

Literary links live on

From its earliest days, there were said to be as many lawyers as artists living in Bedford Park, but the numerous local authors currently publishing work would seem to reinforce the long-standing reputation of the suburb as a centre of artistic and creative talent. Four Bedford Park authors are featured below.



Deborah Cadbury

Deborah Cadbury has received critical acclaim for her nine non-fiction books. *The Dinosaur Hunters* was turned into a TV drama series by Granada; *The Lost King of France* was nominated for the Samuel Johnson non-fiction prize and *Seven Wonders of the Industrial*

World and Space Race accompanied BBC TV series. Deborah was awarded a doctorate following her *Chocolate Wars* about Quaker capitalists and the Cadbury story, which sparked new research into ethical capitalism in business schools. Her latest books investigate royal history in *Princes War* and *Queen Victoria's Matchmaking* and she is currently working on a new story set in the Second World War.

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Before turning to writing full-time she worked for 30 years as a BBC TV producer and executive producer and has won 20 international awards including an Emmy. She originated many landmark series including the Bafta nominated *Seven Wonders of the Industrial World*, and *Space Race*, the BBC's first international collaboration with both Russian and American co-producers.

"I have lived in Chiswick since 1980. When I first started working at the BBC, I was looking for a place nearby and fell in love with Chiswick — its beautiful leafy streets, the proximity of the river, not to mention Chiswick Park, which must be one of London's best kept secrets. I brought up my family here and couldn't imagine living anywhere else."



Will Wyatt

Will Wyatt CBE has written three books: *The Man Who Was B Traven* (*The Secret of the Sierra Madre* in the USA); *The Fun Factory: A Life in the BBC* and most recently *Oxford Boy: A Post War Townie Childhood*. He has also written articles for many papers and magazines

including: *Churchill's London*, *The Sunday Times*; *Bang Goes the Habit of a Lifetime*, *The Oldie*.

Will began his career as a trainee journalist on the Sheffield Telegraph, before moving to the BBC as a sub-editor in radio news. He moved to television and among the programmes he produced were the Book Programme with Robert Robinson and a documentary *B Traven: A Mystery Solved*, which became the basis of his first book. He was head of documentaries in the eighties (*Crimewatch*, *Forty Minutes*, *Around the World in 80 Days*) and became Managing Director, BBC Network TV in 1991, leading a revival in drama (*Pride and Prejudice*, *Our Friends in the North*) and a ratings renewal.

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As Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast, he oversaw all radio and television commissioning as well as the launch of BBC Online and the BBC's digital TV channels. He retired from the BBC in 1999, becoming chairman of the London Institute, leading it to become the University of the Arts, London. He is a past President of the Royal Television Society and Vice-President of the European Broadcasting Union. He has been chair and director of several media connected companies, including the Racecourse Media Group, chair of the Teaching Awards and board member of Welsh National Opera.

"My wife Jane and I first moved to Bedford Park in 1981, to Abinger Road, where our two daughters lived their teenage years and Jane was secretary of the active allotments committee. The wish for a large garden took us to north Oxfordshire in 1995 but we bought our flat in Flanders Road at the same time and it is where we are living now, although we move shortly just across the border of Bedford Park to Prebend Gardens. Will Bedford Park folk still speak to us?"



Peter Murray

Peter trained as an architect but has spent his career writing and communicating architecture rather than practising it. His publications include: *Modern Architecture in Britain*; *The Lloyds Building*; *Ove Arup & Partners*; *Harry Seidler: Towers in the City*; *Contemporary British*

Architects; *Living Bridges: The inhabited bridge past, present and future*; *New Urban Environments*; *Understanding Plans*; *The Saga of the Sydney Opera House*; *Architecture and Commerce*; *A Passion to Build*; *London's Towns — shaping the polycentric city*; *London's Great Estates*.

Having started his writing career as Design Editor of Nova magazine, Peter became editor of Building Design magazine, then of the Royal Institute of British Architects Journal. He founded Blueprint magazine in 1983 and set up Tate magazine for the Friends of the Tate. He was CEO and then Chairman of Wordsearch, a global design and communications consultancy specialising in architecture and real estate. In 1986 he curated the Royal Academy show "New Architecture – the work of Foster, Rogers, Stirling" – and in 1996 "Living Bridges — the history of the inhabited bridge" also at the RA.

"...if residents understand the significance of the heritage of Jonathan Carr, then they will cherish and look after it."

He started the London Festival of Architecture in 2004 and the New London Architecture centre, of which he is currently Curator in Chief. He was a member of Boris Johnson's Mayor's Design Advisory Group and is a Mayor's Design Advocate for Sadiq Khan. He is a keen advocate of cycling. He is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects in the City of London, Chairman of the Temple Bar Trust and of the London Society. He is listed as one of the Evening Standard's Progress 1,000 London's Most Influential People 2019.

"We have lived in Bedford Park since 1986 and been members of the Bedford Park Society ever since. I became Hon Sec of the Society in 2000 and remain involved today as a Special Adviser. I set up the 'From Knowledge Comes Care' programme, based on the idea that if residents understand the significance of the heritage of Jonathan Carr, then they will cherish and look after it. As a result, we produced the Bedford Park Log Books, publications on energy conservation and gardens and constructed the information sign on The Triangle. I republished Tom Greeves' seminal book 'Bedford Park — the first garden suburb' with some additional text and wonderful new photos by local photographer Ellen Rooney. I'm not working on any books at the moment but preparing exhibitions on the future of streets and the impact disruptive technology has on the changing face of London."



Maggy Pigott

Maggy wrote her first book at the age of 68 after, to her surprise, her Twitter account, *AgeJoyfully@AgeingBetter*, accumulated thousands of followers, and she was motivated by her personal experience and inspiration from the members of Open

Age, a London charity for the over 50s.

She describes *How to Age Joyfully: Eight Steps to a Happier, Fuller Life* as a gift style book. Published in July 2019 with a foreword by Dame Judi Dench, half the royalties are going to charity. In September the book won a Platinum Award in the Health and Wellbeing Books Category; it has received praise from health and ageing experts as well as readers and will be published in the USA and Canada in 2020.

"I have lived with my family in Bedford Park since 1979. I was a founder member of the NCT's Chiswick Working Mothers' Group..."

Maggy Pigott CBE, had a 37-year Civil Service career in the Ministry of Justice and its forerunners; her last post being Joint Chief Executive at the Judicial Studies Board. She is a Vice Patron of Working Families, Vice Chair of Open Age and a Governing Bencher of Middle Temple Inn of Court. In 2019 she became an Independent Member of the Public Service Honours Committee and was elected a FRSA. In retirement, Maggy discovered a passion for dancing and joined dance classes at Open Age, and the more local Ballet4Life. A few years later, she auditioned and joined Sage Dance Company and also Dance West's Company "Bolder Not Older."

"I have lived with my family in Bedford Park since 1979. I was a founder member of the NCT's Chiswick Working Mothers' Group about 35 years ago (now West4Women Networking Group) and was also on the Bedford Park Society's Events Committee for a time.

This year, I had one of the 20 (two minute) slots at Chiswick Book Festival's Local Authors' Event. With Sage Dance Company I am now looking forward to our second inter-generational dance show on 7 April 2020 at ArtsEd Theatre, with guest local dancers, following their successful sold out show in 2018."

More information on Chiswick's many authors can be found on the "Chiswick Writers' Trail" and the "Timeline of Writers and Books," listing 250 Chiswick writers by genre and by year of birth: chiswickbookfestival.net.