

70's Child

70's child saw film of rocket ships landing on the moon
heard Concorde beating sound overhead
with its slender goose neck profile
migrating across terraced rooftops and tower blocks

70's child listened to Slade on the 8-track
and could easily recognise a Ford Cortina Mark III
in GLX electric blue from the end of the street
and car crime was depicted with a wire coat-hanger aerial

70's child could run for the bus
in patch pocket high waist Oxford bags
wearing platform sole shoes on pinched feet
and tank tops over penny round picture shirts

70's child was fed on beef dripping
Meat and two veg main courses and suet dumpling desserts
and saw the world through *Vesta* packet meals
by just adding water and simmering for 20 minutes

70's child took risks on no-brake wrecks
ate in fast food Horlicks and burger joints
had conversation other than game boxes and mobile phones
and didn't know what a designer label meant

70's child could ride on free-flowing motorways
and farked-up wide handle-bar *Chopper* bikes
before going through a string of world crises
ban the bomb protests and other boom-bust projects

70's child survived power cuts, pay cuts, Muhammad Ali uppercuts
and pogoed into punk with a trendy leftover feathercut
then waved flags in time to *God Save the Queen*
and experienced democracy from the end of a dole queue

70's child is now sipping a pretentious little Chardonnay
a Cappuccino from a refurbished dockside cafe
and contemplates the blameless society over an expanding waistline
and wonders where it all went wrong

Taken from *Urban Dawn* by Brendan Hawthorne

Copyright Brendan Hawthorne 2004