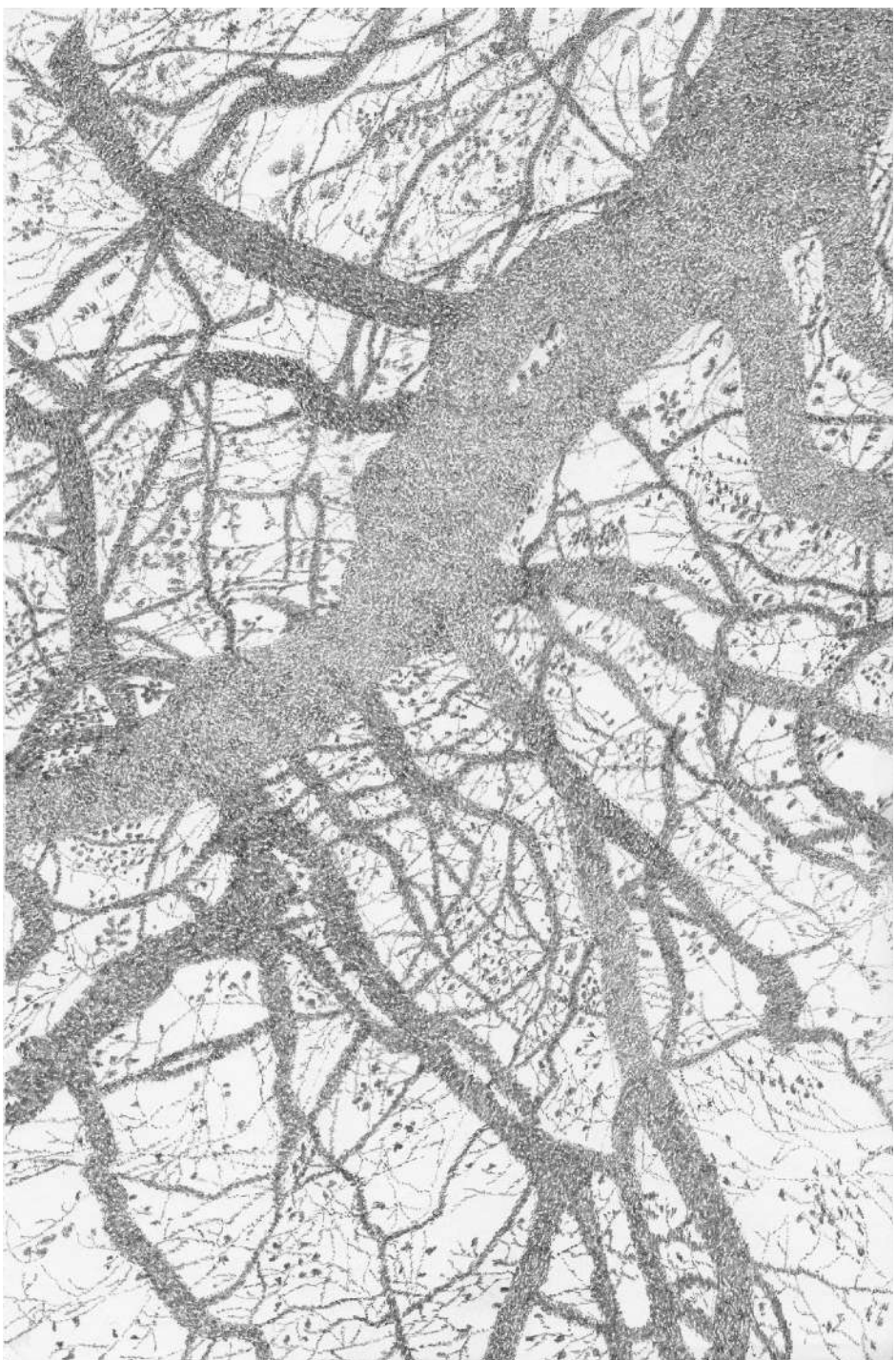




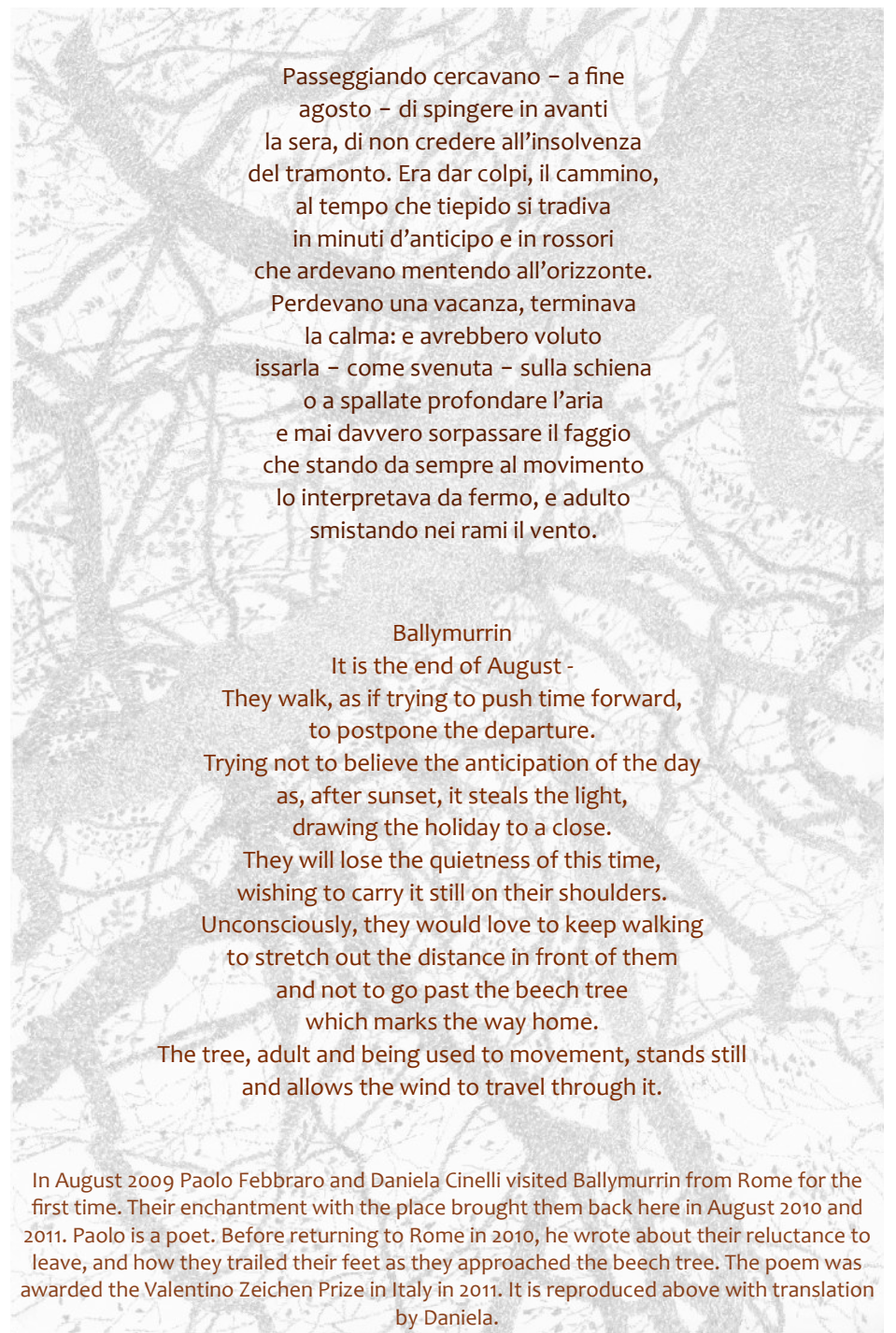
The great beech tree at Ballymurrin, 25 Feb 2012



The great beech tree succumbed, on 29th April 2012, to a furious gust of wind from the North east, and was laid low across the lane. The Murphy families brought their team into immediate action to clear the lane, although Tina and Dan were disappointed not to miss school due to their promptness.



Pencil drawing made of the tree, during winter 2009-2010, by Tina Geoghegan



In August 2009 Paolo Febraro and Daniela Cinelli visited Ballymurrin from Rome for the first time. Their enchantment with the place brought them back here in August 2010 and 2011. Paolo is a poet. Before returning to Rome in 2010, he wrote about their reluctance to leave, and how they trailed their feet as they approached the beech tree. The poem was awarded the Valentino Zeichen Prize in Italy in 2011. It is reproduced above with translation by Daniela.