Freddie Nellist
- poems -

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Freddie Nellist (26-10-1928)
A Dream Too Soon

My mind's eye sees you each day
I'm lost for words, what to say
You drift by, no backward glance
We never meet, not even by chance.

My emotions are clouding my mind
It seems your heart is not inclined
This dream I have is most unfair
When dawn breaks you're never there.

The passion I have grows and grows
You are my secret without a pose
You are ever silent I know not why
Your love it seems will pass me by.

I crave to know what might have been
Will I ever know what my dream means?
I wake each morning my eyes so damp
I'd give my all for Aladdin's lamp.

Are my dreams a part of life's stage?
Is my bedroom only an empty cage?
Perhaps the answer lies in between
I suppose it's me, I'm only thirteen.

Freddie Nellist
A Fisermans Lot

Life's farewell song is unsung
my future swallowed by the past
Gate crashed by a stormy blast
cascading grievance is far flung.

Who can redeem I'm sore afraid
perhaps a dream we can retract
My nightmare or unfriendly act
uncalled dreams take the strain.

Fishing is the name of the game
high sea hazards never hesitate
Davy Jones can unlock hells gate
angry seas, no two are the same.

I prey landlubbers hear my sound
the manner of my chosen speech
King Neptune's trident easy reach
his oceans deep and so profound.

Freddie Nellist
A New Start

When I awake I'll wipe the slate clean
And discover new paths as yet unknown
Moss will cling to this rolling stone
I'll not dwell on what might have been.

Fragmented memory won't count the cost
Time is precious, remaining years few
I'll not forget how previous time flew
Any misgivings then I surely have lost.

Dreams in mind I have yet to complete
I do not believe all is preordained
What lies ahead has not been explained
This time I promise, no lies or deceit.

Who then will be stronger, head or heart
Scars still paint my body with sorrow
The past is dark, light shines tomorrow
Carpe Diem, I will make a new start.

Freddie Nellist
A Place In Mind

I'm from a place so precious in mind
I'm from a moment long time passed
I'm from a memory that happened fast
The place my childhood was inclined.

I'm from a place with a door called Two
I'm from a dwelling of soulful prayers
I'm from a place where poverty flares
A place my mothers child passed through.

I'm from a place seen with an aged eye
I'm from a past where my memories fly
A place my body was not meant to lie
A place I picture when I need to cry.

I'm from a place of sweet summer wine
A place from where my person did stray
But a place I know my heart will stay
An other place would be way out of line.

Freddie Nellist
A Poets Beginning

To write poetry where do I start
Profound words from the heart
Or simple words, perhaps in kind
Only thoughts that spring to mind.

Is it a talent that's past me by
At times I hold my head and sigh
Maybe I'm a failure to be exposed
Will you like what I've composed.

Not just one subject but a mixture
Poetry to me will not be a fixture
My poems always I will compound
Words that paint, not too profound.

I would like sad ones make you cry
Perhaps bring a twinkle to your eye
Even laugh, it's not against the law
What have you let yourselves in for.

So dear friends I'll leave it to you
Despite the torture I put you through
My feeble efforts I'll never defend
Reserve your judgment to the end.

Freddie Nellist
Words that laugh and cry from the page
Inviting sadness and sometimes rage
A magic overflow of spontaneous feeling
Arousing emotions sending senses reeling.

The pen of a poet becomes Merlin's wand
Dormant passions awake, eagerly respond
Words painting pictures blowing the mind
Creating adventures that are never unkind.

Words confusing, at times not making sense
Love and romance, it's called poets licence
Rhythmical composition written or spoken
Literary rules bent not deliberately broken.

Poetry is an echo asking a shadow to dance
About lovers meeting not always by chance
Conjuring up a wonderful chorus of words
Orchestrating the meaning of bees and birds.

Poetry heals the wounds inflicted by reason
It can paint the wind regardless of season
Words put into place that will always achieve
It's the music of souls that's what I believe.

Freddie Nellist
A Quiet Life

My world so quiet only silence heard
only nostalgia recalls the spoken word
Tell me does the blackbird still sing
the bee not heard but I feel it sting.

I'm like a goldfish confined to a bowl
eyes that can see but can't hear a soul
The only language that I understand
are the signs made by an educated hand.

I see leaves dancing in a muted breeze
I can sing sad songs whenever I please
Soft gentle rain never bring me fears
I hear nought they may well be tears.

An essential part of my world has died
I cant read lips though yes I've tried
Contorted hands spell out words I know
not quite as loud as soft falling snow.

Silence not golden I long much to hear
words and songs from those I hold dear
I've come to terms conversing with hands
The choice not mine, deafness demands.

Freddie Nellist
An Old Poet

My poems forgotten, long since told
Memory misting I grow old
Passionate words never stopped flow
Melted like sun kissed snow.

This an affliction recently acquired
I am growing tired
Some words true some of them tall
Time obstructs recall.

My poems echoes long ceased to be
Please remember me
Buried deeply in many ancient minds
My words of many kinds.

Beautiful lyrics that my heart chose
Lost now, I suppose
Do you recall, do they ring a bell
Time will tell

If one day my disposed verse appear
I'll shed first tear
I'm an old poet my pen didn't sleep
Finders keep.

Freddie Nellist
Anglers World

A man at peace he's the king of the world
A river bank his thrown with lines unfurled
In weather not friendly his reign is content
No hours are counted his time is well spent
Quietly anticipating life's cares drift by
A lack of tight lines sometimes he will sigh
His spool spinning round for all it's worth
Will focus his thoughts back down to earth
Ever oblivious it seems to the passing time
His fishing pole saluting the muddy old Tyne
A dipping float betrays an inquisitive cod
Or some unsuspecting aquatic bending his rod
Many pictures in mind do his thoughts paint
A positive heaven both for sinners and saint
His rod is poised over murky waters unknown
Reaping the harvest of the bait he has sown
Patiently contemplating hoping the fish rise
But not vagrant flotsam, a catch in disguise
Like the Tyne's tide his thoughts ebb and flow
This is his kingdom, where else would he go?

