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The Bruising

Could you quantify the why in all the choosing? That simplicity that seems to make it more and more confusing For complicity that suckers the excusing from the bruising With whatever 'find your way' is meant to mean.

Could you glean a kind of wreckage from the weaning? A sheen to cut you clean from that asthmatic aspiration That trends your trepidation for the losing in the bruising Til redemption wants to bludgeon what you've seen.

Could you demonise the doubts that would devour?
With the power from the memes that tell us all to 'be our dreams'
That would scowl at and shatter the enthusing in the bruising
When it wouldn't matter what you would have been

Could you?

Cos I don't think I can

Martin Grey



It was the two of us against the world The world won.

Orla Shortall



The Boy

Near the forest on the meadow in the sun Stands the boy Long legs at ease Looking up at something fluttering

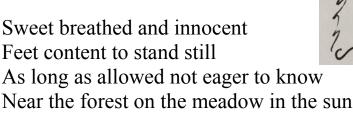
Gentle-eyed and curious As he follows the papery movement Cream-colored With a dark edge

Watching and wondering Mouth open Pulse steady and slow Dreaming and being

Feet content to stand still

Laura Grevel

Near the forest on the meadow in the sun





Capture the Moment

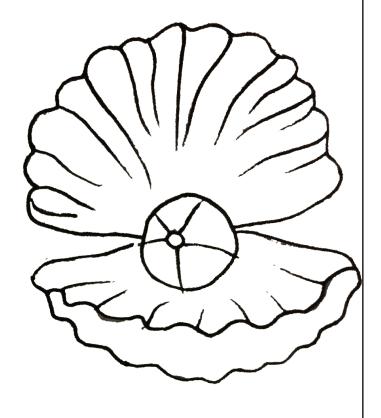
Catch the ball throw it, kick it watch it fall

I can do it, let me try this time: next time - see it fly

Smiling, laughing concentrating, celebrating, participating

Seaside inside, sand and shells bunting fluttering and candy floss smells.





She and I:



'She is photographic perfection, Filtered through these glassy eyes, Where I am a broken mosaic, All pieces missing And sharp to the touch.'

Jake Wildeman

Fire Pit:

By the fire pit, in the darkness Squeezing out every last ounce Of fun to be had I look around Wide eyed, wide eyes The strange, the strangers And the stranger still beside me Telling his same story for at least an hour now "Why are we here?" A question so profound Yet so tangible by firelight Reflected in the wide eyes Of the wide eyed strange, the strangers And yet the stranger still beside me Telling his same story for at least two hours now Why are we here? I don't know, let's go back to the tent

Hazel Warren



The Woodlands of the Word

I search for a leaf of love, beneath crumpled leaves of self-loathing, for years my only clothing, hidden from the heart, but seen by the world. Falling folioles, flesh unfurled, made vivid foliage of late seasons' suicides, ley-lined capillaries to limbs that died. Roots buried beneath furrowed inky frowns, lids wrapped tight, canopied shields over empty eyes, lost to all but silver-birch seas of imagination's light. Stanzas of trees, arbour lines of air, breathe me freedoms of forests, cities of chestnut, congregations of conifer, asylums of oak in the woodlands of the word.

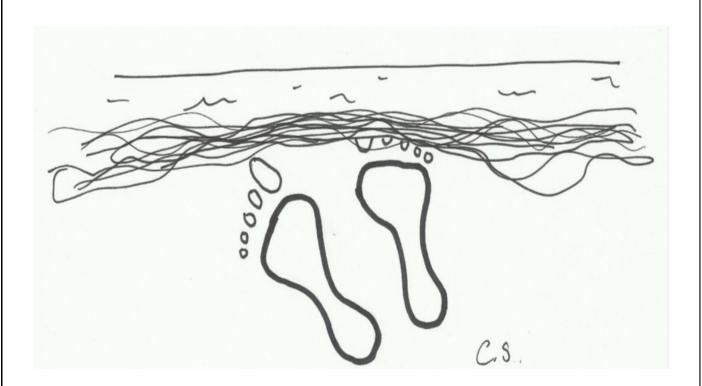
John Humphreys



Words Falling Grains Of Sand

Words falling like flakes of snow
People living like footprints on the shore
Waiting for the inevitability of incoming tides
One of impressions to be washed away
In endings there is no place left to hide
In beginnings just grains of sand
Grains of sand to be reshaped and reformed
Humility found in a candle flame
Lit again and again
Burning brightly yet not the same

Peter Hoult

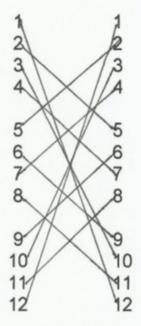


How your laptop really feels - a pantoum

He loves you. Well, that's no surprise: You turn him on each day and night. You let him perch upon your thighs. He bathes you in admiring light.

