

## A Short Break... take five.

Through Soft Machine, Matching Mole and his own solo recordings, Robert Wyatt's work has been a great influence on us. His music is both evocative and inspirational. Whilst embracing other cultures and exploring various musical forms, Robert's distinctive sound remains quintessentially English.

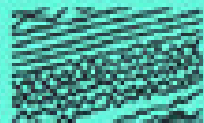
'A Short Break' is published as a companion to the recently released 5-track CD of the same name (Voiceprint VP108CD). It features doodles and stories characterised by the same political and comic concerns which are preminent in Robert's lyrics - the politics are red, the comedy, black (or should that be pataphysical!). Idiosyncratic and fragmentary in nature, these sketches are made part of a larger picture.

The music of 'A Short Break' maintains the spirit of his previous album, 'Dondestan' - a delicate blend of vocals, organ, piano and percussion. The sound is refined to an organic ambience in which music and voice are perfectly matched in their starkness and purity. Perhaps the natural simplicity of his recent work reflects his home environment of the fens and flatlands

A Short Break... take five.

Ultramarine, September 1992.

Front cover photograph by : Alfreda Bengé



voiceprint  
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# ROBERT WYATT

## A SHORT BREAK



What they should have done

What we should of course have done  
the moment we were told  
the words

-the very moment, or say within  
ten days or so,

What we should have done is  
to have said yes of course:

we'll just pack our primitive goods onto our  
silly old donkey or copper kettle's back, our pots, the odd veil,  
and be off. Into the desert is it  
you want? Near any oasis? No? you  
need all the ready oases for your  
brown new world? At night then  
we'll just go ... to where there's nothing.

In an orderly, humble, huddle, to evaporate  
dust to dust and at that. Of course, we're notches already really,  
so what's the diff?

Perhaps we should have left  
a couple of old hands  
to show him to build the terraces  
for irrigating the land

No? No dirty old Arab leftovers?  
Wonderful <sup>equipment</sup> <sup>irrigation</sup> <sup>all by yourselves?</sup>  
and then at that off they'd go on camels

you could have wandered round  
in quiet empty villages  
or quiet orchards  
enjoying the <sup>fruit</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>land</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>people</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>corn</sup> <sup>abandoned</sup>  
without a word, as he'll be he'll be  
out doing god

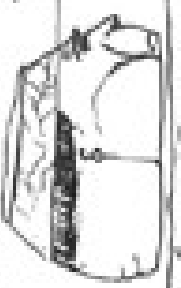
in your overwhelming love, pity  
and compassion for your slaves;  
quite uninterrupted.

It's so unfair - what can anyone tell you of all people?  
You've been through the worst. Nothing  
we can tell you about being about off at the wilderness right  
at once



Queen Victoria rained over  
her empire for decades.

1) THE GREAT AMERICAN GENERAL FRITZ VON FARTBUDDER III IS GOING TO VISIT WITH US IN ENGLAND! EVERYBODY WANTS AN EXCLUSIVE!



2) THE BBC'S SCIENCE TEAM WANT TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE LATEST PRECISION TWEETWE CHAMBER WITH SAFETY SWITCH THROWN AUTOMATICALLY IN PROXIMITY OF WHITE SKIN



3) BUT THE HERR VON GENERAL IS NOT A CHATTY MAN! - - -

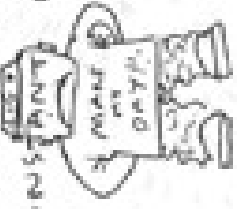


2) MELVYN BRASS WANTS THE LITERARY ANGLE!

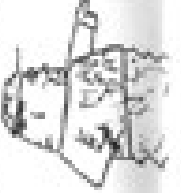


...and what would you say to those who would say that you can't employ copy of the world's best selling fiction without your UNWEARABLE IDEAS!

4) WHILST RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS WANT A HUSHED WORD OR TWO ON SPIRITUAL REVITALISATION BY CONSTANT COMBAT READINESS!



6) and besides an INTIMATE RENDEZVOUS with a COUPLE of OLD BANKERS.



Rocky's Evening Out. (a short story)

Rocky Tinsel swaggered nonchalantly up to the bar of the large and brightly lit although it was quite sunny outside st. d. considering, Fawn + Fuckit just off Wimpson avenue one surprisingly warm february evening just north of Queensway which he'd just come off and ordered a pint of lager in a swifty offhand manner as if he already asked one but had been ignored which he hadn't.

