



## WINTER WARMERS

*Pubs. Poems. Positivity.*

### Down the Local

*By Charley Genever*

*Your East Anglia poet*

She texts: *wanna go out?*  
and before I know it I'm down the local  
where pints are beacons:  
liquid flames flickering from hand to hand  
like the passing of an Olympic torch.

Here, we're all chasing something:  
lulled lights, a spot on the open mic, a night soaked  
in hope. She asks what I'm having and I laugh  
*babe, I'm a Genever, my surname is literally Dutch for gin.*

Here, we're slices of the same lemon:  
where little monkeys hang from mum's glass of pop,  
where *let's get a round in* means one for the gent  
sat at the bar, his black dog sleeping at his feet.

Here, the walls don't talk because they're listening.  
We get to the pith of a person so easily,  
all segment smiles and pip-like teeth  
spilling stories into brickwork seams.

We spend our weekend here, sitting cosy 'til closing time.  
Safe, warm, watching a stag do dance with the WI  
while we squeeze in another round.

Winter Warmers is a collection of heart-warming poems written by seven outstanding poets.  
The campaign aims to spread cheer and hope to pubs, publicans and their communities.  
Connecting people for a positive start to 2021.

The campaign is a collaboration between INN CROWD and Pub is The Hub



pub is the hub



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