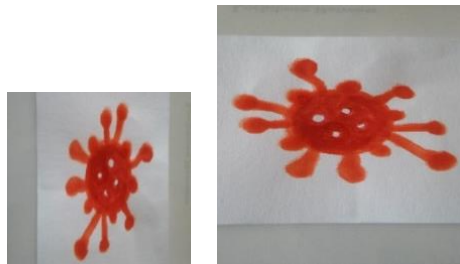


POETRY
IN A
PANDEMIC

PART 2



APRIL 2021 TO MAY 2022

YORK

DEE BOYLE

Acknowledgements

My thanks as always go to the friends and family who have been interested in and enjoyed my poems in the past and who encouraged me to continue writing them during these strange times of the pandemic.

Thanks again go to the members of the Poetry Group at the Unitarian Chapel in York who continue to be such an enjoyable part of my life as well as an inspiration for endless poems about all manner of topics.

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Thanks to all those people and situations that helped to form this second collection of poems. Thanks to those still living and to those no longer with us.

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Special thanks to Anneliese Emmans-Dean for her encouragement to continue writing poetry after she read my first book of poems. She was such an inspirational lady, a passionate poet, environmentalist and a bright light in this world who was taken from us much too soon.

Preface

Rather like what happened when I was writing poems for the first book and I thought that I would just be writing poems for a fairly short period of time during a lockdown, this second book has evolved in a similar sort of way.

I thought that the pandemic would be over with soon after March 2021 but then it became obvious that things were not quite going as well as we thought and the pandemic was continuing.

So, I continued writing poems as and when the inspirations came or when events prompted me to return to the keyboard and before too long, I realised that there was starting to be the makings of another book. I titled the document 'Post Pandemic Poems' at first. How optimistic was that?! Once I realised that it was not really a correct title to be referring to 'post pandemic' when we were still very much in the midst of it all, the title changed to 'Poetry in a Pandemic – Part 2'. I know it is a bit boring but it is what it says.

The funds I raised from sales of Poetry in a Pandemic were sent to three different charities that were helping to support people in various ways as they coped with life during the pandemic. One charity was 'One Chance' in Nepal, helping orphan children with school equipment and essential basic everyday things. Another charity was 'Dharmakaya Trust' based in the UK, helping Tibetan refugees currently living in India with essential medicines, hospital treatments and food in the small community where they live. The final charity was 'Mainstay' in York, who help people with mental health problems as they were having far more referrals than ever due to people struggling with job losses, bereavement and other stressful events during the pandemic.

Funds raised from sales of this book will once again be donated to three charities as they cope with supporting people still affected by the pandemic and the new situations that have arisen during the time of writing these poems.

Thank you once again for helping to support these charities and I hope you enjoy reading through the poems and remembering some of the events contained within them. We have all been affected in so many different ways but also in so many similar ones. Please continue to take care as we slowly emerge from these strange times into whatever will become the new normal.

I hope that there will not be a Book 3 – but who knows – watch this space!

Post Pandemic Poems - Or Poetry in a Pandemic Part 2

More changes

Just when we thought it was all over
it turns out that we were wrong.
It seems there is more to come for us all
before we return to the busy throng.

We need to come out quite carefully
from inside homes and behind our masks.
We must be cautious as we start to emerge
and begin once again all our tasks.

Once again there's a need to think as we go
and to check what the new rules now say.
How many people can we meet with
and from whom do we still keep away?

I can well understand the confusion
as there've been many changes since before.
We hardly get to used one set of rules
before another lot comes through the door.

There are changes in who can meet where
and how many can be in one place.
I cannot keep up with these changes
it's no wonder I get in a state.

Is it two households now that can meet up,
both in gardens and inside our homes?
Or is it more than six people now outside
or is it better to just stay alone?

I can see why the rules get broken
and I can see why they get bent
It's because there are far too many,
however good their intention is meant.

Just keep the changes as simple.
Just keep the rules the same.
Don't bother with changes for changes sake
or for someone to make their 'name'!

Keep them easy for all to follow
and even easier for those who lead!
Keep the changes in place for everyone
and do keep us all up to speed!

11th April 2021

Hairdressers Haiku

You, wielding scissors
around our head, more welcome
than any friends are.

12th April 2021

One step – two step

Slowly our lives are starting up again.
We have become used to closed doors
and now places will be reopening.

Slowly life will return to normal again.
We have become used to seeing no-one
and now people will be venturing out.

We have become used to walking alone,
around empty streets with shops closed
and now we will be with friends again.

Slowly we leave step one behind.
We have become used to restrictions
and now step two comes into being.

Slowly step one becomes step two.
We can meet for drinks and meals
and now we will be socialising again.

12th April 2021

Trains

What a dilemma to have thrust upon you unexpectedly to have to make a decision about getting on a train when the pandemic seemed to be still evident all around.

My decision was instant as I was needed urgently elsewhere and so, I bought my ticket and prepared for the journey by having sanitiser, wet wipes and masks ready for use.

I used to make this journey every four weeks to visit friends and spend time with them but this was my first time on a train in over a year

I needn't have worried as the trains were safer than any of the buses I had been on and certainly far less crowded than any of the shops I had ventured into.

I had space to myself and a place for my bag which is something you never had before when we were seated alongside strangers.

After a short while of wondering how it would be to wear my mask for hours I forgot all about it and just enjoyed being on a train once again.

30th April 2021

Friends

True friends are there for you at all times
not just when the going is good
and there is not a problem in sight.
They are by your side at all times
especially when the going is tough
and there are problems at every turn.

A fair-weather friend calls in for a while
to say hi and share all their troubles
with you, burden you and ask for advice.
But then never calls to see you again until
the next time life gets hard for them
and once again they need you to lean on.

An occasional friend makes contact every so often
either by phone, letter, email or a card
and tells you all their news and updates
but without asking how you are doing
and what life has been like for you since
the last time they touched base with you.

A true friend will rally around with other
true friends to offer help when it is needed
most of all and when you least expect it.
They do this because they care and because
you have been a true friend to them when
they needed it - that's what true friends do.

4th May 2021

Hoorah for Hugs

Hugs are to be allowed again,
let everyone shout and cheer.
I haven't had a hug from anyone
since March of last year.

I've missed a hug so badly
as it sends out a note of love.
It makes two people feel as one
surrounded by a force from above.

No matter what the type of hug,
whether quick or one that is long.
It gives a feeling of happiness
and knowing that you belong.

