brearley's territory. As a student at Cambridge he joined the Samaritans as he found he could listen to people. This interest was put on hold when he became England's cricket captain.

He understands how psychoanalytic thinking can help us to see the unconscious myths that we get stuck into. Life too can clarify these myths, such as Brexit, which he feels had to happen to highlight the discrepancy in wealth, particularly between the north and south.

Analysts introduce clients to their true selves. Therapy deals with deep things which get in the way of performance. He feels that many people these days have short attention spans and want everything laid on a plate for them.

At the end of the conversation, questions from the audience turned to cricket. Greg Chappell was one of the best batsmen, being elegant and upright; and Dennis Lillee was the toughest opponent, as a fast, hostile and accurate bowler.



Clemency Burton-Hill
Music Every Day

Radio 3 presenter Clemency-Burton Hill talked of her new book, *Year of Wonder*, in which she chooses one piece of classical music for each day of the year.

Clemency feels that classical music shouldn't be the preserve of people with a certain education or skin colour. In her book she offers 365 pieces of music, from the well-known to the more obscure. She features both male and female composers, different types and genres of music as well as different instruments.

As a species we are inherently musical. Humans have evolved through music, and Clemency feels that music can be our salvation, on so many levels.



Helen Pankhurst
The Story of Women's Rights: How Far Have We Come?

Helen Pankhurst is a women's rights activist, and the great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst. She feels that the history of women's right to vote is different in Britain because of the sacrifices which were made. The hashtag of the day for the suffragettes was 'Deeds not Words'. Their followers cut across class, regional, religious and political backgrounds.

Helen read from her book, *Deeds Not Words: The Story of Women's Rights, Then and Now*, and interacted with the audience as to how far they thought women had come in terms of work, home and deterring violence against women. There is still a large pay discrepancy, as has recently been exposed (it was suggested that women should retaliate by paying only half the BBC licence fee). On the evening when England were playing in the semi-final against Croatia, it was worrying to learn that violence against women increases when England lose a football match.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. Helen feels that in the last three to four years there have been a lot of positive changes. There are more role models for young people and more awareness of the need for equality.

The 2018 Summer Lectures raised £6,492.82. All the money will go towards the outreach work at St Mary's including the youth work and a cold weather shelter for the homeless.
Past lectures are archived and can be listened to at:
www.stmarysprimrosehill.com/archive-of-previous-speakers

NEWS & VIEWS



Getaway Gala

Bid for exclusive holidays and experiences!

Do you fancy appearing on the big screen? Local director Gurinder Chadha has offered a walk-on part in her next film as one of the auction lots in the forthcoming Getaway Gala in aid of Primrose Hill Community Centre. Other 'experiences' on offer include an evening watching Channel 4 News being prepared and broadcast with Jon Snow, cooking with Michael Nadra and painting with Adrian Hemmings.

And, most enticingly, nine generous locals have donated stays in their unique holiday homes, from the Hebrides to the Isle of Wight, and the Austrian Alps to Southern Italy and Corsica.

This fantastic evening is on Tuesday 25 September at the Community Centre. Tickets are selling fast, so don't miss out on a chance to bid! More information on page 6, or visit **www.phca.cc/getaway-gala**

Lunch Club – Volunteers Required

Primrose Hill Community Association run a lunch club – mainly for seniors, but all are welcome – at Jacqueline House, Oldfield Estate, Fitzroy Road, NW1 8UB. It takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12.30 pm. The price is £5 for two courses (soup and main, or main and dessert). All meals are cooked using fresh ingredients and it is a very welcoming atmosphere.

We are looking for volunteers to work maybe once or twice a month on a Monday or Wednesday helping serve the food, wash up, take money etc. It is a very friendly group. For more information please call Mick at the Community Centre office on 020 7586 8327 or email info@phca.cc



Marcel Schmitt

Many people in Primrose Hill will have known one of our local characters, Marcel, who sadly died at the end of July eleven days after suffering a heart attack in the park.

Before moving to London, Marcel owned a bar in Barcelona. He was a musician and was always eager to engage in chats about music, football or politics. He would have been touched by the amount of love shown to him when he was in the Royal Free, and the sense of loss now felt in Primrose Hill. There was an informal gathering on Primrose Hill in August to celebrate his life, and St Mary's Church will hold a service of thanksgiving for Marcel's life on Saturday 22 September at 3 pm. Friends will be welcome to share memories and play favourite music.







Primrose Hill Business Centre Tenant MagmaTech Awarded 2018 Queen's Award for Innovation

Primrose Hill Business Centre resident MagmaTech Limited is delighted to have been awarded the prestigious 2018 Queen's Award for Innovation for the TEPLO range of low thermal conductivity wall ties. When used to join the two leaves of a cavity wall MagmaTech's Advanced Composite products, which are 70 times more thermally efficient than steel, virtually eliminate cold bridging across the insulated cavity.

Managing Director, Ben Williams, said: "To be recognised in this way with the UK's leading innovation award is a great achievement and a brilliant platform for our future. We are very proud that our products that have enabled many of the UK's most energy efficiency buildings to be built. The Primrose Hill Business Centre has proven to be a haven for our small and growing company as we have developed while based here over many years."

The award was presented by Sir Ian Johnston CBE, former Chief Constable of the British Transport Police.

Pop-up Menswear Shop

A pop-up stall has been running throughout the summer in the courtyard of the Business Centre at 110 Gloucester Avenue. Their main focus has been on men's luxury beachwear, shirts and t-shirts. They will continue until the end of September and start again next year when the weather permits. Keep checking them out as their range will grow. Open from 11 am. Follow on Instagram at @primrosehilldairy

Claire Daglish



It is with great sadness that we record that Claire Daglish died on 20 June. She had been in general ill-health for a while but then succumbed to lung cancer, from which she never recovered.

Claire was one of the founder members of the Primrose Hill Community Association, and took on many roles, including Chair, Secretary and Trustee. But she will be best remembered for running the bar at the Community Centre, which she did for over thirty years as a volunteer. She was still at it in her eighties, ably assisted by her long-time partner, Jack Eden. She also volunteered for Visually Impaired in Camden.

In the earlier part of her life, Claire lived in the railway cottages that were to become Manley Street. She then moved to Auden Place, where she raised her family. She leaves behind her partner Jack, her son Stuart, daughter-in-law Judith, daughter Alison and two grandchildren. She had a lovely sense of humour, was a pleasure to be around and will be sorely missed.

Threat to Nurses' Hostel

Vernon House, the St Mark's Square nurses' hostel, is under threat of a potential change to residential use, as it has been bought by a property developer, the SAV Group, to 'deliver 64 studio apartments to rent'.

In 1996, numbers 9, 10 and 11 on the site had a change of planning use to residential, with the remaining buildings, 58, retained for hostel use. The hostel has been a nurses' home for many years, owned by the London Clinic, who moved the nurses out in 2017. It has provided essential housing for key workers, and it is Camden's policy to protect such housing from being lost. The Primrose Hill Conservation Area Advisory Committee has told Camden that it would strongly object to any attempt to change the planning use.

