

My Garden

**Even in the darkest days
My garden gives me light
From bud to blossom creeping on
And banishing the night.**

**Despite the march of time and age
It is my secret treasure
Summer and winter both for me
Bring never ending pleasure.**

**From wall to wall and lawn to lawn
We both enjoy the view
And when we can, invite good friends
To share our pleasure too.**

September 2018

For Stella, with love from Sylvia

S e l f - A s s e s s m e n t

(or musings while filling up an income tax form following a spell in hospital).

Hector the Inspector is a very busy fellow,
Two years of self-assessment and he doesn't seem to mellow.

With bowler hat and thick moustache he tries to look so jolly,
Just you make one small mistake, he's prickly as the holly.

He pries into our income from sources long forgotten,
He'll cash in from some ill-timed sale however misbegotten.

So just sit down, get out the form, fill pages one to twelve,
There are penalties for porkies, deadlines you cannot shelve.

The form's complete, the cheque has gone, it's over now
to Hector,
He'll find some fault, you may be sure, our friendly tax
inspector.

So pause for thought while waiting for the year that starts
in April.
The whole of self should be assessed, to calculate our life's
bill.

There is no form, the paper's blank, the pages have no number,
There is no date, but time is tight to chart life's awesome
lumber.

Some day, some year, no law prescribes when we must give account,
Our deeds, our thoughts, our joys and fears, a staggering amount.

The talents used or wasted, the lives that we've affected,
Our kindness, greed, our love, our hate, our selfish ends
protected.

Who will ask and who assess, what's added or allowed
Some cosmic power, some God out there or verdict of the crowd.

Dante's purgatory, heaven or hell, or conscience's small voice,
Does our final reckoning mean we sorrow or rejoice.

So render true finances unto Hector the inspector,
And your account of life unto your chosen lie detector.

David Tyers

1999.

To Stella with grateful thanks for all the caring you
have given to us over Christmas and the New Year we hope
2019 will bring you every happiness and success With love
David.