

RESIDENTS' Surprising Birds on the Suburb

REVIEW

Temple Fortune Hill resident Nezih Simon was born in Cyprus, and although she came to England about 35 years ago she has continued to cook in the Turkish style of her forbears — to the delight of her family and friends. She published her first book on *Turkish Cookery* in 1968, and is currently working on *Turkish Vegetarian Cookery* to be published next year.

Very much the practical cook, Nezih has experimented with ingredients readily available here in place of those used in Cyprus. Her recipe for the ever-popular 'dolmas' allows the use of perpetual spinach in place of vine leaves.



Yalanci dolma
(Spinach beet leaves filled with rice)
Time taken: 1½ hours

½ cup corn oil	1 tsp salt
2 medium onions	juice of ½ lemon
2 cups short grain rice	1 lb spinach beet leaves
4 cups water	2 cups water
1 tbslp dried mint	

Put the oil into a pan and warm on slow heat. Put the sliced onions into the fat and stir until onions are golden but not brown. Add the washed and strained rice and stir. Pour the water over this and stir, add salt, lemon juice and mint. Cook until liquid is completely absorbed. Put on the side to cool.

Meanwhile, wash the spinach beet leaves and remove the stalks. Pour boiling water over them to make them soft and pliable. Caution: do not leave them too long in boiling water, as they are likely to disintegrate. Lay the stalks over the bottom of a pan. Drain the water from the leaves and lay each one in turn flat on a saucer.

Place 1 tsp of rice filling in the centre: turn the two ends and roll up. Pack these neatly together over the spinach stalks; pour over two cups of water and place a small saucepan lid on top to hold the dolmas down. Cover the pan and simmer for about ¾ hour. Allow to cool and serve with slices of fresh lemon.

This dish is traditionally made with vine leaves, but vine leaves out of season are too tough to use and spinach beet leaves are a very good substitute. However, if you can get them, three or four vine leaves laid directly on top of the dolmas will give them that added authentic flavour.

As winter flexes its iron fist, the suburb resident birds have settled down to live off the land and the bird table. Finches are particularly evident, the wonderful families of bullfinches assiduously snipping the buds off anything that moves, and the green finches, most of whom seem to live in Edmunds Walk, flashing past the grateful commuters.

Now is the time to fix nest boxes so they will be part of the accepted scenery by spring. It has

always seemed the height of optimism to choose a special box for, say, kestrels, owls or flycatchers, but all nest in the suburb in good numbers and might appreciate accommodation. Some people have succeeded with house martin "boxes", but we have never noticed martins nesting in the Suburb.

Our 'phone in' was amazingly productive: most calls reported woodpeckers, nuthatches and redpolls, proving the marvellous value of Bigwood and other

pockets of habitat. An exceptional sighting was of the normally urbiphobe hawfinch. These are fairly common at Northaw and can be a garden bird in Sweden.

But THE BIRD must have been a winter wanderer which killed an unsuspecting Suburb starling under the no doubt startled eye of our caller and flew off. She pointed out the tattered corpse to her husband, and as they discussed it, the bird returned for more and for confirmed identification: Rough Legged Buzzard! CG



MURDER ON THE SUBURB

Ever since Simon Ramsey, the present Chairman of the H.G.S.D.S. started acting, he has always played happy lovable characters. Of course it is his own fault — he is a lovable, happy character. 'Nobody' he moans 'ever thinks of me for the

nasties'. Well, his time has come. He has been cast as William Corder, the double dyed villain of "Maria Marten" or "Murder in The Red Barn".

Brighten the grey days of February and see the "Maria

Marten" story unfold. A melodrama with songs incidental music, a beautiful heroine and a dastardly villain.

Come with all the family. Come to HISS and stay to cheer at the Institute Theatre on February 23, 24, 25. JW

The LONDON Encyclopaedia. Edited by Ben Weinreb and Christopher Hibbert (Macmillan 1983).

This is the book on London, covering every aspect of the Greater London area in some 5000 alphabetical entries, including the meanings of place names, the histories of shops, institutions, churches and schools, City guilds, cemeteries, theatres and hospitals. The Suburb is here, Hampstead Way, St. Jude's, as well as the Golders Green Crematorium, Kenwood, Hampstead Heath and many other nearby features. Wyldes Farm has its own entry: it was bought by Dame Henrietta when she planned to create the residential Suburb and the Heath Extension, and the early 17th century farmhouse (still existing behind the Bull and Bush) was at one time the home of the artist John Linnell who entertained painters such as Constable and Morland — hence the names of some of our Suburb roads.

Ben Weinreb is a Highgate resident and antiquarian bookseller. He has supplied over 500 illustrations from contemporary drawings, prints and photographs to further enliven over 1000 pages of fascinating information. Christopher Hibbert is a London historian who has already published London: The Biography of a City (1969; paperback edition 1980). At £24 their Encyclopaedia offers a wealth of knowledge and entertainment at little more than 2p per page! EE



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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

On the 15th November in the Institute Hall, Golders Green's Chief Superintendent Wass and Crime Prevention Officer Peter Haywood talked to residents about crime and its prevention on the Suburb. The talk was illustrated with charts and slides as well as two entertaining films on the Metropolitan Police Neighbourhood Watch and Property Marking schemes featuring Police Five's Shaw Taylor. It was a great pity that all the organisation and effort was rewarded by a very poor turnout.

The Suburb is not a high crime area, but it suffers day in, day out, from burglary, mainly by criminals from outside the area — a type of crime which could, the police believe, be drastically reduced by greater awareness on the part of residents. On the police side in the fight against crime, the number of home beat officers on the Suburb has been increased, but their role in becoming familiar with residents' faces and regular incidents, and identifying suspicious outsiders and irregular incidents, needs local vigilance to be really efficient.

For this reason Chief Superintendent Wass is proposing involvement in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Various pilot schemes in this country have shown remarkably successful results, and in the Golders Green area it has already been introduced in Cricklewood and Finchley.

The police role in Neighbourhood Watch is no more than supportive. It is not a police-run scheme, nor is there any question of vigilante groups of residents roaming the Suburb; all that is required is greater vigilance by residents, using their eyes and ears to notice unusual incidents

and characters — and reporting them. And in return the police are prepared to supply up-to-date information on relevant crime patterns, trends, statistics and suspects towards the end of helping us protect ourselves.

If residents want to increase their protection against crime in this way, a number of houses, probably comprising a road, should agree on a 'warden' — ideally someone frequently at home — who would be a link figure, liaising with the home-beat officer when necessary and receiving any information from the police station. Any interested group of neighbours should contact 200 2212 and request further details from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Stickers are available for display on houses and lamp-posts — and these themselves prove a crime deterrent.

Hand in hand with Neighbourhood Watch in preventing crime goes Property Marking. There are different methods of marking anything from electrical goods to furniture, jewellery and even cars, that make these items unattractive to burglars who will have difficulty passing them on. Our local Crime Prevention Officers will visit residents at home with all the equipment necessary for the purpose, and mark items as required — free of charge! Property marking also means that, if stolen and recovered by the police, items can be traced back to owners instead of sitting unclaimed in a warehouse for years until they have to be auctioned off for charity.

CPO Haywood wound up the evening by reminding residents of basic crime prevention measures, advice he is happy to give individually when contacted at 200 2850. EE

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