

A LADY FOR ALL SEASONS

featuring Alison Newton

Born in Calcutta, Alison is the daughter of English parents who lived and worked in India during, as she describes it herself, 'the last days of the Raj'. Her father was a tea broker there and her mother a maths teacher. Alison went to boarding school in the UK and, together with her brother, went back to their parents in India every other summer. A journey which then took over two days, which she remembers as "exciting but rather exhausting."

After reading Modern History at St Claire's, Oxford Alison went on to a career in education, including time spent teaching at Annemount Kindergarten in Holne Chase. She has been married twice, first to the broadcaster Peter Snow and then to the eminent consultant physician, Michael Newton. Her mother has just celebrated her 100th birthday, receiving cards from both the Queen and her old Cambridge College, Newnham.

When I asked Alison some questions about why she so enjoys living on the Suburb she talked about how much she likes the Heath Extension: "I have walked my dogs daily there since I moved to Constable Close in 1971. As well as the lead around my neck I usually have a pair of binoculars for bird watching. There can be no greater thrill than the sight of a kingfisher or the first call of a chiff-chaff in the Spring." She also welcomes the robin who feeds from her hand in winter months when food is scarce.

Alison often visits some of the older or disabled members of the Free Church congregation at their homes with her dachshund, Pepper and says, "She seems to give them as much pleasure as her owner does!"

Alison has been the Chairman of Farm Walk Tennis Club for the last 10 years and when one speaks to members of the Club the words 'enthusiastic' and 'effervescent' are those most frequently used to best describe her. She is always also referred to as an excellent cook.

As for the future, I think Alison's thinking is echoed by most of us, "The Suburb is my idea of heaven – apart from the cars!" Her

favourite recipe comes from a charity cookbook which she once contributed to, called 'Bishop of Pretoria's Whatsie' and she says, "The taste is as memorable as the title!" It is best described as a luxury lemon mousse. **S**



SUBURB RECIPE

by Alison Newton

LUXURY LEMON MOUSSE

Ingredients

3 lemons
5oz butter
1 level tsp gelatine
4 eggs
5oz sugar

Method

1. Separate eggs
2. Beat yolks and sugar well
3. Add juice and rind, saving a little juice for the gelatine
4. Beat the egg whites
5. Melt gelatine in half a cup of boiling water and add the remaining lemon juice
6. Melt and pour in the butter and fold in the gelatine
7. Put in the fridge for a short while
8. Now fold in the beaten egg whites
9. Place in a glass bowl and refrigerate



SUBURB LIBRARY 'HOT LIST'

featuring Wynn Quek



Suburb librarian, Wynn Quek

Ten fantastic summer reads – whether you are in the garden or on the beach! Selected by Suburb librarians, Wynn Quek and Soline Malik, all are available at your local Garden Suburb library in Market Place.

1. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Swedish author, Stieg Larsson. This is volume 1 of The Millennium Trilogy which has been the publishing phenomenon of the last couple of years, having sold over 5 million copies. All three volumes

are now in paperback. This first book concerns the disappearance of Harriet Vanger 40 years ago and introduces us to Lisbeth Salander – one of the most compelling characters in modern crime fiction.

2. Child 44 by Tom Robb Smith. This was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and is set in Stalin's Soviet Union with the protagonist, Officer Leo Demidov, starting initially as an idealistic war hero and tracks his subsequent questioning of the values of the State. It was described by The Independent as a 'gripping thriller' and by the Daily Mail as 'a perfectly plotted, utterly terrifying adventure'.

3. East of the Sun by Julia Gregson. This book is set in India in the late 1920s and explores the impact of the exotic Indian culture on the lives of three British women, Viva Holloway – who is acting as a chaperone for the beautiful Rose (who is on her way to marry a cavalry officer she hardly knows) – and her best friend, Victoria. It was shortlisted for the Romantic Novel of the Year, but is by no means a 'soppy' read.

4. The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. The reviews were rapturous 'atmospheric, beguiling and thoroughly readable' said the Observer and a 'triumph of the storyteller's art' said the Daily Telegraph. Hidden in the old heart of Barcelona is the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Ten-year-old Daniel is allowed to choose one book from the dusty shelves and what begins as a case of literary curiosity turns into an old fashioned mystery story.

5. Beauty by Raphael Selbourne. Winner of the Costa First Novel Award. Beauty is a 20-year-old Bangladeshi who returns in disgrace from that country to her home in Wolverhampton, having fled an abusive arranged marriage. This book follows her progress in a sharply rendered, compassionate and challenging portrait of a fragmented, multicultural urban Britain.

6. The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski. This is the tale of a mute boy, Edgar who leads an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in remote northern Wisconsin. For generations, the Sawtelles have raised and trained a fictional breed of dog whose thoughtful companionship is epitomized by Almondine, Edgar's lifelong friend and ally. However, with the unexpected return of Edgar's paternal uncle, Claude, turmoil consumes the Sawtelles' once peaceful home.

7. The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. From the opening sentences, "Excuse me, sir, may I be of some assistance? Ah, I see I have alarmed you. Do not be frightened by my beard: I am a lover of America" you are in the hands of a wonderfully taut and gripping narrative. The Sunday Times review of this book, which is set in Lahore, said that it 'prods the intellect, quickens the pulse and captures the imagination'.

8. A Quiet Belief in Angels by R J Ellory. This was a Richard & Judy Book Club selection and was shortlisted for countless crime fiction awards. Joseph Vaughan's life has been dogged by tragedy. Growing up in the 1950s, he was at the centre of a series of killings of young girls in his small rural community in the US for which no one was ever caught. Ten years on the killer seems to have been found – hanged – but was he really the murderer?

9. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. It is set in Guernsey and describes the occupation of the island by the Germans during the second world war. Much of the content of the book is made up of letters to and from the witty and original Juliet Ashton, until she herself moves to Guernsey. It is a charming, moving and funny. If you like Foyle's War on television, this will be for you.

10. Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. The first of a projected trilogy, this is a story which unfolds in north India and the Bay of Bengal in 1838 on the eve of the British attack on the Chinese ports known as the first opium war. The narrative then moves aboard the Ibis, a slaving schooner now converted to the transport of coolies and opium. The cast of characters is as immense as the seas they travel across. An absorbing and entertaining masterpiece. **S**



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