The SAV Group put in two applications recently, describing the building as C3 residential, but not requesting change of use from hostel to C3. The community now needs to focus on confirming the hostel planning use of 58 St Mark's Square and prevent the SAV Group from changing the use to residential.

As there is no planning application to oppose, it would be very useful if a large number of people could contact Camden and our local councillors to urge them to protect the planning use of this building as hostel for key workers, as it has been a nurses' hostel for many years. It should not be possible for a property developer to change the hostel to become private rented flats, studios or Airbnb units.

Comments should be directed to Richard Limbrick at richard.limbrick@camden.gov.uk

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PHOTOGRAPH BY Laurie Lewis (www.laurielewis.co.uk)

Bonnie Dobson enters the Canadian Songwriters' Hall of Fame

Primrose Hill resident Bonnie Dobson was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters' Hall of Fame in July, for her song 'Morning Dew'.

The song, which Dobson wrote in the early 1960s, tells the story of two survivors of a nuclear apocalypse. 'Morning Dew' became a standard on the American folk scene, but Bonnie never received full credit for the song. Over the years it has been performed by acts as diverse as the Grateful Dead, Lulu, Robert Plant, Devo, German industrial band Einstürzende Neubauten and, more recently, American indie rockers The National.

It was only when Bonnie tracked down Robert Plant at his Primrose Hill address that she began to establish ownership. She says of Plant, "He gave me my song back." The pair performed 'Morning Dew' together at the Royal Festival Hall for a Bert Jansch tribute concert in 2013 (available to view on YouTube).

Born in Toronto, Bonnie returned to Canada to receive the accolade at the Mariposa Festival, where she first sang 'Morning Dew' in 1961. She was presented with the award by old friend and fellow folk singer, Gordon Lightfoot.

Keith Bird

Keith Bird died on 12 July at the age of 85, after a lifetime of achievement for Camden's residents. He was a life-long socialist: not an ideologue, but a practical worker for the good of all.

He was the principal founder of Auden Place Tenants' Association, still in place and still fighting for the rights of tenants. Together they started Auden Place Nursery, where hundreds of adults now living in Camden got their early-years education.

Keith was there when the Primrose Hill Community Association was started. The original building was saved by local people, architects particularly, who persuaded Camden Council that it should be made a community asset. Keith organised many of its activities: a youth club, a football team, games on the hill, and most notably the bonfire night and fireworks. In addition, Keith was tireless in helping to organise the Summer Fair: the barbeque, still the fair's biggest earner, was his special baby. He got together the team of fifteen volunteers that sweated away, year after year.

Perhaps Keith's most impressive work was with Arlington House. The Victorian hostel for single men was badly run down. Keith became chair of the Arlington Action Group, which worked with Camden and Frank Dobson to get government money for a complete renovation. Keith transformed the place: the individual rooms that were no more than four feet across were doubled in size, and the communal areas were beautifully enhanced. His motivation was to see that the men were treated with dignity and given a place to live that was comfortable and secure.

Keith Bird's legacy is experienced every day by the people who live in Camden. As Jim Mulligan says, "They may not know his name, but their lives are enhanced by what he did."

What's On September

NEW THIS SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
Councillors Surgery
PHCL. 11am–12pm.

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
London Folk Festival
A day of music, dance, workshops and sing-arounds. From 10.45am. £30, under 16s £20. Details from cecilsharphouse.org

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER
Klezmer in the Park
Festival of Jewish music. Regent's Park bandstand. 12.30–6.30pm. Free.

TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER
Film Night at the Library
The Wedding Banquet (1993), Taiwanese tradition runs riot in gay New York, directed by Ang Lee. PHCL. 7.15pm. £8, in cash, in advance at PHCL, or on door (includes a glass of wine).

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER
Open House
'Art and Architecture in Venice' – an illustrated art history talk by Dr David Morgan. PHCC. 2pm. Free. Contact 0207 586 8327

THURSDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
Local author talk at the Library
William Miller recalls his childhood, growing up in Primrose Hill with his father Jonathan Miller, in his memoir *Gloucester Crescent: Me, My Dad, and Other Grown-Ups*. PHCL. 7pm. £2 at the door.

SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER
London Youth Folk Ensemble sampler session
For musicians aged 12–19 who want to explore folk music. 2–5pm. Free. Cecilsharphouse.org

WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
Open House
'The Man Who Never Was' – Lester Hillman explores the true story of 75 years ago, misleading the Nazis to avert an invasion of southern Europe. PHCC. 2pm. Free. Contact 0207 586 8327

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
Open House
London Independent Living Service – a new meals-on-wheels charity. Sample their meals and hear their plans to tackle malnutrition and food poverty in Camden. PHCC. 2pm. Free. Contact 0207 586 8327

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
Local author talk at the Library
Martin Sheppard on *Love on Inishcoo, 1787: A Donegal Romance*. PHCL. 7pm. £2 at the door.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
Northern Flyway
Multidimensional immersive performance exploring the ecology, folklore, symbolism and mythology of birds. 7.30pm. £15, under 26s £10. Cecilsharphouse.org

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER
Councillors Surgery
PHCC. 6.30–7.30pm.

TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER
'The Fire of Love'
Private view. David Owen's exhibition takes a humorous look at folk song and dance. 6.30pm. Free. Cecilsharphouse.org

TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER
Getaway Gala
Evening auction at the Community Centre. Unique London experiences on offer, and stays in holiday houses donated by generous locals. PHCC. 7.30pm. £45 tickets include glass of fizz, supper with wine, and live entertainment; 2 tickets for £80. See http://phca.cc/getaway-gala

WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
Open House
The Secret Scripture – the film of Sebastian Barry's novel of flashbacks of romance, obsession and turmoil from the diary of an elderly woman living in a psychiatric hospital. PHCC. 2pm. Free. Contact 020 7586 8327

CARDABELLE DESIGN

UNTIL 23 SEPTEMBER
Printmaking workshops for adults and kids aged 8 and up
2 hours £40 / 3 hours £50.
Weds 2–5pm
Thurs 6.30–8.30pm
Frid 11am–1pm
Fri 4.30–6.30pm
Sat 2–4pm
Sun 2–5pm

WEDNESDAY 26–SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER
Exhibition of prints inspired by the local area
Pop-up shop and printmaking studio. 41 Chalcot Road, NW1 8LS. Contact Kate Guy 07973 235 703, www.cardabelledesign.com

PLAN AHEAD COMING SOON

TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER
Film Night at the Library
The History Boys (2006), the nation's favourite play, introduced by its director, Nicholas Hytner. PHCL. 7.15pm. £8, in cash, in advance at PHCL, or on door (includes a glass of wine).

THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER
Primrose Hill Community Association AGM
Followed by a guest speaker. PHCC. 7pm for 7.30pm. Free. Details from 020 7586 8327

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER
Local Lives
Richard Creasey, adventurer, film-maker, writer and resident of Regent's Park Road, tells the story of his life so far, and plays the music he would take to his desert island. PHCC. 7pm for 7.30pm. £4 (includes a glass of wine). Details from 020 7586 8327

FOR KIDS

MONDAY
Ready Steady Go ABC (term-time only)
Exploratory play, singing, dance and stories for babies and toddlers 6–18 months, with Aaron. PHCC. 9.45–11am. Contact 020 7586 5862

Rhyme Time
Library Rhyme Time for under 5s. PHCL. 10.30–11.15am. Suggested £2 donation. Contact 020 7419 6599

Circus Glory (term-time only)
Trapeze for ages 3–12. All levels welcome. PHCC. 3–6.30pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451 603, gmonastesse@googlemail.com

Homework Club
Do your homework in the Library with a qualified teacher. PHCL. 4–6pm. Free. Contact 020 7419 6599

TUESDAY
Hartbeeps Baby Sensory (term-time only)
Multi-sensory class of mini music productions for the very young. PHCC. 1.30–5.15pm. Classes from £9.50. Contact clarelouise@hartbeeps.com

Monkey Music (term-time only)
Award-winning music classes for babies and toddlers: music, movement, percussion, bubbles and fun. Contact 020 8438 0189 for a free trial class

Music and Rhyme for under 4s (term-time only)
Drop-in sessions. PHCC. 4.30–5pm. £1. Contact 0207 586 8327

WEDNESDAY
Circus Glory (term-time only)
Trapeze for ages 3–12. All levels welcome. PHCC. 2.30–6.30pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451 603, gmonastesse@googlemail.com

Primrose Hill Children's Choir
Learn to sing, enjoy fun songs and games. Ages 4–11. St Mary's Church, NW3 3DJ. 4–5pm. First time free, then £8 per week. Contact Matthew 07817 234 925, www.primrosehillchoirs.com

Homework Club
Do your homework in the Library with a qualified teacher. PHCL. 4–6pm. Free. Contact 020 7419 6599

THURSDAY
Ready Steady Go Yoga
Baby and Me, age 6 weeks to 9 months, with Lily. PHCC. 9.45–10.45am. £60 for 5 weeks (first class free). Contact yoga@readysteadygo.org to register or for more information.

Mini Mozart (begins 13 September)
Musical story time. PHCL. 9.30am for young children; 10.15am for babies. Contact hello@minimozart.com

Drop-in for under 4s (term-time only)
Drop in and take part in a variety of activities. PHCC. 11.15am-1pm. £2.50 to include snack, tea and coffee for mums. Contact 020 7586 8327

Music and Rhyme for under 4s (term-time only)
Drop-in sessions. PHCC. 4.30–5pm. £1. Contact 020 7586 8327

Catherine's Ballet, Chalk Farm School of Dance for under 5s (term-time only)
Ballet classes at PHCC. 4-5pm. Contact info@chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk, www.chalkfarmschoolofdance.co.uk

First Class Learning
English and Maths tuition. PHCL. 3.30–6.30pm. Contact primrosehill@firstclasslearning.co.uk

FRIDAY
Mothers' Mornings
Meet other mothers while your children play. PHCL. 10.30–11.30am. Free. Contact 020 7419 6599

Circus Glory (term-time only)
Trapeze for ages 3–12. All levels welcome. PHCC. 2.30–6.30pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451 603, gmonastesse@googlemail.com

Pitta Patta
Funky dance classes. Ages 4–16. PHCC. 4–7.15pm. Contact Juliet 07971 916 174, Juliet@pittapattadance.co.uk, www.pittapattadance.co.uk

SATURDAY
Rhyme Time
For all ages, with an adult. 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. PHCL. 10.30–11.15am. Suggested donation £2.

SUNDAY
Drama, dance and singing classes (term-time only)
A unique mix of drama, dance and singing to bring out every child's true potential. Ages 4–7. PHCC. 10–11.30am and 11.30am–1pm. Try a free class. Contact 020 7255 9120, enquiries@perform.org.uk, www.perform.org.uk

FOR ADULTS

MONDAY
ACOL Bridge Club
PHCC. 1.45–3.45pm. £3. Contact Maureen Betts 07919 444 187

Bridge Class
Join us in the Library for a game of bridge. Beginners/intermediate. PHCL. 6.30pm. Contact jojarrold@gmail.com

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

Primrose Hill Choir
Love to sing? Try us out! All welcome. PHCC. 7.30–9.30pm. £6. Contact Matthew 0781 723 4925, www.primrosehillchoirs.com

Circus Glory (term-time only)
Trapeze for adults. All levels welcome. PHCC. 1.30–2.45pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451 603, gmonastesse@googlemail.com

Neighbourhood Information Centre
Drop-in advice centre. PHCL. 2–4pm. Free. Contact 020 7419 6599

Debtors Anonymous
Anonymity preserved. PHCL. 7–8pm. Donations welcome. Contact 07932 878 605

Mary's Living and Giving for Save the Children
Take advantage of 50% off books, movies, records and CDs, and 20% off women's jeans, every Monday, 10am–6pm.

Trauma Release Exercises (TRE)
Drop-in class to release chronic tension patterns and return the nervous system to balance. PHCC. 4–6pm. £15 per class, or 5 for £50. Contact Tim Kirkpatrick, www.back2base.co.uk

TUESDAY
ESOL Class
Learn English at the Library. PHCL. 12–1.30pm. Free. Contact jojarrold@gmail.com

What's On September

Lunchtime Laban (term-time only)
Workshop for actors, dancers, singers and the rest of us. Explore the where and how of movement with Rudolf Laban's Scales and Efforts. PHCC. 12–1pm. £10. Contact Jenny 07970 536643, jennyfrankel.laban@gmail.com

Mary's Living and Giving for
Save the Children
Take advantage of 20% off men's items every Tuesday, 10am–6pm.