The hugs and kisses on a letter
or even the ones via text
are not quite the same as real ones
so can't wait for my first one

and the next and the next and the next!!

10th May. Following the news that hugs were to be allowed again

Memories

When taking a trip down memory lane
it is good to do this on your own
to reflect on all the adventures
and fun times that you have experienced.
But it is so much more memorable
when you can share those memories
with others who have shared those times
and had those fun experiences with you.

Reliving trips abroad you have taken
and countries you have visited together
plus remembering all the laughter
and those times that went slightly wrong.
The hiccups don't seem as bad when
you remember them with fresh eyes
and have someone to share them with
and see them just as the adventures they were.

Just thinking about the things you have done,
the escapades of your childhood and youth
and wondering why on earth you did them
and what made you think that they were ok.
Reliving those memories and treasuring every one
as you recall each moment of them all
at a time when you can no longer travel
and know that the end of your journeying is near.

17th May 2021

Hellos & Goodbyes

Saying hello to friends and family has been quite a task.

We have had to be inventive of finding ways to ask to meet some people through windows or in a park and not meeting with others, even when it is dark.

We were not able to cuddle or give any sort of hold until by the government we were once again told that it was safe to do so and offer a friendly hand to all who we meet with throughout the whole land.

We have even been limited on how to say goodbye to those who are leaving or those when they die.

We haven't been able to grieve or to mourn and give solace for those who've been left all forlorn.

I had to say goodbye to yet another close friend who left behind many hearts, unable to mend.

When it's time to say hello to others once more it will never be quite the same as before.

Of all the hellos said and of all the goodbyes this was the hardest yet to look into her eyes.

To know that this time I would never again see the person who'd been such a great friend to me.

3rd June 2021

Spreading Seeds of Happiness

My friend gave me a small packet.

She said it was no good to her
as she would not be around to
see its contents grow.

The words on the packet are
'Spreading seeds of happiness'
and she will certainly be doing that
as I intend to scatter them
in my garden so then when they
burst into flower I will think of her
and remember our friendship.

They are helianthus – sunflowers
to remind us that out of pure hell
can come some sunny moments.

May they bring some sunshine
next year as we remember her
in happy times, her positivity
and her strength as she stood
tall and always faced the light.

May the flowers inspire us daily
of her presence in our lives.

In memory of Marlene Houghton

Seeds given to 30 people at her funeral on 11th June

Words read out at her funeral

More masks

It looks like we will not be free
of our masks for a little while yet.
With faces hidden behind cloth and
trying to use our eyes to talk.
Smiles are not as visible under our masks
and so, we try to smile with widening eyes
to let others see that we are friends.
I like to see all the different masks
that people have made themselves
or bought to reflect part of their
own personality that is hidden away.
I love to see the masks that have a
smile on them as it lets me know that
the person wearing it has more chance
of being a friendly, happy type.
I am not too sure about those mask
wearers where there is a snarl or mouth
baring teeth as it looks like its owner
is angry and wants to take a bite out of you.
I think I would prefer those masks that make
the wearer appear to be pulling a funny face
rather than the angry or hungry teeth.
But better still, I look forward to the days
when our masks can be put away again
and only brought out as part of a history
lesson or perhaps for a 'Masked Ball' in the future.

21st June 2021

Here were go again

Here we go again.

Happy as can be.

All good friends and
jolly good company.

But, off we go again.

Seems that life can be
not quite the same for
folks like you and me.

There they go again.

Making rules again to be
broken by the likes of him
but kept by me and thee.

We saw it go again.

It's there for all to see.
Giving hugs and kisses out
and all above the knee!

So, there he goes again.

Not as happy as he can be.
Not good friends with Boris now
and certainly not with me!

27th June 2021 (After Hancock)

Hancock's Half Hour

We saw it on our TV screens
but not quite as it used to be.
This Hancock wasn't as funny
as the other one used to be.
His actions were not meant to be seen,
certainly not by you and me
He thought he was not in sight to anyone.
How wrong can one man be?
I guess he's learned a lesson now
that's there for all to see
When breaking rules, you made yourself
don't do it on TV!!!

27th June 2021 (After Hancock)

Independence Day Haiku

Independence Day
waits until the Government
say we're free again.

4th July 2021

The pangs and pings of a pandemic

It seems we have something new to contend with during the pandemic that is lingering on.

We have a new irritation to annoy us and it's one that's causing quite a pong.

It is not a new strain of the virus like others and it is not actually one that makes us feel ill but it is driving some people quite demented and to ease it, there's not even a pill.

As if the all pangs that we've suffered were not enough to cause us all to curse, it seems that pings from a 'What's App' are making the whole situation worse.

It is pinging folks left, right and centre no matter whereabouts they have been.

It says they've been in contact with someone even though that person they may not have seen.

It's causing some folks to switch their App off so they don't get told to stay home.

They've just started back to work again and don't want to stay home alone.

So now we have something else to check and something else that causes us to be wary of the pandemic around us

and the 'pingdemic' starting for you and for me.

15th July 2021

Freedom Day

Many are calling this 'Freedom Day'
but is it really as free as we think?
It seems that many are wary of this day
and are fearful of creating this chink
in the armour surrounding them
that has been a protection for so long.
It's like removing a plaster or bandage
with a wound not yet healed and it's wrong!
The freedom for some will be welcome
but for others it heightens their fear.
Some will be out clubbing and partying
whereas others may shield 'til next year.
"It is too much and too soon," say some.
"It's not enough," say others wanting more.
For some they will feel like it's Freedom Day
but others feel let down once again by the law.
It's like the Government have given up caring
and are leaving it up to us all.
I wonder if we'll find a way out of this
or if we are due for another great fall.
I hope that the freedom is cautious
and that people take care just as before
from being confined and restricted
to taking a step towards normality once more.

19th July 2021

Open Doors

As one door opens another one closes,
at least that is how the saying goes.

I wonder if it is really true for all of us
or if, for some, those doors stay closed.

An open door can create a welcome.
It can say do come in and look inside.
But for others this doorway is a challenge
where they just want to run and hide.

We hope that our open doors can mean
that we would love to meet and chat.
But for others who feel quite alone inside
they may not know quite where they are at.

As well as us having an open door
I feel that we should also be
showing to others an open heart
that is clear for them all to see.

We should of course open up our doors
and need also to open up our minds
and welcome all those who step inside
offering open hearts to those of many kinds.

