

Neighbours

Written by: Kitty O'Shea

Oh Maggie! Just the person I need,
We're away to the dales for a restful week.
A few things I worry could go wrong
Perhaps you could keep an eye while we're gone,
I'll leave you a key if that's OK.
Then things will feel safer while we're away.
Hopefully alarms won't blast off and blare
But I'll show you the switch under the stairs.
I know your soft spot for our cat Midge,
Could you check there's plenty of food in her dish;
If that gets empty, I worry she might
Wonder the house dragging unsavoury diets,
Sorry here but I'm pushing for more –
Friday, would you wheel out the green bin, it's by the back door?
Not to drag on but you'll spot in the hall
A bulging black bag for Tuesday's charity call.
Could you ever stand it outside on the wall,
Hopefully the forecast won't give rainfall.
Oh. I see by your face there is something amiss
Of course, your sister is coming with her bunch of kids.
That's a reminder that life behind doors
Beats its singular heart rate, knows every pore.
But neighbours all, a smile and a wave

Puts a heart in our street, recognition as safe.

We cover the same footprints, pass the same walls,

And the air that blows through

Says goodwill to all.