Keep Fit for over 60s (term-time only)
PHCC. 3–4pm. Free. Contact 0207 586 8327

Morris Dancing
Learn lively Morris Dancing, have fun, and increase your fitness. From 18 September. CSH. 7pm. £8, concessions £6.50. Cecilsharphouse.org

Pilates
PHCL. Dynamic sessions, 9am and 10.15am; gentler session 11.30am–12.30pm. £12 per class, £100 for 10 classes. Contact lizacawthorn@gmail.com

General Yoga
PHCC. 6.30–8pm. Contact Catriona 07958 959816, cat.b1@blueyonder.co.uk

Hatha Yoga (term-time only)
An open-level class combining mindful flow with alignment-based instructions and breathing techniques. PHCC. 1.30–2.30pm. Contact Emma 0780 855 3599, emma.lecoeur@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY

Circus Glory (term-time only)
Trapeze for adults. All levels welcome. PHCC. 1.15–2.15pm. Contact Genevieve 07973 451 603, gmonastesse@googlemail.com

Feldenkrais
Movement class. PHCL. 10.30–11.30am. Contact info@somaticcircles.com for info and price

Open House
A regular activity (film, talk, performance) followed by tea, cake and chat. PHCC. 2pm. Free. Contact 020 7586 8327

English Folk Dance Club
Fun for dancers of all abilities and none. No partner needed. PHCC. 7.30–10pm. Drop-in charge £6. Contact camdenfolkdance@yahoo.com

THURSDAY

English Country Dancing (from 20 September)
Learn social folk dances from England and beyond, to the sound of live music. 7.30pm. £8, concessions £6.50. cecilsharphouse.org

Life-drawing
Beginners to professionals, just drop in! PHCC. 7.00–9.20pm. £8 or £6 concession. Contact 020 7586 8327, phlifedrawing@gmail.com, www.meetup.com/Primrose-Hill-Life-Drawing-London, Instagram: @lifedrawingph

Narcotics Anonymous
PHCC. 1.30–3.45pm. Free.

Mother and Baby Pilates (begins 13 September)
Want to tone your limbs, flatten your tummy and strengthen your pelvic floor? PHCL. 11am. Contact pilateswithpaulette@gmail.com, facebook.com/pilateswithpaulette

Gentle Pilates
Gentle but effective pilates class. PHCL. 12.30–1.30pm. £10 per session. Contact annie@mactherapy.org

Pregnancy Yoga (term-time only)
An open-level class helping mums-to-be to stay healthy in mind and body during pregnancy. PHCC. 5.15–6.15pm. Contact 07808 553 599, emma.lecoeur@gmail.com

Primrose Hill Yoga
Strengthen, stretch, relax and re-energise. PHCC. 5.30–6.30pm. £11 drop-in, £50 series of 5, student and unemployed discount available. Contact carolineshawyoga@gmail.com

Yoga for Seniors (term-time only)
PHCC. 7–8pm. Free. Contact 020 7586 8327

FRIDAY

Aerial Pilates with Pieta (classes restart 14 September)
Get stronger and more flexible through moving with the support of an aerial sling. PHCC. 10–11am. Class sizes are limited so please book. See www.circusbodies.com or ring 07726 721791

Mothers' Mornings
Meet other mothers while your children play. PHCL. 10.30–11.30am. Free. Contact 020 7419 6599

Circus Glory (term-time only)
Trapeze for adults. All levels welcome. PHCC. 1.30–2.45pm. Contact Genevieve 0797 345 1603, gmonastesse@googlemail.com

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

Hopkinson's Bar
Meet for a drink with your neighbours. All welcome. PHCC. 12–2pm. Contact 020 7586 8327

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

New library opening times:
Monday 10am–6pm
Wednesday 12pm–7pm
Friday 10am–6pm
Saturday 10am–3pm

Please submit entries for our October issue by Friday 7 September

onthehillwhatson@phca.cc

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



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A Fresh View on Boarding



by Dr Crispin Hyde-Dunn, Headmaster of the Dragon School, Oxford

Boarding for children aged 8 to 13 appeals to families for many reasons. These range from excellent preparation for transition to senior school, to practical family arrangements such as busy professional lives, or frequent moves or postings abroad. In some cases, the 'Harry Potter' factor even plays a role, with boarding offering attractive opportunities to forge firm friendships at school which continue into adulthood. Of course, a combination of factors must be considered and balanced when exploring the possibility of boarding, taking into account the needs and personality of every individual child. In making decisions about their children's education, it is very important for parents to recognise the positive ways in which boarding has developed and evolved in recent years.

The Dragon School in Oxford is a boarding and day preparatory school for boys and girls aged 4 to 13. Boarding is available from the age of 8. The emphasis of boarding at the Dragon focuses very much on pastoral care and working in partnership with parents for the well-being of each child. Indeed, a good school will only accept a boarder when the child, the parents and the staff all agree that it is right for the girl or boy concerned. An understanding and agreement among all three parties helps to ensure a happy and successful boarding experience. This outcome is especially facilitated by the adults who care for the children at school, as well as the appealing physical surroundings, such as spacious green areas for sports and play.

Welcoming and homely

Boarding facilities for younger boarders today are universally welcoming and often very personalised with pictures and items from home. Boarding children at the Dragon have well-appointed and comfortable shared bedrooms, space for games, as well as areas to relax, read and watch television. There are gardens for sports and barbeques alongside all the space of the school fields and all-weather sports surfaces, even after the school day has ended, giving boarders plenty of scope for traditional childhood play with their friends.

"a good school will only accept a boarder when the child, the parents and the staff all agree that it is right for the girl or boy concerned"

Above all, it is the house parents who make boarders feel at home. The attractive family homes at the Dragon provide a comfortable and highly supportive home life for the children. Boarders come back to house during the day and the house parents quickly get to know them well. Likewise, the boarders get to know and trust their house parents too. There is frequent communication with home and a very well-established system of support. Boarders identify strongly with their house family and their friends, and they are never short of activities and pastimes to engage them.

The parents of those who started boarding at a junior age will tell you how quickly their children became confident and settled. They also know how family time together is highly appreciated and ultimately how well the experience prepares children for boarding at their senior schools. Where possible it is a good idea for any prospective boarding parent to speak with other boarding parents. Current parents will very often explain how they overcame exactly the same initial doubts and are now pleased that they chose boarding for their children. They will tell you their young boarding children are happy at school in the daytime, busy with prep and friends in the evenings and can email and call home as much as they like.

With full boarding, pupils enjoy the weekends with the attention of dedicated adults and have a host of fun activities to try. 'Full' boarding also means regular exeats, weekend leave outs, long half-terms and holidays, all of which help families have quality time together. At the Dragon, the proof of children's enjoyment of boarding is indicated by the number of day pupils who request to board as they progress through the school.

So please do come and look at our boarding for yourself and see all that we have to offer you and your children.

Dr Crispin Hyde-Dunn joined the Dragon School as Headmaster in September 2017. Prior to this appointment he was Headmaster of Abingdon Preparatory School. In a career spanning more than twenty years, Crispin previously taught at a wide range of independent schools, including six years as Head of History at New College School, Oxford, and four years at King's College School, Cambridge, as Deputy Head Academic. Crispin read History at St Catherine's College, Oxford, before completing a PGCE. He also holds an MA in Education Leadership and Management, the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) and a PhD in Art History.

Primrose Hill Events Committee



As you will have read elsewhere in this issue, the Community Association is fundraising for the new lease agreement with Camden Council. In response to this, a new Events Committee has been set up, both to widen community participation in our activities and to maximise opportunities for fundraising in the Community Centre and other venues.

