

NEWSLETTER

July - September

2013

Issue 22

WELCOME

This is the twenty-second 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 always happy to welcome new members and visitors to our workshops, events and outings.

All venues have wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet.

We try to be aware of all our members' needs and to cater for them as far as possible. If you have any special needs, or if there is anything we can do to make it easier for you to attend our groups, please let us know.

We ask for Voluntary Contributions and suggest £1 per workshop to help cover our printing costs, the material we use and refreshments.

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1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 23rd GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 26th June 2013 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

At this meeting we agreed to try to hold our Beach Party on Saturday 13th July, weather permitting and that our Summer Outing will be to Bewl Bridge Reservoir on Thursday 1st August. *(See Item 3 – Planned Events for further details!)*

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

The next (24th) committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th September, 10.30 – 12.00 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

All GROW members are welcome to attend our meetings and we encourage everyone to get involved in the planning and decision making.

Please do come along, if you can, and share your ideas and suggestions with us.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Please Note: The GROW Monday, Wednesday and Thursday groups will not be meeting between the 27th July and the 8th September 2013.



2. PROGRESS REPORTS

Monday Group

This group, led by Jan Hedger, is meeting fortnightly in the Roebuck Room of the Beulah Baptist Church in Bexhill.

The last meeting this term will be on Monday 15th July 2013 from 10.30 – 12.30. Jan has asked everyone to bring nibbles to share to celebrate the end of term.

Bexhill GROW has its own pages on the GROW website and its own FaceBook page.

Wednesday Group (Skill-Sharing)

This group meets every week from 10.00 – 13.30 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge. The group is very successful and we are getting a good attendance each week. We have been loom knitting, learning crochet, and doing paper crafts as well as art-work.

Afterwards some of us go to the Horizons Community Café in the Four Courts Community Centre, which sells snacks, drinks and light lunches until 3pm. (They extended their open times to accommodate us.)

Thursday Group (Creative Writing)

This group is meeting every Thursday from 10.00 – 12.00 in the Bevin Court Lounge.

It is quite a small group but we have been producing lots of really good writing for the GROW anthology and TheFED Writing Challenges.

We have also done a workshop on auto-biography which has inspired Marion to start work on writing her own life story!

Bevin Court Breakfast Club.

This meets on the 3rd Thursday every month from 08.30 to 11.00. GROW members are welcome to have breakfast (£2.50 for small or £4 for large) but they will have to book and pay in advance.

Lunch at the Hollington Oak

We had a lovely lunch at the Hollington Oak on Wednesday 10th April. The food was lovely and the prices were very reasonable, with a special offer on the 2 and 3 course set menus. We would definitely like to do this again.

Afterwards some of us went on a craft supplies and shopping expedition to the Old Loom Mill in Hailsham and then on to ESK in Eastbourne, where we were able to get coffee and cake in the café, just before the store closed!

Publications

GROW Anthology

The 2013 GROW anthology (Book and DVD set) is going to be themed on 'Cosmic'. (space, stars & planets etc.) The title has yet to be decided.

The submissions deadlines are Thursday 24th October for cover designs and Thursday 31st October for writing.

Jan Hedger has suggested that we use more than one cover design in a 'collage' effect to display as much of our members artwork as possible.

GROW Calendar

The 2014 GROW Calendar is going to be themed on 'The Environment'

The submissions deadline is Monday the 9th December 2013.

3. PLANNED EVENTS

Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

We are now meeting every Sunday from 14.00 – 17.00 in the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary (weather permitting.)

There is an open-air café where you can buy hot and cold drinks, home-made cakes and snacks. There is also a small shop where you can buy (or donate) second hand books, DVDs, jewellery, clothing, pet supplies, ornaments and bric-a-brac.

Please phone or text 07932 231491 if you need - or can offer - a lift.

GROW Beach Party

The first GROW beach party this year will take place on **Saturday 13th July**. (weather permitting)

We will meet from 3.30pm onwards in our usual place which is on the last beach at the west end of the Bexhill promenade (behind the public toilets directly opposite Richmond Road.)

Travel.

The closest train station is Collington, which is a five minute walk from the beach.

Will all drivers with space in their cars please meet in the **Roosevelt Court Car park at 3.30pm**. We will need help with offering lifts and transporting walking aids and beach chairs!

Will everyone who needs a lift please contact me on 07932 231491 so I can ensure that there are enough spaces to get everyone there (I may have to organise more than one collection!)

Friends and family, children and dogs are all welcome. We'll be ordering pizza at 5.30pm for everyone who

wants to chip in for it (usually about £3 per person) – or you can bring your own picnic if you prefer.

Any spare beach chairs & picnic rugs you can bring will be very appreciated!

GROW Summer Outing

We are going to Bewl Bridge Reservoir, on **Thursday 1st August** (weather permitting)

Please bring a picnic and drinks. There are plenty of picnic benches and seating we can use.

We agreed that everyone going would pay £3 each to cover the cost of parking, entry to the reservoir and petrol for the drivers.

Will all drivers with space in their cars please meet in the **Roosevelt Court Car park at 10.30am**. We will need help with offering lifts and transporting walking aids!

Will everyone who needs a lift please contact me on 07932 231491 so I can ensure that there are enough spaces to get everyone there (I may have to organise more than one collection!)

4. GROW MEMBERSHIP

GROW membership costs £5 per year, and became due on the 1st September 2012 (valid until the 31st August 2013.)

All GROW members are entitled to set up a member's profile and their own Author Page on the GROW website exclusively for their own creative writing, photos and artwork.

Some of our members have included links to their own websites, video recordings and personal biographies as part of their profiles.

5. CONTACT GROW

The GROW website address is:

www.grow.btck.co.uk

The GROW GroupSpace address is:

www.groupspaces.com/GROW

Email Address:

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. TheFED NEWS

TheFED website :

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

Writing Festival (London)

This will take place on Saturday 16th 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:

July – 'Identity'

August – 'One Wish '

September – 'Heartache'

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.

8. THANKS TO...

GROW would like to thank:

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

9. GROW DATES

13th July – *Beach Party*

1st August – *Summer Outing*

***27th July - 8th September**

- Summer Holiday

25th September (10.30 – 12.00)

- Executive Committee Meeting

16th November - *TheFED Festival*

***No GROW Groups meeting**