

ODE TO DOCTOR BURKE

Oh Doctor Burke, can you help me please
I'm having some pain in my knee.
Ee, cocker, I'm sorry I can't do that
But I do have a PhD

She's worked so hard, has our Maria
To achieve this incredible feat.
And with the boiler at home always firing
She has really been feeling the heat.

She's been very well travelled while doing her work
To Budapest, Russia and Poland.
But I've also been journeying far and wide
As far as the Forest of Bowland.

She's written a book for the students,
If they read it they are all sure to pass. But
I know that when I was a student,
I had trouble in getting off my backside.

She plays violin, says "crikey" a lot,
And generally acts rather quirky.
But it's an achievement par excellence
And we're proud of our own Doctor Burkey.

ODE TO ERIC

You've attained your own half century,
That's really quite a feat,
And as a gift we'll pay for you,
To see a sporting treat.

We'll pay for you to go to see,
A match of some import,
But you can choose which one it is,
So give it lots of thought.

Do you think we should pay for you to see,
Argyle versus Wigan Athletic,
And hope the boys in green are good,
And the pie eaters are pathetic?

Or would you prefer to see the Saints,
Play at wonderful Knowsley Road? They
play such a special brand of rugby That
no one could ever be bored.

YOU DECIDE!!!

BON APPETIT

YOU RECALL HOW YOU SPENT YOUR LAST BIRTHDAY
UP IN CUMBRIA WITH YOUR FRIEND LYNN.
OR WERE YOU BOTH REALLY IN WESTMORLAND?
MESSING WITH BORDERS IS TRULY A SIN.

WHATEVER - YOU WENT TO A KITCHEN
TO GO COOKING WITH A LADY CALLED LUCY.
IT'S A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE ALL SORTS OF MEALS
THAT ARE WHOLESOME, TASTY AND JUICY.

AND WHEN YOU RETURNED, YOU TOLD EVERYONE
IT HAD BEEN SUCH A WONDERFUL DAY.
I SAID, "DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GO BACK SOME TIME?" AND
YOU REPLIED, "WITHOUT A DOUBT, COME WHAT MAY."

SO, THIS CHRISTMAS, AS PART OF YOUR PRESENT,
I'M MAKING THIS OFFER TO YOU.
IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO LUCY'S
THEN THIS IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO.

IT'S AN EXCELLENT DAY, BUT I KNOW IT'S NOT CHEAP
SO I'D REALLY LIKE TO HELP YOU TO PAY.
I INTEND TO CONTRIBUTE £30
TO SPEED YOU ON YOUR WAY.

DO YOU FANCY GOING?

GOOD, GOOD, GOOD, GOOD VIBRATIONS (with thanks to the Beach Boys)

I KNOW THAT YOU LIKE THE MUSIC
OF THE PEOPLE AT PUTAMAYO.
BUT IF I WANTED TO BUY YOU SOME THEN I
WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO.

IF YOU SAID TO ME, "LET'S GO GO, JO JO,"
AND WE SET OFF TO GO INTO TOWN.
I DON'T THINK WE'D FIND IT IN BOLTON
AND WE MIGHT WELL COME BACK FEELING DOWN.

BUT WAIT! I KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND IT
IT'S IN A TOWN THAT WE REALLY BOTH LIKE WHICH
SITS ON THE SHORE OF A LOVELY BIG LAKE AND IS
O'ERLOOKED BY GRIZEDALE PIKE.

SO I THINK WE SHOULD GO UP TO KESWICK
AND THERE I'LL BUY YOU A C.D.
AND IF THAT MAKES US HUNGRY AND THIRSTY
WE CAN LATER ADJOURN FOR SOME TEA.

CHOOSE A DATE!

ODE TO NEW YEAR

I've been asked to make up a short poem
But I'm finding it quite hard to think.
You see, we were out with some friends yesterday
And I must have had quite a bit to drink

Still, at least I don't have a hangover
And I think that if I take it steady
With a little thought here and a little scribble there
We should have a poem that's ready.

And here it is, read by our Jojo
In an accent exceedingly broad.
In fact, it's the road as she always speaks
Like when she says, "It's tha servant 'ere, Lord"

So here we stand right on the threshold Of
an exciting and wonderful year
We should all march on with confidence
And certainly with no trace of fear.

Margaret has a new home in the capital
Of our excellent County Palatine
With spacious rooms that are very very square
It's a residence that will do her just fine.

J and B are again off to Ireland
Let's hope the journey's not too rough.
When they get there they'll have some grand summer days
And maybe Brian will spend time in Muff

He'll also be selling his paintings
They're all very fine works of art.
I think that they'll brighten up many a room
And make houses all over look smart.

