

# MAY

## 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):

### Dipper (Maggie)

She is a sign, a signal of clean water.  
Clear flow with weeds and fish.  
She is a sign that there are molluscs, worms and insects,  
everything she needs to stay alive.

So if you see a dipper on the Bradford, Lathkill or the Dove, she is a sign of river health and hope.

### Crossing Bridges (Pauline)

Shall I cross that bridge?  
Shall I walk around that bend?  
It would be easy to do,  
But who knows where it will end?  
I've done it so many times before;  
It was as easy as blowing bubbles  
Peering through the gap in the door;  
Smiling at my troubles is a tall order  
I may shy away from crossing that border.  
But then I will never know.

### Boat (Rachel)

I love boats, I once had a boyfriend who owned a canal boat. I did sleep on it one night although it wasn't kitted out properly. It was still a different way of life on the canal, nice and peaceful. I could actually live like this on a canal barge. The water is so hypnotic and an enticing way of life.

### Dip (Linda)

The word 'dip' puts the fear of God into me. When I used to work on Steelite in Burslem and I had no work in my own department, sometimes the manager would say to me, "I'm sorry Linda, but you will have to go up the dipping house". The dipping house was a hell hole with miserable people who didn't like you working there, it was boiling hot due to the gas burners, sweat would pour off you while you were working, doing the most boring and heaviest jobs. Yes, I hated working up the dipping house, I couldn't wait to go home.

### Dragon's Tail (Tia)

The winding length with added curves, hard, strong, for balance and to bash any unwelcome warrior. The dragon's tail is an added feature of his huge knobbly body, neck, legs with claws, head with spikes and eyes that burn into your soul. Mouth, long, and teeth, many, that are sharp for tearing flesh from flesh. Dragons are mysterious and like to live solely on their own, within a cave, talk curled around his body, that will sense any poor unfortunate human that dares to chance their luck.

A tale of tails!

### Dip (Will)

It dipped at one edge and caught quite a few unexpected drivers as they passed through the Back Woods area, it was considered just a fault in the road till it became apparent that some of the vehicles that hit the dip simple vanished without a trace and speculation began to fly especially when it came to light that most 'vanishes' happened around moonless nights, when the blacken moon and brightening sun hang in union, though the strangest part is that the dip can't be located and seems to appear at random somewhere along the road.

### Open (Bill)

Open to the animals, birds, sky, open to friends, neighbours, family, open to beauty and all that is good and lovely, open to all suffering, pain and anguish, open to love, open to life.

**40s Extravaganza** celebrating our **WLA project** on 18<sup>th</sup> May **please come and bring friends**, contact Andy asap if you can help; **curlew** images and some visitors to our **World Curlew Day** event; Ladderedge visit for a **'Waymaking'** taster session with OUTSIDE.

Borderland Voices: Art for health & mental wellbeing

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 10am-10pm

1940s

EXTRAVAGANZA

Expect bunting, big band sounds, boogie woogie, period vehicles and costumes, jive lessons... and perhaps spam fritters? Feel free to dress for the occasion.

Market Place, Leek Staffordshire, ST13 6AD  
www.foxloweartscentre.org.uk  
facebook: foxlowe arts centre  
tel: 01538 386112

CAFE BAR | GALLERY | CINEMA | MUSIC | DRAMA | HERITAGE



## MAY 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.**

#### April Fool (Tia)

April Fool as we say around this time,  
our clocks go forward as big Ben will chime.  
A fool is dressed within a disguise, while out of the blue the shock is quite a surprise!  
April fool someone shouts, puzzled faces turn about.  
Old or young there's no preference, it's all in good fun and that's our defence!

#### Curlew (Jane)

Have you heard the 'cur'lee of the curlew?  
The curlew you ask  
The bird with the long downcurved bill  
Long bluish legs and mottle brown grey plumage  
Where are these birds  
They are grassland birds, you can see them on the moorlands too within the heathers, and in migration at wetlands.  
They like to eat worms which through the sensitivity of their bill they find with ease.  
And like a pair of chopsticks they snap their prey up from the mud  
They sound like fascinating birds you say  
I think so too  
Shall we both listen for the 'cur' lee of the curlew?



#### Contact details:

c/o Leek Health Centre, Fountain St  
Leek, ST13 6JB (Andy collects mail weekly)

**Phone: 01538 528708**

**Mobile: 07760 138395** (now on a better connection)

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

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1398672493722468>

Borderland Voices contact **Andy Collins: at home but Wed in Leek**



# Borderland Voices

26 years of arts for mental wellbeing



## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

### Newsletter MAY 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: Waymaking** 'taster', Ladderedge; Simon with land art by **James Brunt**; our **40s Extravaganza**, **please** spread the word; **curlews** and **World Curlew Day** event + Moira.

**April art: 1st (May Day) & 8th (Words & pictures – see below) + Andy; 15th, 22nd, 29th: mixed media + Sarah**

**Wed. 8th May, Art** session in **Foxlowe Bar, 2-4pm**, joint session with **Reaching N Staffs group**

**Sat 18th May** our **40s Extravaganza** 10am-10pm, **Foxlowe Arts Centre** stalls/talks/films/fashion show/music/dance/vehides, all **FREE**

Portraits of **George Fox** in the June newsletter.