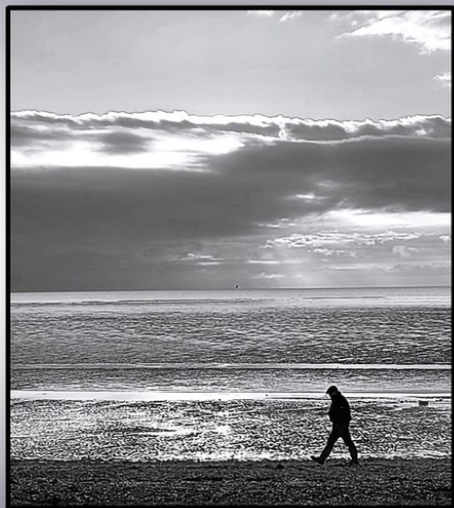


Imperfect Poets of the Third Age



Celebrating the 7-year anniversary of
The St Albans U3A Poetry Writing Group

Edited by John Steele and Helen Whitbread

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Who we are and why we have written this book

We are the Poetry Writing Group of The St Albans U3A, who first met in September 2015. We are from a variety of backgrounds and with varied experience of poetry writing. Each month we set titles, then meet to share and discuss our poems. It is a joy to see the very differing poems which result. Over the last seven years, each has developed a style and extended their knowledge of poetry. We decided to produce this book to celebrate our seven-year anniversary and to share some of the poems we have written. We hope you enjoy them.

Imperfect Poets of the Third Age

Erika Ricketts
Helen Whitbread
John Steele
Pam Hall
Pauline Swindells
Sandie Duke
Sue Parker

1 Words

A world of words
Spoken and written
A whirling galaxy of meanings
Each with their own leanings

January 2023

Some sizzle and shout
Go off like a rocket or damp squib
Make us laugh and cry
Some bold, some shy

Clever, complicated words
Magnify our understanding
Caring words, words that wound
Inexplicable, insatiable – all abound

Soft, sensuous words
Clasp hands around the globe
Miraculously woven in different tongues
Communication to each belongs

Words, wondrous and wilful
They stand or fall alone
Enjoy the mainstay of our interact
Cementing life's chosen pact