



# *Poems*

Ken Cockburn | Michael Brown

Susan Humble | Elena Nicolson

Hilary Rae | Ella Robertson | Bertha Walker



Poems from  
Dunbar's Close Garden,  
April 2014.

Written in a workshop with  
**Ken Cockburn** as part of  
Artlink's **Let Loose**,  
a project exploring text in art.



*Trios*

low symmetrical hedges  
    grecian colonnades  
a plastic bag flaps in the branches

*Ken Cockburn*

brave spring flowers  
    face the cold grey sky  
searching for sun

*Hilary Rae*

*Trios*

ancient sediment  
    giant tulip tree  
blue skies

*Michael Brown*

it was cold and hazy  
    now hands around a cup of tea  
then homeward bound

*Bertha Walker*

Trios

planted patterns  
    walls protecting  
buds bursting out

*Susan Humble*

exotic orange  
    vision of Arabia  
to brighten dull weather

*Ella Robertson*

dark wet horrible  
    cold windy dry  
hopefully sunny, light and warm

*Elena Nicolson*





Haiku

April-grey morning  
hidden city garden  
a buddleia, high on the wall

*Ken Cockburn*

winter into spring  
trees in bud and daffodils  
grey sky and screaming gulls

*Hilary Rae*

Haiku

four centuries back  
a garden restored  
entropy back to symmetry

*Michael Brown*

a chilly noon  
hidden gardens with chirping birds  
but no bird sounds for me

*Bertha Walker*

Haiku

early spring  
in a hidden garden  
sirens signal the city

*Susan Humble*

misty midday  
an orchard  
birds sing before resting

*Ella Robertson*

noon  
budding plants  
people strolling around, cold

*Elena Nicolson*

Mesostics

**D**iscovered  
edin**U**rg  
a**N**ew  
**B**y  
pl**A**ying  
sc**R**abble  
**S**ymmetry

**C**reated  
e**L**izabethan  
**O**der  
e**S**teemed  
gard**E**n

*Michael Brown*

Mesostics

or **G**anised  
p **A**thways,  
t **R**immed  
he **D**ges,  
stone **E**  
be **N**ches

*Ken Cockburn*

t **H**yme  
ros **E**mary  
co **R**iander  
ver **B**ena  
ba **S**il

*Hilary Rae*

Old  
**B**eautiful  
gr **E**en  
**L**ean  
build **I**ng  
is **S**ues  
kir **K**

*Elena Nicolson*

s**H**arp

l**O**wer branches

c**L**assic

symbo**L** for

**Y**ule tide

s**T**raight or

**R**ounded

el**E**gant

evid**E**nce of

season **S**

*Ella Robertson*

her **B**s

m **A**de

prett **Y**

rio **T**ous

tend **R**ils

plant **E**d

square **E**

*Susan Humble*

Mesostics

S et  
b E hind  
reno V ated  
ten E ments  
& N oisy  
T wentieth  
c E ntury  
str E et,  
a garden N  
wi T h  
H erbs

Clipped  
y E ws  
a N d  
T he  
t U lip  
t R ee  
stor Y

*Bertha Walker*

*What is a tree?*

A life rooted to the ground  
branching out into  
fine furniture and fuel  
for the fire, and yet  
shade in the sun  
and playthings for  
boys to climb upon

*Michael Brown*



*What is a yew tree?*

A yew hedge is  
soft power  
a mutable wall  
a vertical recliner

*Ken Cockburn*

*What is a path?*

A place to stroll for people  
beautiful, noisy gravel  
trees, flowers, colours and smells

*Elena Nicolson*

*What is a garden?*

A path cut  
through chaos  
nature squared

*Susan Humble*

*What is a tree?*

A maze of branches  
a haven for birds  
a shelter for the rain

*Ella Robertson*

*What is calmness?*

Breathing deeply  
in a quiet garden  
surrounded by nature

its beautiful vistas  
its enveloping scents  
that calm the soul

my hands caressing  
my four legged friend  
sniffing inquisitive  
looking at me with  
loving, trusting eyes

*Bertha Walker*

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