

SEPTEMBER

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):

Round (Maggie)

I grieve a time of circles,
a knowing sense of cycles,
before the splits and opposites,
before the imposition of a hierarchy.
I marvel at the round of an old oak tree,
worshipped, honoured, way back then.
Before the icon was straight lines,
a cross of sawn-off planks of wood.
Image of a death, so save us all.
If we forget the circles
and bow down to splits and opposites.

Kitchen utensils (Linda)

I have got lots of kitchen utensils in my kitchen but I hardly ever use them. I hate cooking. I get no joy out of cooking like some people do, cooking for me is just a necessary means to an end. I would much rather spend my time reading or going for a walk instead.

Enlighten (Andy)

The little Belgian stood stiffly with his slightly pompous air, waxed moustache, white spats, black patent leather shoes and grey gloves. He surveyed the body on the genteel living room floor and the equally genteel group which stood around exhibiting horror. After looking carefully at all present and taking in many points which probably escaped the notice of others, he finally said, 'Pray enlighten me as to the events immediately preceding Mr. Smith's demise'.

Enlighten (Will)

He wasn't the smartest of machines with mundane and simple tasks being his forte, though sometimes even that short-circuited his hard drive, but he tries regardless, though having that said, someone once asked him to enlighten them on the way to a room they were seeking. He shone a torch at them and asked if that helped them with their direction. Folk have asked if we're going to patch him or at least update him, but given he's a prototype which never got past a mock-up with half scribbled blueprints and semi-programmed with the navigation script of a self-drive vacuum, he wasn't a simple updatable machine, yet the company kept him on as a cleaner and filer.

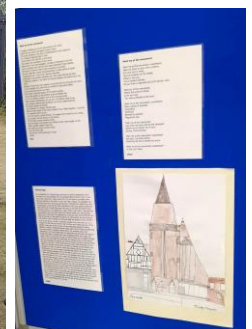
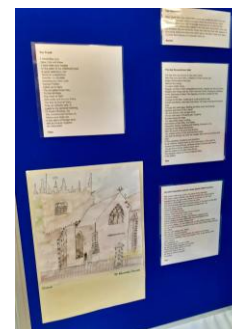
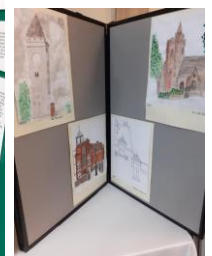
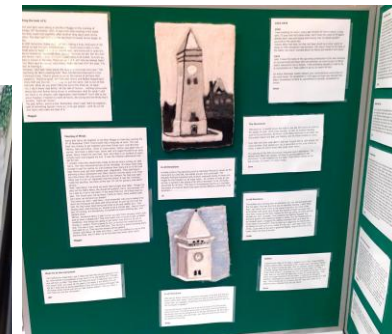
End of summer (Rachel)

It's starting to turn cooler, it will soon be the end of summer.
Birds will migrate and animals go into hibernation. It makes me feel like I want to hibernate to my bed until next summer with my feline friend curled up in a ball like a furry ball of wool. Or sit around an open log fire with friends and chocolates and a glass of wine, telling ghost stories.

In all directions (Bill)

Thousands of them rushing through the mind every single day, our thoughts take off in all different directions creating stories and different scenarios, most of which never see the light of day: fearful thoughts, depressing thoughts, destructive thoughts, hopeful thoughts, pleasurable thoughts. The age-old question: are we the sum of all our thoughts or all of them a lie, an illusion, masking and covering (and doing a very good job of) who we really are?

Young artist at our **West End Fun Day** stall; visiting 'our' wallaby at Hulme End visitor centre; **Nicholson War Memorial Centenary exhibition**: our contribution of **writing, painting and needle-felting**.



SEPTEMBER 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.

Enlighten (Anna)

Enlighten me, I said to my lover
"Why do you sigh this way?"
Enlighten me, I said to him,
"Why do you argue this way?"
Enlighten me, I said to my lover
"Why do you dress this way?"
"Why do you talk this way?"
Or smile through a grimace?"
Enlighten me, I said to him, as
he walked through the door
"Why do you leave this way?"



The Rudyard project is an OUTSIDE Creative Commission

A RURAL ARTS REVOLUTION

Kitchen utensils (Pauline)

Kitchen utensils hiding in the drawer
Be careful when you take them out
Don't drop them on the floor
Knives, forks and spoons
What a jumble
But handy when you are cutting up and eating your favourite apple crumble

Let there be light (Tina)

at the end of the tunnel
on a dark evening
when the bandage comes off the cataract
when you suddenly get it
someone dug from the rubble
the end of a caver's journey
even with your eyes shut
enough to read your library book
from the moon in the night



Contact details:

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

Mobile: 07760 138395

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

27 years of arts for mental wellbeing



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

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Every Wednesday: All now back in original room
10.30-12.30 **Creative Writing**; 1.30-3.30 **Expressive Art**;
4.00-5.30 **Informal DIY Drop-in. All welcome:** write, colour, chat

To ask about spaces email info@borderlandvoices.org.uk

Images: visiting 'our' **Wallaby** at **Hulme End**; **W End Fun Day**; our **needle felting** of the Monument and poppies, **water-colours** of old Leek buildings and **creative writing** contributing to the **centenary exhibition** for the **Nicholson War Memorial**

Sept art: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th: The Victorian heyday of Rudyard Lake – various media + Sarah (funded by OUTSIDE)

Wed 3rd: car-share **day outing to Rudyard Lake**, leave 10.30, back 3.30. Tea/coffee/biscuits provided. **Bring packed lunch or buy at the café.** Let Andy know ASAP if you want/can give a lift.