

# SITOOTERIES

By Mike Ross. December 2022, South Queensferry

Of all the things that we learned from the 'rona  
There's one bit that sticks in my mind.  
When lockdown was tight folk would do all they might  
For what contact and joy they could find.  
Stuck home in a room with all meetings on Zoom  
Their thoughts turned to claiming outside  
With all kinds of creations to share their libations  
Sitooteries sprung far and wide.

It started quite simply with moving of seats  
For the sun and a better existence.  
To take in the view and to greet neighbours too  
With a fence in between and a distance.  
But soon all the natives got much more creative  
With pallets and posts and tarpaulin.  
Addin' beanbags n' hammocks, and vintage ceramics  
For when guests were allowed to come callin'.

They ranged from some logs with the bushes as bogs  
To gazebo and artisan gin den.  
But one thing united – they're all fairy-lighted  
With snackage and alcohol open.  
By the end of a night it seemed more than alright  
To go shopping online on the mobile.  
For to further embellish their nest with great relish  
And brighten the world in their own style.

Hot tubs, home gym kits, oak barrels, niche outfits  
With fire-pits and knee rugs for dark.  
Fountains and bunting, clawed-gloves for weed-hunting,  
Hand-painted sign place-names to mark.  
The bleaker the news, folk would order more booze,  
Wee cushions, more solar-powered lanterns.  
Bulk-buy compost and seedlin', then raid the recyclin'  
For auld packets to turn into planters.

Then it seemed the whole nation, through time and frustration,  
Went just more than a little bit feral.  
Foraged burnable wood and all sorts of wild food  
With a plant app to lessen the peril.  
Bartered beer for their toil, forged clay ovens from soil,  
Went wild swimming and cooked on a fire.  
Dress to captain a jumbo - with drinks trolley combo  
And searched if there's saunas for hire.

So if you're back to being stuck in a stuffy wee office  
And longing to linger outside.  
To sit under the stars with a private wee bar  
Then it's just up to you to decide.  
Take a coffee and snack, go survey oot the back  
For to build the sitoot'rie you're dreamin'  
But mind keyring chainsaws should be framed on the wa'  
As reminder tae not shop while steamin'. *(repeat last 4 lines)*