

JUNE

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):

Sacred Spring (Maggie)

Owned by shareholders
Profit for the few
The veins of our land
Owned, polluted
Disowned as sacred flow.
Owned with Keep Out signs
For angling permits only
Oh please, we cry,
Let us reclaim
The sacredness
The majesty of water
Of springs and rivers
All throughout the land.

I am a television (Rachel)

I have so many different channels to watch.
I will have you switching buttons left, right
and centre. You don't even have to watch the
adverts, click here and click there. I have so
many different programmes you can watch,
from comedy to horror to romance and a
channel for children. You will be spoilt for
choice. Some people sit for hours and watch
me. I even do live television. You will not be
bored with me, you can even tape your
favourite programmes You can have more
than one of me and even put others on the
wall so you can be in comfort and watch me.

Spring (Will)

S – Spring shoots and buds now in full bloom, washing the greys of winter away with flora and colour
P – Petals and blossoms dance on the warming breeze and drift across the ground in splendid colours
R – Rhododendrons in full bloom alongside the daffodils and bluebells
I – Irises beam and dance within the meadows with the lambs
N – New flora, new fauna and returning favourites fill the fields and hedgerows as Spring rises with the golden rays of sunlight
G – Golden daffs wave along the roadside, chiming in the new Spring with their bell-like blooms

On the sunny side of the street (Jane)

Sometimes the sunny side of the street seems too far to reach.
Many things can happen in one go,
so that clouds cover the sun.
When that happens, getting there
can seem quite the task.
But then something changes; it may
be small.
A tiny speck of light pushes through
that cloud
And it'll light your way forward to the
sunny side of the street.

A little piece of heaven (Tia)

My little piece of heaven was at my family home, a large bungalow with a running brook at the side, which ran through our village and around other homes. The brook connected onto many fields for the farming animals and wildlife, views for miles, open green spaces to take in wonderful nature, various trees, birds of prey gliding through the air as I am sitting, relaxing and giving thanks for this little piece of heaven – now put into my memory.



Lady o' the Dale Well: the town's former weavers put great faith in its ability to heal 'weaver's eye'. When finished, these **well-dressing** designs will be displayed the **HuG Festival**.



JUNE 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.

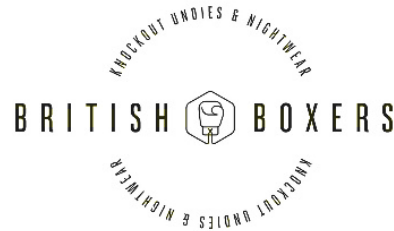
Memories of Water (Pauline)

I remember swimming in a pool. It was so refreshing as the sun beat down; so cool. I was in south Africa with my daughter at a holiday resort called Champagne Castle in the Drakensburg Mountains. I will never forget that day. It was so hot. I was so grateful for the water cooling me down. I was six months pregnant at the time. Yes, indeed I remember water.

Healing Waters (Linda)

We have quite a few springs and wells around the British Isles with supposedly healing waters. The wells and springs were used long ago for their healing qualities as well as for drinking water. I love to go to visit these wells when I can to watch the beautiful clear water cascading down into the wells.

This newsletter is supported by:



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



A RURAL ARTS REVOLUTION



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

28 years of arts for mental wellbeing



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

Newsletter
JUNE 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: Lady o' the Dale Well: designs for Well dressings for display at the water-themed HuG Festival on 27th June.

We'll have a display and family activity at the annual **HuG Green Arts Festival, Sat 27th June, 10am – 4 pm** in the **Foxlowe**

June writing and art: 3rd, 10th and 24th: Pride writing (3rd + Sarah) and banners + Gordon MacLellan for parade on 28th.
Other sessions with Andy

Sunday 28th June: BV is designing and making banners for the 2nd Moorlands Pride Parade starting at 12noon, Leek town centre

13th – 27th Jun, BV writing and art exhibition, Foxlowe Gallery