Freddie Nellist
Animal Rights

Animal rights should be respected by all
Domestic or wild, why suffering install?
Keeping a dog chained all day is wrong
He can't plead with you or sing a song
A canine creature is a potential friend
Do we no longer have compassion to lend?

Pony's in fields half starved and confused
Their needs ignored and are daily abused
Is there pleasure hunting foxes and hares?
Stand and be counted, show someone cares
Birds of a feather held prisoner in cages
I for one think this is utterly outrages.

Lions and tigers and some elephants too
Being prodded with whips in circus or zoo
They are forced to perform and entertain
Now it's time for their rights to campaign
I am saying animals do not have a voice
Humans are different we can make a choice
Give it some thought, who takes the blame?
Let us be honest, hang our heads in shame.

Freddie Nellist
Another Tomorrow

Tomorrow never comes some people say
Today hasn't been great
Not a good day nothing has gone my way
Hope tomorrow's not late
A crystal ball could show next day's way
Make tomorrow's dreams real
I'd steal the future have tomorrow today
Oh what would that reveal?
I must look ahead and good advice borrow
All about love and wealth
And not be stranded in yesterdays tomorrow
Yesterday can look after itself
A future tomorrow will start without me
It's what the good book says
I will not be present for my wife to see
Until then I'll count the days
I hope many tomorrows together we'll stay
There will be joy and sorrow
I love her today much more than yesterday
But not as much as tomorrow.

Freddie Nellist
As Bad As It Gets

An untold story a book unread
Pathways that we seldom tread
A lovers lips never kissed
Golden opportunity often missed
A rainbows end yet to be found
A harvest remaining in the ground
A voyage that does not have an end
An outcast vainly seeking a friend
A love letter written but not sent
Road to hell paved with good intent
A mothers eyes wet with weeping
Your destiny in an others keeping
Good news alas that is never heard
Lonely heart strings never stirred
Blind eyes unable to scan the skies
Or watching skylarks as they rise
At the table there's an empty chair
Your life's love no longer there
A second chance that has passed
The spoken word that was your last.

Freddie Nellist
Autumn Dilemma

Shedding leaves the forests weep
rustling carpets of gold at my feet
Boughs slowly revealed by the fall
trees stripped bare appearing tall.

Laid bear by wind and freezing tests
no birds nesting in condemned nests
Diminishing wildlife so little trace
winters threatening unsmiling face.

Autumn is a canvas of painted glades
an artists pallet of so many shades
Although pleasing to a tearful eye
few feathered friends pilot the sky.

Hearts captured by landscaped views
russet reds and many colourful hues
Many confused minds are two ways torn
hearts will smile when spring is born.

Freddie Nellist
Beyond The Rainbow

A rainbow is nature's multi-coloured smile
A vision that makes our life worth while
It's presence gives joy to song and verse
Both the rain and sun help it to rehearse.

Way beyond the rainbow known only to few
Lies a magic land where dreams come true
It's beyond my reach, I don't know why
Oh please teach me Dorothy, how to fly.

A sight for hearts and minds to behold
The Wizard of Oz lives there so I'm told
Way along a road made of yellow bricks
Also a wicked witch inventing nasty tricks.

Perhaps if I tried wishing upon a star
I know little bluebirds can fly that far
I'm sure Dorothy's song could tell us more
Those unforgettable lyrics we all adore.

If I ever get there I would love to stay
Collecting lots of friends along the way
But only in dreams can we climb so high
This dream happens just once in a lullaby.

Freddie Nellist
Bird Brain

Wagtail limped across the lawn
Swift said he's got a corn
No said Wren he's chasing Thrush
Looks like two birds in a bush,
I missed all that said Goldfinch
Fell asleep Lark give me a pinch
Swan asked Dove any worms in sight
Don't know said Owl I'm a fly by night
Crow is that laughing that I heard
It's only that idiot Mocking Bird
Oh said Swallow what's he here for
We don't want him do we Jackdaw
Robin got killed very much sorrow
Yes said Blackbird, blaming Sparrow
Yes said Magpie he did execute
He was Raven mad drunk as a Coot.

Freddie Nellist
Book At Bedtime

My life's diary slumbers in my head
It's all there things we done and said
Each night I dream then turn a page
Recalling memories of a bygone age.

I don't allow my diary to gather dust
Or be seen by people I don't trust
You have gone now I still go life's way
Memories get more precious every day.

I must close my eyes to read my book
You smile at me each time I look
I read my book even though it's dark
Your twinkling eyes are my book mark.

No one can sever our unbreakable bond
I open my book and you always respond
On every page dear I hold your hand
The one that wears a gold wedding band.

I caressed your face for over fifty years
My book at bedtime brings me no tears
The days without you are hard to take
My bedtime book closes when I awake.

Freddie Nellist
Carpe Diem

Time no longer recalls past dreams
Now all memories in purple hazes
Time continues in it's chosen way
A crystal ball won't turn the pages.

Comfort empty spaces in your heart
Time does not' wait, seize the chance
Golden opportunity will wait for none
Life's journey can be a merry dance.

The time to do and be is always now
Let fate decide be it north or south
Regard the future with anticipation
Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Be swayed not by the highest bidder
On your life's trek, long or short
You'll find chances flowing at random
Carpe diem success can't be bought.

Don't dwell in shadows of discontent
Dreams come true to those that will
Questions asked should be answered
Yours will be if you climb that hill.

Freddie Nellist
Day Dreams

Thoughts are words left unspoken
Shadows that dwell in the mind
They are promises not yet broken
Silent words that can be unkind.

Thoughts are dreams not yet true
Wishful thinking yet to be done
Constructive thinkers are so few
Day dreamers don't have much fun.

The cost of a thought is so cheap
It will deter the thinking of many
Thoughts can be shallow or be deep
The current cost is only a penny.

Freddie Nellist
Don't Walk Away

Since an early age I have walked alone
each road I've walked remains unknown.
If the future was not a sight unseen
I'd contemplate what I might have been.
Caught in a duel between loss and gain
I'll be strong in spirit and not abstain.
The forbidden fruit, where does it grow?
a million miles or just a stones throw?