19th July 2021

Concerning Concerts

Another step into the freedom zone
means that many of us will now be
able to attend a concert again
with live music to hear and see
the musicians creating their notes
once more and with such love.
It may be a festival with hundreds
or just a simple concert for one
or it could be a busker singing aloud
with a simple chorus to the sun
that reaches out to everyone
to help them smile and feel alive again.
We may not feel at ease as yet to go
and become one in among a crowd
but we can delight in being one within
a few, for whom music is now allowed
and to listen to those calming chords
that delve deep into our lost memories.
We may have concerns about attending
a concert of any type or size
but it surely must be worth it
as we take in everything with our eyes
and soak up the sounds of music
stirring up and sinking deep into our souls.

23rd July 2021 (after attending first concert since 2019)

The Sound of Singing

It seems to have been such a long time coming,
but at last, the day has arrived once more
when we can once again take up our hymn books
and sing loudly as we used to do before.

Some choirs were able to sing in church but
many groups just had to sing on zoom
If churches didn't have a choir on site
then there was silence in the room.

When we were in our homes for services
we were able to sing as loudly as allowed.
It was great to sing with gusto
as we were on our own, not in a crowd.

Yet crowds at football and rugby
were able to sing as they always had done.
They were singing and standing together
and it seemed they had so much fun.

But us quiet folks going to services
had to be patient as never before
and then when we were able to sing out again
boy oh boy did we shake the floor.

Since returning to churches and chapels
we had been humming from behind a mask
but now we were allowed to sing out again
as that quiet humming was quite a task.

To hear the singing and words being sung
was pure music to everyone's ears
and the sounds I heard that first morning
brought to my eyes such joy and tears.

We have the sound of singing again
in all of the places we now go
that brings music back into our lives
and makes us feel good, don't you know!

25th July 2021

Olympic Haiku

Delays in the games
and Olympians battle
not just viruses.

28th July 2021

Yorkshire Day Haiku

Yorkshire Day this year
brings more staycations to be
in God's own country.

1st August 2021

Third Time Lucky

For many this time has been harder
as their wedding plans had to change,
instead of the day they had planned
they now had to have quite a range.

A postponement at first for a few months
but then as things progressed again,
the wedding date became even later
in the hopes that guest lists could remain.

For some the delay in their special day
turned into a whole year to wait
until at last they felt it safe to plan
and together with loved ones celebrate.

The wait was so worth waiting for
as guests were as many as planned
and nobody needed to wear a mask

as they walked together hand in hand.

It was so lovely to be a part of a wedding
and to help a couple express their love,
to commit to one another at last
and to show it without rules from above!

14th August 2021

Wedding Haiku

How long did you wait
for your wedding day to come
and start life anew?

14th August 2021

To Isolate or Not to Isolate

Millions of people being pinged each week
has caused havoc with those trying to keep
our services open and running as people
started to resume their lives again.

Getting the message on your phone saying that 'you need to self-isolate' was more of a curse than a life saver and cost the country dearly each day. From today as long as you have had the allotted double jab then provided you are clear and clean you will not need to go into self-isolation any more. It is another step in the right direction that gets people back into feeling they are once again in charge of their own lives and making decisions now. I was so grateful to have an old phone that didn't have the right 'App' that meant I couldn't be pinged and so did not have to isolate. To isolate or not to isolate that was the question, and whether it was nobler to do so or not to – that was another question. We don't have to worry any more about that question from today but we do have to ask ourselves 'Are we feeling any safer yet?'

16th August 2021

Memories of Afghanistan

On our screens we see such scenes of panic and heartbreak as families attempt to leave the place that they have called home, lived in, felt safe in and loved for so many years.

The Taliban are back in charge once again and this will mean the end of a life of relative freedom that they have known for 20 years and a return to oppression, fear and even death.

My memories of the country and the people from when I visited there are so different from those scenes that I see today in the news so that I can hardly recognise it as being the same place.

Travelling in safety on public transport with Afghans going about their daily business and sharing stories and laughter with passengers as we all spent special time together as one.

In those days the Taliban were thought of as the 'Good Guys' as they protected people travelling through the mountain roads and kept them safe from robbers or kidnappers.

So when, I wonder, did this change take place?
When did the Taliban turn from being 'good guys',
protecting people and become instead known as
'bad guys' killing anyone who dared to cross them?

I weep for the people of Afghanistan who once more
are under the power and grasp of men who do not
value women and girls and instead return them to
days of old with no rights and no place in society.

I weep for all those who spent time in the country
attempting to right the wrongs, keeping order
and moving the Afghan people out of the dark
times to once more seeing and being in the light.

When we see and hear the news coming to us
we wonder what has happened and ask questions
like 'was it all worth it?' and 'what was it for?'
and 'why did so many have to die – for nothing?'

On our screens we see scenes that make us
feel so sad that many families now have to leave
the place that they have called home, lived
in, felt safe in and loved for so many years.

17th August 2021 (remembering a visit to Afghanistan in 1974)

Holidays

'Having a lovely time' and 'Wish you were here' were words that we used to read so often on postcards sent from other people's holidays to let us know that they were having a great time, even if we were still stuck at home.

I doubt that these words have been used very often by anyone of late as most folks have had to be creative in how they managed to have any sort of a break from being at home, let alone have a holiday anywhere other than maybe visiting family.

Those who dared to venture abroad were often caught out by sudden changes in restrictions that meant the 'Green' area they had chosen was now an 'Amber' or even a 'Red' one and were stuck in quarantine for extra days on their return.

I found it safer to organise a holiday in my head and revisit some of the places that I have been when holidaying was a joy and not a worry and when holidaying meant freedom and relaxation rather than worrying, being cautious and anxious.

I am not sure when my next real holiday will be or where it will involve me travelling to but one thing I know for sure is that unless things change quite drastically from the current situation, my holidays will be at home.

30th Aug 2021 (Bank Holiday)

Staycations

This year our holidays have had to be more thought out and planned than usual to take into account avoiding certain places and people as much as we can.

We may not be able to travel abroad but that hasn't dampened some people's plans and they have just been more creative.

Finding interesting places to visit in our own country for a change will help to boost businesses after the lull and it will also help people see the beauty in the country where they live rather than just going abroad and chasing the sun.

Whether in hotels, hostels or camping or glamping there is fun to be had and a new found enjoyment of our own country and all that it has to offer us.

I hope that staycations are here to stay and that they become our holidays now or at least one of our holidays every year as I can't expect everyone to like staycations!

