

AUGUST

Writing from online 'Zoom' workshops (send anything to share)

People write at home and exchange their work via email, post and at regular online 'Zoom' meetings on Tuesdays:

Baggage (Sheena)

Baggage, luggage,
keep it small, keep it light.
Don't make it a burden
If you do, it will
wear you out,
tie you down,
give you pain.
Leave regret and
ditch remorse.
You have far to go,
Head to your destination
Your ticket says no return.

Talking (Marion)

There's talking and talking; there's interesting
conversation or talking for yourself or just talking
rubbish.

I used to walk to work every day with my Dad, neither
spoke the whole way, perhaps just a few words about
the weather, the state of the roads or the canal if it
was frozen.

We were told to be quiet, when we were working, so I
was used to not talking for hours. So now with this
lock-down I can manage to live alone without too
much trouble.

Baggage (Pauline)

I certainly have plenty of that: a smart green travelling trolley, a battered
grey suitcase, dozens of gaily-decorated shopping bags.
I am at a loss where to store them. However, this detritus is nothing
compared with the baggage I carry in my head.
Storage space is obviously a big problem. My house is smaller than most, my
brain probably is too. Well, it feels as though it's bursting at the seams some days.
When there is no more room in our homes we have choices – move to a
larger accommodation – if we can afford it. Build an extension – if we can
afford it. Or clear it all away and take a trip to the tip.
I wonder if I can find a tip in my brain. It would come in very useful; or
better still, locate the delete button; after all, isn't our brain supposed to be
an excellent computer?

Moving (Mary)

A storm of rain fifty miles wide moving westwards across Kent and Sussex;
and another smaller one, about seven miles across, over London.

The meteorologist on her high stool, eyes on the radar, is very confused.
No precipitation shown at all on the satellite images of the south of England.
And looking up, out of the window in her eyrie in Herstmonceux, clear blue sky.

Then she realises. It is Flying Ant Day.

A whole week earlier than last year.

Their calendar is shifting; moving with the rhythms of a warmer earth.

Varied art plus some Land Girls' memorabilia

Richard posted this photo of Land Girls' memorabilia on Facebook. Marion's paintings arriving by post are always a joy. Pauline's recent cross-stitch celebrates her cats but also seems to hark back to work we did on Janus last year.

A selection (more next month) of hearts which will eventually form the new display in the Bank House window.



AUGUST DETAILS

You, our participants

currently contribute to our rent at Bank House and help keep our 'virtual' services going with donations, large and small, in cash and in kind.

You are also supporting one another through this time.

Baggage (Marlene)

Nearly gone, just 100 more trips with the shopping trolley, destination charity shop and all will be well; looking good without the junk.

After the rain (Jane)

A rainbow shines when the rain is done
Like a beacon of hope that turmoil gone
No more gloom to ruin the day

Water (Bill)

Drowning in the sea of life
battling against the endless strife
my head appears, I gasp for breath
the waves are high, I sink beneath.

My cries unheard, is all now lost?
Must I but now count the cost?
Failing strength is all but gone
I yield myself to the Unfailing One.

The sea of forgiveness is vast and wide
We will not be washed up on the incoming tide
Rest now in the river that never runs dry
It is finished, it is finished, comes my heart's reply.



Contact details:

Bank House, 20 St Edward St
Leek, ST13 5DS (Andy collects mail weekly)

Phone: 01538 528708 (calls come up on Andy's tablet; she will respond to numbers she knows and picks up messages weekly)

New mobile: 07760 138395 (use Whatsapp if possible, as Andy's mobile signal is poor at home)

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 AUGUST 2020

Thanks, Bonnie: our former trustee, member and Zoom host has moved to the Netherlands. **All welcome on Zoom: contact Andy.**

Ask **Andy** if you want an **e-copy** of our 2019-20 illustrated story.

At **July's AGM** trustees adopted Andy's illustrated 'story' of BV 2019-20. Our thanks to **Bob**: he's retired after 10 years but remains as Treasurer. **Our new Chair**, historian **Dr Pauline Elkes**, is looking forward to the **Land Girls project**.

Richard Godley and **Catherine Crony** lead on our **Lottery funded 'Land Girls'** project. Richard is posting **historic photos** like the one inside on our **Facebook page**.

Any return to Bank House is still uncertain. Many writers can 'Zoom' but organised **visual art** activities have been sparse (though see the **hearts** inside). **Volunteer Becca** is developing **art packs** with themes and guidance. If yours doesn't **arrive in the post** by mid-month, **contact Andy**.