You turn him on each day and night, And, tenderly, you tap his keys. He bathes you in admiring light And sings to you in binary.

And tenderly, you tap his keys. You let him perch upon your thighs And sing to you in binary. He loves you. Well, that's no surprise.



Leanne Moden

THE UNKNOWN SOUL

The wind whistles gently and picks up the blossom, Pretty pink petals, your raindrops from heaven A tiny little patch of neat mounded earth With no recognition as to why it was there

Every year we'd visit and leave you flowers Special occasions you missed we'd visit So you were acknowledged

Whenever we call it's always been clean Unsure who is tending they've never been seen Your grave isn't marked, we couldn't afford it But the blossom tree keeps you sheltered, protected

It's like your angel kiss tends to its roots
The more years went by the more it did bloom
There is still no stone or a mark

It does not matter you're whoever we are

Lolly Dean



Gorgon

I don't like the me
I see
in your eyes.
An ugly snakey Gorgon.

I diminish under your stony disdain reduce under your rocklike regard.

You are blind Already made of stone. This Gorgon has no power.

If I had power,
 I would not turn you grey and cold.

If you could see,
 my smiling eyes would turn you fleshy soft and warm.

See? My hair is made of hair.

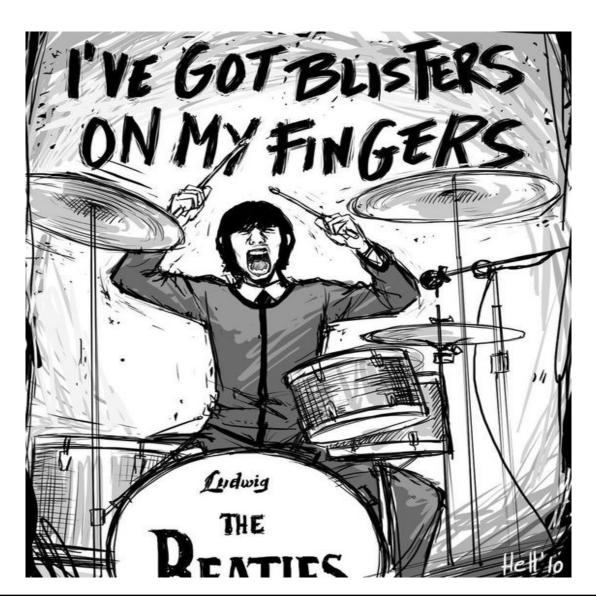
Clare Stewart



Ringo

Ringo was not like George, mystical, He was not like John and Paul The yin and yang of the avant garde. Ringo seen as exotic as bingo. Him and Maureen left the Maharishi After a week. The food and him did not agree. He knew his place, did his bit. Loose limbed and underrated, Behind the kit.

Frank McMahon



Standing female skewed

(inspired by Carol Ann Duffy's Standing Female Nude)

You've got me all wrong Pablo Trying to corner me With your palettes.

I gave you the brush off As you mused on my angles.

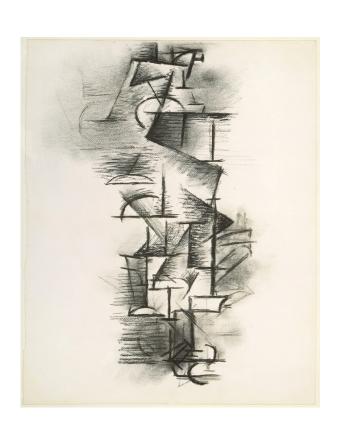
You have your concept, I have mine.

I have no need for your Many tacks and turns

Traced into your reality I lose my femininity.

It does not look like me.

