

NEWSLETTER

2nd TERM 2009

Issue 6

WELCOME

This is the sixth 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.

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WEBSITE

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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 MEMBERSHIP

GROW Membership costs £5 for up to one year and is due for renewal on 1st September each year. Members will receive a Membership Pack upon receipt of their completed membership application form and membership fee.

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 and
Homework Help Workshop)

We ask for Voluntary Contributions (£1 per session) to cover our printing costs and refreshments.



Grass Roots Open Writers

COMMITTEE NEWS

Since the last Newsletter we have had the second GROW AGM and elected our new Executive Committee

The 2009-10 Executives are:

Frank Burnham,
Margaret Crouch
Nick Crump
Maria Gethin,
Jan Humphreys
Ashley Jordan
Kim Smith

The four Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Treasurer) will be appointed at the first Executive Meeting after the AGM.

We also adopted the new Constitution, and the GROW Accounts which were independently examined by Pat Weaver, the Community Accountancy Worker at Hastings Voluntary Action.

Next Executive Meetings

10.30 - 12 Noon

Wednesday 4th November '09

Wednesday 2nd December '09

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, running and development of GROW.

GROW CALENDAR

We are currently working on a GROW Calendar for 2010 that will feature a different poetry form each month and samples of our member's writing.

We are holding a competition to design the front cover.

Price £1 each.

NICK POLLARD'S RESEARCH PROJECT

GROW has agreed to help Nick Pollard with his research project.

Nick was the editor of The Federation Magazine for many years and currently works at Sheffield (Hallam) University. He is a member of Heeley Writers and is also currently serving as a member of TheFED Executive Committee.

He was planning to visit the Tuesday group in October to interview us and ask us questions about how we organise our workshops, run our groups and publish our writing. Unfortunately this visit had to be cancelled, but he is hoping that we'll be able to find time at TheFED London MiniFest to talk to him. He will make a tape recording of the interview, which will take about 1 hour.

Ask your group leader for a copy of the Participant Information Sheet that Nick has provided to explain what he will be doing with the information we give him and what the project involves.

WEBSITE

The Gallery, where we showcase our member's writing, now shows the date that each item was last updated. All our regular website visitors can see at a glance where the latest additions are.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

On Friday 18th December 2009 we will be going for a Christmas Meal at the Kings Arms Pub & Carvery in Ninfield.

A two course Christmas Dinner is £5.00

The Carvery costs £3.59 (vegetables only option is £3.25)

Other meal options on the menu range from £5.00 - £8.00

Starters and Deserts are optional and cost from £1.60 - £2.99 each.

Drinks are not included in the price and must be purchased from the bar.

AFFILIATIONS

GROW is a member of

TheFED

- A Network of Writing
and Community Publishers,

Hastings Voluntary Action (HVA)

and the

Survivors Poetry Network

TheFED

2009 LONDON MINIFEST

This event will take place on Saturday 21st 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)

Hastings Children's Library 10 - 12

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

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

FRIDAY GROUP

(Singing, Performance & Writing 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 1st Floor (Use the lift on the right.)

TERM DATES

24th October - 1st November - Holiday*

2nd November - Term 2 Begins

21st November - TheFED MiniFest

18th December - Christmas Meal

19th December - 3rd January - Holiday*

4th January - Term 3 Begins

13th - 21st February - Holiday*

22nd February - Term 4 Begins

27th March - 18th April - Holiday*

19th April - Term 5 Begins

29th May - 6th June - Holiday*

7th June - Term 6 Begins

26th July - 12th September - Holiday*

13th September Groups Start Back

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GROW would like to thank:

The staff at Hastings Children's Library

The residents of Roosevelt Court.

Bernard Weekes-Lock

Pat Weaver

The Isabel Blackman Foundation

Joan Dodkin

Jan Wilkins (Hedger)

Jan Humphreys

Josie Lawson

Stephen Taylor

The Executive Committee

& ALL the GROW members