



# Poets Corner

Pat Daly

The poems of Fergal Lenehan never shout, kick you in the teeth, explode in your face. Instead, for impact they rely on such qualities as understatement, quietude, the sense that you are eavesdropping on somebody's secret thoughts without having to feel guilty about taking such a liberty. Even though Fergal is still a young man he is one of a small coterie who will soon be entitled to long-service medals in recognition of their interest in, and continuing efforts on behalf of, our poetry feature.

## *This Place is Me* by Fergal Lenehan

This place is me;  
My home and family,  
The road where I cycled to school,  
My thoughts full of football,  
Silly girls, being cool.

The kitchen table's where we sought  
To fill ourselves with food and chat,  
And where, of course, we sometimes fought.

The garden's where we pucked a ball,  
Hurls in hand: goalkeeper, out-field,  
Goal posts and all.

Now, as we sit on the sofa  
With my parents, drinking tea,  
I realise you're steadily, easily,  
Becoming part of me.

## *Social Comment*

*by Charlie Gaule*

*They say there are nine million bicycles in Beijing.  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns.  
They'll be needed for all the tribunals that are on stream;  
It's important to be represented by a good legal team.*

*Tribunals became popular because of Larry Goodman's beef,  
And barristers made a fortune with this brief.  
'Moriarty' was for planning, politicians and town hall,  
'Morris' was for discos and the guards in Donegal.  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns.*

*The bible tells us that greed is a sin,  
But that's not according to the boys from King's Inns.  
If you had a bicycle puncture repair shop in Beijing,  
You wouldn't make half as much money  
As the barristers from King's Inns.  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns.*

*Vincent Browne claimed King's Inns training was a joke;  
I never yet met a barrister who is broke.  
Out in Dundrum you'll find the National Mint,  
Up in the law library you'll find the National Print.  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns.*

*Tribunals now last longer than soap operas;  
Barristers are better known than sport stars.  
Could we have a tribunal to find out what happened to Shergar  
Or Rin Tin Tin?  
Another little earner for the boys from King's Inns.  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns.*

*You know what's coming next - Everybody sing,  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns,  
There must be half-a-million trainee barristers in King's Inns;  
So raise your glasses for the boys from King's Inns.*

*Traditionally, one of the functions of a poet was to observe life as it went on around him in his area of activity and to comment, subsequently, in verse form. Since many of the old poets had a jaundiced eye the lines which eventually emerged, as a result of the observations, would frequently be quite caustic. Those at the receiving end of the bard's wit may not have been best pleased. Many of the poems which have come down to us through the centuries which have a sharp, critical quality, are now among the most highly-regarded works in the Irish poetry canon.*

*The work of Charlie Gaule, who made his Poet's Corner debut a few issues ago, has that little streak of mordancy which is most appealing. Regrettably, we do not see enough of it. In the Garda dayrooms, that we recall, there was no shortage of sharp social comment based on observations. Perhaps that is no longer the case: If so, more's the pity.*