

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):

A sad way to Celebrate Lammas (Bill)

There you stood proud, stately, magnificent in all your copper wondered finery. Now you are no more, you lost one of your enormous stout branches about five days ago which fortunately fell inwards and not on the houses only a few metres away. I walked across the park yesterday and workmen, tree surgeons I suppose, were seemingly making short work of cutting you up and taking you away. I am sure you will be sadly missed, by many, including me, goodbye my friend 'gone but not forgotten'.

Tea (Anna)

You say tomato,
I say tom'aa'to,
You say tea,
I say coffee,
You say three sugars and milk,
I say none,
You say liquorice tea,
I say peppermint,
You say it's over,
I say stay,
You say Goodbye, Au Revoir, Auf
Wiederseh'n,
I say Hello, Bonjour, Croeso, Guten tag.

Evolve (Will)

They sat at a little marble topped coffee table out front of one of the local coffee houses within the Empire, a mutual silence hung between the two as their eyes watched the hustle and bustle of the busy streets, they both had witnessed this place evolve and shift over time and happening. He had watched it all since the Landbridge between Britannia and Europea sank beneath the swells and she had watched since the world had been born, since the galaxy flared to life in the star-spangled void of the cosmos.

Rain! (Jane)

Standing looking at the tiny droplets as they fall down upon my face. What is this I wonder as the cool refreshing water touches my skin cooling it as it splashes down. Rain it's been an age my old friend. Dance I did in your embrace, your beat my music as your droplets hit the floor in rhythm. Oh how we danced your splashes hitting hard on the concrete stage. Creating a whirlwind of twirls in your wake. But alas you were fleeting and just a shower you were. As quick as you were here you were gone again: absconded. To leave me drying in the sun's heated rays once more.

On Your Marks, Get Set (Rachel)

The commonwealth games are starting in Glasgow. This is how you start a race. It makes me think of my nephew Ollie, he was a paralympic swimmer, as he was born with clubbed feet, he didn't make it though. I remember running a race at junior school and them saying on your marks, get set, and go, it is a sporting term. I don't really like sport and would rather watch my cat Cassie run havoc round my flat.

Watercolour studies, using a variety of techniques, brushes and mark-making, tutored by **Amelia Carr**.



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.

Vitally, you are also supporting one another.

Value (Pauline)

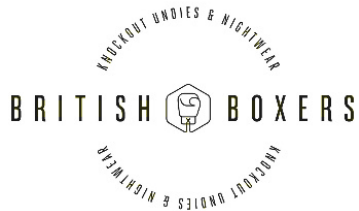
What is of value; many things. Love is of value but nowadays value is associated with money which is sad indeed. The environment we live in is of much value too as it is precious, as are all animals and living creature. What is more valuable than a reassuring hug when we need it. It is vital that we think deeply about what is of value and what is not.

Value (Linda)

We often consider the value of things before we buy them. We think, can I afford this? Is it going to last? Will I get my wear out of it? All good things to think about, but the things that we should value the most aren't things but family and friends, they are the most valuable things that we have.

Rain! (Will)

It started to fall, softly at first but grew into a torrent of shifting grey sheets that pelted the cracked earth and surrounding buildings. Husked flora lapped up as much as they could, as the water drenched the softening soil. Gutters inlaid with dust washed clean and overflowed with the amount of water that had begun to fall from the grey blanketed skies. It eased shortly after an hour of heavy downpour to a steady drizzle that misted the already soaked earth.



Cathy Bower
PHOTOGRAPHY

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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

SEPTEMBER 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: Watercolour studies + Amelia, lots of techniques
(wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, salt, glue), brushes and mark-making.

**September art: 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th: Kantha embroidered
landscapes + Andy; 9th: Watercolours catch-up from Amelia's
sessions in August + Andy**

Don't forget: West End Family Fun Day, Westwood Recreation
Ground, Leek, **Sat 5th, 1– 5 pm.** Come and say hello.

Heritage Open Days around Leek: **Saturdays 12th and 19th**

Saturday 26th: venues around Leek, **Leek Open Studios**

Mon 21st: 'Soft' Reopening, **Nicholson** museum/gallery/library