

**Sussex Poets Competition 2015:  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £150 University of Sussex Prize**

**Class Register**

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by

Margaret Edwards, Chichester

In a neat herringbone bounce  
The red arrows lift daily off the page  
They soar blindly, instinctively  
Like scarlet gapes of swallows

While blue-eyed pools below them blink, repeat,  
Absent, absent again, and  
Roll off, ultramarine beads  
Helpless on a cut cord.

The beads are all unstrung now  
A blue ballpoint pulls the cord out straight  
In a long veiny wail.

Today, we shall study red:  
Arrows, planes, and the gape of certain birds,  
Powder paint, rust, teacher's pen and yes, blood.

Elsewhere a grey arm reaches for a phone.  
Our top grade for attendance  
Ebbs away fast and fatuously  
In a foam of old tissues and syringes.

And somewhere else at sunrise  
Between the sharp red mountains  
The tide comes singing in  
With a small blue coracle, gently circling.