

## **Our Special Mentions**

“The Lie” – for its intriguing central concept, and some beautiful images (‘the dark pearl of her left eye gazing up at me’)

“Ironing Bored” - for the expertly controlled changes of mood, within the timespan of a stint of ironing, as today’s harried housewife (‘Always more to do. Head down. Press on’) reflects on her grandmother doing the same task, and her own children

“The Hole in the Trousers” - Excellent use of the recurring motif of ‘the hole’ to give a lively, rueful account of a disintegrating relationship

“Musing Round Trewyn Garden” – particularly for its exquisite closing stanza

“Intensive Care” – for its clever exploration of denial, distance and the ultimate reality of an impending death

“Out of Love” - a wry narrative, full of easy familiarity and small kindnesses, where much of the truth of the relationship is contained in the parentheses