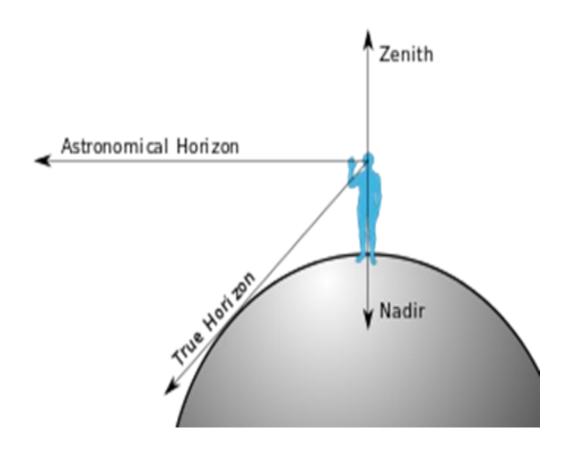
Sue Allen



Nadir

Sweet you are
Dark you are
Treasured you are
Cherished you are
Witty you are
Warm you are
Dear you are
And the nadir
of my life you are.

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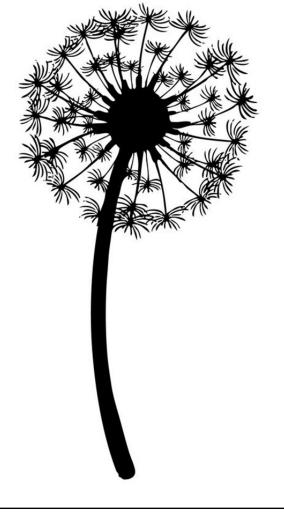


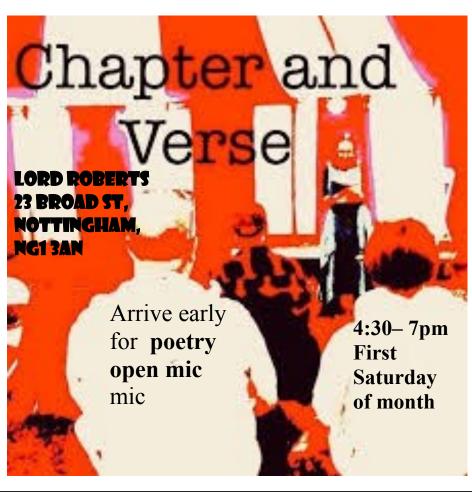
If you look

Fear again inside and out. It seeps under the smart tech, the shiny skin, the celeb tweet treats...

Leaves something like shampoo in eyes, stinging. Blinded to the kindness, prolific as dandelions right there in the daily places, the broken places, gloriously alive

Kevin Jackson





Duct Tape Messiah (for Blaze Foley 1949 -1989)

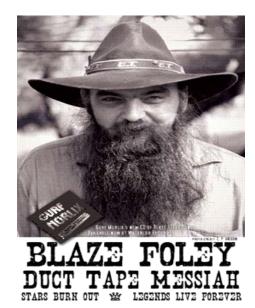
"He's only gone crazy once, decided to stay" – Townes Van Zandt

To Blaze a skyward trail, If he Could Only Fly, not sink beneath it all, alcohol, no sails. Just a drowning of duct tape holding everything precious together, hair curlers, broken toys and old 45s. And if Clay Pigeons are wingless, his words find the airstream.

Carey January put a hole in him with a '22, a wound, where the light enters through.* Townes dug him up for a pawn ticket, release a guitar so he can sing those words, no more 'sinking suns' or 'lonely nights' and he'd finally fly, n' kiss this world, goodbye.



John Humphreys

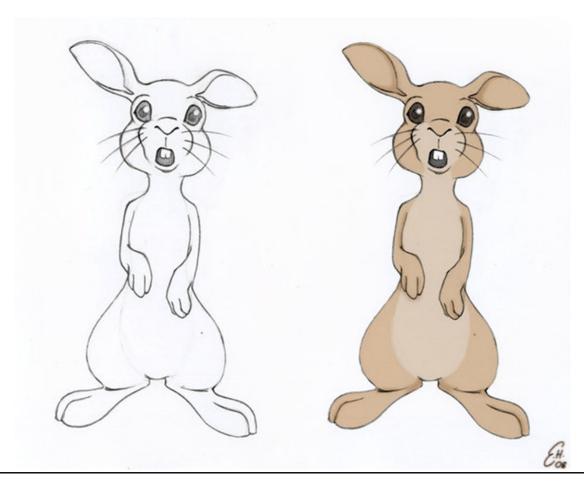


Watership Down

Richard Adams died aged 96 in Dec. 2016

Run, rabbit, run, rabbit, run, run, run
Beware jolly farmer, aims his gun
Beware rabbit farms, breed fur fun
Vivisection, dissection, no stun
Watership Down, manuscript, declined
Two-hundred-thousand wise words, warrens
Major publishers reject, repeat
Nineteen-seventy-two global sales
Fifty million copies
Berkshire Downs, rabbit society
Evocation, Southern England
Political, allegorical
Bright Eyes, rabbit, rabbit, Bugs Bunny
Rabbit's foot, a lucky charm, perhaps
Unless you're a three-footed rabbit

