

# NEWSLETTER

## July - September

### 2012

#### Issue 18

## WELCOME

This is the eighteenth Newsletter of Grass Roots Open Writers (GROW).

This is where you will find details of all the activities we have organised and other useful information.

All the GROW groups are very informal and relaxed. We are a very friendly bunch and always happy to welcome new members and visitors to our workshops, events and outings.

We particularly encourage people who need to build their confidence and who want to make new friends.

## GROW DATES

23<sup>rd</sup> July - 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Summer Holiday

21<sup>st</sup> July Combe Valley Family Fun Day

31<sup>st</sup> July - GROW Picnic

20<sup>th</sup> August – Bodiam Boat Trip

31<sup>st</sup> August - Beach Party

11<sup>th</sup> September - Autumn Term Begins

**\*No GROW Groups**

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## 1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 19th GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 4th July 2012 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

To enable us to produce the Newsletter by the beginning of each quarter, we have decided to hold all future executive committee meetings on the last Wednesday (during term time) of September, December, March and June.

We finalised the arrangements of all the exciting outings and events we have planned for the summer - see pages 3 & 4 of this newsletter for all the details!

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting – GROW couldn't run without you!

The next (20th) Executive Committee Meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 26th September 2012  
from 10.30 - 12.00  
in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

All the GROW executive committee meetings are open to all our members – and we would really like to encourage you all to come along and share your ideas and suggestions for the future planning and development of GROW.



## **2. PROGRESS REPORTS**

### ***Jubilee Party***

GROW and the Roebuck Centre organised a Jubilee Party together on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Ian, the Roebuck Chef, prepared an excellent buffet for us. Between 35 and 40 people attended the party and everyone had a great time.

There was karaoke, fun photographs (as 'Royals') readings and a short play performed by the Roebuck drama group. The pictures we took of the party are on the GROW website.

### ***Friday Group - Creative Writing for Adults on the Autistic Spectrum***

We need a couple of new volunteers to run this workshop from 2-4pm on Fridays after the Summer Holidays. If you can help, even if you can't commit to every week, please Contact GROW (details on page 4.)

### ***Out of the Blue***

The writing for the 2012 GROW anthology inspired by water has been selected. We will be completing the voice recordings for the companion DVD in the Wednesday and Friday Groups until the end of this term.

All the submitted cover designs can now be viewed in the Art Gallery on our website – and you can vote for all your favourite designs online. The design that gets the most 'yes' votes will be the one we use for the book.

### ***Our Favourite Places***

The submission deadline for the 2013 GROW Creative Calendar is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

### ***Tuesday Group***

We were pleased to welcome Pol Nugent to our Tuesday group on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Pol is organising the oral history project, to record people's memories of Pecket Well College. We talked about the strengths and needs of our groups, our plans and hopes for the future.

We are hoping to organise a link-up with Pecket in the near future to enable members of our groups to meet up and possibly work on a joint project or event.

### ***Wednesday Group***

Members of the Wednesday group formed a selection panel to choose which writing to include in the Out of the Blue anthology.

Our priority was to make sure that everyone was included – and the rest of our decisions were based upon length, suitability for inclusion elsewhere, variety, scope and subject matter.

It was incredibly hard to decide which bits to leave out because the quality of the submissions was so high. We had a maximum limit of 44 pages and we have packed in as much as we possibly can, without compromising on the readability of the text. We hope that you will all be pleased with our choices!

### ***Michelham Priory Visit***

Several GROW members went to the Game and Country Fair at Michelham Priory on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We were very lucky with the weather this year and it remained dry throughout most of our visit. We watched demonstrations of dog-handling and falconry and browsed the many different stalls set up around the grounds.

### 3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

#### ***Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary***

The Sanctuary is open to visitors every Sunday afternoon from 2 – 4.30pm until the end of October (weather permitting.)

Meet the volunteers and animals. Free entry, parking and guided tours, open-air café and a small shop

#### ***Barby Keel Summer Fête***

This event will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August from 12 Noon to 5PM.

Entry to this event is free for children and £2 for adults.