I'll do what needs, conquer failures dread
my body is bleeding but I'm not yet dead.
I'll persist in my prayers for reasons why
I'll not accept loud silence, perhaps cry.
At times I'm bewildered all alone and lost
my wounds not deep, I won't count the cost.
I'll walk on forward and find what I seek
the consequences be damned, I am unique.

Freddie Nellist
Eaths Moon

An exhausted moon looking so tired and pale
What secrets concealed behind a misty veil?
You don't turn a cheek moving east to west
The earth's hungry embrace allows you no rest.

How came you there moon in the first place?
For millions of years you have ran your race
There are times the sun's reflection you hide
Your gentle breath still plays with our tide.

There is gladness in waxing, sadness in wane
A short lived sensation you come back again
There is a magic in your beams as they dance
Giving many young lovers a time for romance.

A magnificent jewel for the crown of a King
Inspiration for poems and love songs to sing
You are a pendent, earth's gravity your chain
That adorns the neck of our earthly domain.

Freddie Nellist
Echoes Of My Mind

Echoes are magic brought to mind
Recalling memories some undefined
Verbal illusions come out to play
Weariness of age is soothed away.

Ghostly visions my mind confound
Images lost in time now all found
Memories arousing sleeping ages
Reflected time turning minds pages.

In far flung corners of my mind
Long lost memories the echoes find
I dream again of dreams long ago
Each time I dream the echoes flow.

Barriers that passing time has built
Assailed by echoes surely will wilt
Echoes encountered if only by chance
Persuading memories to come and dance.

There's no distance, long miles to go
When my mind converses with my echo
My echoes are blessed we'll never part
Deeply entrenched close to my heart.

Freddie Nellist
End Of An Age

Silent faces, it's time to die
No voice tells what is amiss
My gaze can't focus on the sky
The sun's warmth doesn't kiss,

Thoughts ceased, heart not glad
Cracks in life are not filled
I crave still to live nomad
No seeds sown, ground untilled.

No more songs on my world stage
I regret those left unsung
Life's story is on the last page
With accusations far flung.

Time forgotten moments tick by
At peace with vanished pain
Silence soon, I won't hear you cry
Would that my life start again.

Freddie Nellist
Face The Future

The past is the link of a broken chain
Uninvited echoes invading the mind
Ghosts of loved ones, reaching hands
A guilty conscience can be unkind.

Complicated echoes haunting your soul
The past is a memory out in the cold
What it was once it is no longer now
Allow it's secrets to remain untold.

Don't harbour ill for hurt long gone
The past will be yours when you die
It's to the future you pay the bill
Then ask the question the reason why.

The past is where it's meant to stay
As far as your beliefs can throw it
All that is dead has had it's day
Let it dwell with some ancient poet.

Freddie Nellist
Fading Away

Cold and damp invades my room
A candle is burning
Fighting the gloom
My misted memory can't remember
Patience debating the passing time
Tells of a war, finished November.

A soldiers photo stuck on the wall
It is I, but no left arm
The truth eludes me from time to time
The time and place I suffered this harm
I don't wish to recall.

It invades my mind against my will
A devils garden called no mans land
And a general, his name a bit vague
Over the top boys one last stand
Now I remember, his name was Haig
Oh yes, it was Tommy against Fritz
Rifles aimed shooting people to bits
My foe and I friends after four years
It's all over now, but not the tears.

Freddie Nellist
Failure

Failure as ever a doubtful friend,
refuse to be inclined.
Hallucinations, not today,
Take common sense for a ride.
Making decisions incredibly tough,
past efforts not good enough.
Seeking advice is a good thought,
all not blessed, self taught.

Different opinions, a way to go,
where, when, why or how.
There are answers that will endow,
Don't pick up a coin and throw.
What then is the secret of success,
determination, sweat of the brow.
Remember what made Jack a dull boy,
Other things in life, please enjoy.

Freddie Nellist
Fisher Brooks Story

My minds memory of Fishers Brook
Now drab, devoid of eloquence
Where once trout avoided the hook
Tennant swallows caused no offence
All is now past tense.

Deep memories subdued but lingers
Hedgerows and byers fondly exist
Each identified by pointed fingers
Describing progress with a twist
A place sorely missed.

A place for peace and minded peers
Amidst harvested fields of corn
Now a relegated expendable place
The community sad and forlorn
Fishers Brook my place born.

Freddie Nellist
Fit For Purpose

Many things I should have done
battles lost I should have won
Words unspoken only silence said
fools and horses are easily led.

Golden chances, did not comprehend
counting cost or need of a friend
Lessons that I should have learned
many times my fingers got burnt.

My wayward footprints so often led
places where angels fear to tread
Melancholy and sad as often I am
I'm ready to fight not give a damn.

A hard life one constant struggle
mixed emotions difficult to juggle
No answers just stand and stare
is it me at fault or life not fair.

Doubts galore assault my thinking
accepting blows not even blinking
My way of life not yet condemned
Is my way of being up to the end.

Freddie Nellist
Forgotten Past

Thinking of nothing won't go away
Faces are clouds in my mind
Unable to remember is here to stay
My dementia is not inclined.

Can't recall suffering nor feel pain
If I did I must have forgot
A link is absent from my life's chain
And I cannot tie the knot.

My memory gone my thoughts erased
Ah, on the tip of my tongue
When it seems like a memory is raised
My foot slips off the rung.

Photos in albums do not ring any bells
Perhaps at times tantalise
My past is oblivious, recalling rebels
Everything is in disguise.

All of my memories are now past tense
What was my former life like?
One thing that doesn't make much sense
I still know how to ride a bike.

Freddie Nellist
Great Expectations

When the future's more clearly defined
When my many wounds have become scars
When my intentions are no longer tried
When blind eyes look up at the stars.

That will be before my youth long past
That will be when I will participate
That's when I discover if the die is cast
That's when I learn if it's all too late.

Now it's the time for theories to prove
Now I must identify the link in the chain
Now is my chance for my mind to sooth
Now make certain all the ghosts are laid.

