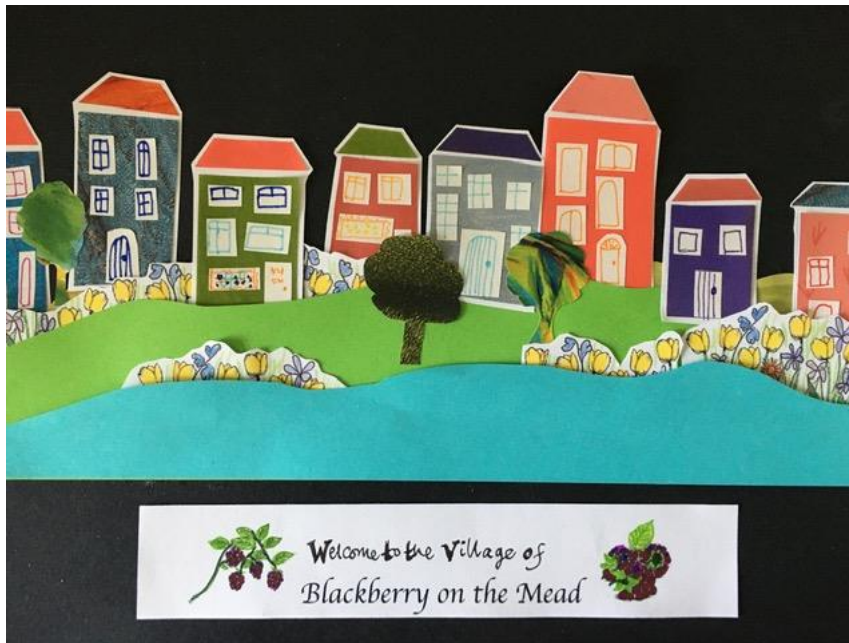


TEN WORD TALES No. 4

Blackberry-on-the-Mead

by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 1



The village of Blackberry-on-the-Mead was usually sleepy. A sleepy village is one where nothing very interesting or unusual happens.

Once, in Blackberry-on-the-Mead, or Berry as the locals called it, when Mr Jones took his dog Jack for a walk they went anti-clockwise round the pond, instead of the usual clockwise.

In the first two weeks of every April, Miss Frangipane, who ran the tea shop, *The Victoria Sponge*, went away to visit her sister in London. Then the shop was run by her nephew, George, who always went a bit wild, sometimes putting popping candy in the scones, for fun.

These were the only adventures the village had ever had.

Otherwise, Berry was very sleepy.

The village had a school and policeman. It had big houses and little houses and a medium-sized river, The Mead. It had a bookshop and a corner shop.

As well as the tea shop, there was Mr Jones's pub, called *The Quill and Quiver*, and a French restaurant, called *The Salmon en Croûte*, which specialized in fish. The chef, Antoine, had the fish brought up specially from the nearby seaside town, by a girl on a bicycle, fresh every morning. And very tasty it was too.

No one suspected that anything would happen to wake the village up, but they were quite wrong.

Watch out for Chapter 2 tomorrow!