

Forage

Have we forgotten all those lessons taught?
tales from ailing grandparents,
who lived through the war, who braved the Blitz,
suffering the hardships of rationing,
through rabbit pie and foraging.

Now we look on and see the new England,
incomers remind us of our bountiful land,
as it always has been, new face and races,
harvesting between the stones, augmenting their diet
through bramble jelly and foraging.

Spring arrives, the chefs are keen,
seeking culinary differentiation,
new flavours plucked from the living world,
wild Garlic, the Zeitgeist, green leaves first,
then white flowers picked while foraging.

The seasons change, the larder remains full,
nuts and berries, fronds and fungi,
but care is needed, a keen eye for safety,
poison lurks within the lush living carpet,
take a guide book while foraging.

And here, in our urban wilderness,
I bear witness to collectors,
reminding us of all that nature shares,
willingly renewing our ink to Gaia,
a way of life, through foraging.