

Bunted

By Jill Munro

The red, white and blue of the flagging bunting draped
around the sign Danehill left, Chelwood Gate right
should have been removed now it's three full weeks into June.

You say *I'd have thought they'd have unbunted that by now*
and I laugh, say I love you because you have your own language,
and you say *But isn't that a word?* and I say it should be –

like the sagging *It's a boy!* helium baby caught on a branch
like Christmas fairy lights still twinkling come February,
like yesterday's damp confetti blowing around a yew's roots,

like deflated balloons on the party-house's gatepost,
like the fading sign for the festival we danced at last summer,
like the wilted yellow chrysanthus bunched with a ribbon on her grave,

all those things so long past need to be unbunted.