Soon I may see what is way out of sight
Soon I may have many grand tales to tell
Soon I will discover if my way was right
Soon I will find fate be it heaven or hell.

Freddie Nellist
Have Faith

A passing phase that amounts to nought
A drama in disguise
A farce providing much food for thought
Why is it everyone dies?

Life is measured from cradle to grave
A journey we all undergo
Why can't we have the life we crave?
It is not for us to know.

Life's meaning and purpose eluding me
What roll do we fulfil?
We pay the price, few things are free
The future haunts me still.

The only answer at the end of the day
Is to question every doubt
It is faith that will show us the way
That's what life is about.

Freddie Nellist
I Rest In Peace

I speak no words nor make no sound
I am autumn leaves upon the ground
The footsteps that I once did tread
Are only memories hanging by a thread
No earthly woes, heartache or pain
I'm one of many gentle drops of rain
I'm a haunting echo do not cry for me
I recline on clouds that set me free
When in your heart a church bell rings
I am not sleeping, It's me that sings
I'm many colours, a rainbow that grows
My cup that was empty it now overflows
My dwelling place is devoid of sorrow
I'll bid you welcome in your tomorrow.

Freddie Nellist
I've Learned

I've learned to my cost life isn't fair
but it doesn't help to stand and stare.
I've learned that it's easy to condemn
but it's not quite so easy to say when.
I've learned to work, avoiding strife
but making a living doesn't make a life.
I've learned I can't make others love me
but the love I give sets my heart free.
I've learned hello takes seconds to say
saying goodbye takes forever and a day.
I've learned a trust broken, is not done
but making new friends gives so much fun.
I've learned I'll get hurt once in a while
But I have stood tall and took it in style.
I've learned that it's not easy to forgive
but my conscience decides how I must live.
I've learned to shed many uncounted tears
but it has taken practise, so many years.
I've learned patience and to wait my turn
but it's taken a life time for me to learn.

Freddie Nellist
Just Me

The sad product of careless poses
Never seen a gift horse
Once slept on a bed of roses
Not mine of course.

A simple life of un promised sleep
No fancy trappings
My hopes long since buried deep
In brown paper wrappings.

World my oyster but no fixed abode
A knight of the road instead
Advice Is always written in code
I'm not well read.

Bridges burned, a few built walls
Memories bring me pain
Learned to live with unheeded calls
Even God wont explain.

I once went to a place called war
Some dear friends stayed
Years gone by not needed no more
I'll never have it made.

Freddie Nellist
Keeptrying

More grief than glory in my case
False whispers invading my mind
My mirror reflects a lived in face
All my dreams are disinclined.

Each morn. rousing from my slumber
Confronted with toil sweat and pain
Failures are a multitude in number
The damned light's gone out again.

Every step I take climbs up hill
My progress is reluctant to smile
My destiny in my own hands still
Should I fail I'll go out in style.

Success can be near but seem far
Moves encountered, few are blessed
Accept yourself for what you are
Fate invites you to do your best.

I've started and will see it through
Concentration begs my mind to clear
It may be the final thing I do
For once to succeed, I'll persevere.

Freddie Nellist
Letter From America

Hello dear wife I've arrived safe and sound
At long last peace and quiet I've found
Don't worry dear wife no need for a tear
I'm enjoying myself, glad you're not here.

I'm in the U.S.A. how long will it last?
Never had it so good I am not down cast
I'm writing this letter down by the pool
Naked females, I am beginning to drool.

The food's a bit strange but what can I do?
I don't miss you much but I love your stew
I want no more round-a-bouts and swings
I'll keep in touch glad you haven't got wings.

I've met a nice widow, she fancies her chance
Tonight I'm her partner at the square dance
On second thoughts I came here for a rest
My sexual prowess won't be put to the test.

When I left our home I was not in my prime
You had my best years what's left are mine
It won't be long before my money runs out
Send me some more when I give you a shout.

Freddie Nellist
Looking Back

The motions of life, the pendulum swings
Who knows the meaning, the song it sings
The lyrics are repeating ticks of the clock
The key of life slowly turns in the lock.

Is it time to celebrate, or wrongs repent
Yes I have sinned but to no great extent
My legacy is the many seeds I have sown
Most by the wayside but some have grown.

I have made great fortunes most mislaid
Given to the many friends I've not made
Hind sight is not such a wonderful thing
My conscience pricks I can feel its sting.

Naught for granted, I've swallowed my pride
My family aware and between us decide
There's no yearning for fame or a life reborn
There will be an answer be it praise or scorn.

A face is reflected I remember once young
A zest for living oh those songs I have sung
But my eyes are now those of he who is old
I have really tried son don't break the mould.

Freddie Nellist
Lost My Way

I was once a winner but failed the test
I'm like a Cuckoo in a Robins nest
The future was never there to be seen
No guiding lights either red or green.

I've strayed where angels fear to tread
My whole life suspended on a thread
My friends are gone, all shooed away
A girl I loved but she wouldn't stay.

I've been told I'm on the road to hell
I'm all on my own so it's just as well
My way is paved with good intentions
I've broken promises, made abstentions.

I would like to live just one day more
To put things right, even up the score
For so very long I've let things lapse
Can I start over again, maybe, perhaps?

Freddie Nellist
Magic Of The Night

Trees and flowers the sun has kissed
Nightly embraced, shrouded in mist
Darkness presides the day is done
Inviting moon beams to have their fun.

A purple darkness invades the terrain
A million bright eyes the skies contain
The scene is set night turns the page
The forest creatures will take the stage.

Shadows dance in the pale moon light
Nocturnal whispers are flying by night
Insects harmonize a haunting refrain
When darkness dies they will abstain.

The soft velvet beauty a daunting sight
Softly mellowed by the fast fading light
This is the wildlife's dwelling place
Each contemplating their own merry chase.

It's always darkest before dawns early kiss
Temporary moments that bring welcome bliss
The instant that day break is unfurled
It will reveal the madness of the world.

