The 50th anniversary reunion, 2007

Ode presented to 50th Anniversary reunion of 1957 Geography students by Clive Woosnam

Geoging miles and memories

When we arrived at UCL
In nineteen fifty seven,
We came prepared to work like hell;
Instead, we found a heaven.

We lived a PRINCEly life on MEAD;
FRENCH bread, BROWN ale we'd harbour.
And, kempt and couth, we'd seldom need
A visit to the BARBOUR.

Some joined a choir, performed a play
Or practised sax or tuba,
While females tried to keep at bay
The sinn-stirred Karl SINNHUBER.

We tramped the Breckland and the Weald,
Through kale and green kohlrabi,
But never strayed too far afield
From H.C. 'local' DARBY.

At lectures we were seldom late —
Attendance sheets a riddle —
When we signed E. C. Postlethwaite
For poor old Colonel BIDDLE.

Fifty years on, we still survive:
We're all here, near as dammit.
It's exercise keeps us alive
And walking on the planet.

Now everyone's a rambling fan:
Life's race is run by walking.
And we know where it all began —
Our Term One trip to Dorking!

Reflections on the reunion:

Fifty years on

The great reunion: come what may,
It couldn't be a failure,
With people coming all the way
From US and Australia

We've changed a bit — we're mostly grey
We don't think we're so clever.
We eat less, drink less, get more pay
And talk as much as ever.

We've knights, tycoons and diplomats
Within our ranks these days,
For geographers wear many hats;
Careers move many ways.

Dave Bowen tangled with a tree,
While poor old Doctor Mead,
Still riding though he's 93,
Was let down by his steed.

We saw the new department rooms;
I wondered how I'd cope
In subterranean labs like tombs
With my own microscope.

In our day Latin was required
Not chemistry; perhaps
It was an age to be desired:
Our key resource was maps.

We scorned The Mousetrap even though
Its record run was playing.
Five decades on, we choose to go —
Whodunnit? We're not saying.

Reunions only take their place
If someone leads the way.
So many lists and names to trace —
Give thanks to Tub and Kay!