

Poetry Group February 2022 Report by Annie Clouston

We all reckoned on February being a bit of a drag (were we not right?) and so we decided to keep cheerful and continue to pursue the theme of comic verse. We were preparing ourselves for romance with Carol Ann Duffy's poem *Valentine* which starts romantically – even if an onion is proffered rather than a red rose, but the mood darkens as habit rather than passion prevails.

We delighted in Roger McGough who never fails to capture the quintessential absurdity of existence with great humorous verse – we read *Let me Die a Youngman's Death*, and *My Bus Conductor*.

Peter – who shows himself to be master of accents - brought along some splendid whimsy, commenting upon the first as a reflection on advancing years:

King David and King Solomon led merry, merry lives, with many, many lady friends
And many, many wives;
But when old age o'ertook them, with its many, many qualms,
King Solomon wrote Proverbs and King David wrote the Psalms.
(Dr James Ball Naylor, USA b 1860)

And this one, which has to be read aloud in a very exaggerated "Alo 'Alo accent, was given to him by Jerome, Abbot of Belmont, Hereford. If you get the accent right, you'll get the joke.

Un petit d'un petit s'étonne et vole;
Un petit d'un petit a degré t'affolle.

Our next group is given over to **Sonnets**. If you want to join us please contact me and I will send you the poetry file for the next group – second Wednesday 10am.