August 31st 2021

Modern Day Nero

It seems that they're hitting the headlines again but this time it is not about a modern-day hero. It's the fact that someone was away on holiday and was behaving more like a modern-day Nero.

This time it seems the culprit was away in Crete unlike the one back in ancient time Rome. This one was on a beach somewhere with family and didn't even choose to dash back home.

As the crisis unfolded just as it was expected to do and the people started fleeing from their land, this man just stayed away on his holidays and was just supposedly relaxing in the sand.

At least he was not there playing the fiddle as Nero had allegedly been guilty of doing. This 'hero' was possibly on a paddleboard or perhaps with his wife he was wooing.

Should he have gone on his hols as he did do or should he have stayed at his desk all the time? Whatever he did or he didn't actually do it seems that this was his particular crime?!

3rd Sept 2021

Following criticism in the media that Dominic Raab, the Foreign Secretary stayed away on holiday while the crisis in Afghanistan began.

Back to school Haiku

Kids back to schooling
to commence education
hope virus has gone.

6th September 2021

The colour of sport

This summer we have seen examples
of how people perceive colour and
race within our sports and some of these
have been good and others not so.

For those who missed their kicks
at a goal there was obvious sadness
but there was also total heartbreak
in the shouts and taunts they received.

A short time before they were hailed
as giants in their game for getting to
the stage that they'd reached but then
in an instant the cheers became boos.

Is it the game that creates such people
as supporters or is it that they are not
tackled about it nor given a punishment
that suits the level of their crimes?

Then a while later but in a different game
a young girl raised the country's spirits

by her winning ways and created a racket
of support with everything that she did.

There seems to be no incidences of hate
and only delight and cheering flow her way
as the fans of this game show their enthusiasm
without any jeers or boos to be heard.

Is it this game that makes a difference
or is it the type of fans that are more open
to this game and the qualities that matter
rather than just seeing the colour of sport?

Or, perhaps it was because of the end result
that made it easier to feel happy and pleased
with a winning outcome rather than the feel
of the sorrow and anger of a losing one?

Was it just pure emotions that came to the
surface and the gestures and words that were
seen and heard were only in a fleeting moment
or was it pure racism that bubbled up yet again?

The colour of sport must surely change now
as we are in an era where this behaviour will
not be tolerated or accepted by anyone and
the true colours in sport should be applauded.

12th Sept

Comparing the difference between racists 'fans' at football and genuine fans of tennis.

An I into A & E

Having avoided hospitals as much as I can

I found myself sent to A & E.

This was my first visit in several years
and so, I wondered how long I would be.

I was also concerned as to what I would find
and what safety measures would be there to see.

I needn't have worried as plans were in place
to keep me safe from others and them safe from me.

The staff were as busy as they'd ever been
and took care of each patient that came.

There were several ailments and fractures in view,
some quite serious, whilst some seemed quite tame.

It seemed that hip problems were evident for some
and of these, there seemed quite a few.

It looked like I was in good company that day
so, my painful hip to them was nothing really new.

The chairs were set out to make us feel quite safe
And the wait was as long as it always had been.
But, 7 and a half hours had never seemed quite so long
until at last by a doctor I was finally seen.

Having an eye into what it is like in A & E
I don't really envy any of their jobs in here.

They are constantly busy and not sure what they'll see
either through hassles and pain or even pure fear.

My eyes were opened into all that I saw
and though I know it changes from day to day
I was impressed by the care that they offer to all
and they are well underpaid, I would certainly say!

People wore their masks which often hid the pain
but it also muffled voices as they spoke to a plastic screen.
There are no secrets there in A & E as everyone was asked
about coughs or temperatures and if on any holidays we'd been.

So, as I had my unscheduled visit there to A & E,
my thoughts went out to everyone that I saw.
As my eyes noticed all the things around me
I was so grateful - so please do pay them more!

15th September 2021

(Written whilst sitting in A & E)

Tin Harvest

In previous years our tin harvest has been collected and we gathered in all manner of tomatoes and beans, bacons and sausages together with spams and hams and almost everything that keeps a person clean.

Last year our Autumn festivals were not allowed and so our harvest was not safely gathered in. We couldn't gather in our usual odd collection as our chapel was closed and there was nobody in.

But this year it was business as usual for us and our tin harvest managed to go ahead. So, we gathered in those tins and wash things ready to share out with others instead.

But, as breakfasts are not yet back on the menu we had to decide where else needed our tins. So this year we've given it all to a food bank as we know that they need to fill up their bins.

So, our harvest is now safely gathered again and the tins are ready to be shared out. They'll be useful I know for many people in York who are still struggling, of that there's no doubt!

3rd October 2021

(Collection of our 'tin harvest' at the Unitarian chapel)

Transmissions

Sitting quietly watching the news when
suddenly the screen went totally black
or should I say it went a shade of blue
and a lack of signal said it wasn't coming back!
Then on the kitchen radio I heard the news
that there had been a fire at a main mast
which meant there would be no signal for days
and the area affected seemed to be quite vast.

The days without TV then turned into weeks
and I got used to doing other things instead.
I was always busy during the days with jobs but
sometimes in the evenings I just went early to bed.
Those weeks without a signal turned into months
and when friends discussed the programmes seen
I couldn't join in with their enthusiast reports as
I had to admit that without a TV I still had been.

I wonder if there is any recompense now for me
as my licence fee was not worth the money paid
when I couldn't watch programmes without lines
and interference that that didn't make the grade.
It's still not fixed and today we've been told
that there is yet another hold-up on the work.
Let's hope that this is only a short delay now
and that I get money refunded as a perk!!

4th October 2021

(Bilsdale transmitter mast fire was on 10th August)

Fuel crisis

And now it is not just food that is short
for the fuel has now joined the ranks
of things that are running out for us
and people are once again playing pranks.
They are syphoning off the petrol
instead of joining the endless queues
of people patiently waiting for their turn
to fill up the tanks and then just reuse.
Some spend an entire day of running
their engines waiting to fill them again
only to have enough to get them to
the next queue - what a pain!
If only they knew that by not waiting
in line to just fill up their car
they could end up saving their time and
their money and be better off by far.

11th Oct

Health Haiku (1)

My hip starts to ache
followed closely by my back
and now, I have ceased.

14th Oct

Health Haiku (2)

Beware the experts
who offer advice, not checked
and ignore patients.

14th Oct

Shootings

Once again shots rang out and another life has ended.

It used to be a rare occurrence in our UK news
but now it seems that every day another shooting
takes place and someone else's life is cut short.

