

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):

Flint (Anna)

They said she was made of flint,
But when the tears fell from her eyes
They knew though she was strong, durable
Like a clay pot,
She was also brittle,
Fragile,
She could break
If mishandled
Or dropped
Breaking into 1000 pieces
Fragments of her lay on the ground
On which we tread.

April Showers (Rachel)

With April comes showers, I don't mind
the showers if it has been a warm day, if
it's cold then the showers are not welcome.
With global warming we could get snow in
April. Although, I hope it's a hot day and
an April shower at the end is what's called
joy.

Dreamed a dream by the old canal (Will)

He laid out the crumpled morning newspaper on the mossy stone bricks that made up the path along the old canal and took a seat, resting his back against the brown brick wall and looked out across the shimmering waters to the grassy brick held bank on the other side, his mind swimming with thoughts, if one drowned out the noise of the Empire and focused on the life that teemed around the old waterways, one could imagine that they were besides a flowing stream somewhere within a rolling meadow with grand oaks lining the ancient banks.

Bold as Brass (Jane)

She stood not a care in the world. She projected an image of pure confidence to the world. She took no nonsense from anyone, and she knew her worth. She wouldn't let anyone knock her down. She knew where her life was taking her knew who she wanted to be and how to get there and who she was. She had goals and would achieve them. She wore what she wanted even though others frowned upon her choices. She didn't care. It was her choice. She would be loud and proud and bold as brass. If others didn't like it well that was their problem

To the moon and back (Tia)

Okay chaps let's press that button.
Remember it's not the red one! Counting
down from 10 then lift off. "I wonder if the
moon is made of thick, tasty cheese says
the captain of the mighty rocket? "Well,"
said Sarge "it had better be as tasty as
Cathedral City cheese or it will be smelling
like an old sock! Landin g gear down, a
few bumps, now land let's get our picnic
bag out with those garlic/herb crackers and
a spade" said the captain, "dig a chunk for
a feast with the cheese because it's just
the best way to enjoy a picnic like mice do
before we set off back to earth.

Bringing a canal back to life (Pauline)

The canals are important to wildlife.
It's very sad how the canals have
been neglected. Some with rubbish
and weeds everywhere. Let's get
them back to how they used to be in
the good old days. *(edited)*

Caldon Canal project: for the Foxlowe HuG Festival on 27th June.

Images include **canal architecture** and **wildlife**.

Obviously, some of this month's writing features canals, too.



MAY DETAILS

You, our participants

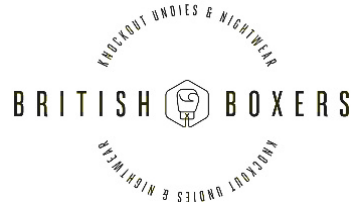
currently contribute to our rent in Fountain Street and help keep our services going with donations, large and small, in cash and in kind.

Vitaly, you are also supporting one another.

Beneath the Surface (Bill)

Looking beneath the surface, what do you see when you look within? Is your gaze unsteady? Do your eyes grow dim? Is the universe friendly or just full of pain, shadows and darkness with no hope of gain. When our strength fails and all seems lost, with our last breath taken at such a cost, beneath the surface I think we will see, that faith, hope and love will always agree.

This newsletter is supported by:



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

Flint (Linda)

The pottery industry in Stoke on Trent, a source of rich clay to make fine pots, cups, saucers, plates, earthenware and China, but to make all the fine ware they needed flint. So, that's where the little village of Cheddleton came in useful, for in Cheddleton there was a flint mill where they provided the potteries with loads of flint that was sent to them via the Caldon Canal. So, Cheddleton played its part in the birth of Stoke on Trent's pottery heritage.

Art this month supported
by Nature in your
Neighbourhood.

Led by Staffs

Wildlife Trust, funded by



Borderland Voices

28 years of arts for mental wellbeing



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Newsletter
MAY 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: Caldon Canal project: for the Foxlowe HuG Festival on 27th June. Images include **canal architecture** and **wildlife**. Obviously, some of this month's writing features canals, too.

May writing and art: another water theme for HuG. **Leek's Lady Well.** 6th we welcome **Linda Skellam** to introduce the subject 6th, 20th, 27th, water-themed art + **Sarah** (Andy on 13th). Writing + Andy except 27th.

6th: visit by **Lauren Health; Leek Building Soc** are supporting us

11th – 17th May is Mental Health Awareness Week. We've no events but this year's theme is **take action:** for you, others, all of us.