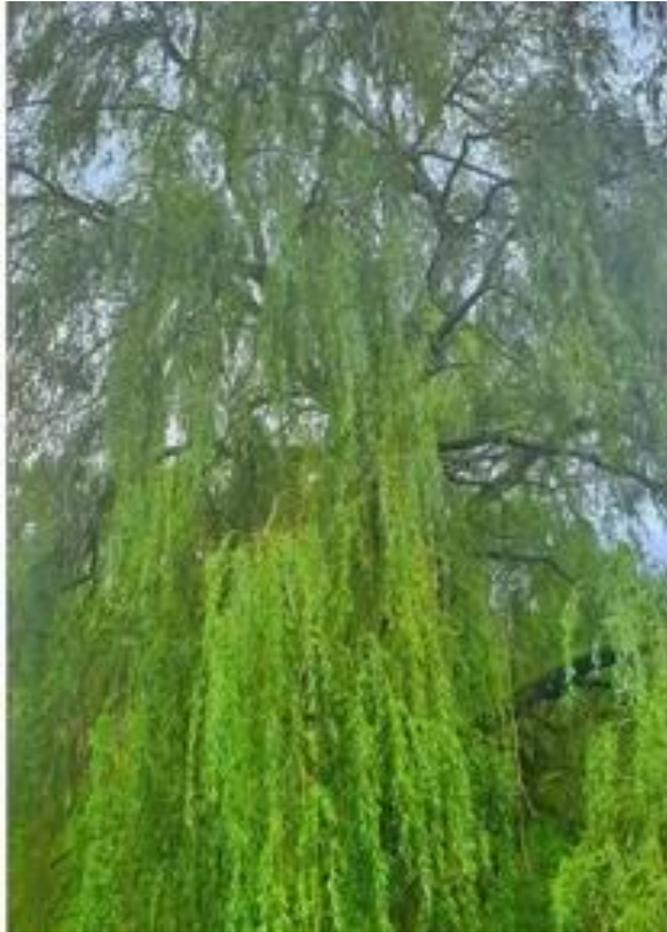


WHY WILLOW WEEPS

By Louise Welland



**The willow weeps his tears of pain
He stands once more alone again
The wind that beats across his boughs
Reminding him of broken vows**

**The promise of a future bright
Is veiled, and hidden now from sight
The love that was, is now no more
His branches flail, and sweep the floor**

**The spring brought hope when lovers met
Beneath his shade, fragile and yet
As Summer closed the love seemed safe
Secure and calm, in peace with grace**

The willow felt such love and pride
To have this couple by his side
The lovers gave him reason for
The lonely life he'd lived before

In Autumn, frequency slowed down
And smiles sometimes replaced by frowns
How can young love so fresh and new
Withdraw so quickly now from view?

The final visit crushed his heart
He did not want the pair to part
He'd given shelter, beauty, shade
From Spring's first glimpse to Summer's fade

These lovers had absorbed his strength
They'd laughed and kissed and talked at length
Absorbed his energy and love
From deep strong roots to limbs above

Did they not think when Winter came
Their love, extinguished like a flame
To withdraw their love from each other
Would cause such distress to another?

The days once full, now cold and bleak
No whispered hugs, no one to speak
No hope of future talks and aims
Exchanging rings or changing names

The tree, so lonely, hung his head
Among the other living dead
He wails, he weeps his tears of pain
He stands once more alone again