Sister Sheila will be out and about again
Socialising, ballroom dancing and walking.
A little bit quieter than some of the Burkes
On the dance floor it's her feet that do the talking.

Pete's leaving Kleeneze alone for a while To
concentrate on writing the book.
So when "Bowling Out" hits the bookshops
Might you just feel like taking a look?

And Jojo's the queen of the therapists
Helping folk out when life could be brighter.
May those with their problems come here in droves
And they'll soon find their burdens are lighter.

So here's to us all as we move on apace
Here's a toast to us: "All the very best."
And with our wonderful friends and our families
We know we've already been blessed.

ODE TO OUR LATEST GRADUATE

SHE SPENT FOUR GOOD YEARS DOWN IN NORWICH
IT REALLY IS A FINE CITY
SHE HAD LOTS OF FUN, BUT SHE STUDIED HARD TOO
AS THEY PILED ON THE WORK WITHOUT PITY

TABLETS FOR THIS, AND MEDICINES FOR THAT
COMPLEXITIES ON EVERY PAGE.
WITH SYMBOLS, LETTERS, NUMBERS AND ALL
THAT WOULD HAVE LEFT MOST OF US IN A RAGE

BUT HANNE, WELL SHE TOOK IT ALL IN HER STRIDE
BECAUSE SHE'S A REAL CLEVER GIRL.
SHE JUST KEPT HER COOL, AND SHE COPEWELL WITH STUFF
THAT WOULD PUT ALL OF US IN A WHIRL.

AT THE END OF IT ALL, SHE FINISHED IN STYLE
GRADUATION - WHAT A GREAT DAY!
IN HER GOWN AND HER HEADGEAR, "H" LOOKED REALLY GRAND
WE WERE SO PROUD - THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.

NOW SHE'S MOVED ON, FROM A CITY SO FINE
TO ANOTHER THAT'S EQUALLY GREAT.
WAS IT GOOD PLANNING WHICH SENT HER UP THERE?
OR WAS IT A KIND STROKE OF FATE?

EITHER WAY, I'M SURE THAT SHE'LL LOVE IT UP THERE
IN THE NORTH EAST, WHERE DAD HAD SUCH FUN.
AT WORK, REST AND PLAY, SHE'LL HAVE A GOOD TIME
HER SUCCESS STORY WILL RUN AND RUN.

ODE TO SHEPS: YOUNG DAVID HITS 50

I REMEMBER THE WEATHER WAS SHOCKING
ON THE DAY WE FIRST WENT OUT TO PLAY.
WE PLAYED WITH A BALL ON THE ICE AND THE SLUSH
ON THE MOST APTLY NAMED LINKWAY.

DAVE CAME IN, AND BOTH STUDS WERE SHOWING,
AS A TACKLE IT WAS REALLY TOO LATE.
AND I THOUGHT, "IF THAT'S HOW HE PLAYS FOOTBALL I
WON'T BE WANTING HIM AS A MATE."

BUT THEN, AS I GOT TO KNOW HIM
HE DIDN'T SEEM NEARLY AS BAD.
HE BECAME A GREAT PAL AS THE YEARS ROLLED ALONG A
THOROUGHLY GRAND SORT OF LAD.

IN WINTER, WITH JUMPERS FOR GOAL POSTS
WE'D GO ON THE FIELD WITH THE BALL
AND THEN, ON THE LONG DAYS OF SUMMER
STUMPS, BAT AND BALL CAME TO CALL.

IN SPARE TIME, AS A BREAK FROM THE TELE
WHEN DAVE WANTED A LITTLE BIT OF FUN
HE'D SHOW OFF HIS STARK MASOCHISM
PUT HIS TRAINERS ON, AND GO FOR A RUN.

HE'LL TELL YOU THE TALE OF HOW ONE WINTER'S DAY
HE LAPPED ME ON A RUN IN THE PARK.
HE ARRIVED BACK IN SCHOOL IN NO TIME
AND I MADE IT JUST BEFORE DARK.

WE'VE SPENT LOTS OF TIME WATCHING RUGBY
ON GROUNDS ALL OVER THE SHOP.
WE'RE LUCKY - WE FOLLOW A GOOD TEAM
WHICH USUALLY COMES OUT ON TOP.

BUT HE'S NOT JUST A SPECCY - HE'S PLAYED TOO
THE GAME WITH THE STRANGELY SHAPED BALL.
WHETHER THE REAL THING OR KICK AND CLAP RUGBY
DAVE NEVER GAVE LESS THAN HIS ALL.

HE WAS ALSO A WHIZZ AT INDOOR GAMES
AT "RISK" ALL MY TROOPS WOULD BE GONE.
AND WHO HAD ALL THE DOSH AT MONOPOLY?
YOUNG DAVID - HE WAS THE ONE.

