

# NEWS

## SUMMER TERM 2009

Issue 4

### WELCOME

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

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

### ABOUT GROW

Grass Roots Open Writers (GROW) is a community writing and publishing group. We particularly welcome anyone who needs to develop confidence in expressing themselves.

**GROW** meets in the

Children's Library,

Robertson Passage, Hastings

Every Tuesday from 10 – 12 noon

(Writing Workshop)

Roosevelt Court Lounge,

Stonehouse Drive, St Leonards

Every Wednesday from 10-12 noon

(Skill Sharing Workshop)

Every Friday from 2-3 pm

(Writing Workshop)

### CONTACT

Phone / Text: 07932 231491

Email:

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

### COMMITTEE NEWS

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, Frank Burnham, Maggie Crouch and Maria Gethin were co-opted on to the committee. GROW would like to thank them for agreeing to this and hope that they will enjoy their time with us.

#### Next Executive Meetings

10.30 am – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 in the Residents' Lounge, Roosevelt Court, Stonehouse Drive, St Leonards.

**ALL GROW members are welcome.**

**Please do come along if you can, bring your ideas and suggestions and get involved with the planning and development of GROW.**



Grass Roots Open Writers

## WEBSITE

[www.grow.btik.com](http://www.grow.btik.com)

The group and homework writing exercises are included in the Calendar every week. This is especially useful for anyone who is unable to attend the group for any reason.

The Gallery is regularly updated with new writing by GROW members.

The Blog is an online journal for GROW members to record their thoughts, ideas and experiences. Josie Lawson has just been added as a blog author. Henry Dallimore's 'Letters from America' have been included and they are all very informative and entertaining. They give a good idea of how a BLOG can provide a way for people to share their personal stories with the world. We can have up to 100 authors, so if you'd like to become a GROW Blog Author – or to learn more about the Blog, please come along to the Skill Sharing Workshops.

The latest addition is a Message Board. This allows anyone to start new 'Topics' and 'Reply' to threads, which keep all questions, discussions and responses together. At the moment we are using this facility to record the successes of GROW members (publication, awards, qualifications etc.)

There is no need to register or log in to use The Message Board.

Just click on the button called 'Message Board' at the bottom of the GROW home page.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Josie Lawson – Had her story 'Memory Circle' published in 'Life's Stories'

Jan Hedger - Published her first book of poetry 'Words in Imagination'

Henry Dallimore - Started a new writing group, Pottsville Open Writers (POW), in the USA.

Frank Burnham - started a new GROW creative writing group in St Leonards.

## MAGAZINE

The Title & Theme for the 2009 GROW anthology is

**'ILLUMINATION'**

Submissions Deadline

**31<sup>st</sup> May 2009**

## 2009 TERM DATES

21<sup>st</sup> April - Summer Term begins

26<sup>th</sup> May - Half Term Holiday

7<sup>th</sup> July - Moon Bathing Beach Party  
(Weather Permitting)

21<sup>st</sup> July - End of Term Party

28<sup>th</sup> July - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept - Summer Holidays

9<sup>th</sup> September - Autumn Term begins

## AFFILIATIONS

### TheFED

GROW is a member of TheFED  
*- A Network of Writing  
and Community Publishers.*

**For more information please visit:**

[www.fed.btik.com](http://www.fed.btik.com)

### Survivors' Poetry Network

GROW is a member of  
The Survivors' Poetry Network.

Survivors' Poetry is a national charity which promotes the writing of survivors of mental distress. It was established in 1991, by four poets who'd had first-hand experience of the mental health system themselves.

A Survivor may be a person with a current or past experience of ECT, psychiatric hospitals, tranquillisers or other medication, a user of counselling services, a survivor of sexual abuse, child abuse and any other person who has empathy with the experiences of survivors.

**For more information, please visit**

[www.survivorspoetry.com](http://www.survivorspoetry.com)

Where you can also download a copy of 'Poetry Express' the Survivors' quarterly magazine.

## FINANCE & FUND-RAISING

Thanks to the Roosevelt Court Residents Association who have very kindly awarded GROW a £200 grant.

Thanks also to Bernard Weekes-Lock who has offered to organise a Table Sale to raise funds on behalf of GROW.

### TheFED

## 2009 LONDON MINIFEST

This event will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at Faraday house, Old Gloucester Street, Holborn, London.

It will be a full day of writing, publishing and performance related workshops, celebratory readings and networking with community writing and publishing groups from all over the UK. The attendance fee will be £15 per head (£10 Concessions) payable to TheFED.

Lunch and refreshments are included.

GROW will be hiring a small coach to take us there and back. Seats on the coach for MiniFest attendees cost £8 each. Seats must be paid for in advance.

Any seats left over may be taken by people who'd like to have a cheap day-trip to London, but not attend the MiniFest. Coach seats for London Day-Trippers cost £10 each.) Please ask your friends and family if they would like to support GROW in this way.

## **TUESDAY GROUP (Writing Workshop)**

Children's Library 10am - 12 Noon.  
This is a very friendly and informal group. We usually spend the first half of our workshop engaged in a group writing exercise and the second half sharing the writing we have done both in group and at home.

## **WEDNESDAY GROUP (Skill Sharing Workshop)**

Roosevelt Court Lounge 10 – 12 Noon.  
Come along to learn new skills and teach others what you have learned.

Share your knowledge, hobbies, arts & crafts, presentations, computer skills, basic English & Maths, photography, animation, recipes, desk-top-publishing - the possibilities are endless.

## **FRIDAY GROUP (Writing Workshop)**

Roosevelt Court Lounge 2 - 3pm. This is a very friendly and relaxed group and tends to be a bit quieter than the Tuesday Group.

## **ACCESS**

All GROW groups have wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet. To access the Roosevelt Court Lounge please call '7' on the intercom - or knock on the patio door at the side of the building. The Lounge is on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (Use the lift on the right.)

## **BAR BLUE OPEN MIKE**

Second Thursday Every Month  
8pm - Late.

Hosted by Alvin Culzac at Bar Blue, Grand parade, St Leonards. Bring something to read, sing or play, or just come along to listen.

## **BARBY KEEL ANIMAL SANCTUARY**

Every Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> October  
2pm – 4.30pm

**(Weather Permitting)**

Join us for refreshments  
in the outdoor café  
and meet all the residents of the  
Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

**Please contact Ashley  
if you need - or can offer - a lift.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**GROW would like to thank:**

Hastings Children's Library  
Bernard Weekes-Lock and the  
residents of Roosevelt Court

The Hastings Lions Club  
Josie Lawson

The Executive Committee  
ALL the GROW members