

Forever Erith

My name means muddy landing place
Caught up in time from birth.
Beside Old Father Thames I face
Across to Essex earth.

Great Harry fitted out to sail
The Monarch used my men.
King Henry stayed so says the tale,
Rumours were rife back then.

Loam and Iron had its day,
All seen close to my shore.
Heavy labour most would say,
Blue collar work galore.

Men built a pier to bring in coal,
Once wood its now concrete.
The Marsh Horse had a central role
On barge and shipping fleet.

I sparkled when the pleasure boats
Brought tourists in good mood.
But business failed to stay afloat
World War was to intrude.

Change moves on in forward flow
As Erith I endeavour.
People come and people go
But time goes on forever.

Nordenfelt and mighty Vickers.
Munition makers once reknown.
Cables gone from Callenders.
Batts in The Belfry still in town.

Work I gave to those of note
Mrs Thatcher came and went,
She courted locals for the vote,
And met Dennis here in Kent.

My oil and gas and factory works
Not known for scenic views,
Give off a certain muck and murk,
Adhesive products too.

Writers and poets come from here,
Wendy Cope was born close-by.
Pat Watson's Erith ode is clear,
A considered skilful sigh.



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I get angry when the planners
Send in the JCB.
Short on time and manners,
They must consider history.

I have a smart new college site,
New prospects yet to come.
My playhouse often full at night,
Entertaining everyone.

I'm now the Westen Gateway
Road and Rail provide a tour.
Cars and shopping here today,
Fashions revolve once more.

Building work in my town centre
Often shifts from fast to slow.
Observing a new venture,
New views I've come to know.

I'm not just grim with dust and din,
I make a fascinating file.
Historian Ken Chamberlain
Shows my past to be worthwhile.

For change moves on in forward flow
As Erith I endeavour.
People come and people go
Earhythe goes on forever.

Sali Ann Hawkes

