

NEWSLETTER

October - December

2010

Issue 11

WELCOME

This is the eleventh 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.

GROW GROUPS

Creative Writing Workshop

Every Tuesday

Hastings Children's Library

Robertson Passage, Hastings

10.00 – 12.00

Skill Sharing Workshop

Every Wednesday

Roosevelt Court Lounge

Stonehouse Drive, St Leonards

10.00 – 13.30

Both groups are very relaxed and friendly. They are ideal for people who lack confidence and those who wish to make new friends.

ACCESS

Both GROW groups have wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet. To access the Roosevelt Court Lounge please call '7' on the intercom and take the right-hand lift to the first floor.

MEMBERSHIP

The Annual GROW Full Membership fee, which is valid from the 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011, is now due. Full GROW membership costs £5 per year and Full Members are entitled to vote at the AGM and stand for election onto the GROW Executive Committee.

MEMBER

CONTRIBUTIONS

There is a voluntary contribution pot at each of the GROW groups. We suggest a donation of £1 per workshop to cover the cost of refreshments, materials and printing.

Other ways of contributing to GROW are: serving on the Executive Committee; bringing food or drink to share; offering lifts; sharing skills; supporting less able members; typing up work; running a workshop; editing and selecting work for our publications; information gathering and sharing; promoting and attending our events and much more...

GROW is run voluntarily, by the members and for the members. Every contribution helps GROW to grow!

COMMITTEE NEWS

At the last committee meeting the Executives unanimously agreed to co-opt Sue Rabbett on to the GROW Executive Committee. We all welcome Sue as an Executive and thank her for agreeing to serve on the committee.

The next executive committee meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 1st December
from 12.30 - 13.00
in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.
(AFTER THE AGM)

ALL GROW Members are welcome.

GROW AGM

The date for the 3rd GROW AGM (2010 Annual General Meeting) has been set.

Wednesday 1st December 2010
from 10.30 -12.00
in the Roosevelt Court Lounge

**THE AGM IS VERY IMPORTANT
ALL GROW MEMBERS
SHOULD ATTEND IF THEY CAN**

At the AGM we will be reviewing everything GROW has achieved over the past year. We will also be electing a new Executive Committee. Please do consider standing for election because serving on the committee is the best way to get involved with the running of our groups and organising our activities. It is also very enjoyable!

MICHELHAM PRIORY

SUMMER OUTING

We had a lovely day out at Michelham Priory on Thursday 5th August. The weather was perfect and the Contemporary Show (an exhibition of arts and crafts by local people) was wonderful.

We wandered round the apothecary garden and learned about the different herbs and their medicinal uses.

We also explored the Priory, a beautiful building with many interesting exhibits including an intact Elizabethan kitchen.

We finished of our visit with a delicious, freshly-prepared lunch in the cafe.

BARBY KEEL

ANIMAL SANCTUARY

The BIG Open Day on Sunday 8th August was a huge success. Many GROW members and friends went for the first time and they were all very impressed by the friendly welcome they got from the staff and the animals. The event raised almost £12,000 for the Sanctuary and will help to keep the animals for the coming year.

The Barby Keel Christmas Bazaar is on Sunday, 7th of November 2010 at the Youth & Community Centre in Station Road, Bexhill from 11am to 2pm. There will be refreshments, stalls, games, gifts, prizes and a Tombola.

The Sanctuary is closed to visitors from 1st November 2010 - 31st March 2011.

GROW BEACH PARTY

Despite re-scheduling this event three times we were defeated by the weather on each occasion. With summer firmly behind us, we are now looking forward to next year's Beach Party!

FUND-RAISING

The Magdalen & Lasher Charity have very kindly given GROW a grant for £310 to pay for the Minibus Hire to TheFED Writing Festival.

WEBSITE

The new GROW website address is:

www.grow.btck.co.uk

The GROW GroupSpace address is:

www.groupspaces.com/GROW

PLANNED SOCIAL EVENTS

Hastings Gang Scout Show(Family Variety Performance) at the White Rock Theatre.

Tickets cost £9.50 (£6.50 Concessions) and the available [dates & times](#) are*:

25th November at 7.30pm

26th November at 7.30pm

27th November at 2.30 and 7.30pm

**Let us know which show you'd prefer.*

[Film Night](#) in November*

[Christmas Meal](#) in December*

[New Years Party](#) in January*

**Dates, Times and Venues to be confirmed.*

ANIMAL KINGDOM

2011 CALENDAR PROJECT

The theme for the 2011 Calendar is 'Animal Kingdom.'

Creative Submissions can be in any form or style, poetry or prose but should be no more than 20 lines or 200 words.

The factual reports should be one side of A4 and should include information about the life, diet, habits and habitats of the featured animal, as well as any threats or difficulties it is facing. It should also include a 'what you can do to help' section and a list of organisations that are working to protect it (with contact details.)

The deadline for calendar submissions is 31st October 2010 and we want to include some writing from every GROW member.

The animals we have chosen to feature for each of the months are:

January	- Otter
February	- Orang-Utan
March	- Elephant
April	- African Wild Dog
May	- Bee
June	- Whale
July	- Chicken
August	- Chinchilla
September	- Tiger
October	- Badger
November	- Platypus
December	- Penguin

REFLECTION

The book and DVD sets are now available to buy (Cost £3 per set.)

You can also download a free copy of the book (pdf file) from the GROW Website.

The book is A5, laminated and features the creative writing and artwork of GROW members. The DVD contains all the writing in the book, read aloud, all the cover designs that were submitted and a short film that was written, performed, filmed and edited by some of the GROW members as part of a course they were doing.

GROW QUIZ NIGHT & BOOK LAUNCH PARTY

Fifteen people attended this event. We provided snacks and hot drinks instead of a buffet and this worked really well.

Frank Burnham's Quiz was great fun and made a brilliant ice-breaker.

We sold 31 copies of the new Reflection Anthology (Book & DVD set) during the evening and made £93.00.

We rounded off the celebrations by watching the Reflection DVD on the huge TV screen in the Roosevelt Court lounge.

It was a very pleasant and enjoyable evening and we would like to thank the Roosevelt Court Residents for allowing us to use their beautiful Lounge.

TheFED 2010

Writing Festival (London)

The Minibus will be leaving Roosevelt Court at 7am promptly. Please ensure you are there 5 minutes early, to allow us time to get everyone on board.

We still have a couple of seats left - please tell us if you want to come.

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.

TheFED is a fantastic organisation that supports and encourages the work of all community writing, publishing, performing and arts groups like GROW.

The attendance fee is £10 for GROW members and this includes a buffet lunch, refreshments and all workshops and materials.

Please note GROW will be leaving the event at 6pm. This means we will not be able to attend the Open Mic Celebratory Performance Evening.

TERM DATES

13th September - Term 1 Begins

[25th October - 29th October - Holiday](#)

1st November - Term 2 Begins

[20th December - 7th January - Holiday](#)

11th January - Term 3 Begins

[There are NO Group Meetings between these dates](#)