

NEWSLETTER

4th TERM 2010

Issue 8

WELCOME

This is the eighth 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.

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.)

Next Executive Meeting

10.30 - 12 Noon

Wednesday 5th May 2010

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.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Executive Committee meeting that was due to take place on Wednesday 3rd February had to be postponed until Wednesday 24th February, because there were not enough committee members present to make a quorum.

The Executive Committee has decided:

To organise a photographic dog show (with a writing competition) to raise funds for GROW. This will take place next year (2011.)

To run a Quiz Night with a Raffle in the Summer (Frank Burnham is organising this for us.) It is planned to launch the 2010 GROW Anthology 'Reflection' at the same time.

To organise a Summer Outing for GROW members. Please let the Executive Committee know if you have any suggestions of a good place for us to visit.

We have had to cancel two workshops. There will be **NO GROUPS** at the Roosevelt Court Lounge on **Friday 26th February** and **Wednesday the 5th March**



Grass Roots Open Writers

FUND-RAISING

The Roosevelt Court Residents Association have very kindly donated £200 to GROW. This funding will really help us to develop our group and build upon our success.

We are still thinking about how the money should be best spent and some initial ideas include buying a better printer, putting it towards buying a new laptop computer for the group or paying for a visiting writer to come and run some workshops for us.

Please let us know how you think the money should be spent and we'll discuss all the suggestions we receive at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

EASTER FUND-RAISER

Bernard Weekes-Lock and the Social Club of Roosevelt Court have offered to organise a whole day of Fund-Raising for GROW. On Easter Monday (5th April 2010) he is providing:

1. Ploughman's Lunch (£3 per head)
2. Cream Tea (£3 per head)
3. Bingo Night.

The proceeds of the day will be donated to GROW. To book your place for either – or both – of the meals, please add your name to the sheet on the Roosevelt Court Notice Board (on the ground floor opposite the lifts.)

GROW is very fortunate to have the support of Roosevelt Court and would like to thank everyone who's helping us.

TheFED 2010 London MiniFest

This one day event will take place at Faraday House in Holborn, London on Saturday 6th November 2010.

This venue is fully accessible to disabled people, with accessible toilets, wheelchair ramps and a lift to all floors.

The day will include a wide selection of workshops to do with writing, publishing and performance. There will also be plenty of time for networking with other community writing groups from all over the UK and the US, meeting old friends and making new ones.

The day will conclude with a 2-hour celebratory performance evening with all attendees being invited to read or perform a short piece of their own work if they wish to do so.

The attendance fee is £10 in advance (or £15 on the day) and this includes a buffet lunch, refreshments and all workshops and materials.

GROW will once again be hiring a coach for anyone who would like to attend this event. However, this year the coach tickets will be FREE to all GROW members! (£10 each to non-GROW members & London Day-Trippers)

The GROW Executive Committee hopes that by subsidising the attendance costs of this event to our members, we will encourage and enable many more people from our groups to come with us this year.

GROW CALENDAR

We have now sold all 60 copies of the GROW 2010 Calendar. It proved to be a very popular project with many of our members purchasing extra copies to give to friends and family as Christmas gifts. We have already started work on a new GROW Calendar for 2011.

REFLECTION 2010

Work has already started on the 2010 GROW anthology, 'Reflection'

The Wednesday and Friday groups have been designing 'corner borders' which will provide a visual echo of the 'Reflection' theme.

We have already started the voice recording and we hope to get as many people as possible to read their own work for the 'Reflection' DVD.

We are inviting all GROW members to submit their ideas and designs for the front cover. This could be an original piece of artwork or photograph and should be based upon the theme of 'Reflection.'

All submitted cover designs will be displayed in the GROW website Gallery and GROW members will be able to vote for their favourite design. The design that gets the most votes will be used for the front cover of the book and it will also be printed on the front of the accompanying DVD.

The deadline for all submissions (both writing and cover designs) is 31st May 2010.

SOCIAL EVENING

We are holding our second GROW Social Evening to celebrate the latest achievements of GROW members.

Friday 19th March

Roosevelt Court Residents Lounge
from 7 - 10pm.

Our plans for the evening include:

- ★ The launch of Jan Hedger's new book 'On Calico Wings.' Personally signed copies will be available for sale at £6.99 each.
- ★ An 'Open Mic' of live readings and performances, celebrating the diverse talents of GROW members, our families and friends.
- ★ A cold buffet with soft drinks. (Anyone who wishes to drink alcohol may bring their own.)

A huge thank you to all the residents of Roosevelt Court for allowing us to use their lounge and karaoke machine

We hope that many of the residents will come down and join us for this fun event.

Tickets cost £2 each in advance or £2.50 on the door and are available from all of the GROW workshops or Bernard Weekes-Lock at 5 Roosevelt Court. (There are only 40 tickets left!)

Please book early, if you can, to help us plan the catering. Thanks to all the volunteers who are working so hard to make this event a success.

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.

Members have the right to vote at our AGM and are also entitled to stand for election onto our Executive Committee.

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.**

CONTACT

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TERM DATES

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

All the residents of Roosevelt Court .

Bernard Weekes-Lock

Jan Hedger

Josie Lawson

The Isabel Blackman Foundation

The Executive Committee

& ALL the GROW members