

By Milan Jagatia

Road to Separation

Rubbing along,
getting on
side by side

Shared passport queues,
health insurance,
mutual interest

Free trade,
visa free visits
singing competitions.

Decades of history misaligned
divorced
fractured

Borders clamp shut,
arms folded,
countries look inwards

Wounded hearts
harden with distrust
loneliness and isolation

31st December 2020
the dice is rolled
risk it all!

My Beloved

Your passing wave and "Hello"
Bring a smile to my face

Chats and checking in
Make the street a better place

Sharing tomato and chilli plants
Nurturing nature together

Giving scones and cupcakes
Cements gratitude and good will

Moving my wheelie bin
Kindness and polite manners

Telephone numbers and help
In times of need

Keeping a friendly eye out
in case life trips you up

No.1 supporters and aid
when crisis and isolation hits hard

A community holds hands
scaring away the sharks

Reassuring friendship
My beloved neighbours

Childhood Recalled

Friendly banter and advice
flowing freely from next door
many a good time shared...
swimming lessons, plant cuttings and dog sitting
open doors, cups of tea a must
visiting a busy mum
playing to relieve her burdens,
lifts to shops, lifts to work and shared concerns
jubilee street party for all
unity and love at the core
feeling free, safe, my spirit soars
as bikes are ridden at top speed
left on side roads, no locks, trust assured

Shock! Body in bin store....
mistrust and suspicion rears up
all a suspect, darting eyes, sharp ears
furtive glances and jumpiness
doors locked tight and playing out paused