

There are seagulls over Shearwater,



Longbenton



Showing off, stunt-rolls and screams.

The sun is a tinned peach



& the clouds are skinny sheep

Stampeding towards The Viking

Hanging over The Wynd like a Christmas bauble

ENG

A little lad goes mental on the swings

Touching Heaven with the tips of his toes.

The air is a cocktail of damp brick and cut grass



A suped-up silver Subaru speeds past

Monkey Tunes blasting out like gunshots, like bombs

Frantic bass vibrating through the pavement

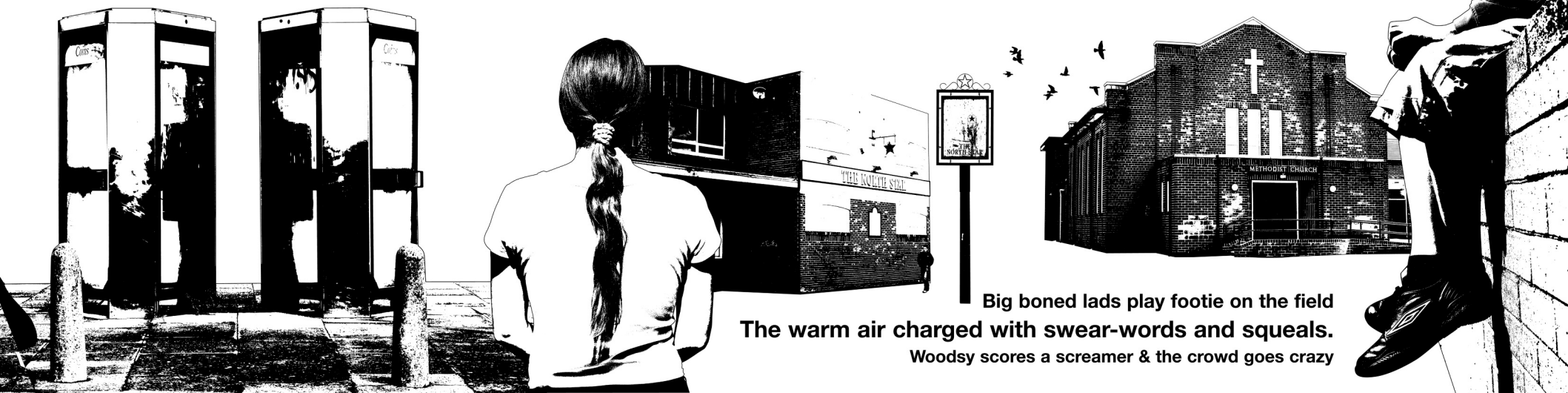
Proud trees in Summer Sunday best

Sway like drunks, whispering secrets in the breeze

Lime leaves resplendent,

shot-silk, water-marked, damask.





Big boned lads play footie on the field
The warm air charged with swear-words and squeals.
Woodsy scores a screamer & the crowd goes crazy

Two girls play 'kerbsy' by The Innisfree,



Their red-faces
glowing in low sun



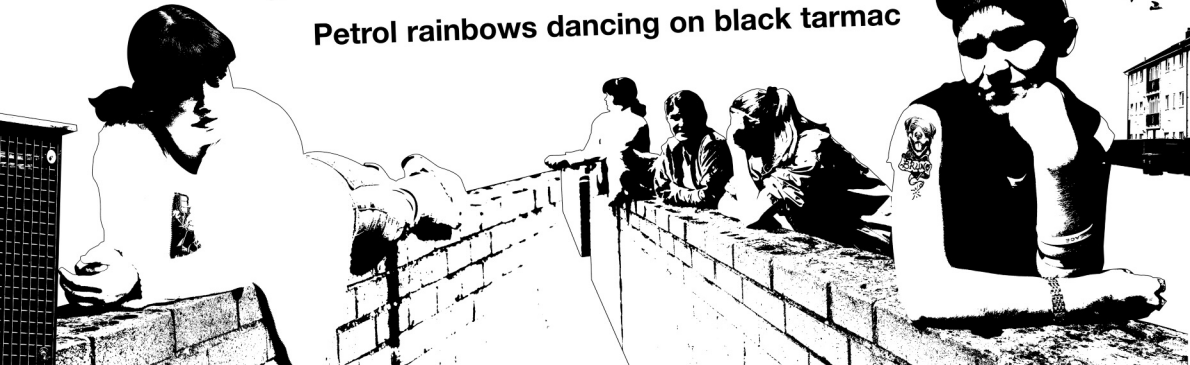
The kids from Balliol make a racket
Smiles as big as their faces
A chaos of light sabres and scoobies
Spilling out of the 'youthie' like an avalanche
Filling Chesters Avenue with mischief and laughter