Andrew Martin, January 2017



HEARTS AND HORSE-CHESTNUTS (inspired by the poet John Clare)

The horse-chestnut trees stood high with barren boughs, the fallen leaves once green were now a yellowy-brown, and they lay thickly upon the asylum's grounds.

The old lunatic who walked alone looked on as fellow patients kicked the leaves all around, and searched beneath them for their seasonal share of the unseen spiky burs that lay in waiting there, He could see them, as they played the ancient conker game, time and time again, as the losers threaded the string through the holes in the new nuts' soft kernels.

Then he remembered how once he went in search of love, and found hidden hearts just like those horse-chestnuts - each time he felt the lance of loneliness go through him at the thought of those games of love he did not win. Where once a battered heart, now a piece of knotted string; all feelings best forgotten for what might have been.

Tom Ryder



On the 69 Bus

He had a backpack on his backpack Headphones on his head He was dancing on the 69 On a Tuesday night

He had a backpack on his backpack Headphones on his head He was happy in his own world On a Tuesday night

He had a backpack on his backpack Headphones on his head No one could get past him On a Tuesday night

He had a backpack on his back pack Headphones on his head The bus never emptied On a Tuesday night

He had a backpack on his backpack Headphones on his head No one could get past him On a Tuesday night

He has a backpack on his backpack Headphones on his head He was dancing on the 69 On a Tuesday night

Lytisha



Bus Stop

The Joy of Trucks

The nub you latched the grease gun Onto and gave it a squeeze – the grease nipple.

As if anything about the subframe of a heavy goods vehicle could be erotic, as if giving anything a squeeze might be a turn-on in this environment, or being supine on a crawl-board shade one's thoughts towards a masseur and a happy ending. Rather consider the contortions required by the confines of a sleeper cab and understand why the breathless history of erotica never offered up *Tropic of Scania* or *Lady Chatterley's Trucker*, even in a truncated edition where Mellors spends five days on the road, one day servicing and just wants a shower and a pint.



Neil Fulwood

Friendship

Friends can lighten the load of a tonne.

A friend is worth all the hazards one can run.

Friendship can be troublesome, some loving, some fun.

A true friend is more warming, than the rays from the sun.

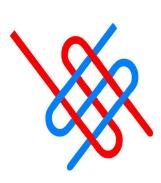
Comforting hugs, that makes a heart hum.

Starving friends can feast on a portion of crumb.

Friends can be few and far between so be careful of some.

To a heart filled with love, true friendship shall come.

© Jamahl Peterkin



Only put your hands up when dancing

Only put your hands up when dancing Not at work on minimum pay Your time is my time when working Said the employer on induction day

What do you mean? Go to the toilet Hold it. Try keeping it in Until I say you can go said the manager Your workload is currently thin

Doesn't matter if you're fifty or over Your background is honest and right Your shift pattern is early or afters Or part time weekends or nights

Just before two years in employment With no time off or shifts starting late No union to advise or give guidance The office meeting awaits

Thanks for your hard work and effort having monitored how you have climbed we are sorry to have to inform you we are relieving you of your post at this time

only put your hands up when dancing preferably not on our shop floor we don't want it influence anybody where going to the toilet receives an encore

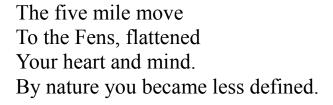
Dwane Reads



John Clare

Your nightingale was the read bird of sec Keats Ode was all classical allusion. You saw the dowdy brown bird Hiding from rowdy men, Rarely seen.

Patronised peasant poet.
They enclosed the common land,
Enclosed your heart.
They felled sweet music making elms,
So there was no longer a place
For you to shelter,
From life's raw rain and swelter,
From its beltering storms.



Your editors wanted to erase your dialect, So London readers Would find you impossible to detect.

