

THE CHERRY TREES

Out of the dusk of distant woods
All round beneath the April skies
Blossom - white, the cherry trees
Like lovely apparitions rise,

Like spirits strange to this ill world,
White strangers from a world apart,
Like silent promises of peace,
Like hope that blossoms in the heart.

Laurence Binyon



This timely poem, suggested by Sue Waite, could have been written yesterday, with the cherry trees blossoming in Lympstone, and when this ill world is in need of hope. Laurence Binyon, is best known for his First World War poem 'For the Fallen', one of whose verses is read at Remembrance Day Services: 'They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old...' His masterpiece is 'The Burning of Leaves', a lament for the destruction of London during the Blitz in the Second World War.