The committee is chaired by Tim Kirkpatrick, who introduces himself as follows:

"I am a recent arrival in Primrose Hill, though I have lived in Camden for eighteen years, and am delighted to find a functioning Community Centre here, which I am pleased to be a part of. I am an ex-psychiatric social worker, a trauma therapist and an ordained Buddhist, all of which give me an appreciation of the importance of community for our sense of sanity and wellbeing.

"There is good evidence (google 'social prescribing') to suggest that humans are hard-wired for cooperative behaviour and that we flourish best in such conditions, especially when creative play is involved. And I am a Libran, which means that I throw parties and bring people together for shared experiences (once I have decided what to wear). I look forward to meeting you, and perhaps finding a way in which we can share your passion with others to our mutual benefit and delight."

Current plans are to have a monthly event on a Friday or Saturday evening, as well as reviving the monthly evening Tuesday Talks, and The Fitzroy Club brand. In addition to our usual diary, there are plans in the pipeline for an opera recital, a hip-hop recital, a second Vintage Disco of the year, a Wellness Day, a Burns Night with whisky tasting and a fashion show (in cahoots with the Living and Giving crew).

We would also like to throw a party/best-dressed competition on Halloween for under-12s, so if you are a parent of young children and would like to help plan such an event, please get in touch. And we welcome any new ideas too.

The Committee is taking shape, but we invite new members to join. We meet monthly for an hour at the Community Centre, initially on Thursdays 6–7 pm but next time on **Sunday 9 September 5–6 pm** and then again on **Sunday 7 October 5–6 pm** to help everyone to attend.

Meanwhile, we are looking for new members who can identify with the following roles, either as an individual or as part of the team:

Community partnerships You build imaginative connections between local businesses, organisations and venues, and the Primrose Hill community. Everybody wins.

Inclusivity You are moved to make links with the missing members of our community and plan community activities that engage them. You bring a developed social conscience to the table.

Mixologist You want to build community one enchanting drink at a time. You already have a concept for A Primrose Path cocktail.

A&R You like working with talent and talent likes working with you. You see talent in unusual places, and think "They would go down well in Primrose Hill". And so the arrangements are made.

Literary agent You put out the word to the wordsmiths, and they reply. Perhaps you develop a literary festival, or a poetry slam.

Gastronomist You long to set up a supper club in the space upstairs at the Community Centre, in partnership with local gourmets, both private and professional, as you believe that a community should eat together.

Decorative Because everything we do must be beautiful.

If you are interested in becoming part of the committee, taking on one of the above roles, lending a hand with a specific project, developing a new idea, or simply registering your interest, please email Tim at events@phca.cc.

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THE SPARK GROWS TO A FLAME THAT CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

BY THE MOLE ON THE HILL

You see loads of people down there at the Roundhouse. They were queuing up King Henry's Road for Bob Dylan. And they were up all night for that lot Radiohead. And that wasn't for tickets. That was so they could be right at the front. And kids! There's always kids. No idea what they're doing. The story goes that when they built that place the designers got it wrong and it was only used to turn round engines for ten years because someone decided to make the engines longer. From what I can see the railway planners aren't doing much better now.



Marcus Davey. PHOTOGRAPH BY Jonathan Birch

Ah yes, Radiohead. Someone tweeted that two years ago he had a spare ticket. He could have got a couple of thousand pounds for it but he decided to give it to someone deserving. The tweet goes on, "I came back last night to see Thom Yorke with the same woman. She is now my wife."

The person responsible for that marriage is Marcus Davey, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the Roundhouse. He has been there for nineteen years and it is only his third job.

"I was studying for a degree in composition and music in society at Dartington. It was the forerunner of all those community music projects that are commonplace now. I went into schools, hospitals, community settings. One group was for people with learning difficulties. They had nothing. No money. No instruments. So I organised a 72-hour concert over a May bank holiday: 98 different acts. We raised double the money we hoped for. I was totally hooked. I was working with young people for a cause. I was nineteen years old."

The method was simple. Marcus had a chart with seventy-two boxes and he filled them in with tutors and students signing up to take part. So with that success under his belt he graduated aged twenty. And within months he was the manager of the Dartington International Summer School. In January next year he will have been in arts administration for thirty years.

Marcus has come a long way from the rented flat where he and his two brothers lived with his school-teacher parents, first in Malvern, then in Cumbria. From the age of nine he learned to play the cello, and when he was fourteen he organised his first concert with a pianist friend.

After Dartington, Marcus became Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Norwich Arts Festival, the oldest festival in England after the Three Choirs Festival. It has been going continuously since 1772 and, unlike the Three Choirs, it takes place in a single city. And then nineteen years ago Marcus came to the Roundhouse.

"There was the Roundhouse itself. The rest wasn't even a building site, it was just a redundant railway sidings. We had portaloos, really awful things, and we worked in little metal boxes. I first met Torquil Norman [founder of the Roundhouse Trust] at my second interview. I came in and, listening to him talk about the project, I thought this guy is a genius. I couldn't think of a better project anywhere in the world involving young people, performances and an amazing building. When I started we were working with the architects, fundraising – we had to raise 30 million pounds – and designing the whole place. As we raised the money we started doing outreach. My first project was Markings with Camden primary schools, culminating in a show with hundreds of kids in a freezing Roundhouse. We did loads of stuff. We started building the summer programme. The first version of the choir started back in 1999. I don't think I had any fear whatsoever. I was completely in love with the project."

It took two years to rebuild the Roundhouse. It was on time and on budget and it was sound-proof. There were many objections from neighbours, especially about noise and the late alcohol licence. Marcus visited every objector personally. But in the end it came down to Camden Council, who were given a stark choice: "Either we get these permissions and licences or





Imagine Dragons at the Roundhouse. PHOTOGRAPH BY Ellie Pinney

we do not open." In the end some of the most vociferous objectors gave financial support because they could see that it worked and could see the positive effect it would have on young people. And they realised that the value of their houses had gone up.

"I divide my time in lots of different ways. Some of it is a bit like being a football manager: scouting. Some of that is done by me, some of it by colleagues. Music is a very important part of the annual calendar, with many of the gigs presented by promoters and the music festivals by us."

The range of events over the years is impressive: installations and performance projects with Conrad Shawcross, Penny Woolcock, Wayne McGregor and Ron Arad; collaborations with the Royal Opera and Ballet, the RSC and the BBC; host venue for the Apple Music Festival; In the Round, a series of intimate concerts with artists such as Keeton Henson, Beth Orton, Chip, Orchestra Baobab and Ghetts; Roundhouse Rising, a festival of emerging music; The Last Word Festival, concluding with the Roundhouse Poetry Slam Final; the Roundhouse CircusFest; music acts ranging from Jay-Z to Blondie, Radiohead to Giggs; choir festivals; two weeks devoted to space exploration; Akram Khan's dance company...

All immensely impressive, but at the heart of what the Roundhouse does is their work with young people. They ignite the spark that grows to a flame that can change everything. At the moment every year they work with 5,000 young people aged 11–25. But they are not stopping there. They have planning permission to add one more floor to 'container-city' behind the main building, and to build on the corner where at the moment there are advertising hoardings near to the circus mural.

