

## **Poems from Shops**

An endearing habit of Ed's was to write a poem for a favourite shop or café, and present a copy to the owner or manager

Many of the poems here were highlighted in the trail leaflet Ed published in 2023 '*A Poetic Path to Comfortable Places and Interesting People around East Cambridge (mainly!)*'

**With many thanks to Shapour Mefta of Cantab Millennium who printed most of Ed's work**

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### **The Box Café 47 Norfolk Street.**

**"A Bijou Package"**

**'The Box' has been there a while  
Always giving service with a smile,  
Italian, British and Turkish,  
All their tastes daily made fresh.**

**Good honest management,  
Food truly wholesome,  
Fortitude well meant,  
Dark days of Covid overcome!**

**Now another battle,  
Planning issues to settle,  
Pressure brought to bear  
Bringing good tidings to hear.**

**There's been a reprieve  
The Council's relented,  
For a time they will leave  
This Community Place respected.**

**As they go forward,  
Ozy and Fatma will gain reward,  
Such passion can win the fight,  
And keep them always at this same site.**

**E.L.J.  
(Ed Lloyd Jenkins)  
(20/01/23)**

**The Old Norfolk St Bakery, 89 Norfolk Street, CB1 2LD**

**(Adelia Frazao: A Baker like no Other)**

**Lady extraordinaire,  
ADELIA is amazing,  
Her baking has such flare,  
Done always with love and care.**

**Unusual breads with artisan touch  
Pastries everyone likes so much  
Special cakes for any celebration,  
Unique designs to suit the occasion.**

**Always experimenting with something new,  
Many tasty combinations accrue,  
Something different almost every day  
Customers enjoying the wondrous display.**

**Aromas overwhelming,  
Gastric juices flowing.  
Mouths watering.  
People smiling.**

**Cambridge is so fortunate  
That this lady came to stay,  
Her presence has been so great.  
She'll never leave we hope and pray.**

**Ed Lloyd Jenkins (22/07/23)**

**Norfolk St. Bakery & Cafè**  
**(Station Road)**

No need to travel there by sea,  
Needless to go there even by air,  
Portugal surrounds me,  
Famous tram-yellow showing flair.

Yes Lisbon is all around,  
Scenes with those trams abound.  
And that pleasant aroma!  
From fresh baked 'Pasta de Norta'.

Counter brimming with such array,  
Savouries lining many a tray,  
Combo fillings from warmer climes,  
Reminders for many of happy times.

There's Green or White tea by the pot,  
While sampling their Danish Apricot.  
Then journey home with a 'Celebration' Cake,  
Just to try another unique taste.

Rustic rolls Med. Style,  
Artisan breads to bring on a smile,  
All baked with such ease  
By Adilia's expertise.

Such laughter and happiness  
With no signs of stress,  
Faces are cheerful,  
Led by Natalina Marques.

And they have another store,  
Read the name above the door,  
Yes, as the words suggest,  
It's in Norfolk Street,  
You might have guessed!

Ed Jenkins (16/07/22)



**"HN (GWYDIR)"  
Hot Numbers. Unit 6 Dales Brewery Gwydir Street**

**The first in the 'Family'  
Now one of three,  
Developing nicely  
In City and country.**

**Great coffee and smiling Baristas  
Have helped see it through,  
More than a decade has gone  
Even though many faces have moved on.**

**Covid was outfought,  
HN's never fraught,  
Closure treated with respect,  
Restrictions considered a little circumspect.**

**Live Jazz is back  
As though never away,  
Rich notes and chords,  
To help forget the day.**

**People all round approve,  
This well-run business uplifts and does good,  
Now considered 'well in the groove',  
A 'jewel' in the neighbourhood.**

**Ed Jenkins (30/06/22)**



**HN (Trumpington St)  
(Hot Numbers. 4 Trumpington Street,)**

**One of a pair in town,  
Now with unique flavour  
Many students come to savour,  
So well known to 'Cap and Gown'.**

**Once 'Martin' ran the place  
Famous for his early morning grace,  
Many lecture notes were read  
By tutors not long out of bed!**

**Small furnishing made to fit,  
Tiny cubicles in which to sit,  
Limited space 'tween table and seat  
Made it difficult to eat!**

**Bacon, beans, egg and toast  
Were ordered the most,  
Those eggs were always 'Sunny Side Up'  
Served with steaming tea by the cup.**

**It's now much easier to sit at leisure,  
Everything less made to measure,  
Many blends of coffee to taste,  
Interesting food to sample without haste.**

**And that covered open space is sublime  
Ideal to ponder and spend time,  
Yes 'Hot Numbers' is the trend  
With variety to cheer and mend.**