Frank McMahon



The Septic Isle

So full of hate
Whatever made us think
That we were great?
A Christian nation?
Well where's the love?
More like vultures

Less like doves Empires and bombings Bowing to pride Nowhere for the poor To live or to hide Governments lying And appealing to greed Racial hatred And the poor Forced to bleed No sense of community Just serve the self Brains and hearts Left on the shelf Hope for the heroes Those who would kill This country's sick And it's making me ill

Eagle Spits



FOOD BANK BRITAIN?

FIGHT HUNGER
REDUCE CHILD POVERTY
VOTE to
CUT THE TORIES
8th JUNE 2017

EXOTIC MOTH

Exotic moth of vivid colours red and black wings in tatters my frozen heart shatters at the sight of spoilt beauty.

To see your torn wings tremble in the harsh daylight it seems that the dark night has been cruel to you, as Love has to me.



Tom Ryder

Not so, not so So take the strain, Take the strain No pain, no pain Usually others are more clued up So it's not so, not so In spite of this we still Can show we really care Really care, be there, be there Be others comfort too Now we come to stand tall, stand tall Yes stand tall Get the uplift of hitting things He on. go to him that are heavy, Heavy of heart. Now that's a start For none is an island Or meant to be alone So stand tall Do not let doubt, discouragement Even get hold For be bold Bear you one another's burdens Share it out, share it out Stand tall, stand tall With it all, with it all Let's build each other up Treat it, yes treat it Just like we won the cup For we are more than conquerors

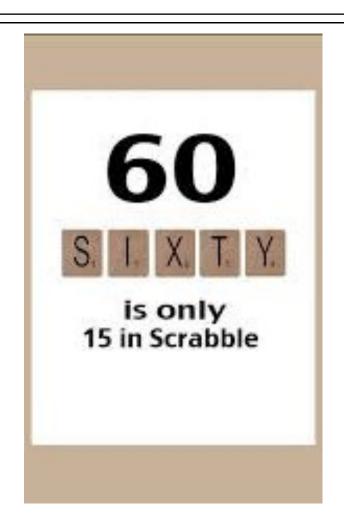
John Merchant

Sixty-poo

My dear old NHS, hearing that I'm sixty and loving me no less, requests my poo Wants it through the post. Sixty-poo-Sticky-poo

Six little smears over three little days, I collect, incremental, the loved excremental Send it through the post. Sticky-poo-Sixty-poo

Clare Stewart



Confessions

I use confessions as concessions when I try to cheer you up, a little bit of honesty thrown in.

The truth is never wasted once honesty is tasted,
I find it's always the best place to begin.
When I manage your attention diversion is the key,
I draw away your sadness with a little piece of me.

Fay Deller



DO YOU WANT TO MEET OTHER POETS? SHARE YOUR WORK? GET THE CHANCE TOPLAN EVENTS? PERFORM YOUR WORK?

IF SO DIY POETS MEET ON THE FIRST WEDS OF THE MONTH
UPSTAIRS AT BROADWAY
BROAD STREET
NOTTINGHAM CITY CENTRE
FROM 8 PM ONWARDS

COME AND JOIN US
FOR A RELAXED AND POETIC
EVENING

For M and P

You go together like coffee with a Sunday morning Bleary eyed, stretching, still yawning Just as your day is dawning The future stretches out And you can draw the map Never fail, to conspire To inspire one another to Great Acts You go together like ice cream and hot weather Or like salt and vinegar Sprinkled on chips Eaten straight from the bag on the way home And together, you can be more than The sum of your parts When you align your dreams With one another's hearts.

Hazel Warren



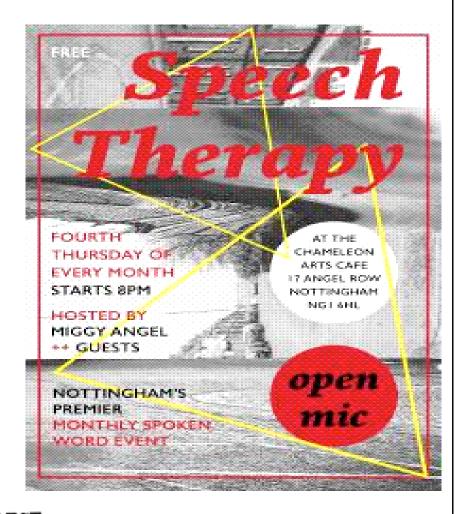
Talk Time

The kids today
Their online chat
Smartphone this
The past, what's that?

