

Belvedere Views

Once pleasure steamers sailed near here
Along the river passed Belvedere
Local children played street games
Yet marshland views were going to change

Once cob and gypsy worked all day
Floods came and then they moved away
As ice cream was sold in the pouring rain
Yet marshland views were going to change

Once we swam in the murky Thames
And coal was collected by young men
Delivered by boat unloaded by crane
Yet marshland views were going to change

Once at the Royal Arsenal many worked
Barges bought goods and none of us shirked
Then stevedores, sailors and lascars came
Yet marshland views were going to change

Butchers bikes traded along the lanes
But today few marshland views remain

Now dual carriageways and factories are so mundane
And the marshland will never be the same

S.A.M.Hawkes

