

featuring Marilyn Greene

Marilyn Greene has lived on the Suburb most of her life. All of her schooling was here although she went to university and spent some years in Brighton and Colchester. Marilyn works at the V&A and is Curator of Hampstead Museum, Burgh House.

**Station walks:** We are all caught up in the fast pace of life and forget what's on our doorstep. I don't drive, and even though I'm generally in a rush and rely heavily on the bus to take me to the stations, on a bright sunny day it's more pleasant to walk. I'd far rather walk through Big Wood watching the scurrying squirrels and the light in the trees, across Central Square where, if I'm lucky I may see a woodpecker and then through Hill Close where I can appreciate the idyllic arts and crafts architecture. Walking down Hoop Lane one gets that strange sensation of walking somewhere sacred and occasionally, if I've time to spare I may want to amble in the Garden of Rest in the Crematorium grounds. It's especially beautiful in the Spring when the daffodils are out.

In Autumn, I love the sense of relief as I leave the crowded tube at East Finchley and enjoy the delightful walk along Brim Hill. I like the crisp air, the autumnal leaves on the trees, the view of St Jude's and the Free Church in the distance whilst watching the large red setting sun sink below the horizon. Those are the moments when you appreciate the Suburb.

**Suburb entertainment:** Entertaining friends on the Suburb relies somewhat on the weather, as what it really boasts is its variety of architecture and its proximity to the Heath and Hampstead. I have one friend who loves Central Square and always wants to sit on a bench looking at the churches, but I personally prefer to trundle them on a walk past huge houses to the largest of them all – Kenwood House where we can admire our local Rembrandt and Vermeer paintings and Henry Moore sculpture. Another alternative is over the Heath Extension to the Golders Hill Park where we can amuse ourselves looking at the ducks and animals or wander up to the wonderful Edwardian pergola in the Hill Garden for fantastic views towards Harrow. Other times we walk that little distance more to Hampstead where we can



window shop and either have a coffee or a pub lunch in one of the traditional pubs. The Holly Bush has the best atmosphere; the White Bear the best food; and the Freemason's Arms has a no smoking section, a family area and a superb garden.

**Local Museums:** If you've had a drink in the Freemason's Arms, you may wish to visit 2 Willow Road, the Modernist home of architect Erno Goldfinger. I'm slightly biased about this property, as I've been a volunteer giving guided tours there since it opened in 1996. Its free to National Trust Members who will have probably already have visited Fenton House up the Road. If pubs and Modernism are not your style you could always visit the Buttery in the friendly Queen Anne House, Burgh House. They do very good cakes and light meals. In the summer you can sit in their lovely terrace garden outside. Upstairs is Hampstead Museum on the history of Hampstead and its many famous people who

have resided there. It holds regular exhibitions on Hampstead related topics. I run the museum and plan the exhibitions, and our Suburb archive know that the Suburb is frequently included in them. Burgh House is free to the public and a good destination for a Sunday walk from the Suburb. They also hold talks and concerts in the evenings.

**Garden Suburb Theatre:** Since I was a child I've amused myself with the pursuits of the Garden Suburb Theatre. They now show five plays a year. Three in the Institute, one in the Gate House Theatre in Highgate and a summer show in the open-air theatre in Little Wood. Being involved in productions certainly keeps me occupied. But its when you see or are involved in the plays in Little Wood over the Summer that you stop and think, as the light fades, that this is what the Suburb was built for – for the community to enjoy the local pursuits, open air and sense of tranquillity and freedom on your doorstep.

## SUBURB

## Rants &amp; Raves

featuring Bryan Emden

Bryan Emden has lived on the Suburb since 1988. He was a City lawyer until 2002 when he became an executive coach and finished his training as a psychotherapist.

## Rants

**H2 Bus:** What has happened to the service? I was content with knowing that the bus arrived and departed every 15 minutes. What a bonus when we got an extra bus into the hour but how confusing as I couldn't rely on when it might arrive any more! What happened to all the characters who used to drive the bus? There was Big Dave who never smiled and had an unerring knack of bringing the bus to a halt about 30 feet away from where you wanted to get on or off. I never worked out whether this was because he was very road-safety conscious about where he stopped the bus or was just bloody-minded. There was also the One-Who-Emigrated-to-Majorca. We now seem to be plagued with a breed of frustrated Formula 1 drivers, seeing how quickly they can drive the lap back to the Station! I will never forget being on the bus, seeing a car driver open his car door and seeing the H2 literally taking the door off!

**Dogs:** Aargh! I wonder if I've become the worst sort of neighbour, twitching behind the curtains! I'm appalled by the increase in dog faeces left on the walk from my house to the entrance of Bigwood. Is it the dogs that can't wait or the owners not bothering to pick it up? Or worse, are the dogs out by themselves?

**Trees:** As much as I like them, my neighbour, Michael and I have suffered the inconvenience of a tree depositing large sections of itself in our gardens whenever the weather gets too breezy and watching it sway dangerously in the wind. Michael was determined to have the tree removed and, whilst I supported his protests, did not believe we would get anywhere. However, letters written to Barnet by him, and calls made by both of us has resulted in the tree about to be removed – next week will tell!

## Raves

**School buses:** With the pressures of business life, I enjoy nothing more than walking my daughter to Market Place to catch her school coach. Here I chat to other parents. This often sets me up for the day. Topics include Trust rules, coffee, mobile phones, weather, holidays, opera, parties and schools – nothing heavy but a community within a community of like-minded people.

**Market Place:** Whilst there are fewer local community shops than in 1988 (remember the greengrocers, fish shop, Pinders full of 1950's goodies?), some kind of spirit does seem to be creeping back. It's good that there's competition now, not just between estate agents, hairdressers and beauty salons (how many treatments can one woman have?) but also between cafes and florists. The Rose Market shop is also a treasure trove of bits you may have forgotten to buy. It is pleasing to know there is investment in our area – have you seen the 21st century make-over to the Chelsea Building Society?

**Gardening:** No rave for me would be complete without sharing my love of gardening. I like nothing better than to build up a sweat with my hedge cutters or speed along with my lawnmower, admiring the almost Wimbledon-Lawn-Tennis-like finish of my grass – I wish! It's also a great way of chatting to friends who stop as they're driving or walking past and showing off my newly emerging spring flowers.



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