

## APRIL

### 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):

#### Song (Maggie)

Along the river Bradford, swollen, noisy,  
wild,  
roaring in the video I took.  
And would I hear the birdsong,  
could it possibly compete?  
Those delicate songs from in the trees,  
would they pierce the crashing flow?  
Returning home, the joy!  
Remembered scenes recaptured.  
Chance to relive the scenes of water  
and the blessed sounds of birdsong high  
above.

#### Rose (Will)

Rose, beautiful, delicate, crimson red  
amongst the snow, though elegant in vision,  
her thorns run throughout, her tendrils  
creeping across the ground, choking all in  
her wake, a goddess of beautiful destruction  
with blooming buds of perfection growing  
amongst the bones of fallen foe,  
beautiful to the drops of blood from her  
tainted petals, a dash of red within the  
blackened lands, she's a thorn dotted  
fairy-tale that spreads terror through  
one's mind.

**An Easter Parade (Tia)** Colourful balloons, people dressed as rabbits, musical instrument playing an Easter welcome to all. Market stalls of various items, some very tasty. People dancing and singing, some walking and laughing with a joyousness of this event. Lots of chocolate eggs, in baskets with chicks of bright yellow. Yippee! Easter's arrived we have come out of our dull winter and now it's time to get with family, friends and this exciting Easter Parade.

#### Here (Linda)

How did I get here? Why was I born? Where do I come from? Where am I going to? What is the meaning of life? Is there such thing as 'meaning'? Is there any point in my existence? So many questions but no answers. All I know is that I am here now in this room at this moment in time. I don't know what the future holds, I'm here today, I could be gone tomorrow.

#### Fruit (Jane)

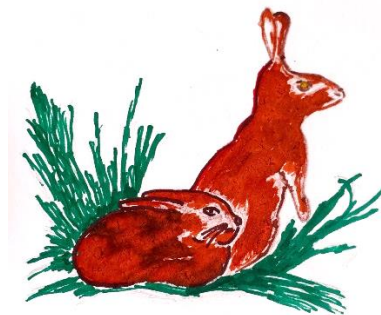
There's lots of fruit in the world. I myself am partial to an apple or two but it must be a Pink Lady. Why? Because they have a certain sweetness to them most apples don't. Granny Smiths are always a bit too sour for me. Who thinks up these names? Granny Smiths, Ambrosia, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, there's even one called Jazz. And Christmas Pippin; I wonder what that tastes like? Always so much choice. I think I'll stick with what I know and stay with my nice sweet Pink Lady.

#### Promising Smile (Mary)

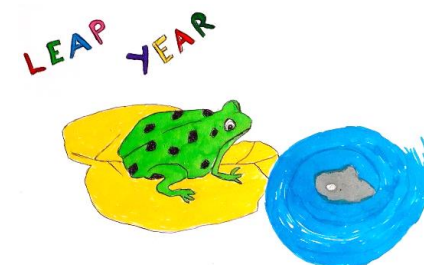
The new moon's mouth  
turns up at the corners.  
If I were her lover  
how my heart must leap at it.  
A poet would surely run mad over it.  
The swaying corn catches its breath.  
A dog barks.

#### A Spring Bouquet (Rachel)

A spring day, a spring bouquet. Look out the window to see daffodils, sunflowers, daisies, buttercups and more. I go outside to take in the beautiful scent and aromas of the spring bouquet.



**Cheadle Moon** visit, celebrating pioneering Victorian astronomer **Mary Blagg**; 2024, a **Leap Year**; painting with natural inks: **onion, nettle, red cabbage, blueberry, avocado** (some with **nettle brushes**).



## APRIL 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.**

#### Lost and Found (Bill)

Many people in life talk about, from time to time, losing their faith. Maybe through the trials and tribulations of life which we all have to face and live through or maybe some have pursued a certain line of faith which eventually they have found to be not quite what they first thought. Anyway, whatever the reason I simply believe now that not one of us has ever been 'lost', just found, wanted and loved from the very beginning.



#### Contact details:

c/o Leek Health Centre, Fountain St  
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Borderland Voices contact **Andy Collins: at home but Wed in Leek**

#### Fruit (Pauline)

I don't like most fruit but I eat them as I know they are good for me. Many folks love fruits like oranges, apples and pears – yuck! Though I have been known to eat grapes with pistachio nuts; cherries, raspberries and strawberries, I can eat, especially with lots of sugar and cream. Tucking into those I can well imagine how the term "Hello me old fruit" came into existence.



# Borderland Voices

26 years of arts for mental wellbeing



## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

### Newsletter APRIL 2024

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

**Every Wednesday: 10.30-12.30 Creative Writing;**  
**1.30-3.30 Expressive Art.** All welcome.

**For further information** email [info@borderlandvoices.org.uk](mailto:info@borderlandvoices.org.uk)

**Images: Cheadle Moon** visit celebrates local astronomer **Mary Blagg**; images for **Leap Year**; using **nettle brushes** and **natural inks** to create artwork.

**April art: 3<sup>rd</sup> + 10<sup>th</sup>: George Fox, a portrait + Andy; 17<sup>th</sup>:  
Curlews + Moira McCourt; 24<sup>th</sup>: Spring + Andy**

**Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> Apr, Textile Memories Day** Trinity Church, **11am**

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Apr, Fashion Event** supporting BV, **St Edward's Academy, 6.30** browsing stalls, **7.30 Fashion Show**

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Apr, World Curlew Day**, exhibition **BV art** and **writing, shared lunch, Quaker Meeting house, 12.30-3pm**