AND HERE WE ARE, FORTY YEARS LATER
AND I'M STILL PROUD TO CALL HIM A FRIEND.
AND NOW, JUST BEFORE YOU START CRYING
I'LL BRING THIS SHORT DITTY TO AN END

ODE TO SUE PARRY

Oh Liverpool Sue, lovely Liverpool Sue
Why don't you behave just like other girls do?
Think someone else has said that before.

Ok, then, I'll make up my own rhyme
But I'm not sure that it will be that great
But it won't be as long as a Ken Dodd show So
on my account you shouldn't be home late

Sue's been a mainstay at mediation
And I've known her for ten years or more
People have come, and people have gone
But she's been constant, there right at the core

And when she's not helping solve problems
She can take the fresh air at her home
She can potter around in the garden
Or in the countryside nearby she can roam

She puts on her boots and she takes to her feet
She really does like a good walk
And because she's a Scouser and a lady
She's also not averse to a good talk

But she also likes to go a bit further
She's been down to Chile, you know
She went with some nuns, and they flew in a plane
In America it's about as far as you go

But closer to home she puts on a good do With
biscuits and coffee and tea
We all know what a good job she has done
So I hope you'll raise your glasses with me.....

CHEERS SUE - ALL THE BEST

By Pete Cropper, March 2007

FOR CHRISTMAS 2007

WE'RE SURE YOU RECALL THAT BACK IN JULY
WE ALL TOOK A TRIP TO CARTMEL.
AND EVEN THE WEATHER BEHAVED ITSELF
IN A SUMMER THAT OTHERWISE WAS HELL.

WE'RE THINKING NOW IN 2008
A JAUNT MIGHT BE WHAT YOU'D LIKE MOST.
BUT TO MAKE A NICE CHANGE FROM THE COUNTRY
HOW DO YOU FANCY A TRIP TO THE COAST?

WE'RE THINKING THAT LYTHAM, OUT ON THE FYLDE
MIGHT BE A GOOD PLACE TO GO.
I REMEMBER YOU TOOK ME THERE MANY YEARS AGO
WITH AN AUNT AND AN UNCLE IN TOW.

IT REALLY DOES HAVE EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED
TO ENJOY A PLEASANT DAY OUT.
THERE ARE SHOPS AND CAFES AND BRACING SEA AIR
WE'LL HAVE THE LATTER, OF THAT THERE'S NO DOUBT.

IN FACT, WE COULD MOVE ON TO BLACKPOOL
IT REALLY WOULDN'T BE OUT OF REACH.
WE COULD WALK DOWN THE PROM AND TAKE IN THE AIR
AND PERHAPS HAVE A STROLL ON THE BEACH.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHELANS? NOT
THE CLOWN FROM THE SAD J.J.B.
IT'S ONE OF THE BEST FISH AND CHIP CAFES
AND IT'S WHERE WE COULD ALL HAVE OUR TEA.

FOR THE AUNTIES' CHRISTMAS...

WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T NOW GET OUT AS MUCH
BECAUSE YOU HAVE JUST SOLD THE CAR
OF COURSE, THERE ARE TRIPS DOWN TO "COLOURS"
FOR THE FAB FOOD AND FINELY STOCKED BAR

BUT THERE'S A WHOLE WIDE WORLD OUTSIDE ST. HELENS
WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THE BOTH OF YOU
SO WE THOUGHT, AS A GOOD CHRISTMAS PRESENT,
WE'LL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE THAT'S MAYBE NEW.

WE PROPOSE TO TAKE YOU TO CARTMEL
WITH ITS PRIORY, CAFES AND SHOP.
AND IF WE CAN'T FIND ANY PORT THERE,
WE CAN DRINK COFFEE, HERBAL TEA OR MAYBE POP.

THE SHOP IN THE VILLAGE IS A GOOD PLACE
IT'S FULL OF GREAT FOOD OF EVERY SORT.
THERE'S LOVELY STUFF TO EAT AND NICE THINGS TO DRINK
I WONDER IF THEY SELL VINTAGE PORT?

WE'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU THERE SHOPPING
AND PROVIDE £10 FOR YOU TO SPEND.
AND WHEN YOUR BASKET IS SCRUMPTIOUSLY LOADED
WE KNOW OF A GREAT WAY TO END.

WE CAN ALL GO TO THE MALLARD TEA ROOM
TO ENJOY SOMETHING TO EAT AND TO DRINK. WE
HOPE THIS IDEA TAKES YOUR FANCY.
DO YOU WANT TO COME? WHAT DO YOU THINK?