BALLIOL YOUTH CENTRE

Collection Point
Balliol Youth &
Community Centre
Friday
9:30 am to 11:45 am

Paul plays in puddles

Petrol rainbows dancing on black tarmac



Suzanne's hair smells of lard,

She sucks on a snidey Superking



A jaundiced Metro grumbling like a hungry belly

Baby Emily blows a raspberry,

Her pink tongue searching for words



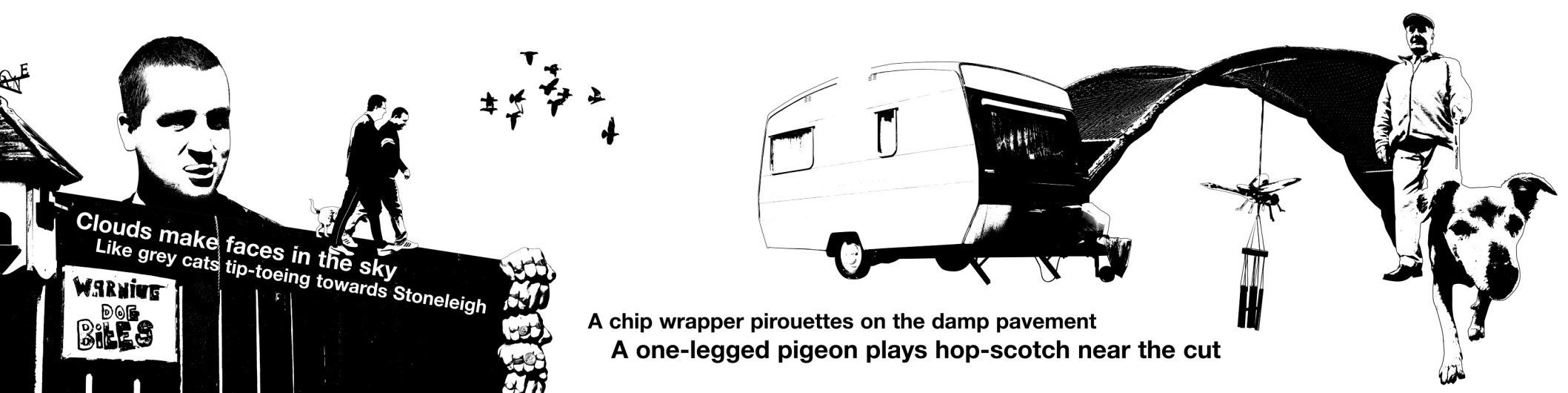
The sky is the colour of my mother's eyes

A pair of magpies puff out their chests
Midnight blue flashing from their backs:

"Two for joy"



GARDENS



Clouds make faces in the sky
Like grey cats tip-toeing towards Stoneleigh

WARNING
DOG
BILES

A chip wrapper pirouettes on the damp pavement
A one-legged pigeon plays hop-scotch near the cut

And old man Henzell's ghost walks the boundary of his realm, A million memories hovering like dragonflies in the heavy air. Dream homes rising from the 'snanny' fields



Amy and Ashleigh stare into space **Their eyes full of dreams**



And I'm thinking about the **big** things:

Love and Death, Truth and Peace,