"We will open a centre for digital and creative entrepreneurs that will provide opportunities for the under 30s to develop their creative business and employability skills"

"Our big vision for the future is to go from 5,000 young people a year to 10,000. We will open a centre for digital and creative entrepreneurs that will provide opportunities for the under 30s to develop their creative business and employability skills. In our new centre they will have mentoring, working alongside musicians and musical experts. They will have desk space and weekly classes and workshops. The real aim is to get to those young people who would not normally be included in the creative industries. We want to reach people from the local housing estates and areas of multiple deprivation. We want to provide a pathway into a job. We are also setting up a youth leadership programme for these young people."

The Roundhouse is a world leader in involving young people in decision-making. Two members of the board of trustees are young people. And there is a sixteen-strong youth advisory board that meets monthly. This is not tokenism. Young people are absolutely central.

"This has a significant effect on the arts world. The Arts Council has just appointed its first young person onto their board. Tate Modern has its first young person on their board. The point here is that not only do they get a good experience of learning, they make connections with other young people. It's not a case of trustees sitting round a table and talking *about* young people. It is working *with* and listening to young people."

Only 8 per cent of funding for the Roundhouse is from public sources. The way that they fund the organisation is partly from ticket and bar sales, partly through fundraising and partly through hiring out the Roundhouse for events such as product launchs, private parties, award ceremonies or broadcasts. The search for funding is relentless, but Marcus keeps at it. Why?

"This job still fascinates me and inspires me every single day. My energy comes from talking to young people, seeing what the challenges are and marvelling at the amazing art they make. It drives the imagination all the time."

© The Mole on the Hill



William Miller on Growing Up in Primrose Hill

WORDS BY Katy Taylor
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Sarah Louise Ramsay



Local resident William Miller invited me to join him for lunch in Primrose Hill to talk about his new book, *Gloucester Crescent: Me, My Dad and Other Grown-Ups*. We meet at one of his favourite local restaurants, Michael Nadra, where he speaks of the happy times he has spent there with friends and neighbours.

William was a child of the 1960s and 70s who grew up in a street famous for the well-known writers, comedians, artists and musicians who lived there – Gloucester Crescent. The occupants of the street were known for popping in and out of each others' homes at all times, along with the visitors to the street who would come and go, and occasionally never leave.

As soon as you meet William, you realise he is one of life's natural raconteurs, which of course makes for interesting company. He has a great ability to recall every detail of the well-known real-life characters who shaped his unconventional life growing up in Primrose Hill. Foremost in his stories are those about his father, the writer, director and polymath Jonathan Miller. There soon follow other well-known local characters, like the playwright Alan Bennett, who was a lodger in their house before buying one of his own across the road. Then there was the jazz singer George Melly, magazine editor Mary-Kay Wilmers, the artist David Gentleman, plus the eminent philosopher Sir AJ Ayer and his American wife Dee Wells, AN Wilson, the Conrans and many more.

Complementing Alan Bennett's famous account, William also remembers the eccentric Miss Shepherd, who parked up in her yellow van in the late 1960s and stayed for more than twenty years. He recalls how Miss Shepherd, on the run from the police, disguised her van by moving it 20 yards every couple of months, and then repainting it by hand in the hope that the police would not recognise it. After several years of elaborate manoeuvres, she convinced Alan Bennett to let her park the van in his driveway, where she and the van remained for another ten years until her death in 1989.

William's book is an honest and frank account of a child growing up in one of Primrose Hill's most iconic streets. He is keen to point out that it is not a biography of Gloucester Crescent so much as one boy's own story, describing the experience of growing up from young child to teenager in a unique London street filled with extraordinary characters.

William sets the scene with an account of how his father would take him and his brother up to the top of Primrose Hill to look out across London; he would tell them how he'd spent his life moving around Regent's Park and the Hill and in fact had never lived anywhere else.

William breaks his story into three parts set around the schools he attended through his childhood. The first was Primrose Hill Primary School in Princess Road. Although he felt secure and happy there, he describes the inverted snobbery of the school's left-wing teachers who seemed to hate the fact that William and his friends from the Crescent were posh. He then moves across town to Pimlico Comprehensive, where he was bullied for five years and, as he puts it, "loses the will to go on with his education". In the third part, he puts his foot down and demands that his parents give him a bit of what they'd had and goes off to boarding school in Hampshire. At the very end of the book, having ceremoniously failed his A levels, William feels that the only thing left to do is to get as far away from





Gloucester Crescent as possible. He takes out all his savings, buys a one-way ticket to New York and leaves in search of his own identity and independence – a story he has yet to tell and one I really hope he'll get around to writing.

This is William's first book and it is quick-witted, funny, charming, with lively characterisation, an artful structure and an abundance of witty dialogue. There are moments of sadness as he struggles to find his own identity, both as a child and as a young teenager approaching adulthood. The relationship between William and his father is at times difficult but also comical and affectionate, with the book vividly describing the submerged bond between father and son. We also hear about William's kind and loving mother, whom he clearly adores, his siblings and the friends he grew up with. Some we might know, like the now famous restaurateur Keith McNally of the Balthazar restaurants, while others include his best friend Conrad who helped him through a time when he felt lost and longed to escape to a more conventional way of life.

One allusion I loved is the sound he heard as a child playing outside of the continuous and 'competitive clatter of manual typewriters'. Each typewriter would be going at a different speed from the many open windows in the street. His mother used to tell him that the slow typing came from the tortured ones. William says he felt that his father had to be one of those, as his typing was painfully slow and he would stop and stare out of his study window for hours and then tell the family that "the only way out of writing would be to kill myself".

I was curious to know what had finally prompted William to write such an honest account of his childhood



"I've always loved telling stories and have spent years recounting many from the childhood I had growing up in Gloucester Crescent"

and his relationship with his father. His immediate response didn't surprise me: "I've always loved telling stories and have spent years recounting many from the childhood I had growing up in Gloucester Crescent." He was told to get on and write them down, and in the end he did just that. He had always gone in search of friendships with not just the other children of the street but the grown-ups too. He used to climb over walls to look for people to talk to, and as a result he experienced moments of hilarity and affection with those he met.

When the film of *Lady in the Van* came out, followed closely by Nina Stibbe's book *Love, Nina*, William felt it was time to get on and tell his own story. He felt that *Lady in the Van* was really about Alan's complex relationship with Miss Shepherd and his mother and could have happened anywhere, while *Love, Nina* pretty is much centres around a kitchen table in a single house. William's book, by contrast, is about the years of growing up in Gloucester Crescent as a whole in the 1960s and 70s.

William's love for Primrose Hill is obvious, and when asked he talks passionately about the importance of community and the uniqueness of the area as a village within a big city. William left Gloucester Crescent when he was eighteen years old and thought he would never come back. But as he says, "You can take the boy out of Primrose Hill but you can never take the Hill out of the boy"; to his surprise he finds himself by his mid-forties right back where he started, living in Gloucester Crescent three doors from where his parents still live today.

