

## *Of Food*

### *Ye Olde Tea Shoppe*

IT WAS one of those tea shops that like to exude a  
Feeling of yesteryear (preferably Tudor),  
On the grounds that a rock cake to challenge a denture is  
Best served in an ambience going back centuries —  
Where battered boxed beams (from about 1980)  
Preside over *têtes à têtes* (genteel or matey)  
And latterday pewter disports on the shelving  
With plates that look Delft (well, until you start delving),  
And a neat little sign gives me thanks for not smoking  
While I'm having a drag — so I know that it's joking,  
Like everything else in this new old tea shoppe  
( 'til the lady in charge gets decidedly stroppe).

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