

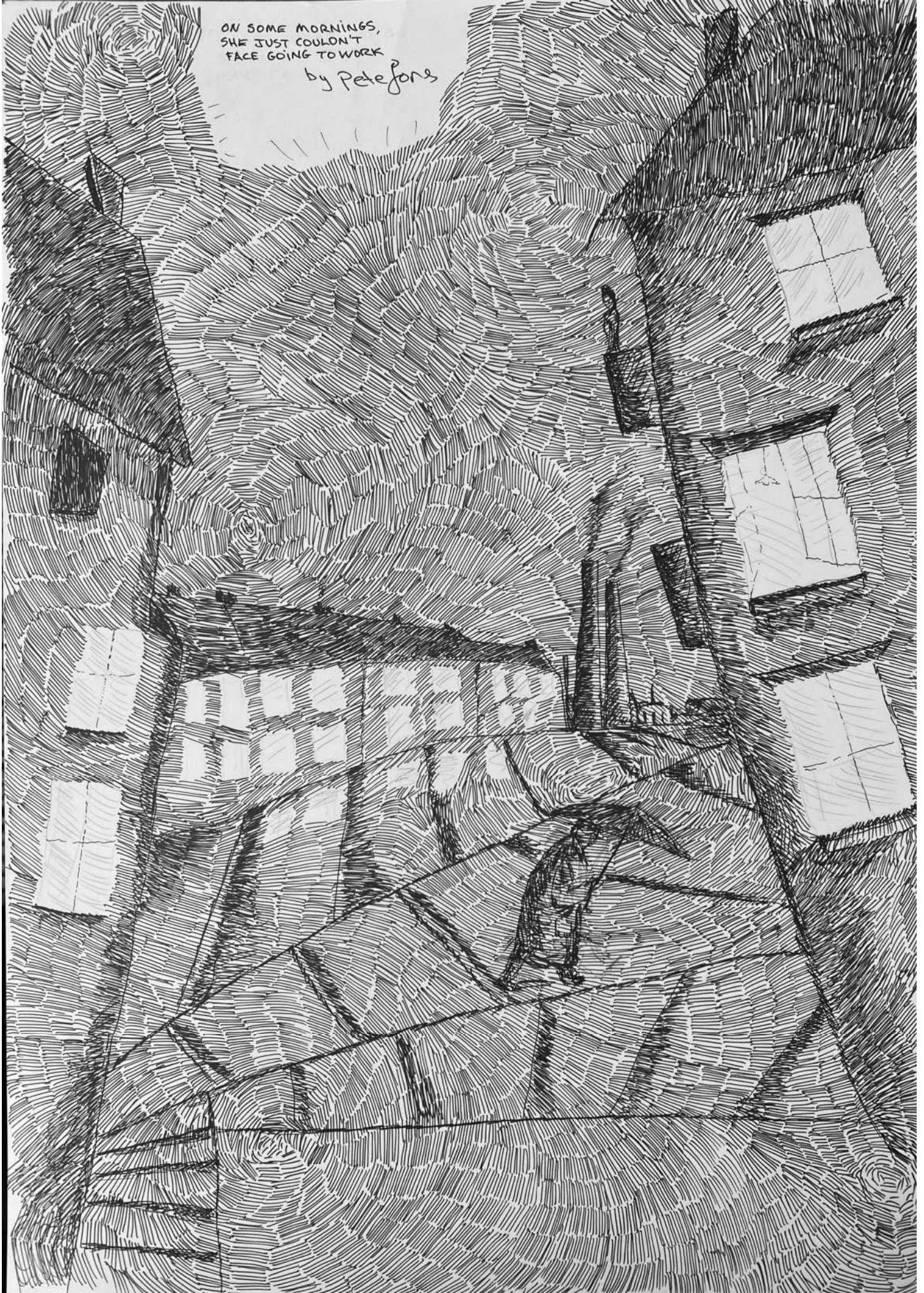


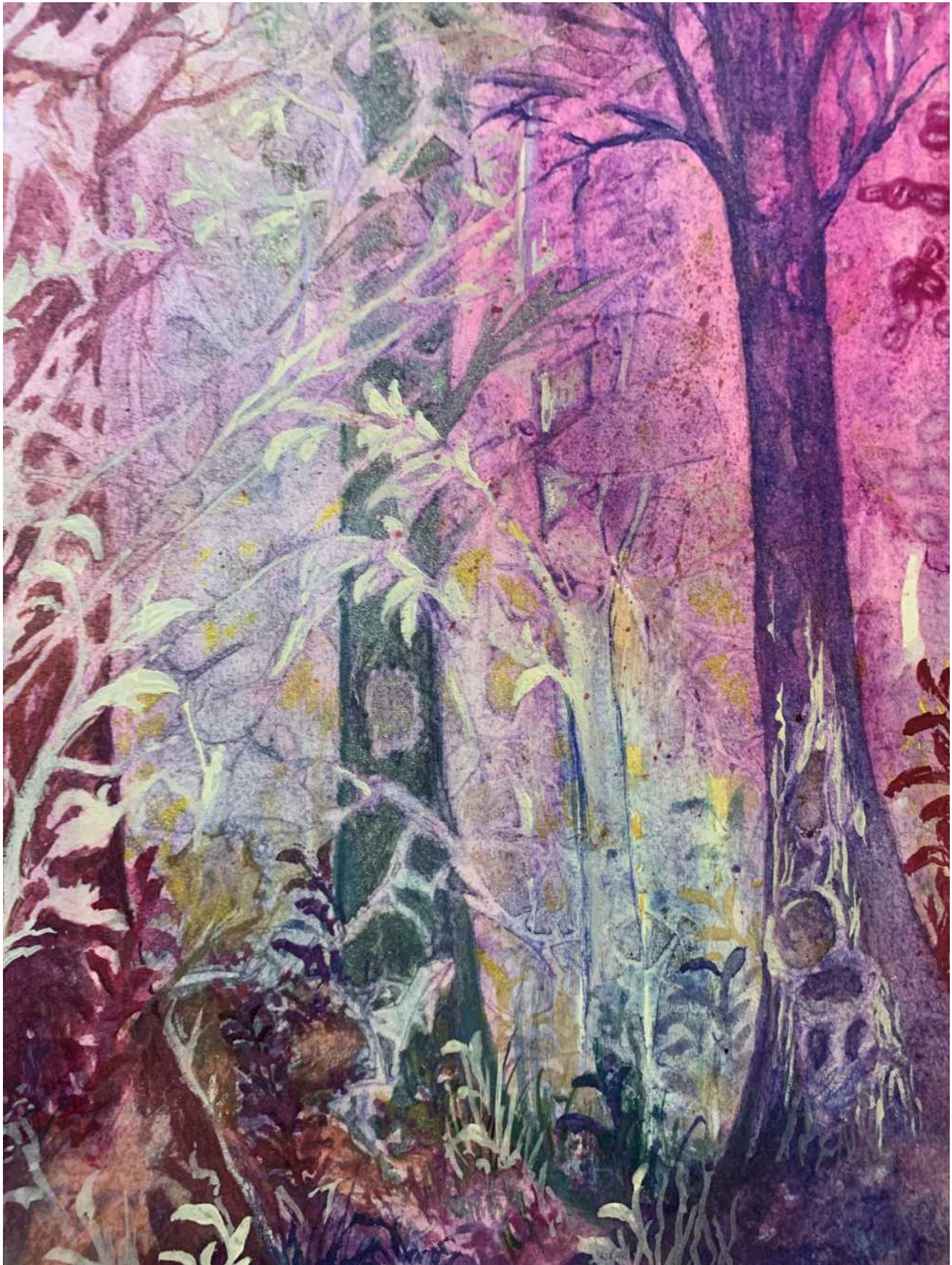
Stephen Fraser



ON SOME MORNINGS,
SHE JUST COULDN'T
FACE GOING TO WORK

by Pete Jones





The Enchanted Forest - Ruth Bloomfield



Yorkshire Snow - Stoodley Pike seen from Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge – Rowan Reed



Path to Freedom - Steve Shand



Clanger in a Mask & Love during Lockdown - Alan James



Bill, Esme and Percy needlefelt owl family - Alison Belshaw



Mom - PreetCox

The New Normal

Stand back for a moment
Close your eyes
Take a breath

We are at a crossroads
The world has taken an unexpected pause
And never have we had such opportunity
To begin a brand new normal

Look through your window
At the clear blue sky
Step outside and inhale an air
Untainted by traffic and industry
Listen to the birds chorus their approval
And smile at the impulsive caring
We now afford each other

Does that old normal
Of fossil fuels and plastic seas
Hold any sense of warm nostalgia

Do you long for the fight and clamour
Of eternal economic growth
GDP at any cost
Continents on fire
Floods and feuds
Flags and broken promises
Gated territories and hate speech
Fleeing hordes from war torn worlds
Washed up on beaches
Whilst we turn the page
To more of the same

We have taken the homeless from our streets
And housed them
We have offered help to those in need
Looking out for our neighbours
Both at home and overseas

We have recognised the fundamental
importance
Of those that care for others
For the future of our children
And the wellbeing of our elders
That a society can be measured on its
empathy and love
And when bold solutions are required
To face down global threat
We are able to come together as one planet
And say enough is enough
You will not defeat us

Have we learnt these things
Have we really changed
What will be the new normal

Are we brave enough
To take this moment
And let it live

Grae J. Wall