Rosemary Bloomfield, who did thursdays to Saturdays grinned as she acquiesced to his demand since he who pays the piper calls the tune. Rocky reached inside his oversized green leather windjammer for a fiver and sauntered to the section of the brown bar marked 'selection of sandwiches + snacks.'

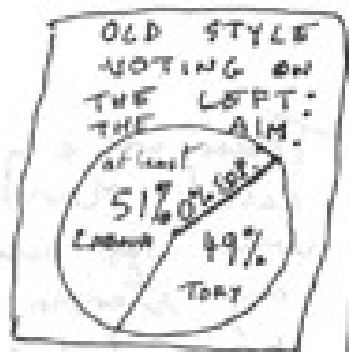
awful just getting these  
- this morning Gavin,  
I mean everybody  
crossing all the  
roads and everything

Yes well that's the  
thing you see, when  
everybody sees the road  
as a public bulge, I mean,  
they're just not getting  
the challenge potential from  
their cars, are they?

I see what you  
mean Gavin. If each  
road was managed by  
a go-ahead team of sort  
of governors, enterprising  
individuals could own them,  
I mean here, the stretch of  
road of his or her choice!  
One could form an Edgewood  
Consultants for example. As less  
Mort. For licensed members only!  
And then and then you could  
parcel out lanes by merit, and then

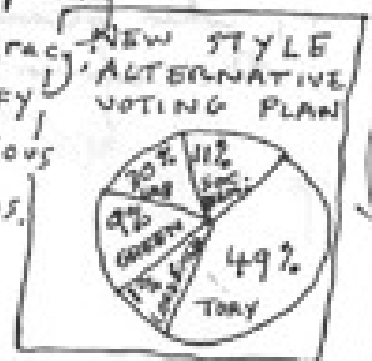
## the NEW ARITHMETIC

Realistically, all we  
can hope for in  
the foreseeable  
future is to  
beat the Tories!  
Tradition patterns  
are DOOMED + FAILURE!



= Tories can lose it...

So never mind supporting  
the old Labour aristocracy,  
we should DIVERSIFY  
and support the various  
reform pressure groups.  
THAT should stir  
things up!



= Tories up on a shock. Let's not be STATIST about this.

GOSH that's BRILLIANT Gavin, so POST-CONSTITUTIONAL!

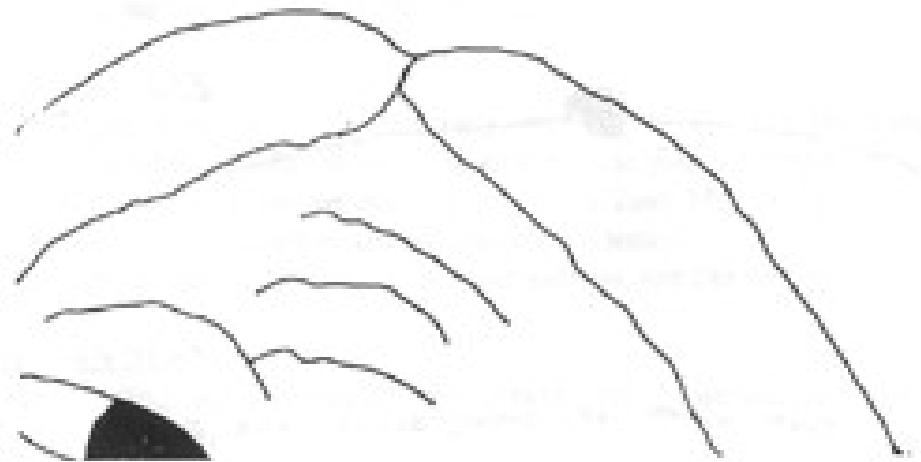
There was a young banker  
called Martin  
who was asked if he'd done  
any starrin  
he replied "I should say!  
I made up do with the gra-  
vy when Eleanor! lodged up  
the carrin!"



When you're feeling old and grey.....



REMEMBERING  
(THE WAY ONE DOES)



## A PLANT AND SOME ANIMALS

### COFFEE.

I like everything about coffee except the taste.

p.s. I admire the attempts of coffee workers in El Salvador to establish a more varied and self sufficient economic base.