The kids today?
Don't know they're born!
Talking clock tale
Dismissed with scorn
Nonchalance
Or worse, derision
Spoken concept
Pendulum precision

The Speaking Clock Eighty Springs Summers, Autumns Ice Winter brings The Speaking Clock The Silent Spring Timeless nature Cuckoo's wing

Andrew Martin





Wisdom

Shakespeare wrote some wisdom
A long old time ago,
Like "there's nothing good or bad,
But thinking makes it so"
Now that's some sure and sage advice,
But what I wanna know,
Is what do I think of a one-eyed monkey,
Riding a pedalo?

Al Lane

Paper boy

He used to bob up at our front door, the paper boy, one of the few allowed. Had no name, or words. When his drummer boots left our lane he was gone, gone like childhood, pulled from secretly like that little brook in Old Scopeses bottom field, slipped away under the ash tree

Now I'm paper boy, here when my papers are here, pen spidering page to page Catching the juice of a harvest day. Then gone Slipped away under the ash tree

Kevin Jackson

Crossing Consonants

Drawn by a blithe zephyr
a thin sprinkle of stars
worms its twisty way
through the faintest chink,
and there in the vowels of the earth
lights up a spore
A tiny spore that blinks
and upscales into brave new words
each phrase brimming with resonant purpose
buzzing with fizzy giggles.
Fingers trace each frisky serif
and caress every polished flourish
For this is the inside of your heart
and you have crossed consonants.

(c) Martin Dean 2017

cr	bl	br	cl
dr	fl	fr	sh
wh	th	gl	gr
pl	pr	sn	sp
sl	sk	tr	tw
st	ch	sw	wr

I am the right person to swing a sledgehammer at Broadmarsh car park, because...it would be my one and only chance to make my civic mark!

To go down in history as the demolisher

of this Nottingham landmark.

A task to get rid of this graceless monument, I would gladly embark.

People would cheer me on!

"Knock it down!" they would remark.

I'd swing that sledgehammer through the air in a wide arc. I wonder if there'd be splinters or maybe even a spark? Goodbye! Farewell! Good riddance to Broadmarsh car park!

P.s regarding the engraved sledgehammer, I'd have a real good aim, and the engraving wouldn't cost that much as there's only seven letters in my name!

Joy Rice





Cup Final 1973

At the time, Leeds United were a footballing superpower

They had some fine players, and a bagful of dirty tricks, opponents would cower

I sat down to watch the game on TV with my dad, he poured me a shandy Sunderland faced Leeds in the FA Cup final, in the spring of 1973 Their manager was a fella called Bob Stokoe, he had a unique charisma But could his team defeat the Don Revie machine? It was too much to hope for

The magic of the cup back then was something real, results could be unexpected

And then we saw, the swing of a Sunderland boot, the ball found the back of the net

The crowd went crazy and so did we, my dad poured me another shandy. We sat back

And watched Leeds pour on more pressure, pushing Sunderland back, attack after attack

Montgomery in goal for Sunderland, pushed a shot on to the cross bar We held our breath, watching until the death, a one nil victory something to pray for

The final whistle arrived and the underdogs had won, history was written It was symbolic, and added to our belief, that Ukraine could one day be a free nation

Andy Szpuk

Dance Hall. (Ghost in the Atmosphere).

Dance Hall
Where lullabies sung secrets kept
Relationships flourished promises met
Who follows who in a dance from the past
Sat out on stools wait till you're asked
To Dance

The evening

Foxtrot or jive
Sweating, gyrating, held close, being alive
All of that's gone now lost to the past
Dance Hall stands empty silent and still
Floor littered in dust amongst faded handbills
Musicians instruments before logotype stands
Conductor twitched batten start up the band
The place in our town where most people danced
A snake queue of trilby new home-made dress
Courtships, chance meetings, bustling dancefloor
Back three generations, if counting four
Scent hovers nightly

How sweet

Breath in air

Ghost couple lost, only to Dance Memories hidden of a forbidden Romance Tobacco stained paintwork Outdated worn flock Met of an evening under chimes of a clock.

Dwane Reads

The Doctor Meets Keats

If I had the gift of time travel I'd stop Keats's illness before It made him unravel, A Tardis to stop tuberculosis.

A different kind of doctor
To the surgeon Keats,
I could treat the pulmonary bleeding
But not the public unheeding.
I'd give him penicillin,
Stop what was killing him.
But doubt I could boost his sales.

If I returned in my special box, I'd see him at seventy five, In medicine or in poverty, Still waiting for recognition to arrive, Still envious of Lord Byron.

