

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE ME

featuring Jenny Salaman Manson

Jenny was born in Harpenden and was the youngest daughter of parents who were strong supporters of the Labour Party and actively involved with CND. Her mother Miriyam came to the UK from Ukraine and still lives on the Suburb (she will be 96 this month). To say that she had an eclectic background might be thought an understatement. Her parents were very keen that she should attend a co-ed school, which she did, before going on to read history at Oxford.

She graduated in 1969 at the age of 20 and married Michael shortly after. They have lived in the same house in Corringham Road since they moved to the Suburb in 1973 and have two daughters, Jessica and Lydia who both went to the Garden Suburb School.

After she left university Jenny joined the Inland Revenue, which was a great shock to her friends who had expected her to go into a more creative line of work. Some might think that she has countered this by the fact that much of her time has been taken up investigating cases of 'creative' tax evasion. She has now spent most of her professional life with the IR (now known as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) apart from the occasions when she left to have her children. She was also obliged to take time out when she stood as the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Hendon North in 1987, although she was not elected. She was a Labour councillor for Colindale from 1986-1990.

Jenny says that in Corringham Road she is ideally positioned for both the bustling multi-culturalism of Golders Green and the more sedate charms of the Suburb. What aspects of the Suburb does she find particularly attractive? "The beautiful architecture of the buildings and the footpaths between the houses. I also love sitting on a bench overlooking the Heath Extension and reading a good book," she said.

Indeed, reading is one of her favourite pastimes – Dickens, Trollope and Tolstoy particularly. She also sings in Bart's Choir, goes to hear Chamber Music concerts and snaps up tickets for Shakespeare at the Globe or National theatres. When Jenny had time off from her 'high-flying' job as a civil servant she was a governor of the Garden Suburb School, chair in North London of the Save the Children charity and remained an active Labour party supporter.

Jenny's intriguing yet highly accessible book, which is published this month, is entitled 'What it Feels Like to be Me' and she describes the content like this: "People hide behind their appearance in order to get by in the world. In this book men and women alike of all ages reach beneath their skin to reveal their inner self. Am I the same person day to day, year to year? Is there an essential core as the layers of life are peeled away? And to what



Suburb author, Jenny Salaman Manson

extent do the different stages of life beg different answers to the question, what does it feel like to be me?"

The foreword to Jenny's book is written by Jonathan Miller and as well as the essays there is a poem written by Dannie Abse

and one penned by Suburb resident Peter Phillips. 'What It Feels Like to be Me' is out this month and is available to buy at Joseph's Bookstore, 1257 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune NW11 0AD. Telephone 8731 7575. **S**

SUBURB RECIPE

by Brenda Cole

COURGETTE PATÉ



Ingredients

4oz butter • 12oz courgettes: sliced • 4 spring onions: sliced
2 eggs: beaten • 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Sauté the courgettes and spring onions in 2oz of the butter
2. Season and liquidize
3. Melt the remaining 2oz of butter, add the beaten eggs and scramble. Season
4. Add the egg mixture to the courgette mixture and liquidize again
5. Stir in the parsley and allow to cool
6. Put in a bowl and chill for at least 4 hours

I usually serve this simple but delicious starter with hot thin toast but it also goes well with a mixed green salad.



PORTRAIT OF AN ARCHITECT

featuring Brenda Cole



The saying that 'first impressions about people are invariably accurate' would seem to be correct when applied to Brenda – an effervescent, humorous character, whose infectious laughter seems to be ever-present. The only problem with partnering Brenda at tennis (she is an excellent player but would be the last one to admit it) is not ending up in stitches.

Brenda Cole was born in Hendon and educated at King Alfred School in North End Road – although she admits that much of her later education took place in Golders Hill Park and at the golf club. A back injury prevented her from continuing to pursue her favourite sport, having achieved a very low handicap at a young age. Developing her interest in building design, she worked for a local Suburb architect for 15 years before starting up her own thriving architectural partnership (Maze and Dean) in 1989, which continues to attract many local clients.

She has now lived on the Suburb for 40 years and has four sons, all of whom were at the Garden Suburb Primary School in Childs Way. She is soon to move from a quiet Close on the South side of the Suburb to Brookland Rise on the North side – a downsizing exercise as the two older boys have long since flown the nest and the third is off to university, leaving only the youngest, Timbo at home.

When Brenda is not working she seems to have spent much of her time this summer chauffeuring her sons to and from various London airports. For necessary unwinding she plays tennis and jogs. She hopes that come the autumn she will be able to find time for some visits to the theatre, cinema and exhibitions. Her favourite Suburb spot is the newly renovated Sunshine Corner (where Heathgate meets the Heath Extension). She is shortly off to Tuscany for a rare and much needed holiday with her two younger sons. **S**

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