

# January

## Writing from in-person group which takes place Wednesday 10.30-12.30

People share (non-obligatory) homework at the start of each session before further writing, reading and discussion. (Apologies, some items reformatted to save space):

### Glitter (Jane)

Oh, glitter you sparkle but I do loathe you. In the right place you shine, you sparkle and do the job you're supposed to. However, I have a partner that is pure evil. You can guarantee if there is an opportunity to add extra glitter that will explode, he will invest the time to make this happen. The unsuspecting victim, me, will open the card and poof, glitter everywhere with a big grin on his face His friend Jim got revenge this year. I heard the cry from upstairs. A Christmas card through the post, ordinary. Then the cry of defeat as he opened it and was covered just before he was going out. Ah karma.

### A Land Girl's Christmas home-coming (Will)

She stood wrapped in a woollen scarf and a heavy but warm tweed coat in front of the market square tree; the smell of pine filled the crisp air alongside carol songs and roasted chestnuts. Arms tucked under one another she made her way down the cobbled streets to where a friendly and familiar face awaits.

### Midwinter Mystery (Will)

15<sup>th</sup> December 1025. Dearest Diary,  
They're calling the disappearance of the HRMS Dragdonia a mid-winter mystery... I don't fully understand how one could possibly lose a cruise liner in this day of age, bad management I say but all opinions aside it's awfully suspicious that a fifth cruise liner owned and operated by The White Pentacle Liners has disappeared a few weeks after the company fell on hard times after the increase in mistakes and accidents and not to mention the collision of the Titanic and Hindenburg over the Atlanta Ocean back in 1012... something feels off, like they're hiding something... it wouldn't be the first time a cruise liner company has brushed things under the rug and carried on like nothing was askew... company after company are turning out corrupt, first the Fairy Godmother Corporation, then The Hidie Corporation and few others, there's something afoot and I Miss Emily Fisher will find out what it is, this mid-winter mystery and the scandals of The Baker Street Corporations.

### Outside (Maggie)

Why do I struggle with glitter?  
It's innocent enough, they say.  
Why do I shudder and judge it?  
It doesn't make sense, that I know.  
Why do I flinch?  
Turn into a Grinch?  
When paper that's shiny  
and tinsel on trees  
should please me....it doesn't!  
I wish I knew why.

### Following the Footsteps (Tia)

Don't walk behind me;  
I may not lead.  
Don't walk in front of me;  
I may not follow. Just walk beside  
me and – be my friend

### Outside (Linda)

Oh, the joys of being outside now  
that winters here. I like the cold,  
frosty mornings. The Peaks look  
beautiful when it's cold and frosty,  
yes this is the best walking time of  
year for hikers, definitely the best!

Bring-&-share **Christmas lunch**; **Gnomes** with **Tia**, some unfinished; two Land Army '24 Doors' advent events (Heritage Lottery Fund): a **wartime kitchen** (cake: Foxlowe); a **Land Girl's Christmas** shadow puppets (+ Gordon MacLellan) incl. family workshop; **Twilight Market** calendar stall.



## JANUARY DETAILS

### You, our participants

currently contribute to our rent in Fountain Street and help keep our services going with donations, large and small, in cash and in kind.

**Vitaly, you are also supporting one another.**

#### Winter Trees (Rachel)

Trees covered in snow, the snow looks pretty, it's starting to melt. A robin perched on a tree branch, chirping away. Looks colourful, the red, green and white Christmas colours. Many other trees covered in snow. The red Holly bush berries in contrast with the white of the snow makes for a Christmas card picture.

#### Festive Shadows (Pauline)

There's a bogey man on my wall. He's black and scary with a long row of spikes shooting out of his head. There's an ugly shape sticking out of his head, looks like teeth. What a monster. And what about those strange long arms, I'm glad he has no legs. He can't get me. Hope he can't fly. Wait a minute – oh laugh, laugh, laugh Now that I've turned on the light I can see – it's the Christmas tree Fairy on top.



#### Contact details:

c/o Leek Health Centre, Fountain St  
Leek, ST13 6JB (Andy collects mail weekly)

**Phone: 01538 528708**

**Mobile: 07760 138395** (now on a better connection)

Email: [info@borderlandvoices.org.uk](mailto:info@borderlandvoices.org.uk)

Website: [www.borderlandvoices.org.uk](http://www.borderlandvoices.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1398672493722468>

Borderland Voices contact **Andy Collins: at home but Wed in Leek**



# Borderland Voices

26 years of arts for mental wellbeing



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

Newsletter  
January 2024

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

**In-person sessions, Leek Health Centre, on Wednesdays.**

**Every Wednesday: 10.30-12.30 Creative Writing;**  
**1.30-3.30 Expressive Art.** All welcome. (but **closed January 3<sup>rd</sup>**)

**For further information** email [info@borderlandvoices.org.uk](mailto:info@borderlandvoices.org.uk)

**Images:** WLA '24 Doors' Advent events; **family workshop** in the library; **Twilight Market** (with Tia and Sheena, too); **Christmas lunch; Gnomes**, some not quite finished.

**Jan art: 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>: 'Paint and Prose' + Sheena**

**Leek Textile Weekend, 10am-4pm, Nicholson Institute Leek, Sat 20/Sun 21 Jan.** Details from Andy of these FREE sessions.