Frank McMahon



The last of them

Here's an unsung song from my ancestral heart. A story charting the ruined distance of many truths.

A journey outside the heraldic map's reach. To the deeper darknesses held in the flesh folds of time.

The contoured lines of collapsed grace.
The last ship of the line, stopped in the grey waves.

John Humphreys

The Universal Lie

I tell the same lie every time.

I need to make admissions.

"Yes, I've read and understand

All terms and conditions"

Alistair Lane

Grief and all is devils, loss, fear and aging grip your thinking. Time with its blurry lines, compelling you to run, hobble quickly maybe, anywhere baby, as long as it's far away. Just any damn horizon as long as it's new, unexpected, fierce as shouting. Away from the cold sweat here, knife-cut now, never turn back from that road, Jack, of diamonds, Jack of shadows, Jack of dreams. Keep singing them old songs to torture memory, scar the heart with belonging, longing for when the promise was everything to come that never did. So that now all you have are the stories, worn through to holes where the rain gets in.

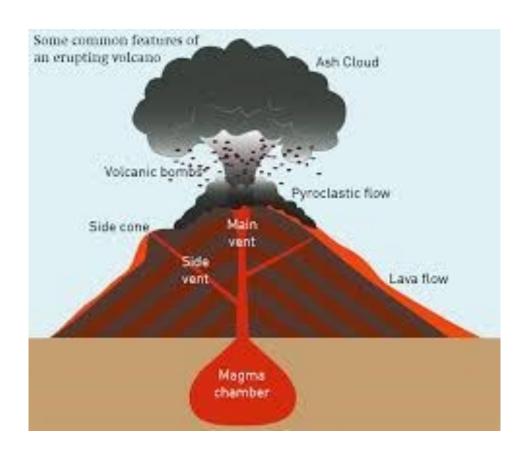
John Humphreys



Ghost Walk

Sometimes, when walking out, do you pick up the scent of trails you once crossed? Intersected, do you trace out, every sunken scar via thin leathered soul? On such nights, on these walks do your eyes lift to pray for pyroclastic rain? If you do. Come kneel with me.

Trevor Wright

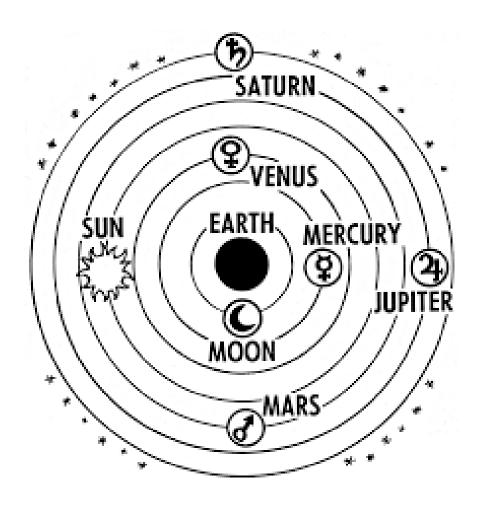


Space/Time Continuum

Planetarium, National Space Centre, comfortable seats, film animation, universe creation.

I awoke, surface water on planet green and blue, dawning realisation, my short sleep at the dawn of time, I missed the birth of Planet Earth. A few minutes and millions of years, I had dozed as the cosmos was composed.

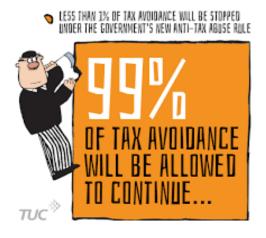
Andrew Martin, December 2017



Tax Fraud on Toast

Tories appoint ministers with dodgy credentials Who preside over tax evasion on a grand scale Accountants take sumptuous lunches at the Ritz Tax fraud on toast, a dish some find hard to resist

Andy Szpuk



This Place

This is not a spreadsheet with data row by row, It's no job in the city or mind so busy. This place where trees grow tall and gentle waters flow.

Here is the quiet, here is the down-beat tempo. Forget deadlines and pressure and broken I.T. This is not a spreadsheet with data row by row.

By streams and woods lie many pathways to follow, Under the drifting gaze of crows that oversee This place where trees grow tall and gentle waters flow.

There are no reports here and no figures to show Daily performance or the saving of money. This is not a spreadsheet with data row by row.

Though I'm often rushing; here to there, to and fro, Among these fields, there's nowhere else for me to be. This place where trees grow tall and gentle waters flow.

