

NEWSLETTER

April - June

2012

Issue 17

WELCOME

This is the seventeenth 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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1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 18th GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 18th April 2012 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

Thank you to everyone who came – GROW couldn't run without you!

The next (19th) Executive Committee Meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 4th July 2012

from 10.30 - 12.00

in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

GROW Together

(Lotsa Helping Hands)

GROW is trying out a new service to help us co-ordinate hospital visits and lifts for our members to GROW events and meetings.

Look out for the link at the bottom of the GROW emails or follow the link on the GROW Together page of our website.

If you need a lift or would like a hospital visit please **Contact GROW** (details on page 4.)



Grass Roots Open Writers

2. PROGRESS REPORTS

GROW Potato Party

On Wednesday 22nd February 2012, eighteen people came to our daytime party in the Roosevelt Court Residents Lounge. We had Jacket Potatoes, supplied and cooked by Jan Hedger, everyone brought in nibbles to share and we finished off the event with some party games with fun forfeits.

Everyone really enjoyed themselves and agreed that it was a great way to bring members from each of the three GROW groups together.

Clay Pottery Workshops

Geoff and John from Activ8 ran three clay pottery workshops at the GROW Wednesday group for our members, and Roosevelt Court residents, on the 7th, 14th and 21st March.

We made thumb pots, wall plaques and small animal figurines, glazed them and learned a bit about the history and techniques of clay pottery.

The workshops were very enjoyable – and we would like to thank Geoff and John very much for giving us this opportunity. We hope they'll both come back to visit us again!

Geoff runs three pottery workshops every week at the Activ8 workshop at No. 6 Trinity Street, Hastings Town Centre. The pottery workshops are on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm and Thursdays from 12noon to 3pm

All GROW members are welcome to drop in to these workshops.

Tuesday Group

Jan Hedger will be leading a writing workshop for us on the 1st May.

Wednesday Group

The Wednesday Group is looking for new voluntary Workshop Leaders. If you have a hobby, interest, craft or skill you would like to share with us, please **Contact GROW** (details on page 4)

10.00 - 10.30	Setting Refreshments & Welcome	Up, &
10.30 - 11.00	Reading & Discussion Group	
11.00 - 13.30	Planned Activity for the week.	

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.

Out of the Blue

The 2012 GROW anthology inspired by water. Submission deadline is 31st May 2012.

Our Favourite Places

The 2013 GROW Creative Calendar. Submission deadline is 30th Sept 2012.

All submissions can be viewed at www.groupspaces.com/GROW.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is now open every Sunday afternoon until the end of October (weather permitting.)

The sanctuary café is open from 2 – 4.30pm where you can buy hot and cold drinks, home made cakes, and other snacks. There is also a small souvenir shop. All proceeds go towards taking care of the animals.

The sanctuary takes care of many animals including cats, pigs, goats, horses, shetland ponies, peacocks, geese, chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Entry to the sanctuary, the car park and optional guided tours are free.

There is a free minibus that picks up from Bexhill Town Hall Square at 1.45pm and at Sidley Car Park at 1.50pm.

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

GROW & Roebuck Jubilee Party

This event will take place on Friday 1st June from 1 – 4pm in Roebuck 3, The Roebuck Centre, in Hastings Old Town. We will be having party games, karaoke, party food and soft drinks.

Tickets cost £2.50 each and must be bought in advance.

Michelham Priory

We will be going to the Game and Country Fair at Michelham Priory on Saturday 7th July. Entry to this event costs: Adult £9.00, student/senior £7.00, child/carer/disabled £5.50, family (2 adults + 2 children) £25.50.

Beach Party

This event will take place on Saturday 31st August, when the moon will be both full and blue! A chilled out party with African Drums and other percussion. We will order pizza for everyone who wants it and share the cost between us - or you can bring your own picnic if you prefer. Family, friends and children are all welcome. Meet on Bexhill Beach (by the toilets at the West End of the promenade) from 4pm onwards.

Bodiam Boat Trip

This outing will take place on Monday 3rd September. The boat trip takes 45 minutes each way and the return fare is £10.00. Cruise & Dine (including a ploughman's lunch at the White Hart in Newenden) costs £14.95.

Children's Poetry Competition

Jan Hedger is organising this as part of the launch of the Combe Valley Countryside Park. There are four age categories (under 6 – with adult help if needed, 6 - 8, 9 - 11 and 12 - 15) and the closing date is Saturday 25th August. Full details of the competition and prizes can be found on Jan's website (and there is a link to this on the GROW website.)

4. CONTACT GROW

The GROW website address is:

www.grow.btck.co.uk

The GROW GroupSpace address is:

www.groupspaces.com/GROW

Email Address:

grass.roots.open.writers@gmail.com

Phone / Text: 07932 231491

5. GROW MEMBERSHIP

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

6. 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>

7. THANKS TO...

GROW would like to thank:

- The staff at the Children's Library.
- The residents of Roosevelt Court.
- The Hart Charitable Trust
- Geoff & John from Activ8
- Josie Lawson

8. TheFED NEWS

TheFED has a new website address:

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

Writing Festival

This will take place on Saturday 17th November 2012. It is a great opportunity for GROW members to meet people from other writing groups and take part in a wide range of workshops.

Writing Challenges

The next three Writing Challenges are:

April - 'Animal Kingdom'

May – 'Leap Year'

June – 'Fascination'

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.

9. GROW DATES

17th April – Summer Term Begins

18th April - Executive Meeting

1st June – GROW Jubilee Party

4th - 10th June - Half Term Holiday

7th July - Michelham Priory Outing

23rd July - 9th Sept. - Summer Holiday

31st August - Beach Party

3rd September - Bodiam Boat Trip

11th September - Autumn Term Begins

***No GROW Groups**