

# NEWSLETTER

October - December

2011

Issue 15

## WELCOME

This is the fifteenth 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.

### Contents

1. Committee News
2. Progress Reports
3. Planned Events
4. About GROW
5. TheFED News
6. Survivors Poetry
7. GROW Membership
8. Acknowledgements
9. GROW Dates



Grass Roots Open Writers

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The 4<sup>th</sup> GROW AGM will be held on  
Wednesday 7th December 2011  
from 10.30 - 12.00  
in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

During the AGM we will be reporting on GROW's achievements over the past year (publications, outings, events and activities). The current executive committee will stand down and we will elect a new committee for 2012.

Executives are part of a friendly and supportive team who help to plan and organise our events, activities, outings, and publications.

Anyone who has paid their 2011 – 2012 membership fee may stand for election on to our committee and we would like to encourage new people to take this opportunity to get more involved in the running of GROW.

**THE AGM IS VERY IMPORTANT**  
**ALL GROW MEMBERS**  
**SHOULD ATTEND IF THEY CAN**  
*GROW can't continue without you!*

After the AGM we will be holding a 'mini committee meeting' to allow the new executive committee members to elect the four officers (Secretary, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer) and to set the date of the next executive committee meeting.

All the GROW committee meetings are open to any GROW member who wishes to attend – please do come along and share your ideas and suggestions with us.

*See the website calendar for more info.*

# PROGRESS REPORTS

## The GROW Beach Party

This event took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and was probably the most successful beach party we have ever had. The weather was perfect.

We brought some drums and a few other percussion instruments with us, which we played to some very curious sea-gulls. Some of the GROW members brought their children and dogs along and others brought friends & family.

Later on we ordered a variety of pizzas to be delivered to us on the beach from Pizza Base in Sidley. It was a lovely, fun and relaxed event and we are all looking forward to doing it again next year.

## Bodiam Castle

GROW visited Bodiam on 5<sup>th</sup> August. The weather was absolutely gorgeous and we all caught the sun. We decided to go on the river trip to Newenden and stopped at the White Hart - a 16<sup>th</sup> Century pub - for a ploughman's lunch and ice-cream.

Tony May brought along his video camera and recorded the outing for us. His film has been included on the Dreams DVD.

Everyone agreed it was a wonderful day out and that we would definitely like to do it again next year.

## Barby Keel Open Day 2011

Several GROW members went to the Barby Keel Open Day on 7<sup>th</sup> August. There were many stalls and fun games and the cafe did a roaring trade. The event raised £12,000 which will help towards keeping all the animals at the

sanctuary fed and cared for over the coming year. A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported it.

## Michelham Priory

GROW went to Michelham Priory on 17<sup>th</sup> September for the medieval weekend. The weather was very British but despite the rain we had a fantastic day out.

We watched combat skills and jousting done by enthusiasts in full armour and medieval-style dresses. There was also a jester performing in the grounds and many interesting stalls to browse. In the Priory there was a fascinating exhibition of medieval musical instruments. Frank Burnham took some photos which will be added to the GROW website soon.

## Dreams (2011 Anthology)

We have printed the first run of 50 copies of the Dreams anthology (a laminated booklet with a companion DVD.) Further copies will be printed on demand and a pdf version is available free of charge on the GROW website. Dreams will be launched at the GROW social evening on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

## GROW Calendar (for 2012)

The theme of the GROW Calendar is 'Fruit of the Spirit.'

Writing can be in any form or style, poetry or prose.

We still need writing for: Generosity, Wisdom, Friendship, Patience, Trust, Gratitude, Faith, Kindness, Joy & Hope.

*The submissions deadline  
for the calendar is  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.*

## PLANNED EVENTS

### Pergamano Workshop

Angie Cox will bring the materials and teach us how to do pergamano parchment craft.

Wednesday 19th October 2011

10am – 1.30pm.

In the Roosevelt Court Lounge

Learn how to perforate & emboss greeting cards & bookmarks. This is a fun and creative workshop - please come along and give it a try! This workshop costs £2 plus approximately 50p for materials. Angie will also bring some of her own pergamano craftwork to sell. All proceeds will go to her church.

### Dreams Book Launch Party

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011

6 – 9pm

In the Roosevelt Court Lounge

Soft Drinks will be provided.  
Please bring 'nibbles' to share

The Book & DVD sets cost £3  
and DVDs on their own cost £1

### TheFED Writing Festival

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Faraday House in Holborn, London

GROW has booked a 16-seater MiniBus to take us to this event.

The Minibus is leaving from the front of Roosevelt Court at 7.30am. Please arrive 10 minutes early to allow everyone time to get on board. We will be leaving Faraday House at 6.10pm, straight after the readings and celebratory performance.

Please make sure you have completed a Festival Booking Form and a Coach Booking Form if you wish to come with us, because places are filling up fast. (Forms available from all the GROW groups.)

The Minibus is free to Festival Attendees and the Festival costs £10 which includes all workshops, lunch and refreshments.

There is a list and description of all the workshops on offer on TheFED website

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

### Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is closed for the winter from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 inclusive.

### The Barby Keel Christmas Fayre

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011

11am – 2pm

in the Youth & Community Centre,  
Station Road, Bexhill.

There will be refreshments, many stalls and a Christmas Raffle. Entry £1

Please call or text 07932 231491 if you need – or can offer – a lift.

### GROW Christmas Meal

Join your friends in GROW for a three course Christmas Meal and a free glass of wine. (Vegetarian option available)

cost £15 per head.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011

6.30pm

in the Welcome Stranger Pub, Silverhill.

The full menu options can be found on the GROW website calendar or you can ask to see them at any of the GROW groups.

## ABOUT GROW

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)

Email Address:

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

Phone / Text: (07932) 231491

## TheFED NEWS

TheFED website address is:

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

### Writing Challenges

The next three Writing Challenge themes will be:

*October 2011 - 'Childhood Memories'*

*November 2011 – 'Friendship'*

*December 2011 – 'Thrills & Spills'*

Writing can be factual, fictional, poetry or a 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.)

Their magazine 'Poetry Express' can be downloaded from their website.

<http://www.survivorspoetry.com>

and the next submission deadline for Poetry Express can be found there.

## GROW MEMBERSHIP

GROW membership costs £5 per year and is valid from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GROW would like to thank:

- The staff at the Children's Library.
- The residents of Roosevelt Court.
- The Hastings Lions Club
- The Isabel Blackman Foundation
- Alvin Culzac
- Pat Weaver
- Josie Lawson
- The GROW Executives
- And ALL the GROW members who continue to support the group and come to the events, workshops and meetings.

## GROW DATES

19<sup>th</sup> October – Pergamano Workshop

24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October – Holiday\*

28<sup>th</sup> October – Book Launch Party

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

5<sup>th</sup> November – TheFED Festival

7<sup>th</sup> December – GROW AGM

9<sup>th</sup> December – GROW Christmas Meal

19<sup>th</sup> December - 8<sup>th</sup> January – Holiday\*

9<sup>th</sup> January - Term Begins