When I start walking through this landscape that I know, I take a moment; a pause that will remind me: This is not a spreadsheet with data row by row, This place where trees grow tall and gentle waters flow.

William Kummer

Pixels

Pixels pass on by
My thumb throws them on
toward the sky
...through the gaps in the Wi-Fi
that will bring me different pixels
to throw
toward the sky

Martin Grey

Title: To Be?

Zombie Shakespeare Said to thee: Life for me, is "Not to be"!

Alistair Lane

Love you liar

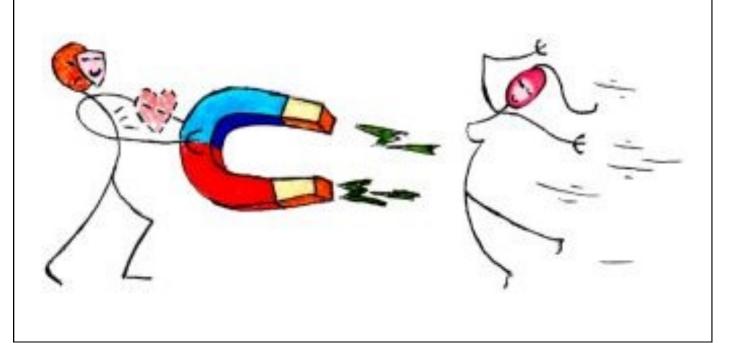
Love you liar I believed all The poetry and song.

The fairy-tale
That love could last
Forever
And now it's gone.

And oh The sharpness Of the blade That dissects My heart.

Love Your lies Are tearing me Apart.

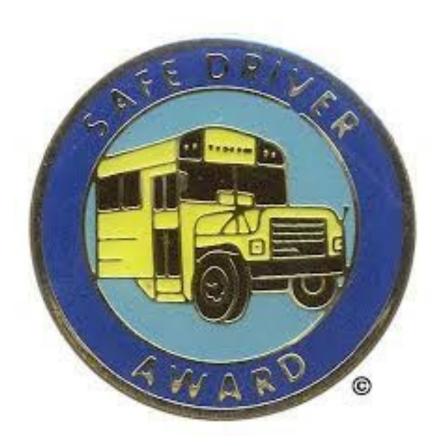
Sue Allen



The Bus Driver

Our driver knows this city off by heart.
He traces routes upon his well-worn palms – his knowledge isn't science, it's an art; it takes more than a jam to shake his calm. He knows just how to act, and plays his part down Derby Road and up to Assarts Farm. He loves this job: the streets, the early starts; the traffic lights have yet to lose their charm. The regulars all call him 'Juke Box Jim' because he knows the words to every song. His radio bleats out its joyful din—it's so infectious we all sing along. Being on his bus is such an honour: I love it when he listens to Madonna!

Leanne Moden



Carpe Noctem

A delicate awakening The bird chorus calls dawn in – Blue skies entice aural delights, and Sunlight breathes in MORNING! The eyes - primed -Ignite a passion within Desire burns bright **PROJECTING** A mental and physical being That entwines, and waltzes Hand in hand, (and) Glides through the nuances -Through expressions borne of the mind A dance that lightens up darkness And of private dreams That seize the night

Richard C Bower

The inside out

With your hand on my heart You look into my eyes Searching..... For you to see For me to expose, betray Hidden secrets cloaked behind a blink Heavy lids, curtain heavy hearts A glimpse A gaze A twisted maze Of emotion concealed in the fluttering of lashes A scatter of changing colour Iris expanding, reducing, revealing So much more than a lens of view Disclose the truth Bare the corners of the soul Without words, display A glance conveys

Fay Deller

So much.





DIY POETS

A Nottingham based poetry collective trying to rescue poetry from elitism and being ignored. We have been in existence for over fifteen years.

DIY Poets produce a free poetry magazine available in shops, bars and cafes throughout Nottingham city centre.

We have produced 43 issues. This is the best of from issues 36 to 43, our second best of edition.

DIY Poets have monthly meetings upstairs at the Broadway bar, Broad Street, Nottingham city centre, 8pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Come along and get the chance to perform at poetry events and share your poems in written form and get friendly, constructive feedback on your work.

DIY Poets produce a quarterly night of spoken word and music at the **Maze** on 257 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FT

For more information phone 07889 765917 or email: diypoets@yahoo.co.uk

Join us on Facebook VISIT OUR WEBSITE @: www.diypoets.com