

MAY

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

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

Nature Is A Language, Can't You Read? (Mark)

Not yet, maybe never, but I am content to learn the letters, trace their shapes and know that each page will unveil a new joy and that learning is the point and understanding that I might never understand is the end.

Slow Dance (Dave)

Feather down from far aloft drifted down touching soft upon the water's soothing face basking there within it's cool embrace.

A slow dance, ever down on deep finding peaceful, dream lit sleep slumbering yet in hushed repose, safe the winds that ever blows.

Open (Bonnie)

When this is all over – when the cafes are open again – I imagine meeting friends: in person, venturing out from my rooms to socialise face to face, chatting over a coffee. Then returning to the safe haven and solitude of home. While we're all staying in our own flats and houses, venturing out for shopping and exercise but certainly not mingling, crossing the road to avoid contact, following the guidelines, it's almost as though I'm less alone. I'm held in loving networks of friends, simply by technology, in the comfort of home.

The art of dreaming (Marion)

I don't dream very much now; as a child I think I dreamt every night; dreams frightened me then. On Saturday morning when I went round to my auntie's with the papers, I didn't tell her about my dreams, because she said 'Friday night's dream, Saturday told, sure to come true if ever so old'. But this week I went to bed at 11pm and was woken with a start by someone shutting my pantry door. I looked at the time and it was 11.20pm, so I felt quite scared (who was it?) as the front door was locked. My daughter said it was a dream; in my bookcase I've found a book titled 'The dreamer's dictionary'. In it, for 'closed or closing doors' it says 'vain regrets over past or missed opportunities', so that's about right.

Marlene is sewing wash bags for the NHS
Staff coming off shift can safely bag uniform, ready for a hot wash.



A selection of art, craft and photography from 'the home front'



BV for VE' bunting

Some of the colourful bunting made under Sheena's instruction.



MAY DETAILS

You, our participants

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

You are also supporting one another through this time.



The Broken Milk Bottle (*Jane*)

A crash. A smash
Tiny fragments littered on the floor
shimmering in sunlight.
The opaque liquid oozing out slowly, trickling
to freedom as it sinks into the carpet.
A masterful escape as it disappears like a deft
assassin no longer seen.
Only a stain left as a memory of its presence.
Emptiness as the once full bottle lays there
smashed broken in pieces.
What once was whole is now a soulless
shell of its former self.



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)

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 MAY 2020

Our thanks to **Bonnie** who hosts the Zoom writing group Tuesdays 10.30am - 12 noon-ish. She has also offered to post collated writing to those not on the internet. **All welcome on Zoom – contact Andy.**

Participants have individual lists of group **members to keep in touch with** (phone, WhatsApp group, email, post, Zoom) as they prefer. **Contact Andy to join in any way.**

Contact Andy if you would like an **art 'starter pack'** (envelopes + post-card sized cards).

Please **email photos of your art** to Andy for future newsletters.

To contact Andy: email is easiest or **work mobile (07760 138395)** preferably using **WhatsApp.**

We are grateful to the **Community Council of Staffordshire** for funding Zoom & the work smartphone. We are also proud to announce a 2-year **Lottery funded project** – details next time.