

Tracy Patrick (HNC) Reid Kerr College

**Elderpark Street, Govan**

We climb the steps above the bookies —  
a taste of piss so strong, it makes my eyes  
water. Black iron straps barricade each  
door, hieroglyphs on the dimly lit walls.  
My muscles tighten, like prayer beads knotted  
on a string. 'I advise you to knock this one back,'  
says the guy from Housing. 'You'll never last.  
They'll be kicking in your door before midnight.'