### WHALES.

I like the comforting thought of enormous bags of fat wobbling through the water, thinking. Also it must be very comforting for a whale to see another whale close up, or hear it in the distance. And baby whales must feel very cosy having such enormous mothers and fathers.

### ELEPHANTS.

The same as whales, plus: it must be interesting having a trunk, and being able to carry logs on your front teeth. And when humans ride you, its not such a daunting challenge as it must be for mules etc. Also, you get to see interesting countries like India.

### CROCODILES.

The amphibious life is full of variety, one minute you can see things from land-lubber's point of view, the next minute you can fraternise with the swimmers and escape the dry prison of land life, and enjoy the sensation of looking ashore from a detached position.

Also, I think they really cry, out of sheer sadness, not like babies.

### HUMAN BEAN.

Human beings are the missing link between the goose and the cactus, well i say missing.

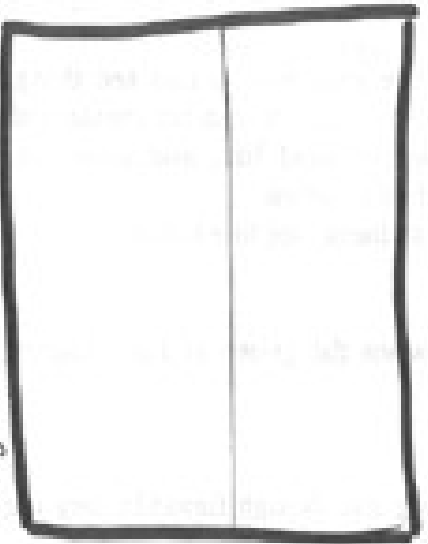
### TAPEWORM.

Tapeworms are unbelievably thin and long and though flexible they are blind: the fore runners of the telephone conversation.

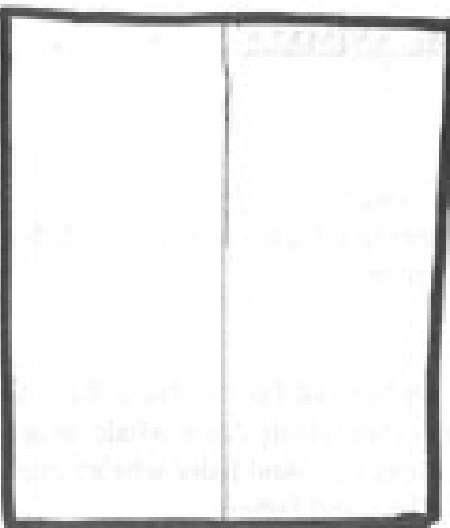


THEM WITH OF EYES, BLUES AND FUZZ.

King Pin ruled with an iron rod.

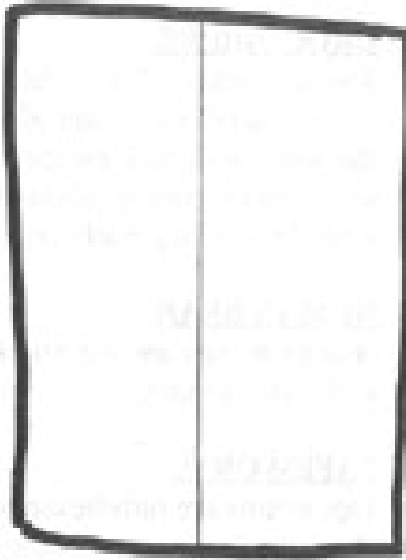


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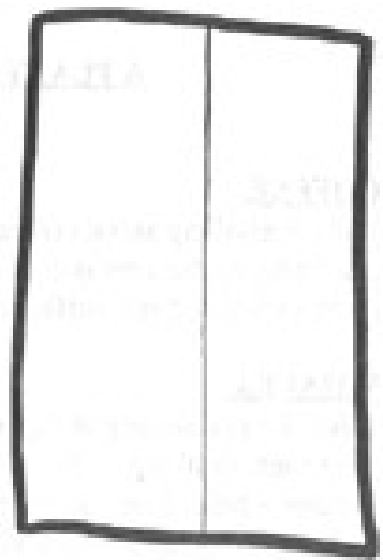


As he frowned, his eyes narrowed to slits.

He fixed his gaze on the horizon, speaking in an unbroken monotone.



D



"Let's get one thing absolutely straight" he said flatly, "I've got to draw the line somewhere."