William Miller will be discussing his book at the library on Thursday 6 September at 7 pm.

Purrimrose Hill Adventures

A Primrose Hill cat called Toto is rapidly gathering fame for her nocturnal adventures

Toto was born to a stray cat in an olive grove in Italy, and along with her brother Silver was rescued by the *X Factor* presenter (and guest editor of this month's *On The Hill*) Dermot O'Leary and his wife Dee. The kittens were brought to live in Primrose Hill, where it soon emerged that Toto was blind; but she coped by using her instinct and quick reactions. Inspired by his cat, and intrigued by the premise of what our cats get up to when no one's watching, Dermot decided to write a children's book. *Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape* was published last year; and this month sees the sequel, *Toto the Ninja Cat and the Incredible Cheese Heist*.



In *Toto the Ninja Cat and the Great Snake Escape*, Toto has learned to trust her instincts from a ninja cat master in Italy. During the day, Toto and Silver act like perfectly normal cats, but at night they find themselves involved in great adventures. The cats are introduced to London by their new friend Catface, whose best friend happens to be Larry, the cat from Downing Street. Word comes to the feline friends that the king cobra has escaped from London Zoo. This brings the threat that all the cats, rats, birds and hedgehogs could be eaten alive by the snake, and Toto has to act fast to save the day.

In *Toto the Ninja Cat and the Incredible Cheese Heist* it transpires that all the cheese in the world has been stolen! Toto, Silver and Catface have to save the day yet again.

The books are written for children, but hold an appeal for adults with their underlying premise of accepting people who are different.

Both titles will be available from Primrose Hill Books.

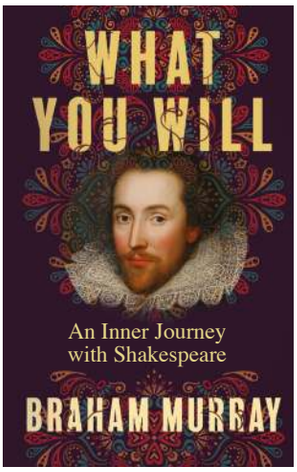
Toto the Ninja Cat and the Incredible Cheese Heist by Dermot O'Leary, illustrated by Nick East publishes on 20 September (£6.99, Hodder Children's Books)

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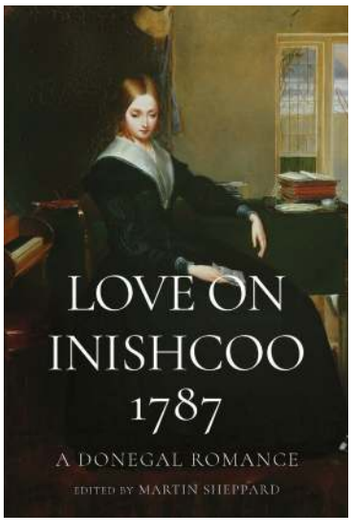
What You Will: An Inner Journey with Shakespeare by Braham Murray

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players... "

Braham Murray has drawn on over half a century of experience in the theatre to reflect on what it is to be human. From Shakespeare's infant "mewling and puking in the nurse's arms" through to the "second childishness and mere oblivion of old age", he journeys through the Seven Ages of Man, searching each for enlightenment, inspiration and hope. He finds, as theatre has always done, that what binds us together is ultimately greater than what drives us apart.

Braham Murray became the youngest Artistic Director in the UK when he took over the Century Theatre at the age of 22 and he has championed the Royal Exchange Theatre Company since its inception in 1976. In January 2010 he received an OBE for his services to drama.

Love on Inishcoo, 1787: A Donegal Romance by Martin Sheppard



Martin Sheppard is a specialist on Primrose Hill's past and the author of *Primrose Hill: A History*. Now he's turned his hand to the love story of his great, great, great, great-grandparents.

Edmund Cobb Hurry and Eliza Liddell met in the summer of 1787 off the coast of Donegal, on the island of Inishcoo. Eliza was working there as a governess and Edmund was a merchant from Great Yarmouth on a visit to a nearby trading hub. They fell in love, but only had five weeks together before Edmund had to leave for the Baltic. Over the ensuing thirteen months they wrote over fifty love letters to each other. These letters, whose survival is remarkable, give an intimate insight into the lives of the couple and into the world of their time.

Happily, after many trials, Edmund and Eliza were reunited. They married in Putney in 1788.

Martin Sheppard with be giving a talk about his book on Wednesday 19 September at Primrose Hill Library.

Both volumes can be bought from Primrose Hill Books.

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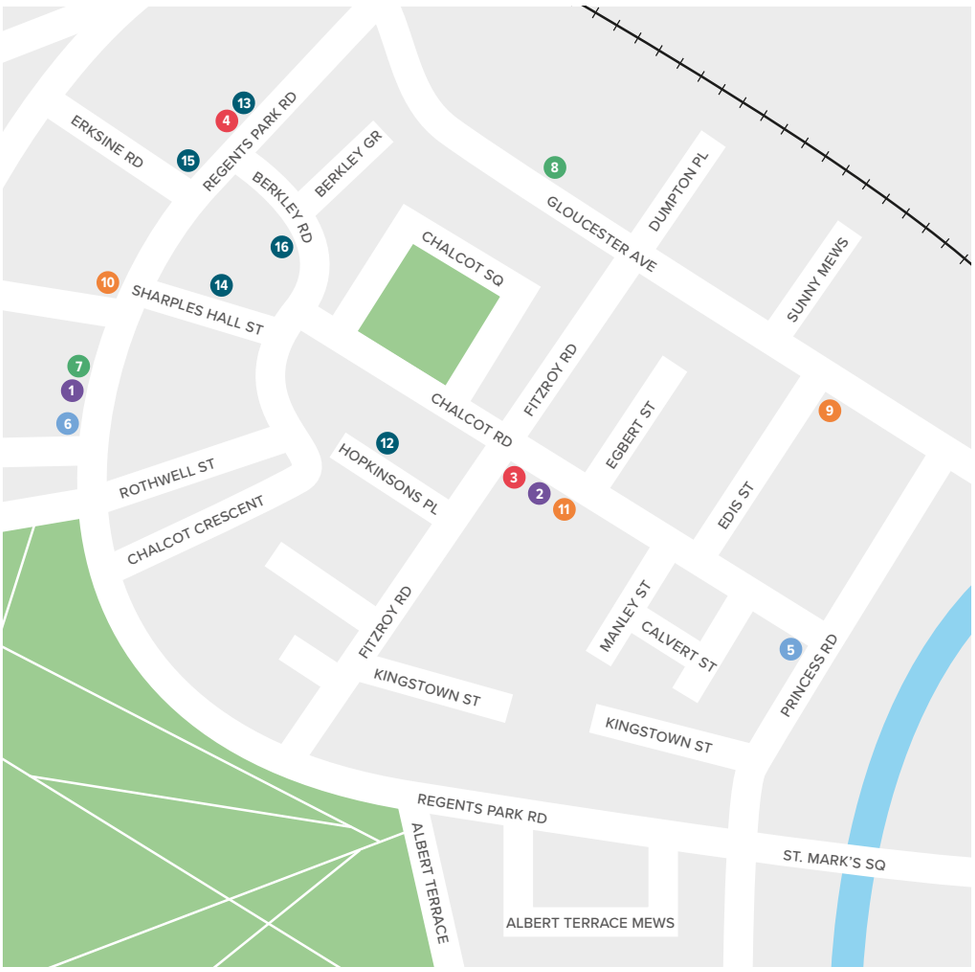
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FROM Collis Bakes

Lime Coconut Cupcakes

This recipe makes 12 large cupcakes or 18 small cupcakes, with a tropical combination of flavours. They are simple to make, but children should get help from an adult.