Those taken from us are sometimes so young
and their life path has barely got started so it
is a shock to find that those who have taken life
are only just a little bit older than the victim.

Those taken from us are often just ordinary
people who happened to be in the wrong place
at the wrong time and became another sad statistic
in a country that is beginning to accept these figures.

But then sometime those taken from us are not
quite so ordinary and have done amazing things
to help make a difference to the lives of those
who they aimed to help, until their life is taken.

15th Oct

(Following the shootings of MP David Ames and MP Jo Cox - 5 years apart)

Mucky Carrots

I remember my days in the village
where there were endless farms around
and the foods we had to eat at home
were often got straight from the ground.

We had mucky carrots and wonky carrots
and once washed they tasted just the same
as the perfect ones they grew beside
but sometimes we'd give them a name.

One of them looked like an old man with a stick
and another one was more like a bed.
There was even one that looked like a king
with a crown on the top of his head.

We had cousins that visited from the south
and they'd only lived in the city
One didn't want peas from out of the pods
but 'real peas' out of a tin, more's the pity!

If we ran out of potatoes, we'd walk up the road
and buy a few pounds straight from the farm.
If we needed a lot more then we'd buy a whole sack
but that was a real task to carry on my little arm.

In the holiday time we earned extra cash
by helping the farmers on their land.
We pulled peas or potatoes and picked lots of fruit

and we got paid cash for work, straight into our hand.

Oh! I wish those days of mucky carrots and peas
would return for us all once again.

But I fear that we'll see more man-made veggies
and ones that have never seen real rain.

The farms are still there and the farmers too,
they are doing the best that they can now
but they are needing to be rather inventive
and finding new ways to do things and how.

The earth needs us all to help it return
to being a land where food can grow well
and become once again a source of excellent food
no matter what the shape, just good taste and a good smell.

24st October 2021

Earth Haiku

The earth needs our help
if it is now to survive
so, what can you do?

25th October 2021

Climate Crisis

Once again it seems that all the Heads of State in the world still cannot agree on what others see as the right thing to do. They have talked for weeks and discussed lots of different ways that their countries could reduce dangerous emissions for you and for me and for the sake of all those people on lands already suffering from droughts and famine, from floods washing land away, from lands in danger of sinking under rising seas, and from cold places becoming so warm and warm places turning so hot no one can stay. There were some at the discussions who didn't agree that anything at all was wrong and that the climate crisis didn't actually even exist. Not only did they not want to change anything they were going to do but they also they refuted the evidence presented to them by scientists. Outside the conference there were many people who marched and stood at vigils throughout the countries with many protests from young and old. Their voices were heard much more than those within the conference and people seemed to listen more to the solutions that these youngsters told. Some of the young folks accused those inside of just more blah, blah, blah and more people agreed that this seemed to be as no progress was seen from the last time they had met and returned to their homes to make plans for a better future for us all, saving the planet and making it once again green. Will another year make a difference and will they meet once more with actual solutions to the problems that are facing us all in every country once again? Will they have amended their figures to ones that reduce the danger to all and will it really make a difference to our climate or will it in all be in vain?

12th November 2021 following the end of COP26

Interfaith Week Haiku

A week of events
displaying faiths to others
showing that we care.

16th Nov

Hedgehog Home

My little hedgehog home has arrived
and is now ready for occupants new.
My visitors come from, I know not where,
but I want them to have a comfortable pew.
I think they may have lived under my shed
but cannot really be absolutely sure.
This new place offers them pure luxury
and it even gives them their own front door.
It is made out of wood and only natural things
with no bits of metal or plastic in sight.
The joins have moss to block off the drafts
yet allow air to be present and some light.
It allows the occupants to relax and bed down
and have a comfortable winter of sleep.
Because of the wood it blends with the trees
while leaves provide warm bedding to keep
them cosy and safe all winter long
and away from the cold and snow and rain
to snooze through the darkness and chills
until it is time for them to wake up once again.

22nd November 2021

Storm Arwen

Another storm has hit our land
and just when people thought
that they had enough to cope
with along comes a tempest
that destroyed all in its path
and created more devastation.

This one continued for days
so that even those who thought
they had escaped were caught
out as the storm found them
and left its mark on their home
and treasured items were lost.

We name all these storms
as if they are familiar to us
just like families or friends are.
But really whatever the name
of the storm that arrives we are
always so pleased when it goes.

27th November

New variant Haiku

Omicron is here!
So, what are we now to do?
Go back to square one!

29th November

In this bleak midwinter (to the familiar carol tune)

In this bleak midwinter

here we are again.

Wondering what will happen,

will we meet and when?

Snow has fallen

snow on snow, snow on snow.

In this bleak midwinter

where nothing now can go!

Will we be together

with our families

or will we just avoid folks

to not catch coughs and sneeze?

Will we have some spirit

and share some festive bliss?

Will there be new friends made

with an under-mistletoe kiss?

What can I do now

poor as I am?

Some of us are veggie

so cannot take a lamb.

If we were all rich folks

we could play our parts.

But instead, all we can do

is share our hearts.

3rd Dec 2021

(With apologies to Christina Rossetti & Gustav Holst)

Are we going to have Christmas?

After all the loneliness of last year
are we going to have a Christmas
this year and will it be a treat
or are we limited in who we can meet?

Is Christmas on or is it off we ask
as we want to make plans and
buy in food for everyone to share
and get gifts to show we care?

Will they make up their minds
and tell us what we can do
because if they don't tell us soon
I think we should move to the moon!?

4th December

A different Christmas

Having spent a few Christmas times on my own
This year was going to be not quite the same
I had invited my friend's family to join me
So, we could share time and yet honour her name.

We knew that it was going to be different
but we didn't want it to be a sad time this year.
We needed to celebrate and still think of her

but to have family and friends somewhere near.

We got what we wanted and had so much fun
with friends and family who joined us as one.
It created quite a different time for us all
and a new style of Christmas had now begun.

30th December

New Year

And so, another year is starting.

What will it bring for us?

Will we see an end of this virus?

or will it continue to cause a fuss?

Will we regain some of our freedom

that has been lost to us for so long?

Will we return to our old way of living

or will we have to learn a new song?

Last year we hoped it was over

but had to face another year of strife

Let's hope that this year will be different

and we at last will start our new life.

2nd January 2022

Rule Breakers (uncovered 12th Jan)

It seems that rules have been broken
and now they have been found out.

It seems that photos were taken
and that voices began to shout.

It seems that some folks who set the rules
have broken them along the way.

