

Lady

Surprise Party

I SAY, have you heard? Betty's three-score-and-ten!
Who, *Betty*? What, *Betty*? That's wonderful! When?
The party's September. They want us to go.
The world will be there — but *she* doesn't know.

It's Carol and Kaye who have planned a surprise,
And Renée's been briefed, as they've had to devise
A good cover story — the sort that would let
Two devious daughters manoeuvre dear Bet,
Without a suspicion once crossing her mind,
To Thingwall and bring all her friends close behind.

And on the great day, you should see how they come,
From Guildford, West Hartlepool, *dozens* from Brum!
Each brings bewilderment, shock and delight
To the face of a lady who's stunned at the sight.
There's salads and sausages, cheeses and meat,
Then a daunt of desserts brings delightful defeat.

A murmur of memories swells like the sea,
With wavelets of laughter on top, running free.
And happiness dapples nostalgia's recall
With love and affection: we're having a ball!
