

CONVERSATION & AFTERNOON TEA WITH SAMINA AZAM

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AFTERNOON TEA

Those of you who know me, will know one of my favourite past times is enjoying afternoon tea.

The artistry, tradition, venue and food but most of all the company. This is my virtual version of having a catch up with a friend over tea & cake.

Enjoy my conversation with

Lesley Florez



WELCOME TO OUR TWELFTH EDITION FEATURING - LESLEY FLOREZ

What are you up to at the moment?

Well.... I've just started a whole new chapter in my life, I've finally got to retire despite the government moving the goalposts twice. It feels so strange, I need to adjust and find new routines, already I feel the day just disappears, somehow I achieved more when I was working. I've been busy catching up on the neglected jobs in the house and garden as the last 6 months were super busy at work.

I was so lucky to spend my final 18 months at Microsoft, I had four amazing managers, that were a joy to work with.

As I look back on my working life I am



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incredibly lucky to have found some of my best friends through various jobs, some of those positions were horrendous, but out of those experiences I gained some fabulous friends. Now to think about a volunteering job, otherwise I will spend all my time with my grandchildren.

What are you watching/listening to?

We are currently watching the Handmaids Tale on catch up, I read the book years ago and although the series is not completely aligned to the book, it is still relevant nearly 40 years later. I love listening and sometimes dancing along to Heart radio, but when the kitchen lights are on, it interferes with the radio and I'll listen to a CD or music on YouTube. My favourites are Coldplay and London Grammar at the moment.

Your favourite tool/app?

Obviously Outlook, I've always used it since we started to use computers, yes I am that old. Also Whatsapp, it enables me to speak to my daughter in Sydney with such ease.



MY BEST LOVED CAKE, TEA, COFFEE OR VENUE?

Got to be builders tea and a coffee cake, enjoyed anywhere with good friends and family.

A LETTER TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF

Be more confident, don't let imposter syndrome trickle into your self esteem. I feel I should give my younger self all the advice I gave my children, you can do anything you want, go anywhere and be yourself. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't, don't do it! Be brave, you are so much stronger than you think and are more than capable of standing on your own two feet.

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Happiness means...

Being comfortable in my skin and holding hands with any one of my eight grandchildren.

What are you reading?

I have a huge pile of books to read, I'm going to re-read The Handmaids Tale, also some of the books talked about during the Black Lives Matters discussions. I need to factor in reading time to my new routine.

A favourite quote...

From my youngest daughter, positive things happen to positive people, I tell myself and others this constantly.

In this moment I feel...

Lucky to have the people I have in my life and still have my health.



A COUNTRY I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT

It would love to visit Brazil, but as my daughter and family live in Australia I don't think that trip will ever happen, all long haul trips will be to Sydney. I have been very fortunate to visit lots of countries, but have never been to South America. My husband and I have just picked up our motor home, we plan to visit places in the UK then move onto Europe, we are both very excited, but it's so cold and windy at the moment, we need to be patient.

Thank you Lesley it has been such a pleasure getting to know you. I so enjoyed working with you at Microsoft. I love your passion, your conviction and integrity. Thank you for your wisdom and grace. Our conversations bring so much clarity and joy.



#TeaWithSamina