

A View of Walsham

It's the coming upon the village of a sudden,
leaving the broad sweep of fields way behind
to find, down below, a well treed valley
where the course of the stream which has no name
gave succour and shelter to all those who came.

It's the trees which line the approach roads
a traveller's welcome 'neath an arcade of green
from veterans who have lived here for hundreds of years,
who have watched over villagers, seen their achievements
stood resolute beside them and lived with their fears.

It's the buildings we live in we particularly like,
each made individual over time and with love
stitched together informally, unique in our view,
adding colour and character wherever you are.

It's the views in and out of the village,
the views between buildings that so engage
inviting us to explore another world
linking our homes to the landscape beyond.

It's our footpaths, with some names medieval,
which give access to the environment around
where the walkers, hikers, the runners, bikers
seek the health giving space and fresh air.

It's the sense of community which holds us,
gives added focus to our lives
and where school, churches, pubs, shops or clubs
allow each to thrive and share common good.

Now, it's the future which concerns us;
how should the village grow, when and where?
Change not decay must be the order of the day
but nothing unbridled nor without our say.

Rob Barber