Freddie Nellist
Make Believe

A land of make believe exists you know
Adults and children are allowed to go
Trouble and cares for a while disappear
Grand illusions you can touch and hear
Make your wish then close your eyes
Real life and reason pretending defies
You life will be what you want it to be
It will cost nothing imagination is free.

Migrate to the mysteries of make believe
For a moment your wildest dreams achieve
Your curiosity free to meander and wander
Dreams and fantasy quench your hunger
Things aren't exactly what they may seem
Pent up emotions get lost in your dream
Fantasy journeys will absorb your mind
Paint your soul and be one of a kind.

Freddie Nellist
My Allotted Time

No spoken word but your kiss unkind
Have you fashioned my grave
You speak nought of the span you gave
Or when you feel inclined.

The thoughts of time compress my mind
Will I taste dew this morn
Or lamentable tones of your hunting horn
Are you far behind.

In unperceived ways and always on time
I am unable to tell
Is three score and ten my time to dwell
Or more mountains to climb.

Will a bell toll or perhaps a clock chime
Is it time to kill
I am aware you have your quota to fill
It's only a matter of time.

Not revealing my destiny part of time plan
My clock ticks a psalm
Who then gives warning, sets off my alarm
Only time, nothing else can.

Freddie Nellig
My Bottom Draw

Times long gone they are mine no more
My memories reside in my bottom drawer
At night it's open reflecting past years
Revealing smiles, in a corner some tears
When day light fades I sit by my drawer
Things not the same as they were before
I rummage around for a piece of the past
And wish that moment would forever last.

When I open my drawer my heart is stirred
Many lovely people I once knew and heard
These faded memories still possess my mind
Do we all have a drawer am I one of a kind?
When I reminisce at times a little downcast
They bring a tear these blasts from the past
The wonderful things in my drawer are free
One day it will be open for you all to see.

Memories of yesterday still capture my mind
So I look in my drawer, see what I can find
I usually find something to brighten my day
I'm a bit long in the tooth to change my way
There are many ghosts of friends long dead
Much loved faces that have a long time fled
A gentle walk in the past, I no longer run
I'll bide by my drawer when there's no sun.

Freddie Nellist
My Hole In The Wall

Open curtains open the eye of my mind
Revealing my hole in the wall
The visions captured become my dreams
Recriminations I have none at all.

There's no question of escaping my home
Premature aging displaying it's stings
Natures screen will enhance my day
Animated colour and other things.

My window beholds a field of magic
Art that beckons a gilded frame
The world embarking on a sea of confusion
No two sights are ever the same.

My promiscuous past holds my hand
The reason why my life lingers here
My heart converts all to memories made
My mind is always abundantly clear.

The aperture shows the world in motion
I'll never disguise it with curtain
It never speaks to me in silence
The only thing of which I'm certain.

Freddie Nellist
My Kind Of Words

My poems have prospered
because you take time to look
Hope you weren't bored to tears.
I won't ask how long it took,
wait till we're having a few beers.

First words that entered my head
with the usual absence of skill.
I should be a train driver instead,
A childhood ambition to fill.
A meaning of words I'm about to pen
I endeavour to bear in mind,
Sometimes a bit of a bind.

On the poetry path I've learned things,
nothing too extreme.
I must admit I've pulled many strings,
I'm always running out of steam.
No user hand books, all played by ear,
a really enjoyable chase.
I hope at times I bring some cheer,
anyway watch this space.

Freddie Nellist
My Memory Book

My memory book is not up to scratch
So many long forgotten pages
Is it old age or a disease you catch
I hope it's not contagious.
My memory book is one long chapter
Describing doubtful bells I've rung
Bygone days I cannot recapture
I long to sing the songs once sung.

A dog eared memory, liberties took
The company of ladies enjoyed
Stories of conquests in my book
No mention of the methods employed.
My book and I no longer converse
I've often tried but just dozed
What would I give just to rehearse
My precious memory book is closed.

Freddie Nellist
My Own Man

I'm proud never refuse a dare
I challenge this road to hell
Unlike you I've paid my fare
No reason for you to dwell.

I'm not too bold, even strong
But my own decision I follow
None may tell me I am wrong
Else there's need for sorrow.

Always reluctant to compromise
I converse with friend not foe
Intentions open to prying eyes
Don't forbid me then not to go.

Why hide myself from things done
I'm trained to hear my own voice
Be honest then the battle half won
Then everyone makes their choice.

A road unknown, pattern uncharted
It may just be a merry old dance
I won't abandon a journey started
I'm always happy to take a chance

Freddie Nellist
My Way

No crystal ball so where the way
I'll press onwards but sadly
A person of interest is my name
I suffer fools not gladly
I have been where angels tread
my slate clean and starting anew
Grand illusions I don't endorse
my ambitions modest and few.

Where then future lie hidden stings
your gauntlet accepted win or lose
My survival defines my own purpose
not walking in another mans shoes
A postponed flow of past desires
all I possess hangs by a thread
My honour never under nourished
always well maintained and well fed.

Freddie Nellist
Natures Gift

Walk with nature soon after sunrise
with the sun on your face
Abundant tranquillity, dancing butterflies
painting the space and beguiling
Leave concern behind, give attention
to birds ballet singing in flight.

Wild life performing, born free
conjuring heart warming delight
Savour the bouquet of wild flowers
myriad colours all manner of size
Webs trembling in scented breeze
and performing squirrels surprise.

Blend with natures God given rights
and priceless sights freely astound
Rustling leaves enhancing the trees
and clouds drift by, my how they fly
Content now at approaching sunset
this your heritage is not to let.

Freddie Nellist
No Way Back

Mounting weariness not withdrawn
Nostalgias eyes two ways torn
My past flies on nocturnal wings
In search of rest and other things.

Forlorn hope won't retrieve past
I've had my dream the die is cast
Fleeting shadows clouding my days
Memories embalmed in purple haze.

Haunted by the past now long gone
Distorted lyrics for my swan song
A desperate future full of remorse
I need foresight in changing course.

I walk in footsteps that are unkind
My resolution swims against the tide
Overturning stones cause much pain
Regretting the hurt I can't explain.

