

# NEWSLETTER

January - March

2011

Issue 12

## WELCOME

This is the twelfth 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

(Call '7' on the intercom and take the right-hand lift to the first floor.)

Both venues have good disabled access with wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet.

## MEMBERSHIP

GROW membership costs £5 per year and is valid from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011.

Both of the GROW groups are very relaxed and friendly. We are always happy to welcome new members and visitors.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The 3rd GROW AGM took place on Wednesday 1st December 2010. A new Executive Committee was elected for the coming year (2010 - 2011) They are: Ashley Jordan (Secretary), Sue Rabbett (Treasurer), Maria Gethin (Chair), Jan Humphreys (Vice-Chair), Marion Alleyne, Frank Burnham, Debbie Feltz, Sue Horncastle and Maggie Palmer.

The next executive committee meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 6th April 2011  
from 10.30 - 12.00  
in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

ALL GROW Members are welcome.

## KIM SMITH

We were very sorry to hear that Kim Smith, a much-loved member of GROW and the former Vice-Chair of our Executive Committee, died on 31<sup>st</sup> December. Kim will be sadly missed by all his friends in GROW and everyone else who knew him.

## PLANNED EVENTS

### GROW New Year's Party

Friday 21st January 7 - 10pm.

Party games, music, karaoke, fun quiz and readings. Tickets cost £1 each and include nibbles and Tea / Coffee.

### Free Training Workshop

'How to run a writing workshop' is designed for anyone who is thinking about running a workshop at a Writing Festival but would like to learn more before volunteering. It is being organised by Newham Writers and will take place in London on Saturday 22nd January 2011 from 11am to 1pm.

The workshop is free but you will need to make your own way there.

### Newham Festival of Writing

This will take place in London on Saturday 21st May 2011 from 9.30am - 9pm. It is a full day of writing and performance related workshops, a buffet lunch and an 'open mic' performance evening, organised by Newham Writers. Tickets cost £10 each. Please let Ashley know by the end of January if you would like to attend this event.

### Proposed Outings

- Visit to Michelham Priory.\*
- Trip to the Hailsham Market.\*
- Visit to an animal sanctuary in Tenterdon.\*
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*\*Dates and Times to be confirmed.*

## 2011 GROW Projects

### GROW ANTHOLOGY (2011)

The title and theme of the 2011 GROW Anthology is 'Dreams.' This will be an A5 book with a laminated cover and a dvd featuring voice recordings of all the writing and artwork from the book. Writing can be in any form or style.

We are also running a Cover Design Competition and the winning design (the one that gets the most votes) will be used as the front cover of the book and printed on the dvd.

We would also like to include other forms of creative media produced by our members (songs, music, films or animation for example) on the dvd so if you have any digital recordings you'd like to include, please let us know.

The deadline for ALL submissions to the 'Dreams' anthology is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

### GROW CALENDAR (2012)

We are now working on the 2012 GROW Calendar which is called 'Fruits of the Spirit.' The subjects for each of the months are:

January - 'Peace'

February - 'Love'

March - 'Joy'

April - 'Hope'

May - 'Faith'

June - 'Kindness'

July - 'Trust'

August - 'Friendship'

September - 'Patience'

October - 'Wisdom'

November - 'Gratitude'

December - 'Generosity'

The writing can be in any form or style, poetry or prose. The deadline for Calendar submissions is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

## **FUND-RAISING**

The Roosevelt Court Social Club have very kindly given GROW a grant for £200. They have also agreed to allow GROW to continue meeting in their residents lounge free of charge. We are very grateful for the support and kindness shown to us by the Roosevelt Court residents and we are very pleased that more residents are getting involved with our activities.

## **WEBSITE**

The GROW website address is:

[www.grow.btck.co.uk](http://www.grow.btck.co.uk)

The GROW GroupSpace address is:

[www.groupspaces.com/GROW](http://www.groupspaces.com/GROW)

## **GROW MEMBERS' DIARY**

All our members are entitled to a free GROW Diary with all our holidays and Executive Committee Meetings already marked in. Please do ask if you haven't received yours yet (or if you need a replacement.)

## **ANIMAL KINGDOM**

### **2011 CALENDAR**

The Calendar is now complete and costs £1. It can also be downloaded, free of charge, from the GROW website as a pdf file, for anyone who wants to print their own. The initial print run of 60 copies have all been sold.

## **REFLECTION**

The book and DVD sets are now available to buy (Cost £3 per set.) All 60 copies of the initial print run have been sold but further copies can be made on demand.

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

## **CHRISTMAS MEAL (2010)**

We went to the Hollington Oak for the 2010 Christmas Dinner and all those who went agreed that it was a lovely meal.

## **TheFED 2010 LONDON**

### **WRITING FESTIVAL**

Ten GROW members attended last year's festival. It was a very enjoyable day out and we learned a lot. Jan Hedger and Tony May ran their own workshops and these were very well received. Unfortunately we had to leave early and missed the evening performance. However it can now be watched on TheFED website.

## TheFED NEWS

TheFED has a new website.

The address is:

<http://www.thefed.btck.co.uk/>

TheFED has been running a monthly Writing Challenge for the past two years. We set a theme or title for the month and invite all the members of TheFED member groups to submit their writing.

There is a submission form on the website or you may send your writing by email to: [the.fwwcp@gmail.com](mailto:the.fwwcp@gmail.com)

Don't forget to send us your ideas for future Writing Challenges as well.

The theme for January 2011 is 'Journeys and Travel' and writing can be factual, fictional, poetry, short story and in any form or style. All entries will be displayed on TheFED website and may also be featured in future TheFED publications and anthologies.

## SURVIVORS POETRY

GROW is a member of the Survivors Poetry Network (for survivors of mental distress) They publish a quarterly magazine called 'Poetry Express' which can be downloaded from their website.

<http://www.survivorspoetry.com>

The next deadline for submissions is the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

## CONTACT GROW

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GROW would like to thank:

- All the staff at the Hastings Children's Library.
- All the residents of Roosevelt Court.
- Pat Weaver  
(Community Accountant at HVA)
- Frank Burnham
- Alvin Culzac
- Josie Lawson  
(Founder & Editor of EBB & FLOW – The New Voice)
- The GROW Executive Committee.
- And ALL the GROW members who continue to support the group and come to the meetings.

## TERM DATES

11th January - Term Begins

19<sup>th</sup> February - 27<sup>th</sup> February - Holiday

28<sup>th</sup> February - Term Begins

9<sup>th</sup> April - 24<sup>th</sup> April - Holiday

25<sup>th</sup> April - Term Begins

28<sup>th</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> June – Holiday

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

23<sup>rd</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> September – Holiday

31<sup>st</sup> July - 'DREAMS' Deadline

5<sup>th</sup> September - Term Begins

31<sup>st</sup> October - 2012 Calendar Deadline

There are NO Group Meetings between these dates