

# MAY

## 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):

**Fire alarm (Pauline)** Oh drat! There goes the fire alarm and it's freezing cold outside. I bet it's a false alarm. I bet it's someone having a crafty fag in the toilets. Then again it could be because there's a woman collapsed on the waiting room floor because she's waiting to see a doctor. It certainly isn't because of that man beside me who is enjoying his fag. I certainly don't begrudge him, I used to love my cigarettes, many years ago when I smoked. How was I to know it would leave me with emphysema and liver damage? I wish someone would have set off an alarm for me.

**History (Jane)** A vast amount of knowledge exists in this world. My favourite I must confess is Egyptian. The pyramids, the hieroglyphs, the Pharaohs. I wanted to learn it all at school. Sadly I didn't; they say the subject is history, but it really isn't. They should rename it as political history. The GCSE history I knew: we'd learn about the war and how it began, what it entailed, that was fine, I enjoyed it. This however went on into As and A2 level. The politics about how this all began; the treaties behind nations' backs. This wasn't what I wanted from history. Even when I chose my course work, I was told no. I wanted to look into the sinking of the Titanic. We were originally told we could do what we wished. Then I had to look into the politics of Asquith. All being said I didn't do well in History. I'd lost the interest and drive. Not to say I didn't try but it's true what they say if the enthusiasm isn't there, it's never the true best you can do.

### **There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in (Bill)**

Are we not all, as a human species spoiled, marred, broken? Do not all of us constantly make mistakes, fall short of the mark in one way or another and vow with great sincerity that we will not hurt, wound, upset sometimes the very people we most love and care about. I can easily hold my hand up and say for me anyway that is the case. But I am convinced that us humans and creation itself is made to show the unending and unfathomable love that is within every one of us and that eventually all and everything will realise this and light will fill all the cracks.

### **A New King (Rachel)**

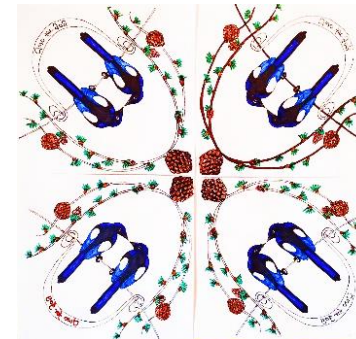
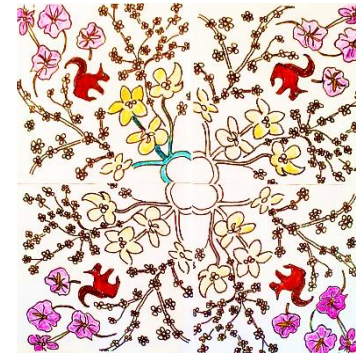
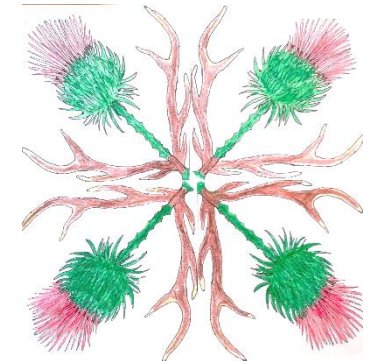
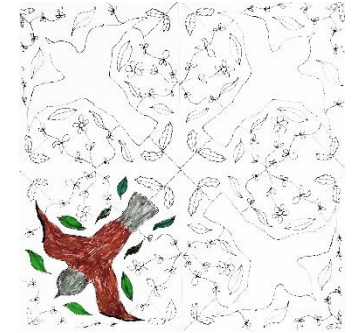
A new King, a letter from Buckingham Palace to Borderland Voices, wondering if he has actually looked at and read our calendars and hard work. Watching the King on TV, visiting different countries, wondering what actually goes through his mind. Crowned in May, lots of flags and crowds waving and cheering the new King as he drives past, taking on his new leadership role.

### **Three Pandas (Linda)**

Three pandas are better than no pandas I suppose but the way we are going we won't have no pandas left or any of our other beautiful animals as well. The only place we will be able to see beautiful animals like pandas soon will be zoos and as pandas are so hard to breed, we soon won't be able to see them there.

## Natural history 'mandalas'

inspired by British flora and fauna.



## MAY 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.**

**No stone unturned (Tia)** Well, here I go again to try & rearrange my garden in an easy, maintenance free style. Where to begin? There are various heavy items – pots tall & round, logs in weird shapes & sizes, adding a few plants into pots or ground. Moving gravel & artificial but realistic flowers on the centrepiece, my lovely large, heavy bird bath in position; remember to take a 10-minute break occasionally! Then don't forget lovely but large, terribly heavy garden stones, phew! That's leaving no stone unturned!

**A new King (Will)** A new King, a figure head, a chess piece, icon of an age long gone, king in only name not power, however you class or look at it, it's a retro, vintage parade of decades of old, when places were ruled by a single person and not a heckle of hyenas in business suits and Rolex watches, feasting on the remains of a long gone great empire; though not all are bad some do good but only in far off lands of picturesque landscapes but nevertheless a new King arises whether wanted or not but in a game of chess all pieces must be there to begin, with each piece falling one by one, the Knights, then the castles, then the horses followed by the Queen, so who is next to go, the King or the Pawns or will it end with check mate and both depleted and worn down and only to start all over again as the clock ticks down and only the devoted left in the crowd both interested and enlightened, so who's your bet on in this game of chess?



#### 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

25 years of arts for mental wellbeing



## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

### Newsletter MAY 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](mailto:info@borderlandvoices.org.uk)

**Images:** British **Flora and Fauna mandalas**, many unfinished

**May art:** 3<sup>rd</sup> **Coronation plate design** (Andy); 10<sup>th</sup> **Foxlowe:**  
meet sculptor **Denise Dutton**; 17<sup>th</sup> continue **Coronation plates**  
(Mark); 24<sup>th</sup> finish **Plates** (Andy); 31<sup>st</sup> finish **mandalas** (Sarah)

**Sun 7 May Kids' coronation activities** Leek Butter Market **11-3**

**Group visit** Wed **24<sup>th</sup> May.** Flash Village Hall 'Telling Tales';  
depart LHC **10.30**, return **12.30**, car-share. **Please tell  
Andy ASAP** if you want to come. All welcome.

**Andy** will be away afternoon of **May 17<sup>th</sup>** and probably all day  
on **May 31<sup>st</sup>**. Please help Mark and Sarah as much as possible.