

## About this set of poems

These two poems were written in connection with National Poetry Day. They were created during sessions for English Literature and Museum Studies students from the University of Reading, as led by local poet Lesley Saunders. These particular pieces were in response to a textile wall-hanging from The MERL which features in *51 Voices*.

### *The view from the tapestry*

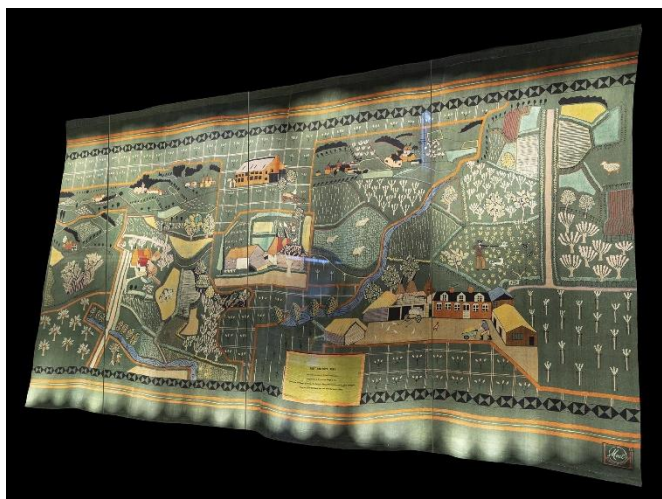
Rolling fields of green flow  
on the hill, beyond the meadow,  
a picturesque village site,  
one to bring an air of delight.

Patchwork quilt of shades of green,  
the place that must look pristine.  
Sheep and ducklings, here they dwell,  
Feeding and fattening on food where it fell.

Twilight marks an hour of hush,  
A slight, slight noise from in the bush.  
In this hour the owls play,  
Night long till the break of day.

Dawn is broken with a crash of noise,  
Like a small child whose lost their toys.  
No play, all work in this town,  
To keep the green rolling round.

*Shona Amer*  
*October 2021*



One of a set of Festival of Britain wall-hangings (MERL 63/18/-19)

# *Kent's Farm*

On the field toiling away  
Farmers and animals work alike  
Sharing a burden; yet still heavy.  
The sun blazes overhead

Turn yet to the crop-filled fields,  
Lonesome yet together,  
growth they strive towards,  
Yet the sun still blazes overhead.

Farmland gripping barrows full,  
Schlepping manure and other filth.  
Dirty then clean. Dirty then clean.  
It's repetitive. But hey! Work is work.  
The sun sees all blazing overhead.

Bang! Woof! Hunting nearby.  
Those pheasants are a menace,  
Glad they're gone and crops are left unmolested once more.  
The sun watches closely and blazes overhead.

Old creaky bones and sweat soaked skin  
Life is harsh but fair  
Look after the land and it will you  
Pleased the sun blazes overhead

When shifts end and animals return  
Plants stop lapping at sunlight like ravenous beasts  
Clean goes to dirty and people leave to clean themselves  
once more; home at last! What a long day, they'll say  
Satisfied the sun also ends it's shift halting it's overhead blaze.

*Leaf*  
*October 2021*



Detail of a Festival of Britain wall-hanging (MERL 63/18/-19)