

John Clare Poetry Prize 2012

Lucky Jim

Paul McDonald

1st Prize: Adult Category

I went to Brenda's house for dinner
She's clearing out the fridge which meant
A first course of fishcakes and yoghurt
Lucky they're compatible, she said.

Main course prawns, peas
And croquette potatoes;
Angel cake with ice-cream for afters.

She's clearing out her cupboards too: Jim's stuff.
I scored a pair of Argyle socks.
Lucky they're in fashion, she said.
We debated widow's pensions

But weren't sure of the details;
She plans to pick a booklet up from Age Concern.
She's terminating *Sky* – making do

With Free View and knitting.
Lucky I'm a reader, she said.
She's cancelling the *Racing Post*,
Arranging for collection

Of his hearing aid, tablets, and orthopaedic bed.
His Lotto numbers will survive: *I just have a feeling*, she said.