

NEWSLETTER

October - December

2012

Issue 19

WELCOME

This is the nineteenth 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.

GROW DATES

17th October – Book Launch Party

27th Oct - 4th Nov - Half Term Holiday

17th November – TheFED Festival

7th December – GROW Christmas Meal

19th December – AGM & Exec Meeting

22nd Dec - 6th Jan - Christmas Holiday

7th Jan - Spring Term Begins

***No GROW Groups**

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1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 20th GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 26th September 2012 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

We finalised the arrangements of the events we have planned for the next 3 months - see page 3 of this newsletter for all the details!

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting – GROW couldn't run without you!

The 5th AGM will be held on:

Wednesday 19th December 2012
from 10.30 - 12.00
in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

It is very important that ALL the GROW members attend the AGM! This is when we will be electing our Executive Committee Members for the coming year and making our progress and financial reports for the past year.

The 21st Executive Committee meeting will take place straight after the AGM – and this is when we will elect the four Executive Committee Officers for the coming year.

The GROW annual membership fee (which runs from 1st September 2012 - 31st August 2013) is now due.

Only paid up members are eligible to vote and be elected at the AGM.



2. PROGRESS REPORTS

Michelham Priory

The Michelham Priory trip was very enjoyable, despite the occasional shower. We are looking forward to going again next year.

Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

The sanctuary made over £12,000 at the Summer Fete, a new record.

GROW Picnic

Unfortunately this event had to be cancelled because of the rain.

GROW Beach Party

The Beach Party was a big success. Many GROW members came and brought friends and family along. The weather was perfect. Some members brought drinks and snacks to share and we all chipped in for pizzas etc. to be delivered down to the beach for us. We did some drumming and a few of us even sang!

Bodiam Boat Trip

We had to change the boat trip to a different day as the ferry time-table changed on the 1st September. We had a lovely day out and the weather was perfect. However we agreed that the Bodiam Boat Trip is not a suitable outing for GROW in the future, as so many of our members are unable to come with us because of the cost and access difficulties.

Combe Valley Family Fun Day

Sue Rabbett and Pauline attended this event and said that it had a very quiet start but picked up later on.

Out of the Blue

Our 2012 anthology can be watched, read and downloaded free of charge from the GROW website. Jack Maartman has very kindly converted our book into a BRF file – so anyone with a braille printer can print their own braille copy.

Using Sue's voice recorder made the recordings for the 2012 anthology much easier to collect and the sound quality is also much better.

The photos from GROW events over the past year have been added to the DVD of the 2012 anthology 'Out of the Blue'.

Our Favourite Places

The submission deadline for the 2013 GROW Creative Calendar has been extended to 31st October 2012.

Tuesday Group

This group is now meeting from 12.30 – 14.15 every Tuesday in the Training Room of the Roebuck 3 Centre.

Wednesday Group

The Wednesday group has a variety of arts and social activities planned – including a location visit (to be arranged) and the book launch party.

We are currently ending the group 15 minutes early (at 1.15pm) to enable our members to support the Horizons Community Cafe in the Four Courts Community Centre, which sells snacks, drinks and light lunches until 2pm.

Friday Group

This group is no longer running but all the members are warmly invited to join our Tuesday group instead.

3. PLANNED EVENTS

BEXHILL GROW GROUP

Jan Hedger is starting a brand new GROW group in Bexhill.

This group aims to highlight writing and many other creative crafts - so there will be something for everybody, along with tea/coffee and biscuits!

There will also be the opportunity to link up with other GROW groups.

This group will meet fortnightly starting on Monday 1st October from 2 – 4 pm in the Alexandra Room of Yvonne Robertson House in Hastings Road, Bexhill.

Many thanks to Colin Stack, manager of YRH for his enthusiasm and support on welcoming Bexhill GROW!

Book Launch Party

This will take place on Wednesday 17th October during our usual meeting time of 10am – 1.30pm as most of our members prefer not to go out in the evenings. We are planning to order pizza and we will also be having cake to celebrate GROW's 5th Birthday!

Our Favourite Places Calendar

The deadline has been extended until the 31st October. The calendar needs to be finished in time to take to TheFED Festival on 17th November.

Please submit your writing as soon as possible!

New Year Party

We have decided to have a New Year party in early January. We need to arrange a date, time and venue and organise catering.

Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

The sanctuary will close for the winter at the end of October and re-open next April.

The Christmas Bazaar will take place on Sunday 4th November from 11am – 2pm in the Bexhill Youth Centre, Station Road, Bexhill.

<http://barbykeel.btck.co.uk/Events>

Please call 07932 231491 if you need – or can offer – a lift to the Christmas Bazaar or any of the regular open days.

Christmas Meal

We have decided to go back to the Welcome Stranger, as everyone had a lovely meal and really enjoyed themselves there last year.

Sue said she will get the menu and price list and Ashley will start collecting names so we know how many to book for. We agreed that we would ask for Friday 7th December from 6.30pm, if the venue is available then.

Location Visit

Pauline suggested that we organise a 'location visit' one Wednesday instead of the skill-sharing workshop.

Several local places were suggested, including the Fish Farm near Bodiam, Bexhill Museum, Hastings Museum and the De La Warr Pavillion.

We all agreed to find out what is going on locally, bearing in mind the accessibility needs of our members, the cost and the likelihood of bad weather.

4. GROW MEMBERSHIP

GROW membership costs £5 per year and fees are due on the 1st September 2012 (valid until the 31st August 2013.)

5. 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

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:

<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 staff at the Roebuck Centre.
- . Colin Stack, staff and residents of Yvonne Robertson House
- . Josie Lawson

8. TheFED NEWS

TheFED website :

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

Writing Festival (London)

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.

GROW is planning to hire a coach and driver to enable our members to attend this event. We have applied to a local charity for a grant to help with the cost.

Writing Challenges

The next three Writing Challenges are:

October - 'Spooky'

November - 'Celebrations'

December - 'Winter'

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 publications and anthologies of TheFED.

9. Frank Burnham

We were very sad to hear that our dear friend, Frank Burnham died on the 25th August at St Michael's Hospice.

Many of the GROW members visited Frank during the last few months of his illness, in hospital, at home and at the hospice. He continued to attend our Wednesday group right up until the end of the Summer Term.

Frank joined GROW in 2009 and served on the Executive Committee for the past 3 years.

He will be best remembered for his bewildering magic tricks and quizzes.

Several GROW members attended his funeral, at the Hollington Methodist Church, which was one of the two churches Frank regularly attended.

The church was packed – and afterwards we had the opportunity to share the warm and happy memories we have of Frank, with his family and other friends.

There is a tribute to Frank on the GROW website (on the 'In Loving Memory' page of the Writing Gallery section). Everyone is welcome to add their own tributes, if they would like to.