

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2009

Issue 5

## WELCOME

This is the fifth 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

(Singing / Performance Workshop)

## CONTACT

Phone / Text: 07932 231491

Email:

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

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> GROW AGM

10.30 - 12.00

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009

in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL GROW MEMBERS ATTEND THE AGM**

### Next Executive Meeting

12 - 1pm

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009

(immediately after the AGM)

in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

**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.grass-roots-open-writers.btik.com](http://www.grass-roots-open-writers.btik.com)

We have had to change our website address back to the original one as '[www.grow.btik.com](http://www.grow.btik.com)' no longer works.

We have produced some business cards with the new website address printed on them to help people to share the GROW information and contact details. Please ask the group leaders if you would like to have some business cards to give to your friends & family.

The NEWSFLASH section. The latest additions to the website are highlighted here and there are links directly to them, as well as important information such as social gatherings, outings and term dates.

## ILLUMINATION

The 2009 GROW anthology is finished!

It is a 44 page, A5 size, Book with an accompanying DVD. It includes poetry, prose, artwork, hand-drawn borders and animation done by the GROW members.

We have made an initial run of 50 copies. Further copies will be produced on demand.

We held a competition to design the front cover and got 22 entries!

(All designs are included on the DVD)

**Price £3 for the Book & DVD set.**

## TERM DATES

7<sup>th</sup> September - Term 1 Begins

24<sup>th</sup> October - 1<sup>st</sup> November - Holiday\*

2<sup>nd</sup> November - Term 2 Begins

19<sup>th</sup> December - 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Holiday\*

4<sup>th</sup> January - Term 3 Begins

13<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> February - Holiday\*

22<sup>nd</sup> February - Term 4 Begins

27<sup>th</sup> March - 18<sup>th</sup> April - Holiday\*

19<sup>th</sup> April - Term 5 Begins

29<sup>th</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> June - Holiday\*

7<sup>th</sup> June - Term 6 Begins

26<sup>th</sup> July - 12<sup>th</sup> September - Holiday\*

13<sup>th</sup> September Groups Start Back

***\*There are NO Group Meetings  
between these dates\****

## AFFILIATIONS

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)

and the

**Survivors Poetry Network**

**For more information, please visit**

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

## **BEACH PARTY**

After our original Beach Party had to be postponed (due to very bad weather) we re-scheduled it to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Although it was a little 'breezy' at times it was a very enjoyable evening. We had some delicious Pizzas from the wonderful Pizza Base, Sidley, who very kindly delivered to the beach for us!

## **SUMMER OUTING**

GROW organised a trip to Batemans on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August. (Rudyard Kipling's house in Burwash. We had a lovely day out and enjoyed walking round the beautiful house, water mill and gardens. We finished the afternoon in the open-air café before a very pleasant drive back through the wonderful Sussex countryside.

## **FINANCE & FUND-RAISING**

Thanks to the Roosevelt Court Residents Association who organised an Easter Lunch fund-raising event which raised £100 for GROW.

Thanks to the Isabel Blackman Foundation who have awarded GROW a £250 grant to help with the cost of hiring a Coach & Driver to take us to the London MiniFest.

Good luck to Nick Crump and Ryan Powell who are planning a sponsored cycle ride along the Cuckoo Trail to raise funds for 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 is £15 per head (£10 Concessions) including a buffet lunch and refreshments.

GROW is hiring a 49 Seater coach to take us there and back. Seats on the coach for MiniFest attendees cost £8 each. Seats must be paid for in advance.

The Coach will leave Roosevelt Court, Stonehouse Drive at 7am arriving at Faraday House, Holborn at 9.30am.

It will leave Faraday House at 6.30pm returning to Roosevelt Court at 9pm.

### **DAY TRIP TO LONDON**

Holborn is very near Covent Garden - making this a great opportunity to do some Christmas Shopping!

Spare seats on the MiniFest Coach may be taken by people who'd like to have a cheap day-trip to London, but not attend the MiniFest. (£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.

This is a relaxed and fun group. Come along to learn new skills and teach others what you have learned.

## **FRIDAY GROUP**

### **(Singing & Performance Workshop)**

Roosevelt Court Lounge 2 - 3pm.

We will be practising Christmas Carols for the carol concert we want to hold at Roosevelt Court and developing our reading and voice recording skills.

## **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.)

## **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 call or text 07932 231491**

**if you need - or can offer - a lift.**

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Josie Lawson – Recovering from her brain surgery and already writing again!

Stephen Taylor – Winner of the Illumination Cover Design Competition.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**GROW would like to thank:**

The staff at Hastings Children's Library  
Bernard Weekes-Lock & the residents of Roosevelt Court.

The Isabel Blackman Foundation

Jan Humphreys

Josie Lawson

Stephen Taylor

The Executive Committee

& ALL the GROW members