

# NEWSLETTER

## January - March

### 2013

#### Issue 20

## WELCOME

This is the twentieth 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.

## GROW DATES

14<sup>th</sup> February – Valentines Party

16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term Holiday

27<sup>th</sup> March – Exec Meeting

29<sup>th</sup> March - 14<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holiday

15<sup>th</sup> April – Summer Term Begins

16<sup>th</sup> November – TheFED Festival

**\*No GROW Groups**

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## 1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

Marion Alleyne, Mark Crittenden, Pauline Faulkner, Maria Gethin, Jan Humphreys, Ashley Jordan, Sue Rabbett and Theresa Taylor all volunteered to serve as Executive Committee Members. All the volunteers were proposed by Tony May, seconded by Pauline Faulkner and unanimously elected as the 2012 – 2013 Executive Committee.

Officers. The following executive members were elected to serve as officers.

Chair - Maria Gethin

Vice-Chair - Pauline Faulkner

Secretary - Ashley Jordan

Treasurer - Jan Humphreys

The 21st GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 16th January 2013 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

At this meeting Stephen Taylor and Debbie Feltz were co-opted on to the executive committee.

Thank you to everyone who attended these meetings – GROW couldn't run without you!



Grass Roots Open Writers

## **2. PROGRESS REPORTS**

### ***Monday Group***

Jan Hedger has started a new writing and art group in Bexhill. The group is meeting fortnightly in the Roebuck Room of the Beulah Baptist Church starting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013 from 10am – 12 Noon.

### ***Tuesday Group***

This group is not currently meeting. It is hoped that it will resume after Easter providing a suitable venue and meeting time can be arranged. In the meantime Jan Hedger is happy to welcome any of the Tuesday Group members to the new Bexhill group.

### ***Wednesday Group***

The Wednesday group has a variety of arts and social activities planned.

Many of our members are supporting the Horizons Community Cafe in the Four Courts Community Centre, which sells snacks, drinks and light lunches until 3pm. (They extended their open times to accommodate us.)

### ***Book Launch Party***

We celebrated the launch of 'Out of the Blue' the 2012 GROW anthology on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October during our usual meeting time of 10am – 1.30pm. We ordered pizza for everyone who wanted it and were able to take advantage of a very cheap lunchtime deal. This event was well attended and everyone brought in contributions to share.

### ***Christmas Meal***

We went to the Welcome Stranger for a

Christmas Meal. Unfortunately a lot of our members were unable to come with us this year as they had booked to go on social events organised by their other groups.

The meal was very good and everyone had a lovely time. Afterwards some of us drove to Westfield to see the village lights.

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

The 2013 GROW Creative Calendar is now completed and there are a few copies left available to buy.

## **3. PLANNED EVENTS**

### ***Valentines Party***

GROW and the Roebuck Centre are having a joint party to celebrate friendship on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (Valentines Day). Tickets cost £3.50 each. Partners are welcome but NOT necessary.

We have been making valentines themed decorations in the Wednesday Group.

We will also be running the Karaoke machine and organising some fun party games.

Many thanks to Mark Crittenden, Diane Van Eygen and Ian (the Roebuck Chef) for helping us to organise this party.

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

The sanctuary will re-open in April.

### ***Location Visit***

We are waiting for the weather to improve before setting a date for our location visit.

#### **4. 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.)

All GROW members are entitled to set up a member's profile on the GROW website, if they wish. Some of our members have included links to their own websites, video recordings, personal biographies as part of their profiles.

#### **5. 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

#### **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:

<http://www.survivorspoetry.org>

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

GROW would like to thank:

- . The residents of Roosevelt Court.
- . The staff at the Roebuck Centre.
- . Beulah Baptist Church
- . Jan Hedger
- . Josie Lawson
- . The volunteers of the Four Courts Community Cafe
- . The GROW Executive Committee
- . and all the GROW members.

#### **8. TheFED NEWS**

TheFED website :

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

#### ***Writing Festival (London)***

This will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It is a great opportunity for GROW members to meet people from other writing groups and take part in a wide range of workshops.

GROW is planning to hire a coach and driver to enable our members to attend this event. We will be applying to a local charity for a grant to help with the cost.

TheFED is looking for volunteers to lead a ninety minute workshop at the festival and is hoping to encourage more people to attend this years event. Help with publicising, organising and promoting the event would also be appreciated.

#### ***Writing Challenges***

The next three Writing Challenges are:

January - 'Invented'

February - 'Air'

March – 'The First Time'

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 publications and anthologies of TheFED.

TheFED is also looking for suggestions for future writing challenges. Ideally these should be open to various interpretations to allow for a wide variety of entries and writing styles.