

MARCH

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):

A blessing in disguise (Rachel)

I try to count my blessings each day as I get out of bed. Watching the sky and seeing a beautiful sunrise. I would like to take walks in the countryside and watch the birds and animals grazing in the fields. Then getting in bed at night and watching the sunset on the horizon. I think if we just look around there are many blessings in disguise. I think we should count our blessings and smile.

Snowdrops (Liz)

I can see snowdrops out of my living room window. I see the blackbirds and robins searching for worms from between dead leaves and the stalks of the snowdrops. I see snowdrops as the sign of spring. I see snowdrops as a beautiful sight all in white. You will see snowdrops everywhere you go.

Flowers (Bill)

The flower of a friend who waits as we speak.
The flower of hope while all around seems bleak.
The flower of a child happy and free.
The flower of sunshine on a cold bright day.
The flower of rain on dry parched ground.
The flower of a stranger feeding the hungry.
Flowers, flowers everywhere, O give us eyes to see.

Discovery (Linda)

Discovery is a powerful word, it conjures up for me visions of explorers on the high seas, men like Columbus who discovered America. Mankind has never lost their search for discovery, whether it be new lands, new discoveries in science or medication. And now that we are in the Space Age, we hope to be able to travel to different planets, new galaxies and perhaps hopefully discover new life forms.

Love actually (Jane)

Love actually can sometimes be cruel/Love actually can turn us into lovesick fools
Love actually can cause us heartbreak /Love actually can make our hearts ache.
Love actually can be a roll of the dice/Love actually can be really nice.
Love actually doesn't have to be conditional/Love actually should be all unconditional
Love actually doesn't cost a price /Love actually is free when it's just right.

Snowdrops (Will)

They stood in congregation along the side of the road, their white heads bent down facing the ground as if mourning the slow death of winter, leaves held together in prayer as they wished winter a final goodbye for this year, till she's born anew come the end of another year. They weep, others praise, for spring is dawning upon the deathbed of winter and the year just gone; now history they are and the snowdrops mourn, for they too will soon pass and others will dawn upon their deathbed.

War and Peace (Pauline)excerpt

War, unfortunately, has an enduring nature because it has a political dimension which is directly connected to a human dimension which dictates the existence of uncertainty and the contest of wills. Therefore, while there are human beings walking the earth, there will be no such thing as peace.



Pauline's snowdrops complement some of last month's work. Visitors enjoyed BV writing in Buxton's **Word on the Street** event. See [website](#) for all the pieces. **Frances** encouraged various approaches to **Still Life** (some here still unfinished).



MARCH 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.

The beginning of spring (Mary)

When my mother was a little girl, she wanted to learn Gaelic. I have a small book one of the nuns at Tower Hill gave her. Some of the other children learned but it was sixpence, and her dad was a casual docker so there wasn't the money for it. When I was little, I really wanted to learn the Irish dancing. Kevin and Maureen Long, twins, did it every time there was a wedding or a parish dance. But I knew there was not enough in the pot so it had to be a dream. I didn't make a fuss about it because it would disappoint my mother who wanted to give me the whole world.

Drive (Maggie)

wanting
forcing
pushing
to a goal.
arriving
achieving
sustaining
well done you!
surviving
questioning
priorities replaced
letting go
acceptance
letting go
letting go
thrive



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

Website: www.borderlandvoices.org.uk

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

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



Borderland Voices

25 years of arts for mental wellbeing



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

Newsletter MARCH 2023

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

Every Wednesday: 10.30-12.30 Creative Writing;
1.30-3.30 Expressive Art. All welcome.

For further information email info@borderlandvoices.org.uk

Images: Still Life studies in various styles/media plus
Pauline's Snowdrops (see writing)

Also, **'Our Street'** event at The Pump Room, **Buxton** in February
featuring **BV writing**, which attracted plenty of interest.

March art: 1st: Still Life with Frances Naggs (last session);
8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th: Spring Collages with Sarah

Moorlands Connect bus service: demand responsive, door-2-
door, bookings@moorlandsconnect.co.uk, **01335-342951**

Sunday, 5th March: Moorlands Climate Action Energy Day
Foxlowe Arts Centre, Leek 9.30am - 4pm, all welcome, Free