**Ledbury**

Q) whilst the poets may speak aloud,

Do you think there is enough for a younger crowd?

*A) Festival volunteers are committed, proud, passionate about what it means for Ledbury. Lacking, however in the young, in diversity, which we aim to change in the coming years. Everyone has something valuable to offer.*

Q) Can you imagine the feeling of chocolate melting as a poet reads Rumi on a hot, hot afternoon?

*A) A platter, a sharing plate, something for everyone. Bite sized pieces of joy, love, sadness to choose from, to experience. You can take as much as you like, give as much as you like.*

Q) Old black and white buildings pepper the street,

But how would you describe the people you meet?

*A) Newcomers, old timers, the wary, the confident, the shy. Retirement can be a huge space to fill where new friends can be found.*

Q) Buildings – Market House – What/which stick out?

*A) The swifts are here – anchoring summer to the sky, screaming “the festival is coming”.*

*They drive bomb to clocktower, shouting “here it is, here it is”.*

Q) Which is the coolest event venue?

*A) Walk through the grand entrances, filled with people, leave through small doors, expectations unchallenged.*

Q) Do you think that the poetry festival challenges your opinions?

*A) I arrived in Ledbury from London to find*

*A town that is so removed from mine*

Q) Where do the Poets come from

town – city – country?

*A) Folk from all over, all sorts of different reasons, to learn, to give, to share, to belong*

Q) Did you know the world opens up

When you open your door to a poet?

*A) New faces, who are they, who are they visiting? Welcome come tell of places no longer visited or forgotten.*

Q) Personalities from the festival:

*A) It is raining – yet it feels sunny*

*The warmth of the people*

*It is quite funny.*

Q) Who clears up after us when we party?

*A) Whilst I’m not paying to eat this meal,*

*a few extra bites from a few different containers*

*would greatly appeal*

Q) Individuals from the town – tell me about them

*A) I am proud to welcome people into*

*Ledbury, but I get the sense that some*

*people who live here don’t feel welcome.*

*There is more work to be done here.*

Q) Have you seen the bullet holes in the church door or the sword marks in The Talbot dining room?

*A) What a beautiful place*

*I feel I could stay*

*And I have only just arrived*

Q) What are you most proud of when volunteering for the festival?

*A) Reminds me how much I love this place*

*– formed me, informed me.*