

**Brian Matthews, Poetry from Words to Share, 23/11/21**  
**Happy FM 90.1, Jan Potter as Host**

*On Your Birthday*

On your birthday I'd like to say  
How much I love you  
Your importance in my life  
Your sharing, caring nature  
A clarity of thought so rare.

In your presence I feel  
Your authentic, boundless concern,  
Helping ground me,  
Mapping directions ahead  
Soothing my dilapidated emotions.

Hard on yourself too often  
Always there for those you love  
Or, indeed, have befriended,  
The thoughtful gestures and acts  
Litter the ground around you.

Worthy of a lovely day  
Laughter and memories shared  
And made in the telling  
All of life a story  
With you my love and heroine

28/10/21

*Remembrance Day*

On this day I do remember  
The millions of soldiers  
And many millions more  
Innocent children, women and men  
Sacrificed on altars of greed and corruption.

While the fat cats recline  
On their padded chairs,  
Living in sumptuous surrounds  
Feasting on the work of others  
Supported by nationalistic fervour.

Brian Matthews, 11/11/21

### *The Barista*

The young man stands  
On his feet all day  
Smiling at customers  
Leaping into the fray.

What'll it be sir/m'am?  
The drink of your choice  
Flat white, long black,  
Or maybe a latte?

While he dreams  
Of adventures he may have  
Roaming the country  
Building a business home grown.

Meeting a partner  
To whom he can be true  
Raising a family of his own  
A house painted blue.

Times may change  
But all will aspire  
To build something of their own  
A thing that lights their fire.

What will never change  
Is that deep human spirit  
The need that most have  
To say 'I can do it'.

Brian Matthews, 12/11/21

### *Sharing Words*

The words we share  
Everyday descriptions of life,  
What's happening around us.

Or revealing of emotions  
The ways we feel,  
Unburdening our minds.

So often these are lost  
Ephemeral mites floating,  
Drifting away on the breeze.

But then one appears  
And nets these offerings  
Recording that which's said.

And others then read  
Playing with them  
Exploring their own minds.

And we all grow  
As nuances are teased,  
Different for each.

And revelations come  
As connections are made  
Feelings resonating endlessly.

Brian Matthews, 22/11/21

*On the water*

On the water again,  
The gap so long  
Revelling in wind in the face  
Water splashing all around.

First came the rigging,  
So rusty and slow,  
The sailor out of practice,  
Overcoming memory lapses.

Then a clumsy launch,  
Grappling with ropes and tackle,  
Hands slipping and unsure,  
But soon the rhythm settles.

A race then starts,  
Boats leaping forward  
Rushing for the start line,  
Heading for the first buoy.

Each jockeying for position  
Gaps opening for some,  
Others cursing a stray gust,  
Or welcoming a surge forward.

Despairing when a mark missed,  
Tacking desperately to recover,  
A boat suddenly overturning,  
The energy builds.

How invigorating this can be  
Until time to head to shore,  
Muscles so wearied  
The soul renewed again.

Derigging a cheerful task,  
Followed by loading boats  
All helping each other with a laugh  
A beverage and snack to seal the deal.

Brian Matthews, 22/1/21

### *Birthdays Continue*

Each birthday is its own  
At some surrounded by joy  
At others less so.

Cycles around the sun  
Cannot be slowed or stopped,  
Come they always will.

Times to reflect and rejoice  
To review and plan  
Contemplate what's ahead.

Sometimes with anticipation  
At others with trepidation  
Never sure of what will be.

Of one thing we can be sure  
They will happen whatever  
We will reap that we sow.

And benefits will come unbidden  
Not without a cost, of course,  
Consequences always flow.

Brian Matthews, 22/11/21