

IAN HENERY

Bull in the Bullring (villanelle)

The bull is now a meeting place for all
No longer a symbol of oppression
A landmark in Birmingham's shopping halls.

Commonwealth Games, an armoured bull enthralled
Female chain makers free from repression.
The bull is now a meeting place for all.

Workers free from chains, tyranny's downfall,
Bulls baited in bullrings by aggression
A landmark in Birmingham's shopping halls.

Released from sweatshops in this urban sprawl
Chains and bondage broken through expression
The bull is now a meeting place for all.

Working people, retail therapy trawl
Not misused and abused by suppression
A landmark in Birmingham's shopping halls.

Bulls in Bullring and train station installed,
Chained bulls are baited no more, progression:
The bull is now a meeting place for all
A landmark in Birmingham's shopping halls.

Released from the Shackles of Oppression (Bull in the Bullring)

Symbolic meaning has changed
Bulls baited in the bullring
And everyday people in sweatshops.
Industrial Revolution, bondage and chains
Opening ceremony, Commonwealth Games.

Bulls baited and everyday people
In sweatshops in the bullring.
Industrial Revolution, Commonwealth Games
Opening ceremony, bondage and chains
Symbolise meaning has changed.

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16th December 2023