

## Ode to the Mount Vernon

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Lights are distant but oh so clear  
Raises optimism for another year  
I Hunger and thirst for more than beer  
Long for health, free from fear

Lie alone in the dead of night  
Scan the horizon no longer bright  
The only tubes that I now see  
Are delivery for chemotherapy

Watch with my love at tea time  
As fluorescents bloom pink and lime  
Snake and dragon in neon tube  
Chase away the darkest mood

Share a dream with our daughter  
To drink a pint and not just water  
Lights are on, the lounge looks cosy  
Shining bright the neon rosy

Friends surround the hospital bed  
All fear the worst with silent dread  
Yet comfort beckons in a venue near  
At the Mount Vernon to shed a tear

The cold of winter is the season  
The Mersey cry is its fffff freezing  
The distant pub looks inviting  
It cheers us with its festive lighting

We sit and muse what happens there  
At yonder hostelry with its daily fare  
A well met host and karaoke  
A sandwich, crisps, maybe bacon smoky?

Surrounded by the sick and dying  
I ached to join, never gave up trying  
At the altar for a healing sermon  
Take my communion at the Mount Vernon

From my highest Royal position  
I daily met with my physician

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The object of our mutual desire  
To make me well and restore my fire

Each day passed with caring staff  
Spirits mixed, days without a laugh  
Blood and bowels in fluctuation  
Mind and body fought with determination

For six long months I held the vision  
From 7Y's window bed position  
It held a promise of life to come  
Another chance for more than rum

From September to February  
We held the thought to make us merry  
But custom there was much delayed  
As we saw the havoc all man made

Roadwork's formed a formidable bar  
An obstacle to every customer  
I trust the belated return of pavement  
Restores good fortune and more payment

So, family and friends catch the bus  
Leukaemia and tears left behind us  
At last we make it a crowded one  
And cry cheers at the Mount Vernon!