

OCTOBER

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):

Date (Pauline)

What's the date? I'm sure I don't know. That's one of the question doctors ask you to see if you have still got all your marbles. Going on a date comes to mind too, but I don't these days. Up-to-date's another form. And what about the international date line? There are so many ways to use the word 'date'.

Part (Rachel)

To part with something is to give it away. You can part with your heart, but not literally. One can get a part in a play or a movie. These are all versions of the word 'part'.

Umbrella (Andy)

I don't know which came first, the umbrella or the Umbellifer but they're obviously from the same root (probably Latin) I've currently mislaid John's folding umbrella – I know exactly where I left it, it's just a case of making a phone call.

But the Umbellifer family of wildflowers (and Vegetables come to that) are a source of hedgerow delight throughout the year, Queen Anne's Lace, Pignut, Hogweed and so on, leave umbels late into the season.

Rudyard (Rachel)

River Under Ducks You Are Roaring Diver

Part (Jane)

Parting is such sweet sorrow. Or so the saying goes. Depending on the situation, parting can be a blessing too. If a situation is toxic and you're about to blow your top parting is so much healthier otherwise, you'll end up going mad. Of course, the saying does ring true when a loved one leaves you. To depart this world to the next life your heart can be left broken. Not sure if the sweet but sorrow is definitely there.

I suppose the sweet part comes in when you part and reunite, be it a friend you've not seen in years or a partner for a few days. We always miss them when we're parted.

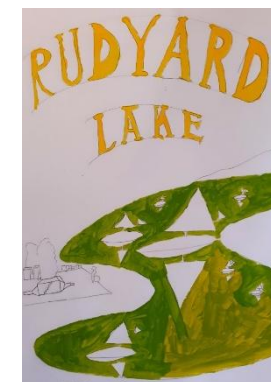
Umbrella (Will)

They rested an umbrella upon their shoulder to shelter from the drizzle and the flow-off from the Sky-Rail as they wandered along the stone brick path by the canal. They reminisce about the days of old, back when this place was a free river, before brick and industry cursed and confined her meander. They halted as they approached a turn, where the narrow water way widens into a large pool, where the falling water of the upper reservoir spilled over the iron waterwheel, housed in its gothic white plaster walls with ornate sandstone columns and flying buttresses, a cathedral to water.

Date (Bill)

Thirty first of the tenth, nineteen fifty-one. The day I entered this beautiful earth. I am still here; I think by some miracle anyway I hope I am around for a while longer to cast my stardust, or not, on all who want it.

Day visit to **Rudyard Lake** featuring a trip on 'Sunray' plus sunshine and showers; **Rudyard posters** taking shape; just 2 of our volunteers on the pop-up **Rescue Me** stall, **raising funds** for BV.



OCTOBER 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.

Umbrella (Maggie)

Shelter them
Cover them
Keep them safe from the rain

Shelter them,
the needy ones
Keep them safe from harm

Shelter them
with welcome in a storm
Don't let a flag divide

Shelter them
Cover them
Keep them in the warm.

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The Wrong Clothes (Anna)

'I think you got dressed in the dark', she said to him as he waltzed down the stairs in a blue checked shirt and green trousers. He was colourblind and this kind of rapport was regularly taking place, yet it was important to keep up with appearances – to dress smartly in a coordinated way or fashion. Some generations of men never went anywhere without wearing a shirt, tie and sweater. Clothes can speak volumes, can tell the onlooker a lot about the wearer of them. The wrong clothes can be too tight, unethical or mismatched like in this case.

Borderland Voices

27 years of arts for mental wellbeing



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2025

In-person sessions, Leek Health Centre, on Wednesdays.

Every Wednesday: All now back in original room

10.30-12.30 **Creative Writing**; 1.30-3.30 **Expressive Art**;

4.00-5.30 **Informal DIY Drop-in. All welcome:** write, colour, chat

To ask about spaces email info@borderlandvoices.org.uk

Images: day trip to **Rudyard Lake** for our **OUTSIDE** Creative Commission. **Rudyard posters** inspired by 1920s railway art, taking shape. **'Rescue Me' stall** at September's Repair Café, stewarded by **BV volunteers**, raising funds for BV

Oct art: 1st: finish **Rudyard** posters + Andy; 8th, 15th, 22nd: **Face your Fears** (mask-making) + **Gordon** (a UK Shared Prosperity Fund/SMDC project); 29th: **Halloween** + Andy

Oct writing: 1st: **calendar 2026** selecting/discussing images and writing+ Andy; 8th, 15th, 22nd: **Face your Fears** + Sarah; 29th + AC

12.30-1.30 22nd: Q and A with **Emma Ford, HealthWatch**