

## NOVEMBER – a month of special days

Sitting proudly among  
The embers of the year  
The penultimate month,  
ushered in by All Saints  
and World Vegan day  
followed closely by All Souls  
aka the Day of the Dead.  
As autumn colours fade  
and foliage departs  
leaving naked trees  
to flex their branches  
in gusty rhythms.  
All arms, no legs  
A parody of Irish dances.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> wrapped up in woolly scarve,  
gloves and eager anticipation  
for darkness we wait  
to celebrate the failure  
of Mr Fawkes and his dastardly plotters  
though some say every year  
that Parliament is full of rotters  
and maybe that bomb of his  
wasn't such a bad idea.  
Mindless oohs and aaahs  
as the sky ignites and fireworks  
soar and sparkle before  
they fade and fall,  
another political metaphor.

Little thought for the animals  
who fret and cower, unaware  
it's also National Stress  
Awareness day  
Who cares! We're having fun.



In stark contrast  
on Remembrance Sunday  
in solemn silence we recall  
all those who died in pointless wars,  
made heroic by uniforms  
ceremony and grim salutes.  
How ironic that this precedes  
anti-bullying week  
and World Kindness day.

International Men's day shares  
the nineteenth with World Toilet day  
we could mark both maybe  
by making women stand up to pee.  
Contemplation on the 20th,  
World Philosophy Day  
led to the creation on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
of International Elimination of  
Violence against Women Day.  
Just for 24 hours but I guess  
you've got to start somewhere.

Thanksgiving is a day of gratitude  
starting the festive season with  
a positive attitude,  
closely followed by an orgy  
of uninhibited retail therapy  
called Black Friday.  
A frenzied festival is here  
of save while you spend.  
and then  
for those with Jesus in mind  
the first Sunday of Advent  
symbolizes hope and marks  
the first day of the liturgical year  
as November comes to an end.

***Carole Blacher***