

# NEWSLETTER

January - March

2012

Issue 16

## WELCOME

This is the sixteenth 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.

All the GROW groups are very informal and relaxed. We are a very friendly bunch and always happy to welcome new members and visitors to our workshops, events and outings.

We particularly encourage people who need to build their confidence and who want to make new friends.

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## COMMITTEE NEWS

The 4<sup>th</sup> GROW AGM was held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge. At the AGM we elected the 2012 Executive Committee.

### Executive Officers.

Pauline Faulkner- Chair

Maria Gethin - Vice-Chair

Ashley Jordan - Secretary

Sue Rabbett - Treasurer

### Executive Members.

Marion Alleyne,

Frank Burnham,

Mark Crittenden,

Debbie Feltz,

Sue Horncastle and

Jessica Jordan

The next (18<sup>th</sup>) executive committee meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012

from 10.30 - 12.00

in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.



Grass Roots Open Writers

## PROGRESS REPORTS

### Tuesday Group

The creative writing group meets in the Hastings Children's Library, Robertson Passage, Hastings, every Tuesday morning from 10 – 12 (except during school holidays.)

We have very lively discussions, exercises to inspire creative writing and time for reading and feedback.

This group is ideal for beginners – all you need to start is a pen and some paper. Just come along – or call 07932 231491 if you'd like to talk to someone first.

### Wednesday Group

The skill-sharing group meets in the Roosevelt Court Lounge, Stonehouse Drive, St Leonards every Wednesday morning from 10 – 1.30pm.

We have a variety of activities on offer each week, including arts and crafts, games, Makaton & basic signing, word processing & basic computer skills.

This group is open to everyone – to access the lounge call '6' on the Intercom and tell whoever answers you are coming to GROW.

If you have a skill, hobby or interest you would like to share with us, we would love to hear from you.

Just come along, or call 07932 231491 if you'd like to talk to someone first.

### Friday Group

The creative writing group for people on the Autistic Spectrum meets in the Roebuck Centre, Hastings Old Town, every Friday afternoon from 2 – 4pm.

To join this group you need to contact the Roebuck Centre on 01424 773366.

### Book Launch Party (Dreams)

The launch of Dreams was very successful and we had a lovely party to celebrate the completion of our 2011 anthology. Unfortunately we couldn't get the DVD player to work, but this has now been replaced.

We still have a few copies of the Book & DVD sets left to sell at £3 per set and some stand-alone DVDs at £1 each.

### Fruit of the Spirit Calendar

This calendar has proved to be very popular. It is a great showcase for the creative writing of GROW members – and makes a lovely gift. All the copies we originally made have been sold, but more can be printed on demand, at a cost of £1 each.

### TheFED Writing Festival

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011 we took eleven GROW members to TheFED writing Festival in London.

It was a great opportunity to meet people from other writing groups and take part in a wide range of workshops.

The Hart Charitable Trust awarded GROW a grant of £200 to help us pay for the coach to take us to TheFED Writing Festival.

### Christmas Meal

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011, eighteen GROW members went for a Christmas Meal at the Welcome Stranger Pub in Silverhill. It was a really fun and enjoyable evening, with plenty of delicious food and the great company of our friends and families. The feedback from those who went has been overwhelmingly positive and we are hoping we can go again this year.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### Roebuck Centre Grand Open Day

This will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 from 2pm to 5.30pm. The GROW Friday Group will be doing some readings and Amber Rudd (Hastings MP) will be performing the opening ceremony at 2.30pm. This event is open to everyone.

### Wednesday Group Activities

Suggestions for future Wednesday Group Activities include board & card games, origami, collage, book reading and discussion group, encaustic art and a film discussion group. Ifran Karim has offered to teach people how to play Chess. Sue Rabbett said she could run a collage workshop. Maria said she'd like to make paper flowers. Ashley said she would teach basic Makaton and BSL signs, to anyone who wanted to learn. Marion said she would like to learn how to use the computer. Theresa said she had an origami kit and instruction book she could bring down. It was agreed that everyone taking part in activities using member's own materials would pay £2 each, so no-one is out of pocket.

It was also agreed to bring a little more structure to the Wednesday Group including a proper time-table, pre-planned activities and looking for new people to run workshops for us.

The new time-table is:

10.00 – 10.30

Setting Up, Refreshments & Welcome

10.30 – 11.00

Reading & Discussion Group

11.00 – 13.30

Planned Activity for the week.

## GROW Party & Social Evening

We had planned to organise a GROW New Years Party but Frank Burnham said he would like to organise a Valentine Party for the Roosevelt Court Social Club and GROW combined. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea. It was agreed that Frank would approach the new Roosevelt Court Social Club Secretary with his suggestions and let us know what they agree.

We also discussed Social Events in general and a lot of GROW members said they would prefer day-time events as they get very tired in the evenings.

Ashley suggested we could have a 'day-time party' with nibbles and party games etc. during one of our regular Wednesday workshops at Roosevelt Court.

We will be planning more outings and events for the summer months at the next committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012. If you have any ideas for interesting places to go or fun things to do, please come along and tell us!

### Pergamano Workshops

Angie Cox has very kindly agreed to run some more pergamano (parchment craft) workshops for GROW. The next three dates are:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 11.00 – 1.30

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 11.00 – 1.30

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 11.00 – 1.30

in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

These Pergamano Workshops cost £2 each plus cost of materials (about 50p)

Angie also brings items she has made to sell (beautiful cards, bookmarks & pictures) and all proceeds from the workshops and sales go to her Church.

## 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 has a new website address:

<http://www.fedonline.org.uk>

### Writing Challenges

The themes of the next three Writing Challenges will be:

*January - 'Changes'*

*February – 'Science Fiction'*

*March – 'Fear'*

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, which is now: <http://www.survivorspoetry.org>

The next submission deadline for Poetry Express is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

## 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 Hart Charitable Trust
- . Debbie Feltz
- . 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

6th January - Term Begins

11th January - Executive Meeting

25th January - Pergamano Workshop

13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term Holiday\*

14th February - Roosevelt Court Social Club - Valentine Party.

29th February - Pergamano Workshop

28th March – Pergamano Workshop

2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Holiday\*

18th April - Executive Meeting

\*No GROW Groups