I never anticipated counting the cost
My bridges burned, has all been lost
Greed and thoughtless turnings made
If my conscience guides will guilt fade.

Freddie Nellist
Old Reprobate

Long in tooth still inclined
But energy confined
My mirror doesn't recognise
Not a sight for sore eyes.

Obituaries read most every day
It's okay I can stay
An excuse for me to fantasise
And make a few loud war cries.

An ancient offender minus youth
Described often as being uncouth
Outrageous actions for a bet
Some life left in the old dog yet.

Yesterday well lived never a saint
Society demanding some restraint
My footsteps ever been far flung
Still can hear the bells I've rung.

My life's been lived now or never
Not quite reached my end of tether
My get up and go got up and went
What the hell, money well spent.

Freddie Nellist
Past Reborn

Some other time yet undated
deny undignified haste.
Pray come you not unbidden
intentions not misplaced.

Wisdom smiles when all is well
trust walks by our side.
On our way to a new beginning
soothing our wounded pride.

Our past ways are now outworn
the slate is wiped clean.
Ways of our past are now reborn
infidelity not now seen.

Forget not then our history of pain
or our misplaced pleasure.
Fashion a knot to repair the chain
and not repent at leisure.

Freddie Nellist
Pay The Price

Four prison walls surround you my son
How did this happen to one so young
You commit a crime you pay the price
We tried to help but you reject advice.

You say you're sorry, life not fair
Blaming the judge who sent you there
Have strength my son, a year to face
Then come on home to your own space.

A mistake made, the company you kept
We tried to warn you your mother wept
A promising boy doing well at school
Studied hard and never broke a rule.

We all love you son, you know we care
Serve your time we'll always be there
I will not preach, a lesson well spent
You will remember this year you lent.

Take a new look at life, plan ahead
With our support a new path to tread
I know how you feel I also did wrong
My dear old dad sang me the same song.

Freddie Nellist
The sun appeared when poetry arrived
It crept up on me, nothing contrived
Words and phrases, forgotten things
Flew into my heart on inspired wings
Poetry can whisper or shout out loud
Conjure a rainbow from behind a cloud.

Poetry pregnant with lyrics and song
Conscience deciding right from wrong
Harsh words caressed sound like sighs
Send tidings to all not just the wise
The pen composes our nostalgia grows
From a blending of words beauty flows.

Search and you'll find a poetry spring
Quench your thirst on words that sing
At times words may fall to the ground
If you pick them up a meaning is found
Poetry brings pleasure, rarely offence
What the heck if it doesn't make sense.

Freddie Nellist
Reflecting Time

Unkind reflections, the mirror lies
A face once young now in disguise
Youthful visions still occur to me
My eyes are clouded I cannot see.

Alone with guilt but gone has guile
As I recall living my life in style
My childhood friends long gone away
Only their ghosts come out to play.

So much to do and many songs unsung
Misty names on the tip of my tongue
Familiar voices at times bring tears
Ancient echoes falling on deaf ears.

I cannot recapture what once was me
Footprints have vanished, none to see
I'll not tread old pathways any more
Don't think I could cope with an encore.

What say you mirror as you stare at me?
You often saw me on my mothers knee
Do you not recall me when I was young?
An innocent child time had not stung.

Freddie Nellist
Rush Hour

The frenzy begins when my alarm rings
A mad sense of urgency it always brings
I wade knee deep through growing stress
I minute to shower, seven more to dress
After consuming breakfast I accelerate
Getting myself in one hell of a state
I open the window take a glance outside
Paling with horror at the advancing tide
Into the street absorbed by the throng
Forgetting to bring my brief case along
Metal beetles with their exhausts blowing
Sweating commuters all toing and froing
Not a taxi in sight I'll have to trudge
Pedestrians half asleep they won't budge
Traffic lights appear to be always on red
Oh if only I could have stayed in my bed
My fingers crossed I'll be at work on time
My boss reckons that tardiness is a crime
It isn't the work that's sending me insane
The nightmare reversed going home again.

Freddie Nellist
Scarecrow

Unsightly, undefined and forlorn
A sore thumb in a field of corn
I'm being besieged by greedy crows
Why can't I bend or touch my toes.

I'm disguised to be as mortal man
Trespassing crows I have to ban
My ragged coat stuffed with straw
So invaders know I've declared war.

I tantalise but sadly don't impress
I'm a harmless guardian more or less
If crows descend I'll just fall flat
One's unjustly laid an egg in my hat.

Hand down clothes decorate my frame
Without exception each day the same
The crows are laughing, having a ball
They're just waiting for me to fall.

Why must I only select crows to scare
In my considered opinion it's not fair
Why not blackbirds or even a pigeon
Scaring birds is against my religion.

Freddie Nellist
Seas In Peril

Earths oceans endlessly pure
Now contaminated seas
How long must Neptune endure
Marina's once poetry to me.

Plastic jetsam not their taste
Beaches reject pristine
Tides vomit man made waste
The beach combers clean.

Sea is home to marine life deep
How long Dolphins seen
Synthetic diets steal their sleep
War declared on aqua marine.

How far will this infamy slide
Are the seas a has been
Mermaids no longer kissed by tide
Foot prints no longer seen.

Freddie Nellist
Seeking An Answer

I seek lanes I once walked
to breath again my native air
Discover tasks left undone
more than my fair share
This place was once my home
will my seeking be in vain
Nought ventured nought gained
my quest I will not abstain.

I seek the place I once stood
a rebel with little cause
Regret has long been by my side
only silence heard no applause
Find the place my head once laid
home where my heart last cried
An answered prayer shows the way
and my conscience hopefully guide.

If childhood ghosts still reside
then I know words will be spoken
Savour the last of my summer wine
and repair some hearts I've broken
Places absorbed in the passing time
my sweet dreams and memories lost
I will lay me down and rest awhile
so little time to count the cost.

Freddie Nellist
Sky High

My sky, your sky ever changing
A heavenly artist never still
Colours always re-arranging
The sky submitting to his will.

