

## MARCH

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

People write at home and exchange work via email, post and regular online 'Zoom' meetings, Tuesdays at 10.30. (Apologies, some items reformatted to save space):

**Patterns in the cloth (Marlene)** Catch the eye and the quality of the fabric – it's durability for the impending use and the excitement of – "I know what I'll make!" to me has kept me sane at this dreadful time. Upholstery – aprons – endless cushions anything I can think of BUT one of the most rewarding sewing projects for me was making the wash-bags for our NHS staff to keep them safe.

#### Pattern in the cloth (Mary)

It's a square white lace cloth. Victorian. Oh I wish I could make such a thing. There's a 'fearful symmetry' to it like the Tiger. If one day you can come to my house, I shall serve you tea on it.

A lace square in the middle, invisibly joined to strong cotton. Then an ingenious edge with hearts. In between the centre and the border is fine, drawn thread-work. I spill coffee, jam, red wine, spaghetti sauce. Soak it in salt water overnight and it comes up white in a boil wash, with no detergents.

I dry it carefully. The only thing I iron.

#### Introductions (Bill)

I am so nervous. Why I do not know. It is not as though my parents are ogres. I have been seeing Brian for a while now, well about six weeks or so which I know does not seem long but believe me in my mind it is. Usually a week or maybe two at the most is pretty good for me. People have told me that I am quite attractive but a bit of a butterfly, flitting from one flower to the next. My excuse is that I am still quite young and want a run for my money. Well that went a lot better than I expected. My parents really seemed to take to Brian. Within minutes they were like old friends instead of having met for the first time. To be honest I am not that surprised because he is rather special you see.

**Optimistic (Sheena)** For the majority of my life I have been an optimist with an unswerving conviction that in the end good would prevail. I felt sure that things would improve, that governments and societies would see the past error of their ways and make more decisions to bring about a safer, peaceful and more equal world. I also had a fairly constant sureness of heart that my life would turn out well, that exciting things would happen, that ambitions would be fulfilled. As the years go by I've had to come to realise that very few of those dreams and wishes have been fulfilled, but there have been streaks of gold amongst the dross and one of the benefits of age ensures that I have a greater ability to accept disappointment and less reliance on the possibility of miracles. A flash of sunshine, the flight of a bird, a warm fire, a funny story, a lovely song: all can make my heart sing.

**Marshes (Mark)** And then you come upon it – hung above a half-buried crux of Norfolk lanes an old wooden signpost: Walsham one way, Ranworth the next and there, so faint it's hardly seen – *Marshes*. One word. In this taciturn county that values economy in word and deed nothing more need be said; now a thrilling dread seeps into you.

*Marshes* – just step off your island's edge slip through that roodscreen of reed and sedge, the willow and alder-carr grisaille and a cold, occult beauty unveils. Before you in the *Marshes* – out there the wide marsh harrier haunts the beds and the harnser stalks with a basilisk stare. The bittern booms and high overhead: geese skein in from the grey North Sea, their ragged vee trailing a harsh antiphony of calls.

When they're gone, the marsh silence falls.

### This month's selection of photos and artwork.

Images inspired by Becca's 'Morph' art-pack; embroidery; and photos reflecting the varied weather in February.



Cabbage Head



## MARCH 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.

**Adventure (Andy)** 'An undertaking usually involving danger and unknown risks.' It comes in all shapes and sizes: to row across the Atlantic; start a new school; sail single-handed round the world; learn to swim; climb Everest; walk to the corner shop; trek to the South Pole; camp on the back lawn; visit a foreign country; get on a train. But one person's 'walk in the park' is a massive undertaking for another; never underestimate the courage involved in people's personal adventures.

**Daffodils (Pauline)** Daffodils are hardy souls. They have to be, to endure the harsh winds of March. They are always a welcome sight, as they announce the ending of winter. Those long months of cold struggle amidst frosted spider's webs and icicle spears. We admire their beauty, yet, despairing of the black, bleak nights spent indoors, cosiness embraced; it's tough. By February's end we've all had enough. These yellow, bobbing, shivering sprites herald a message of much missed warmth to come. 'Spring is just around the corner; Celebrate, anticipate, oh yea - What joy and pure delight.'

**Patterns in cloth (Jane)** A needle, thread, a round frame. Your set. With it you can create anything in cloth; Aida fabric is good for beginners. Place it in your frame and following your pattern take your first thread. With it armed in your needle, make the first mark - a nice cross. Continue little crosses and your masterpiece will be unveiled. Your own pattern in the cloth.



### Contact details:

c/o Leek Health Centre, Fountain Street, Leek, ST13 6JB

(Andy currently collects mail weekly)

**Phone: 01538 528708** (this number isn't currently connected so, for now, please use the mobile number below)

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

Email: [info@borderlandvoices.org.uk](mailto:info@borderlandvoices.org.uk)

Website: [www.borderlandvoices.org.uk](http://www.borderlandvoices.org.uk)

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

# Borderland Voices

23 years of arts for mental wellbeing



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

## Newsletter MARCH 2021

**Zoom writing every Tues 10.30. All welcome, contact Andy.**

You'll find all **Becca's art packs** on our website. Our next **occasional Zoom art drop-in** is on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 1.30-3.30**; contact **Andy** for the Zoom link. This month's '**Artist of the Month**', to discuss during the session, is **Peggy Cyphers**. Her work (sheet on the website, too) relates to **Botanicals** and Becca's hand-stitched workbooks.

Images inside of **both winter and spring** this month.

As part of our **Heritage Lottery** funded **Land Girls** project, historian **Richard Godley** will give an **illustrated Zoom talk** about **Land Girls and Lumber Jills in WWII: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 11am** (during our writing session). But **ALL welcome** – spread the word to **contact Andy for the Zoom link**.

I hope for more details next time of our video in the **WWF international project** called '**8 Billion**'.