**A nut roast has arrived** *by Simon Maddrell*

every christmas since 2016

now that he doesn’t

remind me of thirty years ago

now that he doesn’t

remind me of the nut wellington

one christmas thirty years ago

the red wine gravy no consolation

for my red meat fiend

who loved to retell his horror

of being force-fed greens & grains like a cow

needing a balanced diet

for his cheese & his butter

of being force-fed greens & grains like a bull

needing a balanced diet

for those medium-rare joys

a nut roast arrives every christmas

now that he doesn’t.

*i.m. Stephen Owen (1967-2016)*