

WPS Garden Party 25 July, 2021

This summer's Poetry Garden Party was held by kind invitation of Val and Chris Morrison in their elegant house and colourful garden in Marryat Road. The sun shone and then it rained lightly so we moved from the garden to the house where 32 people including three new members were socially distanced for the readings.

The fine booklet programme *Change and Perception* had been compiled by Roland Rogers and circulated free to all members beforehand, delivered by Roland and Val. Ewa Cobham gave a lucid introduction to *The Haiku* and then read her own haikus and some by Basho. The haikus were given a meditative elevated atmosphere by the temple bell and bowl played beautifully by Fiona Rogers.

Roland Rogers read his *Seven Stages of Man* haikus and poems by John Donne and Charles Causley and his own fable *The Ever-changing Way*. All three poets read haikus by Basho, Issa, Buson and Shiki, with the evocative sounds.

Ann Vaughan-Williams read a poem on her transition from Africa to England and one on the impact of her father's death; and she read Keats' *Ode to Autumn* as it is the 200 anniversary of the poet's death.

Wine and delicate sandwiches were served by Val.

Ed our Chairman introduced and linked the readings in lively manner and Val and Roland were presented with a bottle of champagne each in token appreciation of all their hard work and generosity.

There were welcome contributions of poems from the audience, including John Jones with a translation in Welsh, and Ed read from Veronika Marsh's new poetry collection *A Touchable Blue* which guests were invited to help themselves to freely. Ann's *The Lines We Trace* was also available free on this occasion.

It was a most uplifting and enjoyable event.

Ann Vaughan-Williams