It seems that some have not heeded rules
and from the 'party line' had a slight sway!

It seems they had work meetings a plenty
but these ones actually broke rules.

It seems they ignored and continued to meet
and treated the rest of us like fools.

It seems like their actions will be checked
and a report will eventually be made.

It seems that proof will be found at last
or will that evidence now be mislaid?

It seems that those partying rule breakers
will now be regretting their fun.

But will they really get their 'come-uppances'
or from their actions will they now run!?

12th January

When is a party not a party?

When is a party not a party?

Is it when there is a meeting at work?

Is it when wine is served to all

and from work you are able to shirk?

I have had breakfast meetings in the past

where we had drinks along with food.

But that tended to be tea and coffee

with some toast if we were good!

The problem with these government meetings

is that they should have taken place at all.

While the rest of the country met on zoom

it seemed some others had quite a ball.

I feel sorry for those who attended

and who didn't know what they were at.

Was it a meeting, an unwind or a party

and so, what can they say about that?

It is worrying that our leaders acted so

when others stayed home as were told.

How can we continue to listen to them

when they flaunt the rules and are bold?

I imagine that the time has now come

when heads finally will have to roll.

For we all know when a party is a party

and when lies have finally taken their toll.

19th January 2022

Party Gate!

So, the truth is out at last for us to see
that there were parties at Number 10.
Not just once that could have been in error
but were held again and again and again!
If there were this many held and now known
I wonder how many more were not seen?
Were there gatherings each week in secret
with those who went saying they'd not been?
No doubt there are plenty among us who
bent the rules 'just a little' at one time.
But I don't think that we will have repeated this
in case we were found out and fined!
We did as we had been asked to do
and did our best to follow the rules
Yet now we find that those meant to lead us
were actually treating us like fools.
We couldn't celebrate birthdays or weddings
and we couldn't see family or friends as they died.
But it seems that those around the Cabinet tables
and some folks in Government just lied and lied!
So, what can be done about it right now
as the truth seems to be out at long last?
If it was you or me who'd been found out
our punishment or fine would be vast.
But as the gang who are setting the rules
are part of the elite and privileged few
I doubt they will get more than a tap on the hand
and be allowed to still govern me and you.

1st February 2022

Cold games

In the cold winter months
as the world slowly emerges
from years of the pandemic
faces turn towards the East.
This time instead of watching
the virus we are now looking
for sports to distract us from
issues far beyond Olympics.
The seeds that spread from
the East and caused such
havoc around the world
are forgotten for the present.
But seeds of unfair treatment
and of human rights cannot
so easily be forgotten that
they are hidden by games.
Those who take part may be
unaware of atrocities done
to those living with tyranny
and smile as they gain medals.
But these medals are moulded
and fired in blood and death
and are not created with love,
or congratulations to the winners.
These winter games should not
have been awarded to a country
so steeped in cruelty that being host
is a reward, not earned by them.
They say that the world will not
allow another holocaust to happen

and yet here it is occurring
before our very eyes once again.
It is hidden by a country who
play mind games with the world
while they organise Olympic games
and sports for the world to view.

2nd Feb 2022

The unfurling of flags

The hurling and curling and whirling around
can bring the sports folks to the ground.
The throw and the show with a glow and a blow
can bring the sports folks down in the snow.
The huffing and puffing and sluffing along
can make the sports folks feel they belong.
The skiing and fleeing and freeing of limbs
can fill the sports folks to their brims.
The shouts and the bouts are what they're about
and can help them do well and curb their doubt.
But the cheering or jeering they sometimes hear
can affect their games and make them fear,
that the curses and nurses they often face
will separate them from others in the human race.
The thoughts and doubts they may often feel
can these from some games make them reel.
When will we see in sports throughout the world,
flags of fairness and justice being safely unfurled?

4th Feb 2022

All in it together!

So, it seems now that we were not
'all in it together' as Boris said we were
and that deliberate lies were told
with words as light as any feather!

It seems that, despite those words
and with his usual 'caring quote'
we have been in different houses
and certainly not in the same boat!

Whatever was specified to us
and whatever words were said
it seems that for many of us
we were not in the same bed!

For most of us it's been a tough time
and it has certainly taken its toll.
But, for others it was party time
so, will now finally some heads roll?

There were times when listening to words
we couldn't help noticing certain smirks.
Did they know what they were doing
those smarmy government jerks?

I wonder if at the end of investigations
The truth will come out at long last
And they will have to face the consequences
of their parties and 'having a blast'!

11th Feb 2022

Stormy Weather

We have been battered once again
by more storms coming our way.
But how do we feel about them
whatever the forecasters say?

Why do they give them names
that sound like they are a friend?
When, in actual fact for us all,
they only send us around the bend.

One that came with such force
was given the name of Dudley.
But that make it sounds quite gentle
and almost like someone cuddly!

It was followed by Storm Eunice
that sounds like an elderly aunt
who would offer a friendly hug
rather than a fearsome rant!

Are names meant to offer us solace,
in an effort to keep us calm?
As if they are, they need a rethink
in how to create a soothing balm.

Whereas with names like Rory
we would know just what to expect.
And with Renee, Wynn-Dee, or Rocky
what you see would be what you get!

18th February 2022

Putin's Power!

We had watched scenes of troops amassing and supposed 'army exercises' near borders and we hoped that it would purely be Putin flexing his muscles to show off his power.

Then this morning all that changed as scenes on our screens changed and we saw bombs being dropped on unsuspecting Ukrainians and homes were targets, not military bases.

How frightening those sights were for us and we were just watching our TV screens so, imagine then what it must have been like for those people caught up in the midst of it.

The speed at which this happened has caught not just one country by surprise but everyone and as we watch each city fall to Russian troops we wonder how this will now affect the world.

Will Putin's attempts to take over this country be just the start of him rebuilding the old Empire and despite the sanctions imposed on them will support from their allies lead to world war?

24th February (Russian troops invade Ukraine)

Heartfelt Support

As the scenes unfolded before us
everyone thought, 'what can we do'?
Can we send items that are needed,
that are basics for me and for you?

Some people sent clothes and toys,
others sent care kits, nappies and food.
Whatever was sent for the people
we all hoped they would do some good.

Trucks and vans were going from everywhere
to take where they were needed most.
Just ordinary people acting from kindness
and certainly not wanting to boast.

The Ukrainians left their homes of a lifetime
with a few items packed in a small case.
They had no idea when they would return
or if loved ones would again be embraced.

