

JULY

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

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

Food (Bill)

More food to feed the brood
With mouths agape
Saying quick, we can't wait
To take to the sky
Where we can fly
To make a start
And play our part
To gather our young
As life goes round
To the echoing sound
Of mystery unbound.

House Martins (Mark)

The house martens came back this week
their darting flight a flash across the edge of my sight.
One second later: the eager babble of the young;
where did THEY come from?
Had the adults sent the chicks as luggage in advance,
tagged them with directions to their usual Air B'n'B
courtesy of Albion Mill, Alsop Street?
Avoided the storms that massed over Greece?
Slipped them past the border police?
No matter! My heart leaped:
at this, the sweetest lockdown easing of all...

Animals (Jane, who also sent the photo of Gladio and Jynx)

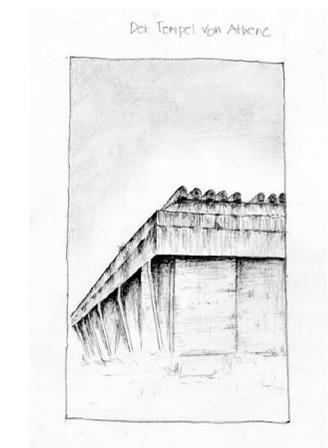
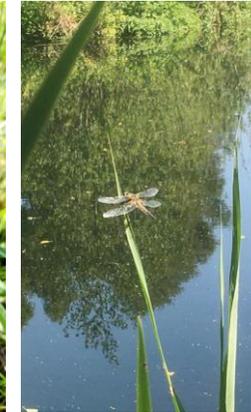
Two tiny eyes looking at me, big fluffy ears and a fluffy tail too
A nose that twitches to and fro, hopping over when I come to the door
As soon as I'm seen it's followed by another, this one's a bit bigger
The first was a white and tortoiseshell mix, this one's black and looks velvety
The black one's come over to give me a lick
The little one's cheeky and is trying to escape while I'm distracted
Not today little bunny, no garden chases, I'm tired
But when I see you both my energy comes back
The smiles reignite, you take away the sad
I come to sit and enjoy your company, you even accept me with no complaints
You're both not pets, you're more like family

Wildflowers (Marion; her watercolour illustration is opposite)

I had to walk for a mile and a half every day off the bus from school. It was in the country lanes, with hedges and stone walls, so there were lots of wild flowers on the way. I knew where they all grew: wild violets under the hedge, stitchwort, a patch of orchids by the little stream, celandines by the canal and buttercups and daisies in the fields but best of all, were the wild strawberries, which tasted better than any strawberries you could buy, so I've always loved wild flowers.

Varied art and photography, as ever

Marion's painting accompanied her writing on Wildflowers. Simon's work I interpret as a thunderstorm, given recent weather. Mark's first sketch for 'Achilles am Atlantikwall' (his Illiad set amid the ruins of German WWII coastal defences) imagines a German submarine pen as the Temple of Athene. Photos taken on walks and in gardens celebrate pets, plants, flora and fauna.



JULY 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.

Humble Pie (Marlene)

I made a humble pie the other day, and I had a slice; I feel so much better.

Satisfaction (Marlene)

Oh, the joy of finishing a project. Doing a good deed for a person. Something they could not do for themselves.

Wildflowers (Cyr)

All the Invertebrates love them, because they grow freely like they are.

Buzzing happily collecting nectar, pollinating and foraging with safe joy.

Knowing that no nasty Insecticide is being sprayed to kill them.

Honeybees compete with Bumblebees, having fun. Yellow Jackets have plenty of space, enjoying the sunshine and their new life.

Spiders' Webs glisten in the fresh morning dew, catching unwitting flies. Tempted to have a drink.

Sweet smell of the Wildflowers in their young delightful fresh Beauty.



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
JULY 2020

Our thanks to **Bonnie**; she hosts the Zoom writing group Tuesdays 10.30am - 12 noon-ish and posts collated writing to those not on the internet. **All welcome on Zoom – contact Andy.**

Using individual lists, **members keep in touch** using new or traditional methods. **Contact Andy to join in.**

Join our **AGM** (Annual General Meeting) on **Mon 20th July** at **7.30** via **Zoom**. Trustees receive the accounts and Andy's illustrated 'story' of what we've done 2019-20. It's a **public meeting**, so **let her know if you'd like the Zoom link.**

Don't forget our **Lottery funded project** to research local members of the **Women's Land Army and Timber Corps**. Ask around for **people with memories or family connections.**

Chair **Bob Foster** made use of lock-down to **overhaul our website**. It now looks fresh and clean; reflects our **person-centred approach**; and is **mobile phone friendly.**