**Ed Jenkins (28/03/23)**

**"Shopping with Understanding"**

**For Shapour Mefta**

**Cantab Millenium 95 Mill Road**

**S.M. is a man of flair,  
He's a fault-finder extraordinaire,  
Not with people, I hasten to add,  
But with laptop and i-pad.**

**With people he's a charmer,  
Quietly spoken with a smile,  
No one could be warmer,  
If possible he'll go that extra mile.**

**"What's the problem?" he usually says,  
"To fix it may take days,  
Miracles take a little longer,  
But leave it and call back later".**

**When they do, many are amazed  
With His ability to trouble-shoot,  
They stand there with eyes glazed,  
Wondering how it comes about!**

**Often charging very little,  
Accepting just a smile to settle,  
Computer users content once more  
As they trip happily from the store.**

**He was a Cambridge Councillor,  
And one day may be yet again.  
Local people come and go non-stop,  
His store's become a talking-shop.**

**Surely his few sins will be forgiven,  
And his Soul enter Heaven,  
When he breathes his last,  
Rewarded for all good things past.**

**Ed Jenkins (01/08/22)**

**Greg's Elegy**  
**Greggs Cycles 186 Mill Road**

**I'm here everyday  
To make it pay  
I need earn a crust,  
So sit here I must.**

**My wrists are so sore.  
I can bend them no more,  
They're in metal struts,  
I struggle to adjust.**

**Oiling chains and gears  
To allay my fears,  
Adjusting brakes,  
I'll do what it takes.**

**To get help costs a lot  
Insurance and risk too much  
Employees must be reliable.  
As the business is liable.**

**Should accidents occur  
To customers out there  
My reputation's at stake.  
For the business's sake.**

**So I shall work on alone  
Until my tendons have healed  
I will try to atone,  
And hope my fate isn't sealed.**



**EJ 17/10/20**

**A Road in Trouble**  
**Greggs Cycles 186 Mill Road**

**Now 'A mess of Pottage'  
Springs to mind.  
When thoughts turn to Mill Road  
And its peoples of all kinds.**

**Ruts and potholes  
Along the way,  
Falling into one of these  
Will surely make you pay!**

**Those quiet bikes and scooters  
With loose slabs where we walk,  
But do not step aside, there  
A van or car will make you baulk**

**Unpleasant fumes and anxious people.  
Hardly a place to spend time,  
Until with its problems we grapple.  
And rescue with 'A safety line'**

**EJ 08.04.22**



**"THE Barber"**

**7 Broadway Mill Road**

**Joe has been a barber  
From his very early days,  
First shearing travelling folk  
Across the worldwide waves.**

**He visited places far and near,  
Living in luxury aboard,  
And there he met his life long partner,  
Diane, who he adored.**

**Then he settled and came ashore,  
His sailor life to be no more,  
He's been in Romsey almost ever since,  
Cutting, snipping with the occasional rinse.**

**His skills lay deep,  
Four generations before him,  
Passed from father to son,  
And now with Tom,  
Who's a barber in Histon**

**Appearing here in '87, 35 years ago,  
I was one of the first to enter his door,  
Past my prime and old before my time,  
He treated my scalp with a massage sublime.**

**Assistants have joined him through the years  
Including his son who he holds very dear,  
But the one that stayed the course  
Is lovely Melissa who I endorse.**

**They have an understanding,  
A business partnership strong and true,  
Built through good and bad years past,  
Giving us service unsurpassed.**

**Dr Edward Lloyd Jenkins (02/09/22)**

**"Antiques With A New Chemistry"**

**The Old Chemist Shop Antiques Centre 206 Mill Road**

**Such a collection everywhere,  
Furniture of course, with China, even Spats!  
With a Skeleton and a Witch's Hat!**

**Now there's a chair of mobile design,  
Used by the Owners, no longer in their prime,  
Mel recovering from new piping installed,  
Tansy's bones mending after being floored.**

**Their window displays were always unique,  
Not necessarily with items antique,  
So the next one might now be  
Tansy and Mel with a Bath-chair for company!**

**Ed Jenkins (02/08/22)**

**"Romsey's Perfect Professional"**  
**Romsey Town Post Office. 240 Mill Road**

**The Post Office is always there  
For people from far and near,  
Through bad times and good,  
A Centre for the neighbourhood.**

**Doors open through the Pandemic,  
Respect for us all with good cheer,  
Bravely stalwart and stoic,  
Never showing any fear.**

**A Post Master beyond compare,  
A personality very rare,  
With letters and parcels small and large,  
Dadhiram's definitely in charge.  
Yes D.C. will always know  
The best way for them to go.**

**And there's Stationery wide ranging,  
Presented with smiles and greeting.  
Also Banking too,  
Keeping money safe for me and you.**

