Audrey Longbottom

AWAY FROM IT ALL

Retired now, he has a house distanced
from faces at windows, traffic by doors.
No longer tunneling the fumes of the city
he directs his energy to natural landscape
ordering it to lawns, herbaceous borders
sprayed free of pests and fenced against
those who might defy his glare of trespass.

Friends do drop in
as long as they let him know
and discussion usually embraces
the joy of dropping out.

At night, his household cat
is locked against free roaming gods
while he, rocked by memory's lull,
ranges a familiar road
away from it all.