

View from a Window

They fringe the horizon
Like pearls on a rope:
HS2 lights...
The Brummies' 'Great Hope'.
Now the Midlands and North
Can be saved for The Nation!
Brought a few minutes closer
To Civilization!

Like prodigal sons
Their return we shall toast
From King's Cross to Euston
And along The West Coast.
With bunting and fanfare
The headlines will roar
'How in God's name
Did we manage before?'

And the planners assure us
That the birds and the bees
The badgers and foxes
And stands of old trees
The meadows and hedgerows
And all things alive
Because of rewilding
Will recover and thrive.

But...

Will the gain of the train

When weighed against cost

Lie light on the conscience

And all that we've lost?

Or after due thought

And sober reflection

Is it time we re-think

This dubious connection?