Oceans reflect your complexion
The cerulean blue tells no lies
Sun and rain causes refraction
Clouds are blessings in disguise.

The sky's an enigma seen at night
Truly endless with infinite space
Holes in it's cloak, a starry night
A huge track for clouds to race.

Making a wish, that's pie in the sky
I'd like to go see why it's blue
If only I could visit, I can't fly
And there would be such a long queue.

Freddie Nellist
Smiles Are Free

The face that wears a beautiful smile
Conveys more than words can say
Not only a smile that lingers a while
But the one that is there to stay.
A smile is a rainbow warm not cold
Showing your friends you really care
It might not lead us to a pot of gold
There's really nothing that can compare.

Many things can put a smile in place
It's as though your heels have wings
The touch of a hand a warm embrace
The echo when a wedding bell rings
Lovers know two smiles mean a kiss
Rays of sunshine smile while dancing
A flashing smile can be such bliss
Provocative smiles are for romancing

It's natures antidote for those who cry
Comforts those besieged with pain
Smiles do not require a where or why
It really matters if you smile in the rain
Laughing is music that enhances the soul
We all know it begins with a smile
Smiles are free not something we stole
They keep us all going for miles.

Freddie Nellist
Something Missing

My concern perhaps is not due
Not for the want of trying
My blessings counted, quite a few
And friendship I'm not denying.
I'm not short of gastric delights
And my fortune daily grows
I've never been afraid of heights
I accept everything but blows.

No self inflicted doubts in view
I've done it all, been there
My nasty habits I've out grew
All my worldly goods I share.
Despite being hale, in good health
A feeling I'm not being fair
I never broadcast about my wealth
I can't say a Godly prayer.

Freddie Nellist
Taking Steps

I tread in places not stood before
More steps yet to climb
Much waits for me to explore
One thing at a time.

My journey won't demise unknown
My footprints are deep
I will never walk alone
A faith I always will keep.

My ultimate goal is to find me
I am not unique
None so blind as refusing to see
or the right words to speak.

I've encountered Satan's many faces
Learning not yet done
Battles with him in many places
Some lost, some won.

Every place a challenge to me
My home is not forsaken
I'll return one day to Innisfree
Retracing the steps I've taken.

Freddie Nellist
The Reason Why

Almost four years now, I'm weary and tired
This old rifle of mine too many times fired
Killing and wounding I just can't keep count
Remind me someone what this war's all about.

Tommy fights Fritz our hosts are the French
My home has long been a water logged trench
Machine guns firing an obscene death rattle
Tell me General who is winning this battle?

Thousands of craters, small swimming pools
Reluctant heroes in khaki being led by fools
Fix bayonets lads and charge no mans land
My mate goes down but I can't take his hand.

Please tell me politician who counts the cost?
Would it be you or the loved ones we've lost?
If four long years ago and you could predict
Would your conscience embrace this conflict?

I don't have a quarrel with this man called foe
Would it be flowers not hand grenades I throw
How long then must I spend in this foreign field
Before a lasting peace can be signed and sealed?

Freddie Nellist
The Seasons

I have four different faces
Each with a special reason
Every face will run four races
Keeping pace with each season.

Spring is here a time of birth
Lending beauty to the earth
Birds and insects harmonize
Greeting sky larks as they rise.

Summer warmth, colours mature
Wild life abound joy and rapture
Gentle rains aid the streams flow
The sun gives birth to a rainbow.

Autumn scenes are never ending
Golden colours, magic blending
Leaves fall softly without a care
Bestowing feelings extremely rare.

Winter appears to love or hate
Wild life hurting, some hibernate
Children frolicking in the snow
Spring is only a stones throw.

Freddie Nellist
There Go I

Here in this place memories unfold
They lie buried beneath the mould
They'll not wound or cause me pain
I won't dance with those days again.

A place for dreamers, people like me
My mind paints pictures only I can see
I smile at the children playing nearby
I wish them happiness for there go I.

To cherished memories I most humbly bow
No longer have sweat upon their brow
They rest contented, their council keep
We will speak again when I go to sleep.

Days gone by that were surely blessed
I speak in whispers and let spirits rest
My kin's ghosts know I am passing by
To a place of my own where I will die.

Freddie Nellist
There's Hope

My eyes grow dim against my will
now a lamentable new low
Ancient lovers flirt, only a few
soon they will go
What I was once is left behind
wasted years spent
Guilt still projects me towards
a future good intent.

Refusing no chance to ring my bell
my friendships cursed
Too little too late but a start
my sins never rehearsed
Hearing words from those I love
making a soothing sound
They have my word of no pretence
the past I'll not compound.

Freddie Nellist
Time Can't Tell

Time utters no warning cry
turning young to old
hot to cold, we always comply
An illusion time cannot fly
Memories measure passing time
future time you can't buy.

Time saved does not multiply
tomorrow is time trespassing
What is to be arrives on time
time is not everlasting
Keeping time not ours to keep
to be borrowed only in sleep.

Time everlasting means no end
that is not now or even then
Have we all that time to spend
not much time it waits for none
Will time tell the answer is no
I'll leave you now, time to go.

Freddie Nellist
Trees

Is it a saint who plants a tree
A gift to you and me
Supposing no tree there
Say a prayer.

No birds flying trapeze
Or autumn leaves in the breeze
Birds nests float in mid air
do you care.

Invisible forests we search
Where the pine beech or birch
They don't flourish there
Apple, cherry oak or pear.

Be aware of this leafy treasure
Evolving at leisure
We look, don't always see
Saints may plant, God makes a tree.

Freddie Nellist
Truth Or Fear

Retribution loiters as does fear
a repeating haunting refrain
An eye for eye will not abstain
the hand of vengeance will appear
Your shadow often crossed my mind
yet my soul not weighed with blame
I've planted seeds without remorse
without any angry missiles thrown
my reputation fair and widely known
there's no need to change my course
Two pointed fingers only one truth
no condemnation, there must be proof
So all accusers take note and beware
this game is justice not truth or dare.

