

Borders and Boundaries

As borders and boundaries began to change
And railways widened out their veins
The land of Hurst adjoined the Barnes'
And Mayplace began to lose its farms

Our landscape a victim of clockwork hands
In the wake of the train line and Ellinghams
As a new order shapes the merchants' lot
Developers advertise a 'countrified spot'

Once the Groves' splendour viewed the Cray
And buses were trams on the Roman Way
Then the Country Estate divides its plot
And a deal is struck with firm Wedlock

Martens Grove House becomes Martens Road
Mansions no more as we enter Park Grove
Sensing the loss of an Old Road view
Now 30s houses appear modern and new

Orchards and nurseries face builders' tools
As Ayling displays new 'parks and pools'
Defiant the trees despite our fears
Remaining grand through the passing years

So gradually we lose our country lanes
Gone 'Hills and Holes' after the trains
But the march of time commands respect
Forced onward by change we can only reflect

Despite our unease at not standing still
Barnehurst remains a wooded hill
Grove roots tightly grip a deep dell plot
And continue to defy the striking clock

Hence what once was there has all but gone
And Old Father Time continues on.....

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