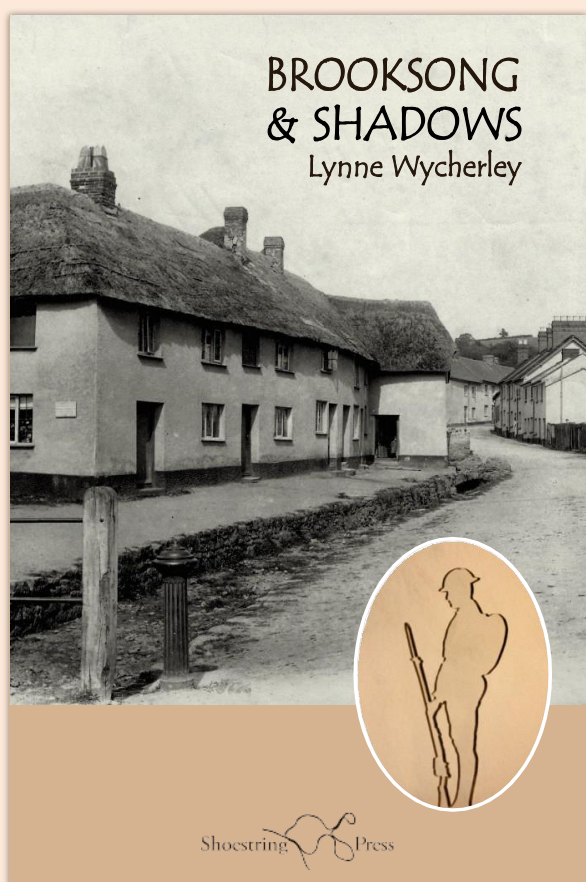


Published Poet Celebrates Otterton and its Environs

Quietly spoken Lynne from our parish outskirts has a new poetry volume, *Brooksong & Shadows*, (autumn 2021) inspired by our beautiful village and its wider landscape, particularly during the First World War. She says “I find it very moving to think of past generations, especially the young craftsmen and others who lost their lives to war”. The poems also evoke moon and stars, pay tribute to our farming community, and touch on wildlife, lace-making, the tidal-flooding scheme, and St Michael’s fine engraved doors.

The book (£9 from the publisher) is available at a discount from our village shop and is also in other outlets. It is Lynne’s latest volume from long-running Shoestring Press, a home for established poets edited by distinguished literary critic John Lucas. Though she rarely admits it, Lynne was twice winner of the national Second Light competition for women’s poetry, among other prizes. (London arts journal *London Grip* has already praised the book for its “lyrical beauty”). After a string of lovingly written books welcomed by reviewers, she now writes only occasionally when special themes arise.

Lynne pays tribute in her book to Jane Bennett’s *Otterton Remembers* 2018 – a handsome factual account of the servicemen named on our village war memorial: remaining copies of this beautifully illustrated volume are available from the author or St Michael & All Angels’ church.



From *Hare on the Headland*

She’s pressed to the field,
the soil’s warm fold,
ochre to ochre; wind-honed ...

Look: how the brushed sandstone
breathes, how the land’s
own heart is beating.

From *Making, Unmaking*

... Saddlers, tile-cutters, herders –
all making, honing, tending

while on the Front
the weft of life sky-blown.

From *Skyline with Tractor*
(dedicated to local farmer Robbie Pyne)

Out on far furrows,
disc and harrow, raw umber.
A chassis climbs, rattles,
to write and write again
a grooved beauty, combed
like corduroy, woodgrain ...