Freddie Nellist
Unbroken Ground

Unbroken ground to places unknown
Do not advance with casual care
More than fingers can be burned
Even for a dare
Contemplation and then some more
Rewards and reasons profound
To gain success you must venture
Few new roads are found
Do not pursue with eyes of blind
Roads to hell or heaven uncharted
But recall the road to Shangri-La
Go on if you've started
It's man's destiny to follow dreams
To assault distant roads not broken
We are helping the world go round
God's words spoken.

Freddie Nellist
Virgin Plot

I've just moved in, the gardens a mess
It'll take me ages, a year more or less
To cultivate and grow requires hard graft
Technical of know how, and a little craft.

Starting off right and everything planned
All foreign objects are definitely banned
Footpaths and borders where they will go
And a nice green lawn I will have to mow.

An apple tree is a must, of course a pond
Brightly coloured fish that never abscond
Many flowers of sorts, shrubbery of kind
For my wife a clothes line, easy to find.

Most important are our feathered friends
Having a garden without them truly offends
Bird table and bath at their beck and call
All this surrounded by a sturdy stone wall.

Of course for this I get to pick and choose
I will get stuck in there's no time to lose
The work will be hard but not too extreme
Wait a year, help me take pride in my dream.

Freddie Nellist
Whatch This Space

A global soap opera the earth astounds
population rises galore.
A blind multitude that leaps and bounds
with a pregnant encore.

We love and hate in a world that's small
soon head to toe we sleep.
Needs be it seems that we're here at all
there's no privacy to weep.

Aggravated hunger and poverty do reflect
dwindling resources few.
What of an approaching domino effect?
the answer is overdue.

How much more space left on the ground
as we multiply in haste?
What then great minds in the world around
has science gone to waste?

Freddie Nellist
Where There Is Life

Questioning the future, taking an uncertain chance
Time is not friendly, this could be my last dance
I've rekindled the flame again to take up the chase
First I'll make peace with God and state my case.

There are still pages to turn in my life's worn book
The writing grows gently dimmer each time I look
The height of my vision is now a distant vanguard
I'll continue life's journey though the way be hard'

Many failures and shadows have tormented my past
Risking many regrets there are more lines to be cast
For an untroubled mind and putting fears at rest
I will invite God along, he'll be my honoured guest.

My determination is strong though creaking with age
In the twilight of life I've reached the final phase
Broken promises, many neglected things to be done
I'll count the stepping stones, I'll walk not run.

Freddie Nellist
**White Magic**

Snowflakes falling gently from the sky  
Caressing my face as they go drifting by  
Painting a white blanket upon the ground  
Miracles performed not making a sound

Wild life decides it is time to sleep  
Hibernating in burrows so dark and deep  
Bees safely slumber in their honey hives  
With sweet offerings when spring arrives.

The winter season has not come to stay  
It's just mother nature having her way  
Inviting icy threats to play their part  
The landscape becomes a fine work of art.

The days are short with fast ebbing glade  
Icicles like soldiers formed up on parade  
Mountains and dales are silvery fleeced  
The Indian summer has long since ceased.

Where then is your sting, your winter woe?  
Laughing children are making men with snow  
Your invitation beckons us from the hills  
To kids riding sledges, enjoying the thrills.

You bring forth winds blowing cold and raw  
And hailstones descending in sizes galore  
Spreading alarm when you huff and blow  
To be honest winter, I don't want you to go.

Freddie Nellist
Who

This bloody war, I can't keep awake
I'm told it's for my country's sake
Combatting a man never seen before
Could be the guy who lives next door
Perhaps my foe is thinking the same
Who then is doing things in our name
Don't have to be a great technician
Got it in one some damned politician.

We are soldiers so tell the hell why
A new day dawns who is going to die
Will I be the next to lose his life
Brave politician please tell my wife
It's been four years can you believe
Was it worth it, what did we achieve
A soldier's thoughts, had to be said
Can't ask my mates most of them dead.

Freddie Nellist
Who Am I

Show me the way friend,
please be kind.
My purpose unknown, I
seek peace of mind.
Someone the world will acclaim,
please take my hand friend,
tell me my name.

Many times these questions
have been my song.
Colourful lyrics conflicting
my whole life long.
So help me my friend,
I know you can't stay.
Walk with me part of the way.

Tell me friend what you are seeing.
Can you give an answer,
my purpose of being.
My home is uncharted,
It's called every place.
I leave no footprints, no trace.

Does every ones future remain masked.
Myriads of questions all unasked.
The roads I walk always uncertain,
Help me friend to draw the curtain.
Thank you friend, sharing my sorrow,
We will meet in another tomorrow.

Freddie Nellist
Wind In Your Face

Natures passion heard but not seen
It's melody always painting the scene
Making the grass whisper and dance
Billowing white clouds that enhance.

We feel your touch and your embrace
Whence came you, there is no trace?
Your breath rotates a windmills wings
Autumn leaves do impossible things.

With gliding eagles your energy flirts
Doing weird things to the ladies skirts
Gusting, blowing, you raise aloft kites
Swell waves at sea to enormous heights.

At times you bring your friend the rain
Orchestrating at will on my window pane
Doing your conducting from the skies
A changing of tune comes as no surprise.

Your blind tempo varies, to what avail?
From a gentle caress to a malevolent gale
A force of nature it does no good to brood
It's an ill wind that doesn't blow any good.

Freddie Nellist
Wishful Shrinking

Conscience condemns my increasing spread
A fork lift shifts me out of bed
My silhouette offends my gaze
Some doors I enter walking sideways.

My misgivings perhaps a trifle magnified
As daily my weight attacks the scale
To be quite honest I'm terrified
The readings are rising beyond the pale.

I'll turn my back on home made pale ale
The very thought turning my face pale
Fatty food and cakes to be banished
Until my spare tyre has finally vanished.

Bacon breakfast never again to be seen
I'll chew all day on a celery stick
Perhaps some toast with margarine
My ample outline won't disappear quick.

Maybe another way, it's called exercise
Very hard going I won't win first prize
I'll start the day with some skipping
I'll really miss my bread and dripping.

Freddie Nellist