There will be many stalls selling bric-a-brac, books, jewellery, DVDs, CDs, videos and much more. There will also be many games, a Grand Prize Raffle and a vegetarian barbecue.

You can find a complete list of all the raffle prizes and further details (including free parking and a free minibus from Bexhill, Sidley and Little Common) on the Barby Keel website:

<http://barbykeel.btck.co.uk/Events>

Please call 07932 231491 if you need – or can offer – a lift to the Summer Fête or any of the regular open days.

#### ***Combe Valley Family Fun Day***

July 21st Midday till 3pm

A free event for the whole family. Visit the Nature, Sports and Community Zones for lots of free fun and games!

Meet at the Recreation Ground on the right hand side of Freshfields Road by the pavilion.

#### **GROW Picnic**

Jan invites all GROW members, families, friends and all their children to a 'Bring & Share' summer picnic at Combe Valley Country Park on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

We will meet at 11am in the car park next to Hastings Garden Centre and gather in the adjoining field for fun, food, readings and laughter.

For those who wish, there will be a short walk along the river, where we hope to see butterflies and dragonflies, while listening to entertaining birdsong!

For those not coming on the walk, ideas for games and activities is greatly welcomed!

Toilets and a café can be accessed at the garden centre and lifts can be arranged.

So do please come along and keep in touch with all GROW friends during our summer break!

(Alternative date of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August if cancelled due to poor weather)

#### ***Bodiam Boat Trip (NEW DATE!)***

We have had to change the date of this outing due to a recent change in the ferry service. This outing will now take place on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August**.

We leave Bodiam at 12 Noon arriving at Newenden at 1.15pm. We leave Newenden at 3.30pm and arrive back at Bodiam at 4.15pm. The return fare (boat trip only) is £10.00. Cruise & Dine (including a Ploughman's Lunch at The White Hart) costs £16.95.

Will all drivers with any spare seats please meet in the Roosevelt Court Car Park at 11am to offer lifts to those who need them.

## **Children's Poetry Competition**

Jan Hedger is organising this as part of the launch of the Combe Valley Countryside Park.

Full details of the competition and prizes can be found on Jan's website:

<http://www.janscreativewriting.co.uk>

## **Beach Party**

This event will take place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August, when the moon will be both full and blue!

A chilled out party with African Drums and other percussion. We will order pizza for everyone who wants it and share the cost between us - or you can bring your own picnic if you prefer.

Family, friends, dogs and children are all welcome.

Will all drivers with any spare seats please meet in the Roosevelt Court Car Park at 3.30pm to offer lifts to those who need them.

We will be meeting on the Bexhill Beach directly opposite Richmond Road (behind the toilets at the West End of the promenade) from 4pm onwards.

## **4. CONTACT GROW**

The GROW website address is:

[www.grow.btck.co.uk](http://www.grow.btck.co.uk)

The GROW GroupSpace address is:

[www.groupspaces.com/GROW](http://www.groupspaces.com/GROW)

Email Address:

[grass.roots.open.writers@gmail.com](mailto:grass.roots.open.writers@gmail.com)

Phone / Text: 07932 231491

## **5. GROW MEMBERSHIP**

GROW membership costs £5 per year

and fees are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 (valid until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.)

## **6. SURVIVORS POETRY**

GROW is a member of the Survivors Poetry Network (for survivors of mental distress.)

Their magazine 'Poetry Express' can be downloaded from their website, which is now: <http://www.survivorspoetry.org>

## **7. THANKS TO...**

GROW would like to thank:

- . The staff at the Children's Library.
- . The residents of Roosevelt Court.
- . Pol Nugent
- . Geoff & John from Activ8
- . Josie Lawson

## **8. TheFED NEWS**

TheFED website :

<http://www.thefed.btck.co.uk/>

## **Writing Festival**

This will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012. It is a great opportunity for GROW members to meet people from other writing groups and take part in a wide range of workshops.

## **Writing Challenges**

The next three Writing Challenges are:

July - 'Blossoming'

August - 'The Seaside'

September - 'Haiku'

Writing can be factual, fictional, poetry or a short story and in any form or style. All entries will be displayed on TheFED website and may also be featured in future TheFED publications and anthologies.