Families were divided as some stayed behind
and others in their thousands left their homes.
They travelled to countries nearby for safety,
many with children but some were alone.

Their neighbours had offered a welcome,
they took them in and gave them support.

They didn't ask questions or erect any barriers,
they offered shelter without any retort.

They held out heartfelt support to all,
for those that needed a safe place to stay.
They didn't ask for any visa applications
they just offered help without any delay.

But, our Government was not quite as good
as its people within our land far and wide.
People offered support and even their homes
to all needing a place to stay and come inside.

The visas are now seen as a barrier
to those desperate to find a safe place.
They don't need endless pieces of paper,
they need a welcome and a friendly face.

A safe place is needed to those arriving here
to escape from the guns and the bombs.
It may be just for a short time but no one really knows
when it will end, well, we'll just see how it goes.

Heartfelt support is being offered to all
as I think that we all truly can see
that the scenes we see on our screens today
could tomorrow feature us all, you and me.

14th March 2022

The Brave and the Bullies

The Russian army came in one morning
without giving a warning to anyone there.
They were acting on orders from a bully
whose actions were beyond compare.
Whatever his actual reasons were
they seemed irrational to us all.
For one country to make a push forward
in order to make another one fall.
Some in Russia may think him a hero
but they have been fed lie after lie.
The rest of the world can see what he is,
'a bully' wanting a bigger piece of the pie.
His army that is supposedly being welcomed in
has got a surprise from those that they face.
The brave Ukrainian people have shown all
that they defend with might and with grace.
The leaders may be close with borders
but they are different as chalk from cheese.
The bully boy leads with power and with fear
but the hero leads his brave people with ease.
We are sending our love and our hopes out
to those bravely standing up for their rights
and send prayers that the bullies will leave
so that the brave, have a future that's bright.

20th March 2022

2 Years On

It is two years since our first lockdown
but we still have much further to go
Although we appear to be winning
the new statistics are telling us NO.
The numbers of people with covid
are now higher than ever before
and although less people are dying
the figures get more and more.

Fewer people are now wearing masks
and fewer people are now taking tests.
More people are going out and about
and seem to be caring less and less.
They say we need 'herd immunity'
and they say it will be better for us.
But do 'they' really know what they're doing
and is it all us just making a fuss?

I am not convinced by their actions
and I'm not convinced by their words.
So, I will stay in my mask in some places
and will keep my distance from nerds.
Perhaps in another year's time
we will wonder at all we've been through
But for now, I will keep to my routine
of keeping safe for me and for you.

23rd March 2022

Celebrating life

Two years after losing a dear friend
we have got a new date to keep.
We will be celebrating his life at last
and will no doubt have a good weep.

There'll be time for lots of remembering
and I'm sure lots of happy times to recall.
There'll be plenty of laughs along the way
and I'm sure we'll have quite a ball.

But, although it will be good once again
to get together as old friends often do,
the meeting will be tinged with much sadness
as we will all be there but, not with you.

We'll remember your voice and also your face.
We'll remember your laugh and the jokes.
We'll remember all that you meant to us
as being one of the best ever blokes.

31st March 2022

(On been given the date in September 2022 of a memorial service for a friend whose funeral was on 23rd March 2020 as we started the first lockdown and nobody could attend it)

Heating or Eating

They are blaming the rise in prices
on Brexit and the war in Ukraine
but I feel that it is just bad planning
from the Government once again.

When people at the top of the chain
need to order a bottle less of 'Bolly'
while those at the bottom of the chain
will have considerably less lolly.

They will have to decide on major things
like whether to be warm or to eat
or whether to put clothes on their backs
and shoes on their children's feet.

The media are referring to heating or eating
and I do wonder if that will come around
and so I hope that those at the top of the chain
will give a hand to those who are down.

2nd April 2022

Sorry is not enough

Sorry is not enough.

Sorry just doesn't cut it.

They say that they are sorry
but they don't really mean it.

They are sorry that they got caught out
but they are not sorry that others couldn't meet
and not sorry that we couldn't say goodbye to loved ones.

They were not sorry as they partied while we grieved.

They were not sorry that we were in lockdown.

People are sorry that they trusted them.

No more superficial "I'm sorry" now.

Sorry is not enough on this occasion

Some are sorry they voted them in.

Sorry is not enough this time.

Saying sorry will not wash.

Sorry just doesn't cut it.

Sorry, it's time to go.

13th April 2022

(On hearing the news that Boris and Rishi were both fined for attending 'events' and 'parties' during lockdown and just said 'sorry'!

Haiku

A beautiful light
starts to fade from in our lives
but her words live on.

24th April 2022 (on hearing that a friend and wonderful poet has not long to live)

The Grand Old Duke of York

Oh, the grand old Duke of York

He's had ten thousand yen.

He chose to pay, not go to court

now he's out of luck again.

For when he was up, he was up

and when he was down, he was down

and now he is neither up nor down

but he always wears a frown.

Oh, the grand old Duke of York

He's let his family down

He's lied so much, never ceased to touch

and so, he's left without a crown.

For when he was good, he was good

and when he was bad, he was bad,

and now that he's neither good or bad

he is neither sad nor glad.

Oh, the grand old Duke of York

a Freeman he was given

but now he's misbehaved too much

from York he has been driven

For Freeman should be honourable

and worthy of such a prize

and this Duke didn't really give a damn

and was neither good nor wise!

27th April 2022 (City of York Council voted to
remove the Freeman of the City from Andrew Windsor.)

A war within a war

The war we have seen on our screens
seems to be taking a different turn.

Those countries who have helped Ukraine
it seems it is their turn to feel the burn.

Putin is sending out missiles from his ships
and also threats from out of his mouth.
He is challenging the rest of the west
and he has some support from the south.

These words are warning other countries
to stay out of his way and not interfere.
But I doubt that others will comply easily
so those threats now put the world in fear.

Will the actions of one man against a country
that were his friends and neighbours next door,
now put the peace of the whole world in jeopardy
and move us a step closer to the third world war?

Is there nothing that can be done to stop this
and to curb the actions of one insane man?
Surely someone can come up with a solution
that saves us from a such a fate – surely we can!

29th April 2022

Coping with changes

It is going to be a testing time ahead for us all
as we begin to cope with all the changes
that we need to be accepting of in order
to start our lives again and face the future.
I wonder if it will be testing for everyone though
or will it just be difficult for those same folks
whose lives have always been so hard?