Breakfast:  
(any point)  
Sarah:  
about

my Jeremy:

# The Late Bird a play by C.B. Trent

Gathers (a successful lawyer) Looks: dawn is coming!  
Sarah (a disappointed products researcher) there's none to it that's that  
my Jeremy (a smart child) my left wellington ain't fit

Gathers: I wouldn't care about that. Have you seen Mary? The milk's late. I'm tired. Goodnight, whatever.

Hallo! Hello! anyone in?

Oh god. Hide the silver.

Man. mind if I polish off that toast + marmalade? Looky looky!

That's nice that's nice that's nice

~~running running running~~ Kill him Kill him.  
Curtain.



1  
I wondered what  
was behind that  
white sheet of  
paper taped to the  
window. I stood

2  
off to the  
outside was  
a dress night.  
But as it cleared,

3  
my window faced  
a snow covered  
hill side. Suddenly

4  
I sensed an  
immediate living  
presence - a white  
elephant stood  
close by

5  
blinding flash,  
I understood  
where I was:

6  
I stood at the table now covered by  
the sheet of paper. I was almost  
ready to begin.

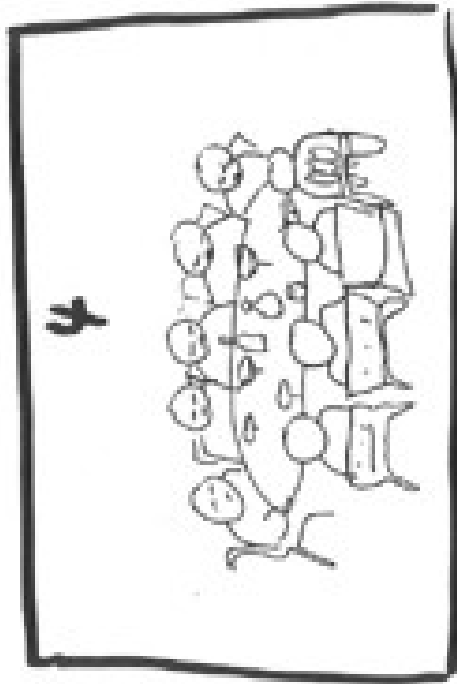
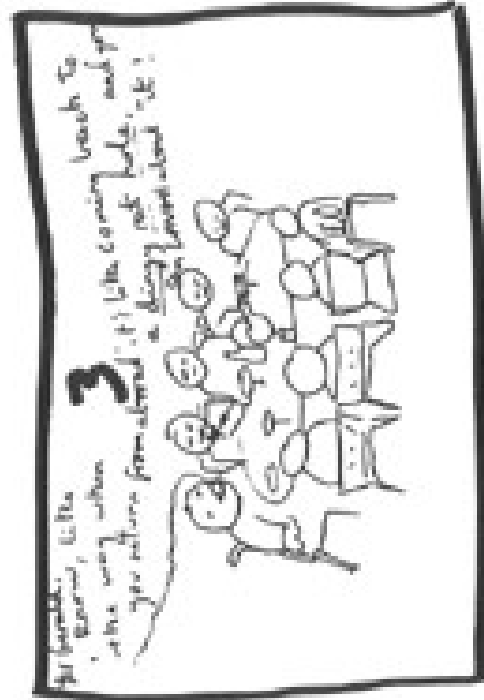
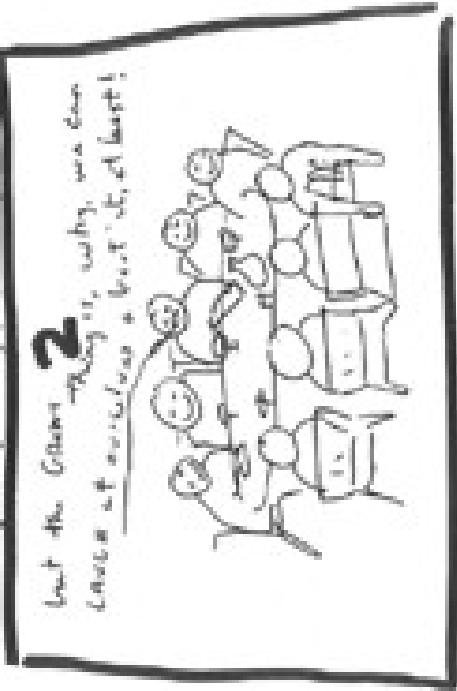
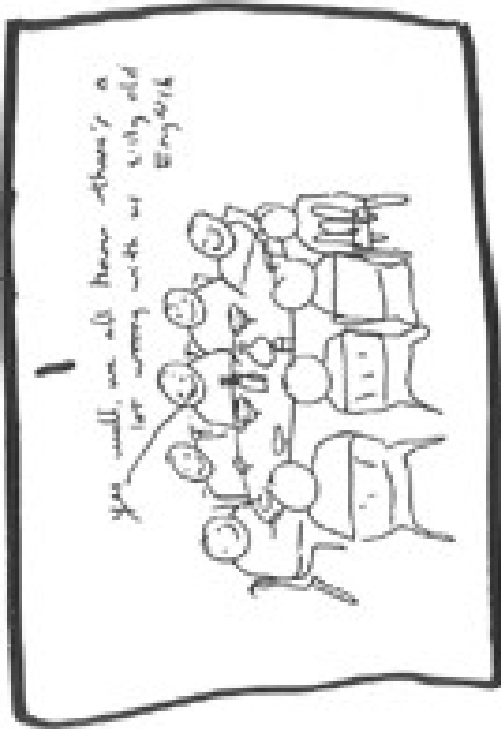
## Jasmine Pays the Penalty

