

**Here's to the...**

**By Ann Atkins**

Not quite on the frontline.  
Admin, packers, cleaners,  
maintenance, the invisible  
technicians behind the scenes.  
Might not be risk takers  
movers and shakers  
but no organisation  
could function without them.

And the homemakers,  
the ones who know which bin  
goes out when.  
Who know how to work  
the washing machine  
and sort whites from colours.  
When the Hoover needs emptying.  
The shopping list writers, tea makers  
unnoticed, until they stop.

And those whose names  
might not be famous for designing a bridge  
but where would it be without bolts in?  
Unnamed faces in lazily labelled  
history book photos  
that say: 'Typical factory scene'.

Here's to all of them.  
I raise a glass  
to every *What's-her-name?*  
Every *You-know,*  
Sue *or-is-it* Jane?  
If you're one,  
or you know them too.  
Tell them I said  
*Thank-you.*