## **Astronauts**

High among the diamond stars

A great ship is moving across the heavens

To my untutored eye its shape and purpose do not easily relate

And yet it is – a laboratory

a life-support system

a home

It gives shelter to men who are – scientists, explorers and pioneers

As they float along its corridors in their weightless dance

They measure and monitor

They record and relay

They prepare and predict

What they discover may benefit generations to come

What they are doing inspires us today

As I watch them from this small planet questions come

Do they still wonder at the beauty of the earth As they gaze upon it by day and by night?

Do they miss its colour and light in their dark and silent surroundings?

Do they wonder if they will breathe sweet earthly air again?

And which is the greater – their knowledge or their courage?

For both are key to their success

Their very survival depends on their work as a team A lesson for us, if we would only learn.