

**Frances Presley**  
**Two oaks and a triangle**

thicker girth  
not biodegradable  
no need for secateurs

stay here  
less than three  
headland

ten years  
taken out  
stemming primate

*It's funny that the leaves haven't fallen off*

ever bronze  
clinging acorns  
fruit fruit fruit

new stems  
new growth  
these leaf formations

•     •  
•

here the rings end  
no further  
to reason

expert cut  
clear incision  
-

new sidestem  
is it too thin  
will it continue?

how to prune  
what remains  
-

can a replacement  
be a replacement?  
too much competition

to rise above  
or simply to leave  
and let her go



arranged stone  
triangle  
her boots

*any self respecting deer could have its feet in*

the stone that is only a stone  
at the base of brambles  
between two beech trees

anxiety for the oak  
which must either thrive  
or

nettled frenzy  
these laurels we do not want  
though less invasive

mind shift  
gear change  
text expected  
cyclist

the oaks planted in memory of my mother, Selworthy woods  
17 Feb 2007

## Naked boy

1

nest more  
perforce  
range up

naked boy  
nay nay ced  
head truculent cede

it has its spine  
like a boy leaning  
like a boy stripped bare

a green coat for the quartz  
a pelt  
let us pelt

2

the naked boy  
rests into the stone  
put him up against

*what did he say*

*he's disappearing*  
*he's going to turn right*  
*he's climbing over the gate*

two bodies that prop each other up  
one animal one human

3

fossilised face  
worn down  
ossified

turn away

we have gone down  
we have gathered  
we have emerged

watching the wind farm

leave  
drink  
protest

high flown pheasant

4

he holds a lap  
it shapes a lap

SHIPS THAT WE NEED?

SHAPES

shiplap  
just the common name for over  
lapping  
slates and plates

we have overlapped

## West Anstey longstone

*here ti(l) la*  
my deepest breath  
startling deer

stertling roil  
on the ridge

she's here at last  
the 'veiled lady'

shepherde of the stream  
no strange or rambling

*look after each other*  
each  
all one

with a plantering bosom  
*my own things get done last*

patched patchouli  
absterrent hardering

made hepworth  
veiled but more expressive  
than a gormley

*look there's a small orange*

the anatomy of sandstone  
will not pister

'd'ou viens-tu bergère'?  
not from the tour eiffel  
or the mobile mast

tired of that ancient world  
her masts are flowing familial  
her masts

24 June 2007

**Caratacus stone**

*'failure is not an option'*

**I**

leans sideways	C
at an awkward angle	A
this is not the way to strain	R

gradual ceding	Ā
call it quits	A
double or quits	C

my double trouble	I
character gouged	
smooth mouthed	

leaning tower  
kept leaning  
lean times

monitored always  
identify me with N  
for nepus

∩

chipped off	E
the block	P

pasted back	U
with pale pink gum	S

24 June 2007

## II

‘The stone is so remote from railways, and the ways of Latinists, that it has hardly ever been seen by an epigraphist’

It is impossible to clearly show the inscription by means of an untouched photograph. So that the sizes and shapes of the letters, and the spacing of the inscription, can be readily seen, they have been outlined at the expense of naturalness

CARĀACI or Caratacus - Welsh national hero of early Roman days, taken in chains to Rome, where, according to Roman historians, he was given his liberty because they were impressed by his fearless bearing

NEPUS = Nepos (Romano-British reading) Sister’s son, descendent, kinsman, son, grandson, nephew

One of the pieces was distinctly inscribed with  and exactly fitted the fracture immediately preceding the EPVS. The N was cut reversed – a not uncommon error even nowadays

It is to a local hillman, unversed in archaeology, we must turn for the key to the re-

discovery of the missing , for its jealous protection during many months, and for its fixing to the inscription in the exact position and with commendable skill

Carat – represents the passive participle of the verb, which is in Welsh car-u, to love

from Alfred Vowles ‘*The history of the Caratacus stone*’ (1939)

Frances Presley