We are adjusting to a life without masks
and a life without testing for viruses,
without constraints being placed upon us
or restrictions in place for to adhere to.
There will be some who are fearful
of returning to life as they knew it
because they no longer feel safe.

But there will be others who have
found a new courage to do things
that they rarely did before and they
never even thought that they would
be able to do at one time in their life.
Those fears may now be behind them
as they prepare to face things anew.

But life will never be the same again
for any of us and we all have to face
changes of one sort or another if
we are to survive and move forward.

Some of us have lost family or friends,
some have lost jobs or their homes
and some fear that they cannot go on.

Some have even lost their country
as they fled to safety in places new.

Many want to return but may not
have a home to return to any longer
and so, they need courage to start
again wherever they choose to be.

There will be so many changes ahead
for us all to cope with as we face a future
that will be different for all of us.

We will need to be gentle with each other
and especially with ourselves as we adjust
to life after a pandemic, life after a war,
life in a future that we will create for us all.

30th April 2022

'Tractorgate' Haiku

He searched for tractors
and found another site but
not what he typed in!

1st May 2022

May 4th Haiku

May the fourth is here
and with it comes the fourth force
to strengthen us all.

4th May 2022

To poll or not to poll

Much of country has gone to the polls
but what will the results show?
Will they have sent a message out
to say that it is time for some to go?

Or will people have stayed at home
and not bothered to go to vote?
Were they scared to make their cross,
and wary of rocking the boat?

Many folks vote as they always have
and never bother reading a pledge.
They prefer to stay with 'their party'
and dare not step off the ledge!

If only some would venture forth into
unchartered waters and test out things anew
by trying another 'party' for once
to make a different future for you.

The polls won't be counted straight away
and so, I wonder what the results will bring?
I am sure that whatever they finally are
they'll make some folks sob and others sing!

6th May 2022

The Hole

I wonder how many other folks
feel the same as I do when
each year the anniversary of losing
someone dear to you comes around
and you notice that the hole they
left within your heart is still there.

I thought it may get easier as time
went on but it seems that the years
are not such a great a healer as
they are supposed to be in some cases
as the smallest thing can trigger a
memory that reminds you of that hole.

Whether it is one year, twenty-one years
or even sixty-one years ago that
the beloved person left you, those years
seem to merge into one long period of time
but it will just take one small memory and
that hole will still be there to open again.

It is how we manage that hole that will
make the difference to us all and to the
future without that person in it and how
we deal with the loss that creates the path
of our life without them in it but by filling
that hole with love, it makes it a little easier.

19th May 2022

Courage

For those who have been shielding
throughout these strange times,
it is going to take a lot of courage
for them now to live their life once again.

They are wary of coming out from home
and fearful of mixing with others
who they do not really know,
and who may still be a threat to them.

The fear comes not really from people
but from the virus that still lurks
waiting to prey on any weakness
and passed on by an unsuspecting friend.

It will take an immense amount of courage
for these people to start to venture
out again as they used to do
and regain the life that they had before.

May we all be patient and give guidance
to our fearful friends and family
in this small group of people
who need us to offer love and support.

20th May 2022

Life goes on

In the midst of all that goes on around
it is so wonderful when new life emerges
and we see life continuing despite all that
occurs as it reminds us that life goes on.

There are troubles and there is strife
there is illness and there is death but
when there is a birth of any kind
it just reminds us that life goes on.

It can be the new growth we see in nature
as the green leaves return to trees and
flowers are in meadows and baby birds in nests
and it just reminds us that life goes on.

But there is nothing more precious than
when we see the birth of a new baby
to the daughter of a friend no longer with us
and it just reminds us that life goes on.

25th May 2022

Do as I say, not as I do

The long-awaited report is out
and now we all know how mad
those at No 10 had partied
while we endured times so sad.

It seems that rules were broken
and guidelines were ignored
and those at the top kept partying
while we stayed home quite bored.

They also made life quite difficult
for those who attempted to clean
and criticised those who questioned
and shouted at anyone who'd seen.

It is a clear case of abuse now
in many more ways than just one
as it is a case of do as I say now
not do as I do by the 'also ran'.

The rules for those at the top, it seems
are different from those down below
and we must stay in our place right at
the bottom and good times just forgo.

It seems also that once they break rules
they are not worried any longer

as all they do is re-write those rules
and think that this makes them stronger.

So, it is clear now for us all to see that
when you want to break the rules
and have more fun than those around you,
re-write them and treat others like fools.

26th May 2022

Time to change

'Times, they are a changing'

or so the old song goes

and where we are going to

nobody actually knows.

As we come out of a crisis

are we heading for another one?

How will we weather this storm,

and how will we be when it's done?

Should we return to the old ways

of grandparents a long time ago,

by 'making do and mending' things

and being more frugal, don't you know?

The old folks managed perfectly well

and they didn't waste everything too.

So, perhaps that is the way forward

for all of us to be cautious and make do.

To walk lightly upon this earth and

not judge those whose lives are hard

but put yourself into their shoes and

for those who are weak, be their guard.

Buy more produce that is local to

help our farmers make ends meet.

It helps reduce the airmiles and

the carbon footprint of our feet.

It's now quite fashionable to recycle

and to wear more vintage gear.

There are so many people doing it

that you needn't have any fear.

We have learned a valuable lesson from
this pandemic we've all come through.

We showed we cared about others and
shared with others what we knew.

We are all accountable for our actions
and responsible for all we do.

It does make sense to care for all
and make a future for me and for you.

31st May 2022

Jubilee Celebrations

Whether a royalist or not it is worth celebrating
anyone spending 70 years in the same job
despite the antics of those around them
and weathering the changes that there have been.

I will be celebrating all sorts of things over
the platinum jubilee weekend with friends
and family and remembering all those no longer
with us but who celebrated with us in the past.

At the coronation, I had a day of partying
but at bedtime I cried, and all because the
Queen hadn't come to her party that we held.

It seems that she was a bit busy elsewhere
and so, I went to sleep forgiving her but secretly
hoping that she would be there when I woke.

I know she won't be at any parties I go to
this time but I will celebrate her long life,
forgive any mistakes she has made and
know that a jubilee like this will probably never
take place again in the same way, not for me anyway.

Changes will take place for the royals also
but probably not quite as drastic as the ones
that are likely to happen for the rest of us.

2nd June 2022

(An extra poem to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11 which gave everyone a chance to celebrate and come together with family, friends, neighbours and whole communities for the first time since March 2020 at the start of the pandemic)