



Suburb Style

Suburb Style editor, Deborah Warland talks to local residents

WHERE WE LIVE

featuring Gill and David Read,
by Deborah Warland

Gill and David Read were living in a flat in Belsize Park when their friend and fellow resident Gerard Mansell (later the Deputy Director General of the BBC, chairman of the Residents Association and twice Trust chairman) told them that he was moving to Hampstead Garden Suburb. After visiting the Mansells they decided it was also the right place for them and bought their house in Temple Fortune Hill. This was in 1964, and they have lived there ever since.

Gill and David had two sons Fergus and Hugo, both of whom were educated at the Garden Suburb School. Tragically Fergus, who taught at UCS and was a superb jazz musician, died from a brain tumour seven years ago. Hugo, who is married with two children, is an expert in IT and wine and is now a professional wine educator.

Gill and David's backgrounds were very different. Gill was born in the Midlands, the daughter of a schoolmaster. David was born in Japan and grew up speaking Japanese as his first language. Japan had conquered Korea and Manchuria and David's grandfather was the British Consul General, looking after these areas whilst his father worked for Shell Rising Sun in Tokyo. David came to live in England when he was twelve and says, "Thankfully, due to my love of books, I felt well prepared for school and did not find the adjustment stressful."

The pair met when they were both commissioned in the armed forces. David was a National Service officer in the RAF whilst Gill made her way into the WRNS as an Air Radio Mechanic working mainly at the Naval Air Station in Northern Ireland and was commissioned at the allowable age of 20 and a half. She went to the Royal Naval College, Greenwich where she did her officers' training and thence to the Joint Services Air Intelligence Centre (JARIC) – this is where the couple met as they were both photographic interpreters. David explained what some of the work entailed, "This was at the height of the Cold War when aeroplanes were flown high above the allied occupied territories in Europe in order to photograph military exercises in the Soviet controlled zones."

When Gill and David got married she had to leave the forces – no married ladies allowed! She then joined the personnel department at Shell before having the family, then she stayed at home. For Gill and David work had come before university. Only 2% of the population went to university in the 1950s and the couple always saw it as something to do in later life. David qualified as a professional accountant, not to practise as an accountant but as a vital discipline in the understanding and management of business. He also gained a Humanities BA at London University Extension, specialising in the history of music whilst Gill attended Hatfield College and gained a BA in contemporary studies. Her work lasted for four years and the course was targeted towards parents with classes starting after 10am and finishing before 4pm.

During the 60s and 70s David was Controller of the Communications Divisions in

Elliott-Automation where he was responsible for the commercial management of the development and production of civil and military communications equipment. He has also completed the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard. Now in retirement David concentrates on the history of science and time which, along with music, have been his major interests from a very young age. He taught guitar at the highest level and some of his pupils were fortunate enough to go to Sienna for masterclasses with Segovia. He researches horology and radio and is an active member of the Antiquarian Horological Society and the British Vintage Wireless Society of which he was a founder member and Chairman for ten years. As if this wasn't enough, he has also lectured at the National Maritime Museum and he will be speaking about coordinated time in the first of the 2014 season of AHS lectures at the Royal Astronomical Society. Fortunately for Suburb residents he has also found the time (forgive the pun!) to address the members of Fellowship.

When the children were old enough Gill took on two roles in education. She taught English as a foreign language at The Institute for twelve years and taught – as well as being a trustee – at the pre-school nursery which was initially based at the Quaker Meeting House before moving to the St Jude's church rooms. Sadly the nursery closed in 2000. She has also been, and continues to be, a highly active member of NADFAS (The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) doing voluntary work. One project was the conservation of books in the Iveagh Library at Kenwood. She had taken a course on the subject and, once a month for 10 years in a group including Sally Lewis, she went to the library to ensure that the books were kept in good condition. Gill is now working at the National Art Library there on material relating to the Great Exhibition of 1851.

By now you must think that I am making this up – how can two people cram so much into their lives? Well, the list of activities is not finished yet! Gill's wanderlust has taken her to Jordan (before Petra became a tourist destination), Peru, China, Syria, Cuba, Egypt, South Africa and more, including flying over Victoria Falls and Mount Everest.

Both Gill and David are members of the Suburb Horticultural Society – David regularly wins the prize for 'Best Cactus'. Gill has an allotment and also a member of one of the Suburbs many book groups as well as the Poetry Club at Fellowship House where you can 'share a poem' on a particular theme or choose a poet. She is also responsible for the 'Fellowship Run' which entails creating a rota for drivers which enables people to attend Tuesday talks who otherwise could not. She is an honorary life member of Farm Walk Tennis Club.

I finished by asking Gill and David about their favourite walk and place on the Suburb.

Gill chose Golders Hill Park around the Heath to the pergola. David goes from Lyttelton playing fields to Little Wood to Big Wood and home. I was not surprised when they each chose their special place, they answered as of one accord, "Where we live". What a super answer from an amazing couple. **S**

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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Our autumn term is off to a flying start. Despite our recent move, we are glad to say it is all systems go here and, as our students keep telling us, everything which matters is still the same – the high quality courses, the fantastic teachers and the warm and supportive atmosphere in our classrooms.

The Institute now has two sites – Bishop Douglass School and the Archer Academy (previously the Arts Centre) but our students and staff have adjusted remarkably easily to sharing both premises with a school. Our classes are flourishing in both locations and if you would like to come along and enjoy a course at the new look Institute, we still have plenty of exciting options available this term.



Starting in November, we have a superb choice of short courses on offer. Our cookery department has some mouth-watering one day Saturday courses: **Festive Baking** (30/11/13), **Great Vegetarian Curries** (9/11/13) and **Indian Vegetarian Party Food** (7/12/13). They are also offering a wonderful 5-week course taught by the ever popular Laura Fazzolari called **Taste of Europe** (8/11/13) which will teach you how to make a range of classical European dishes.



Our Fashion and Textiles teachers also have an attractive array of short courses on offer ranging from evening workshops to 5-week courses: **Introduction to Machine Knitting** (9/11/13), **Knitting 101** (15/11/13), **Interior Design: Colour** (6/11/13) and our charismatic dressmaking tutor Gladys Chang is launching a brand new course: **Make a Skirt to Fit You** (9/11/13).

If you prefer something a little more highbrow, we recommend Mish Aminoff's new **Film and Politics** course (7/11/13). Drawing on iconic classic and contemporary examples of world cinema such as Costa Gavras' *Missing*, Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove* and Marjane Satrapi's animation *Persepolis*, Mish examines the relationship between film and politics.



If you want to develop your creative skills, again we have a wide range of artistic and creative short courses coming up. There is a 5-week **Life Drawing Workshop** (8/11/13) and another of Paul Solomons' perennially popular **Try Cartooning** courses (7/11/13). After half term we also have a five-week life drawing class starting on Wednesday afternoons. If you would be interested in signing up for this course, please contact nicky.pinder@hgsi.ac.uk or ring 8829 4229.

For the photography buffs out there, we have two 1-day **Understanding Your Digital Camera** courses this term: a beginners' course (9/11/13) and a follow-on intermediate course (7/12/13). If you would like to be more creative at the computer, our 1-day workshop **Computer Skills: Word – Leaflets and Posters** (9/11/13) might be perfect for someone starting to get a small business off the ground.



And if you'd just like a break from your daily routine, you can zone out at our **Meditation for Beginners** workshop (9/11/13) or sign up for the next in our **London Walks** series (8/1/14).

Whatever it is you're looking for, we hope you will find it here at The Institute.

For further details ring 020 8829 4229
or visit www.hgsi.ac.uk

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