**A lovely Family in Romsey Town  
Keeping sanity in these times so sore,  
Above the concept of 'cap and gown'  
By Grace of God, here for us to share.**

**Ed Jenkins (18/08/22)**

**"All Things Relevant"**

**Relevant Records 260 Mill Road**

**Pleasant faces always to find,  
With ANGIE firm but ever kind,  
On the counter lovely cakes,  
And pots of tea like Mum makes.**

**Eggs soft boiled to perfection,  
Toast 'Soldiers' to dip deeply,  
Golden yolks to spoon carefully,  
And "Veggie Mex" goodness tasting regularly.**

**Sitting at window inside,  
Even at a table outside,  
Sipping coffee watching M.R. unfold,  
People chatting, smiling, young and old.**

**There's ANDY's cellar Record Shop,  
Vinyl Collection second to none,  
Music to suit everyone,  
From Jazz to Hip Hop!**

**Sometimes Air Con nice and breezy,  
Wide tables, oakleaved and spacey,  
Sounds played that're cool and trendy,  
No other place quite as friendly.**

**Ed Jenkins (02/08/22)**

**"History in the making"**  
**{Today's Dutch's Corner}**

**Meadows Delicatessen 213 Mill Road**

**Gazpacho with Ceridigion,  
Rich cold soup with Welsh cheeses,  
Feeling much as a champion,  
This standard of fayre really pleases.**

**Good health products around,  
Pickles, ferments and wines abound,  
A neighbourhood deli giving cheer,  
For all of us to hold dear.**

**Many years ago we're told,  
Just home from 'The Battle',  
Frank (Dutch) Holland, who was so bold,  
Repaired motors and petrol here was sold.**

**Other businesses came and went,  
All thought Holland's interest was spent,  
But now they're again top drawer,  
Owning high spec apartments to the third floor.**

**And even further complemented,  
As a delightful deli's included,  
Both natural and organic,  
"Meadows" is truly biodynamic!**

**Ed Jenkins (02/08/23)**

**"The Cutting Edge".**

**I love a 'Small Edge',  
It's one I adore,  
But there's bigger and better,  
The Cafè itself is so much more.**

**The Staff are superb  
So calm and obliging,  
Caring about customers,  
And patients recovering.**

**On so many levels  
"The Edge" is an ingot,  
Overcoming many 'devils',  
Helping smooth out any 'knots'.**

**Timely 'challenges' to occupy  
Senses when they wander,  
Giving minds a chance  
To rebuild and bolster.**

**Yes this place has it all,  
It's one to savour and favour,  
An overriding 'safety line',  
In this era, in this time.**

**Ed Jenkins (06/07/22)**

**A Famous 'Pourer'.**

**The Copper Kettle, now The Agora, 4 Kings Parade**

**Almost a hundred years have elapsed  
Since 'Afternoon Tea' could not be surpassed, City and Town had rooms in which  
to pour,  
And surely the "Kardoma" would be evermore.**

**In that era "The Copper Kettle" stood out,  
A large metal sign with a curving spout,  
Known Worldwide as sharing a landmark  
Steeped in learning, an historical Marque.**

**There were then many rooms,  
Upstairs and down,  
Afternoon, and High Tea,  
Served to cap and gown.**

**Graduates and graduands  
Treated their families there,  
Nowhere else could compare  
Anywhere in the land.**

**As time progressed  
Multi-course meals became 'de rigueur',  
Roasts, veg and trimmings were the best,  
Certainly no chips with vinegar!**

**Nowadays it's one large room  
On the ground floor,  
Daily breakfast and brunch,  
With evening Meze and Med.food in store.**

**But the view hasn't faltered,  
And large windows look on,  
That landmark centrepiece hasn't gone,  
Kings' College and Chapel unaltered.**

**The great and good still visit,  
There are pictures to prove it,  
And students still come and go  
With their parents in tow.**

**It's now called "Agora"  
A meeting place no doubt,  
Still a spot to consider  
On a Cambridge walkabout.**

**Ed Jenkins (03/08/22)**

**"Libraries with a Difference"**  
**Espresso Library 210 East Road**

**A brace of espressos to savour,  
Each unique to taste,  
One a good place to compose,  
And even write some prose.**

**The other uniquely frescoed,  
'And God Created J.W.G.' !  
A ceiling made to measure,  
Even an armchair for leisure.**

**The first with lots of space,  
Cycles suspended above,  
Racing clobber, a hint of grace,  
Powerful lights in every alcove.**

**Second has shades of Sistine,  
Angelo's overhead,  
Expensively plated, splendour extreme,  
Though fortunately no golden coffee machine!**

**The two combine to give  
A Cambridge experience to see,  
No better place to live,  
And visit EL One, Two, and maybe Three..!**

**Ed Jenkins (08/07/22)**