

Nelson

If David Shepherd reached the age
of one hundred and eleven,
he would have to spend the year
with one foot raised from the ground,
which, at that age, would surely kill him,

and his ghost would be condemned
to hopping about for eternity,
forever awaiting the chance to signal
his famous wagging four,
and make the scoreboard clack-clack,
freeing his restless soul.

Instead of that, the scorecard reads
Shepherd, D., 68,
caught and bowled by cancer,
but the wagging four lives on
and we raise a foot for Shep
at every Nelson.