

JULY

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):

With the windows thrown wide after showers (Mary)

Even in the rain
his long and joyous song
goes on, goes on.

She flies down
to the shallow
night-filled trough;
is flinging water
in every direction -
as he is flinging music,

then up on the rail
preening and smoothing herself shiny again;
shooting across to join him.

Still the song
on and on.

Well Dressing (Bill)

Well, it's that time again, it does not seem possible. Very soon I am going to have a lot of strange people coming and adorning me with many beautiful flowers and differing foliage. I must admit that I really enjoy all the time and attention that is being bestowed upon me. It is a pity it's only once a year, still never mind, it's good to look the bees' knees and people look at me so thank you very much.

Friend (Will)

She sat across from him in the little coffee shop on Castle View Road, two coffees and cakes sat between them, no words were shared. His gaze transfixed upon something down the road and her attention upon the muffin she was pulling apart, the silence heavy between the two, it was hard to believe these two were friends. But the solemn silence they shared was a weekly routine, though today's was especially heavy. She politely cleared her throat to capture his attention, a brief flicker of his eyes in her direction but before her first words were summoned his attention had drifted once again to the street outside. She pushed on with the conversation, "So, have you heard that Darling May has a sale coming up, she's got some of the latest fashion coming in from Londonia," she said, trying to lighten the air between them.

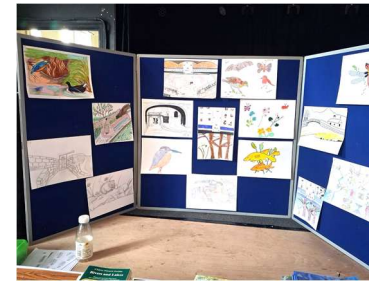
Award (Jane)

A star. It stands proudly upon the mantel. It wasn't anything I thought I'd ever receive. When I was asked if it was ok to put me forward for it, I just thought sure. After all, I didn't do anything special. I just did what anybody would do surely. I didn't think I would win. I was surprised when I did. In fact, I was shocked. Again, I'm not special, I'd not done anything I thought was significant. I'd just been me. It was a lovely surprise. It meant so much and holds so much meaning to me and always will, that little glass star.

Lady of the Dale Well (Anna)

The lion's head stands proudly
Upon the well
The magical almost mythical water
Composed of all its past stories
And folklore,
Here we hear the Roman coin
Drop with a splash into its water
That swirls with healing qualities,
Its very minerals seem to bubble to its surface
Here it stands as it has from Celtic times
To enrich our lives and replenish our souls

Support Staffs award ceremony: Bill, Linda and Tia, and our display.
HuG festival: family friendly activity and BV art – **Caldon Canal, Ladydale well, Rudyard Lake.** **Pride celebrations:** a banner and just 2 of the many extravagant hats made with Gordon.



JULY 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.

Prize (Linda)

It's nice to get an award for something, whether it's a Booker Prize, a Nobel Prize, or an Oscar, but it's also lovely to get an award for Borderland Voices for all we have achieved throughout the year, and no one has worked harder and deserves it more than Andy who is always working hard on our behalf.

This newsletter is supported by:



Cathy Bower
PHOTOGRAPHY

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

Rainbow (Rachel)

I love to see a rainbow light up the sky. I remember as a girl walking for ages to try and find that pot of gold, in the end I gave up. I told my mother, and she laughed. Rainbows are just so very beautiful; we don't have to see one to realise we all have a beautiful rainbow in our hearts. We just have to believe and let it shine through.

Award (Tia)

Feeling nervous, they ask?
The audience was gathering and the excitement grew.
Walking up on a stage, being introduced to all; don't trip up, try and stand in the correct area.
Thanks are given, award held in grasp; now photos – so smile.
Then run as fast as you can and sit, and breathe.



Borderland Voices

28 years of arts for mental wellbeing



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Newsletter JULY 2026

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

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: Support Staffs **Award Ceremony** and display.
Water-themed art and family activity at **HuG festival**. **Pride**:
a banner and just 2 of many hats. (Pride hats photo **courtesy Jo Goodwin**, Certificate presentation **courtesy Mark**)

July writing and art: Wild as folk – right? (nature, folklore, how accessible are our 'wild' spaces really?). 8th: writing with **Beau Pudsey**, art with **Sarah**. Remaining sessions with **Andy**

Don't forget: High Peak Orchestra Concert, Saturday 11th July,
7.30 pm, St John's Church, St John's Rd, **Buxton**
Raising funds for Borderland Voices. Come if you can.