1. Set the oven to 180°C or gas mark 4. To make the cake mixture, place the butter and caster sugar into the large bowl. Use the electric mixer to mix them together until smooth. (Ask an adult to check there are no lumps.)

2. Whisk the eggs in a small bowl. Add the flour to the large bowl. Mix with the electric mixer for 10 seconds until well combined. Add ½ of the whisked eggs and mix again; add ½ of the remaining flour and keep mixing; then the other ½ of the eggs and mix; then the rest of the flour, and continue mixing until the mixture is light and fluffy. Add the coconut shavings, keeping a few back for decoration.

3. Take your cupcake trays and place the paper cases in the hollows. Use the wooden spoon to scoop a dollop of mixture into each case (they will rise during cooking). Clean out the bowl with a rubber spatula. Use oven gloves to place the trays in the hot oven (ask an adult to help). Bake for 30 minutes.

4. Now for the icing. Wash the large bowl and weigh out the icing sugar and softened butter. Mix together with the clean wooden spoon. Then squeeze 2 limes and add the juice. Carve some slices of peel for decoration. If you have an icing bag, fill with the icing, close the top and place in the fridge to cool.

5. When the cupcakes are golden brown, use the oven gloves to take them out of the oven and place on the cooling rack for 20–30 minutes. Make sure they are completely cooled or the icing will melt. Either pipe the icing on top, or if you don't have an icing bag you can spread the icing with a knife. Decorate with the remaining coconut shavings and slices of lime. That's it! Eat them fresh, or keep in a cake tin so they don't go hard.

Ingredients
- 175 g butter
- 175 g caster sugar
- 175 g self-raising flour
- 3 eggs
- 50 g coconut shavings

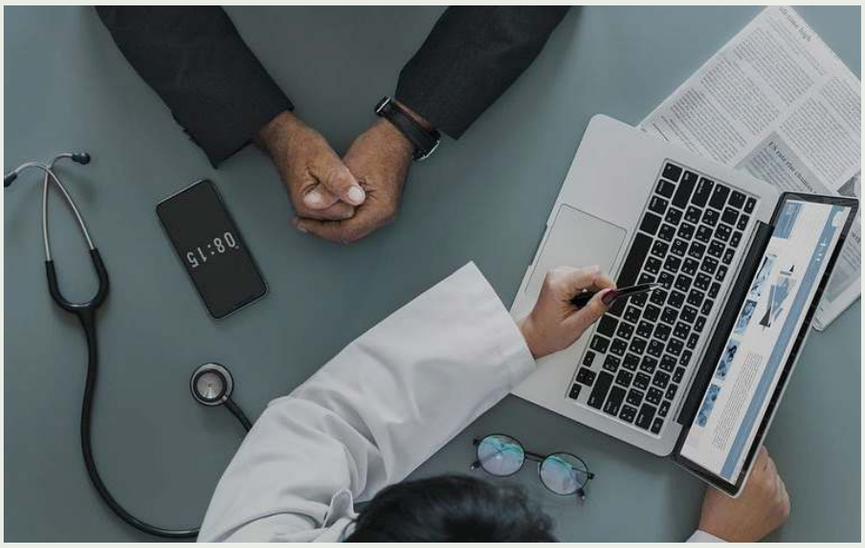
Icing
- 400 g icing sugar
- 200 g softened butter, not straight from the fridge
- 2 limes

Equipment
- Electric mixer
- Large bowl
- Small bowl
- Cupcake trays
- Cupcake cases
- Wooden spoon
- Rubber spatula
- Oven gloves
- Cooling rack
- Icing bag



PHOTOGRAPH BY Sarah Louise Ramsay
RECIPE BY Caia Collis

News from Primrose Hill Surgery



Lease

Negotiations on new fifteen-year leases on both premises in Regent's Park Road are progressing after a visit from the District Valuer and should be finalised before too long. The practice is looking at the possibility of a grant to reconfigure the ground floor to give another consulting room.

Opening Hours

At long last the surgery is now open on Thursday afternoons, and there is a clinic till 8 pm on Mondays. Don't forget that you can also make appointments every evening and at weekends at Swiss Cottage surgery (entrance on the right side of the Sports Centre) by ringing 0207 391 9979.

Staff

Congratulations to Dr Papalia, who worked her normal day and then safely gave birth that very evening! A farewell to Dr Bailey, who is moving to Canada, and to receptionist Gillian Wisdom, who is moving to France. The surgery has regained its status as a training practice and welcomes a new registrar in August. There is also a new health care assistant who can help doctors with routine testing.

Open Meeting Talk on Bowel Cancer

The open meeting in the library on 12 June featured an excellent presentation from consultant gastroenterologist Dr Lakshmana Ayaru. We heard that the screening test for bowel cancer (sent out by post to all between 60 and 74) was extremely effective in detecting early cancer, and 95% of those found with cancer by this method survived more than 5 years (compared with only 50% among whose cancer was found because of some emergency such as a blockage). However, the take-up of the test in London is only 40%. Dr Ayaru urged everyone to do the test, and told us that a new, easier test requiring only one sample would soon be available.

If you are over 74 and want to continue testing you can ring 0800 707 6060 to request a kit.

Join the Patient Participation Group

If you want to receive emails about future meetings, information about opportunities to have input into service development at the Camden Clinical Commissioning Group level, or simply to be part of your local surgery, visit **www.primrosehillsurgery.co.uk/ppg.aspx**, or ask for a form at reception.

We are looking for a committee member who is a parent of young children – if you are interested contact us at primrosehillppg@gmail.com.

The Primrose Hill Patient Participation Group is working to ensure that the complaints procedure is more easily accessible on the website and in the waiting room. You can, if you want, also post positive comments on their web page (above) and on NHS Choices (**www.nhschoices.com**).



Hello, Primrose Hill!

The Wizard of Oz

Y6 pupils from St Paul's School perform their end-of-year play

















PHOTOGRAPHS BY Sarah Louise Ramsay



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