

## Music of the Day: Even More Selected Poems

By John Kemp  
 Woth Press £4.99pb  
 ISBN 0 9542646 2 2

John Kemp gives us more than 70 poems in this his latest book. It is his third selection, following *Where beeches surf the hill* and *Now more quietly*, and like these it is awash with simple-seeming poems that somehow always manage to say thought-provoking things and now and again profound things. The time-honoured themes of poetry – joy and wonder in the face of nature and landscape, love, loss, grief, regret, the feeling that it might just be possible to find meaning and even a glimpse of eternity behind the surface of everyday things and happenings – are all grist to the mill of John's pen.

However, if anything can be said to characterise this latest selection more than any other it is a heightened sense of the transience of our time here. Nor is this surprising, at the time of writing John is hopefully on the mend after a serious illness. Don't run away with the idea that this is a selection that can be filed under the heading 'self-indulgent work inspired by a poet's sense of his own mortality' though, John's not the sort of guy to go that way. Here are poems full of keen observations of the way we live now, often full of wit and fun. Try 'Fruit of the Elder'. It begins: 'After the party, after the last/of the Spam (pale and loitering)/the hard-won jellies, the rationed/sweets and cakes...' Or 'A tilt of the Wings'. It begins: 'Look. Above the queue of cars/exiting the town, above the/traffic lights, high over B&Q and Tesco./on leaden dying sky, a skein/of geese, fast and steady, fly...' You'll be hooked. *Music of the Day* is available from John Kemp, 65 Fleet Street, Beaminster DT8 3EH.

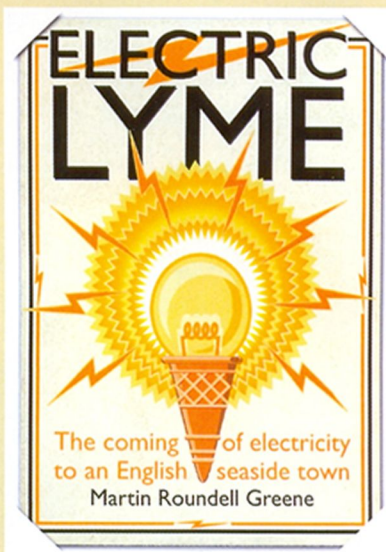


## Electric Lyme

(The coming of electricity to an English seaside town)  
 By Martin Roundell Greene  
 Published by M Roundell Greene £10pb  
 ISBN 0 9552675 0 1

(Available from bookshops, or direct from the author at  
 mrg@clarityenglish.co.uk  
 or on ☎ 01460 77434)

On the 1st June 1909, Lyme Regis became the first town in Dorset to get a public electricity supply. *Electric Lyme* is the story of how that came about and how this new source of energy changed the way the folk of the lovely seaside town lived. It is a story that begins with private enterprise and ends with nationalisation; in



between come social and technical revolutions, the Great Depression and two world wars. To begin with, the town sees the arrival of a few telephones and a few expensive lamps in a few expensive houses, whilst the story ends with council houses being built ready-wired for electricity.

Martin Roundell Greene writes beautifully and nowhere allows his history to become dry and lifeless. His research is scrupulous and wide-ranging and his eye for the quirky and humorous is sharp. In short, *Electric Lyme* is a rarity amongst local history books because it is the work of someone with something original to say. If there were a prize for best local history book of 2006, *Electric Lyme* would win it hands down.

## A flower in my hand



Foreword by Gregor Lersch – Photographs by David Lloyd

By Susie Edwards  
 Published by Spirit of the Rose £25hb  
 ISBN 0 9543939 2 9

Dorset-based Susie Edwards is an internationally-renowned flower arranger famous for her ability to produce original, imaginative and beautiful designs. She is amongst a tiny handful of designers who have helped to bring the art kicking and screaming in to the 21st century. She is also an inspirational communicator.

*A flower in my hand* features some 50 of her designs, each one fully described by the author and superbly photographed by David Lloyd. If you thought flower arranging was for the aesthetically challenged, this book will make you think again.