

March Morning

Up with the sun at six,
Over the fields, through Bruern Wood;
Huddled sheep lie on cold damp ground,
The rising sun slowly soaking up the dew.

Two, four - three more - doubtful deer
With funny white bums and anxious stare,
A noisy woodpecker staking his claim,
Stupid pheasants, a squirrel or two...

Along the soggy edge of the bridle path (damn those horses),
The frost still white on the alpacas' backs,
I am warmed by the ascending sun, now
A good few feet above the hedgerows.

By eight the frost has all gone on the car outside,
John Humphreys has maddened, Suzanna has mellowed.
Avoid the holes in the road still unmended,
Emerge from the valley onto Leaffield's ridge:

A black-headed gull, like an arctic tern, dive-bombs
A haughty buzzard in a field of sheep;
In Marlborough Lane the wind still bites
But in Corn Street the sun is king

And the day in Witney is well underway.



David Soward, Spring Equinox 2012, Milton under Wychwood

'Thank You' from Winstone

After one of our rescued cats (Winstone) was shot in the eye in Milton-under-Wychwood in November we had so much support from people in the Wychwoods, especially from the residents of The Sands. We would like to say a big thank-you to everyone, particularly the Year One pupils of Windrush Valley School, Ascott, for the wonderful get-well card they made and for the Christmas stocking and presents they so kindly sent (both for Winstone and his brother Milton). People

sent so many gifts and cards and even offered to drive us to Bristol to the Veterinary Hospital, who saved Winstone's life.

Thanks also to the Vets at Stow who acted so quickly, and the kind lady who offered to raise funds to pay the vet's fees. Winstone is now settled back at home and after his traumatic ordeal (and his owners') he is enjoying life as a cat should, with his brother.

Tony and Marion Clark