

APRIL

Writing from 'virtual' workshops

People are writing at home and exchanging their work via email (or good old-fashioned snail-mail, for those not on the internet).

Here (and on the back) are some recent short snippets:

Challenging times then and now (*Bill*)

The unseen foe surrounds us like a bad smell, only there is no smell.
He strikes without mercy on good and bad.

Some escape very lightly -just a slight skirmish- others have to pay
the price in full.

Untouchable youth cocks a snoot and says "not me, my gilded cage
of youth will protect me",
But the foe smiles and says "we will see".

The siren wails, the stomach lurches
Time to run, time to hide,
Fear etched deeply into pale, drawn faces
Wide-eyed children wince as the ground shakes.
The all-clear sounds, we walk silently into the unknown.

Sunshine (*Pauline*)

Sunshine, it's been so long.
Sunshine, old friend of mine,
Spreading blue skies, butterflies,
Buzzing bees and birdsong.

Songs from long ago
"Sunshine came softly through my window today."
Lifting my spirit; dispersing the flow
Of wintery thoughts.

It's only March and it seems like May.
As old England basks in your early glory
We await with hope;
A happier end to the never ending story.

(Please send your writing to share in future newsletters.)

Andy's home 'office' a.k.a. dining room.

John helped her bring
computer etc. from Bank
House and set it up.



Artwork from Marion.

Shared via Facebook, at
Marion's request, by her
daughter Marjorie who
usually brings Marion to our
Christmas lunch.



'BV for VE' bunting.

Sheena laminated and strung the bunting before we went into
lockdown. Originally intended for (now-cancelled) VE Day celebrations,
the colourful artwork will cheer us up. Andy will share it bit by bit.

Although we can't use our Home Base currently, we still pay rent and are supported by:

You

BV is so grateful for individual donations, large and small. Your contributions, made weekly until recently, are still **helping to keep our services going** although for now these are offered remotely via email and letter.

Trying Times, Then and now (*Jane*)

Then there was camaraderie
In times of fear and unknown
Neighbours came together
For those people's hearts were fully grown.
Now fear strikes us once again
Are we greeted with friends shoulder to shoulder?
I'm sad to say selfishness stains their heart as they look out for number one
All kind deeds of past left like ash to smolder.
I'm happy to say thanks in this darkness
There is a glimmer of hope
That in these trying times there are kind folk
That think about others and how they'll cope



Contact details:

Bank House, 20 St Edward St
Leek, ST13 5DS (Andy hopes to collect mail weekly)

Bank House Phone: 01538 528708

(calls log on Andy's tablet; she'll respond to known numbers)

New mobile: 07760 138395

(you may need to use Whatsapp as the mobile signal is poor)

Email: info@borderlandvoices.org.uk

Website: www.borderlandvoices.org.uk

Borderland Voices contact **Andy Collins: working from home**

Borderland Voices

21 years of arts for mental wellbeing



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

Newsletter
APRIL 2020

At our last face-to-face sessions on 17th March, people completed **contact sheets** for Andy, showing who they are happy to share their details with. Andy then rang anybody who wasn't there.

On this basis, participants now have individual lists of group **members to keep in touch with** – by phone, email or post, according to preference. Contact Andy to join in.

Art group members left with **art 'starter packs'** (envelopes + post-card sized cards). They can do mini artwork and send it to someone else in the group. Andy also posted packs out.

Please **email photos of your art** to Andy for future newsletters.

To contact Andy: email is easiest. Andy can see if you ring Bank House and will respond if she recognises your number. Alternatively, she now has a **work mobile (07760 138395)**. Signal is poor in Flash so you may need to use WhatsApp.