

Reflections on Life

Cachalot Phil Messinger, who contributed 'Worcester Memories' in the last newsletter, has published a collection of his poems. He says, "I had a few dark years and found that writing poetry was a good way to find understanding. At times though I find myself moved by events or places, so I write something a bit less personal."

Tears on the Water

Many hundreds of American sailors and marines were entombed in the wreck of the USS "Arizona" when she was sunk at Pearl Harbour. Since then, the wreck has been sensitively transformed into a Memorial and a Cemetery-site, and survivors from the ship have the right to have their ashes interred in the wreck when their time comes, so that they may be re-united with their ship-mates.

The wreck oozes oil, which is monitored and is seen as no threat to the environment. Rangers who stand on duty at the site speak of these small, continuous traces as tears. *Arcadia 2013.*

*The multi-coloured sheen of oil is spread
as if the souls of all those boys long-dead
still linger there -----It's said
that though the wreck has every day since bled,
there's grief enough for many years ahead.*

*The oil will flow, just gently bleeding still,
reminding us they're there, and ever will
be for us all a glimpse of Calvary's hill.
They died for us – their lives not to fulfil.*

*Or is it tears perhaps? – this gentle flow
which marks the water's surface, while below,
resting in peace with friends from long ago,
they lie all quiet – and we should leave them so.*