(a very short story).

Something at the  
back of her mind so far  
down it was perhaps the  
mind of her back Jasmine  
knew that once she'd  
recklessly pushed the bottom  
of the ladder outside the  
nearly estate agents next to  
the garageovers, the one on  
this side of the road, next to  
the post office that's going to  
have to close down soon which  
will mean the local pensioners  
will have to hobble all the way  
to the big post office the other  
side of the roundabout & something  
awful would happen to the windowbox.

Grandpa having a party with

his friends from the pub!  
(But don't always drink with 5 Pints for a BEER)

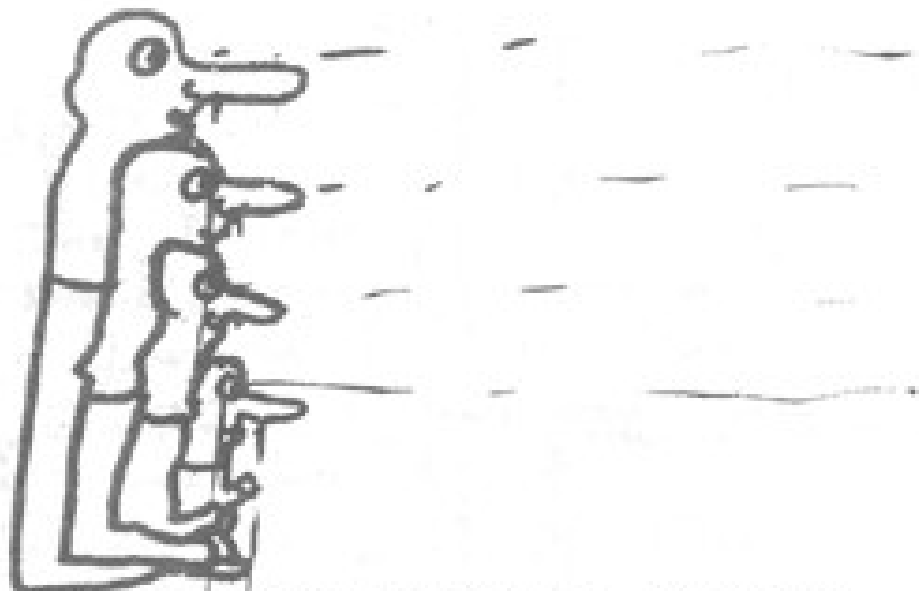


The Day of Decision  
A cartoon tale.

Nothing that had happened in his life ever had prepared Teddy McWinter for the way they all looked at him expectantly in his tiny front room that strange rainy afternoon in which the entire government front bench came for his advice about what to do next in the government and everything.

He'd only ever once written to the Prime Minister about how he thought his dentist's bill was too much but his style had obviously impressed the entire cabinet when his letter had been read out and now here they all were, they'd come in the special house of parliament bus, so Teddy stalled them while his tiny mind spun on its spindles "would you care for some weak orange juice?" he enquired in an amicable monotone.

A FAMILY



CLEAR VISION, HUDDLED SMELL.