

Wigtown Poetry Competition 2018

Scots | Highly Commended: John Brewster, *Fife Zen, 1977*

All rights reserved

Fife Zen, 1977

Crab-grained, haary,
a lamp o the watter
glutherin amang stanes
an sea-growth, iron-eery,
shell-shocked an waashed oot.

No a penny ti ma name,
a jumble sale jeket,
handsome in stubble,
no heavy-heidit, jist
young an dishaunted.

Afore, on bairntime holidays
at ma aunt's fairm in Aiberlour,
A wrung oot sodden melodies
throu a barn-cloistered pianny,
damp keys unlockin ma sang.

Bak ti Fife, a sick-hoose
jurmummlin ma speerit,
the tuin hirplin, faain ahent
lik the furst myndin o a rain kiss,
o the parental pouer o trees.

Thrawn lik runes apon pelt,
spellboond, elf-shot,
a blind Zen musician,
forleetin that haund,
baund an laund are wan.

*Lergae Law, Lundie,
Leven, Lundin Links,
Lower Lergae, Lergae,
Leven, Lundin Links.*