

NEWSLETTER

October - December

2013

Issue 23

WELCOME

This is the twenty-third 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 always happy to welcome new members and visitors to our workshops, events and outings.

All venues have wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet.

We try to be aware of all our members' needs and to cater for them as far as possible. If you have any special needs, or if there is anything we can do to make it easier for you to attend our groups, please let us know.

We ask for Voluntary Contributions and suggest £1 per workshop to help cover our printing costs, the material we use and refreshments.

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1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 24th GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 25th September 2013 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

At this meeting we agreed to hold our 6th AGM on Wednesday 11th December, in the Roosevelt Court Lounge from 10.30 – 12 Noon. It is very important that as many GROW members as possible attend the AGM.

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

The next (25th) Executive Committee meeting will be decided at the mini-executive meeting, straight after the AGM.

The GROW Executive Meetings are open to all our members – please do come along if you can and share your ideas and suggestions with us.

HOLIDAYS

Please Note: The GROW Monday, Wednesday and Thursday groups will not be meeting between the 26th October and the 1st November 2013 (Half Term) and between the 14th December 2013 and the 5th January 2014 (Christmas Holidays)



2. PROGRESS REPORTS

Monday Group

Jan Hedger is moving away at the end of September. Pauline Faulkner has very kindly agreed to keep the Bexhill Group going and it will start meeting fortnightly from Monday 6th October in the Alex Room of Yvonne Robertson House, Hastings Road, Bexhill.

A big thank you to Jan Hedger for starting and running the Bexhill Group and we all wish her and her husband Nigel the very best for the future in their new home.

Bexhill GROW has its own pages on the GROW website and its own FaceBook page.

Wednesday Group (Skill-Sharing)

This group meets every week from 10.00 – 13.30 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge. The group is very successful and we are getting a good attendance each week. We are currently making Christmas gifts & decorations, using a wide range of arts and crafts.

Pauline has kindly offered to teach us how to do Glass Painting and has asked us to save our clear glass jars, panes and bottles.

After the group some of us go to the Horizons Community Café in the Four Courts Community Centre, which sells snacks, drinks and light lunches until 2.30pm. (They extended their open times to accommodate us.)

Thursday Group (Creative Writing)

This group is meeting every Thursday from 10.00 – 12.00 in the Bevin Court Lounge.

It is still a small group but we are very

productive. We hope that new and old friends will be able to join us soon. This term we will be working on the 'Environment' Calendar and the sound recordings for the 'Cosmic' Anthology.

GROW Beach Parties

We had three beach parties – two afternoon ones and one late night one to watch the Perseid Meteor shower as it peaked. All three beach parties were well attended and we had a lovely time. We ordered Pizza etc. from Pizza Base in Sidley and everyone chipped in to cover the cost.

GROW Summer Outing

Our summer outing to Bewl Bridge Reservoir was a great success. It was a little more expensive than we thought to get in (£4 per person instead of £5 per car) but that was because there were lots of extra activities for children and families laid on. We all bought picnics and had a lovely day. Some people went for a long walk around the reservoir and others went on a boat trip instead.

Publications

GROW Anthology

All the cover designs for the anthology that have been submitted so far have been added to the artwork gallery on the GROW website.

All the writing submitted so far has been added to the GROW GroupSpace. We already have plenty of work to produce a full size magazine – and further work may be added up until the deadline of the 31st October 2013 for Creative Writing and Cover Designs. The theme is 'Cosmic' but we have yet to decide on a title.

GROW Calendar

The 2014 GROW Calendar is going to be themed on 'The Environment'

The submissions deadline is Monday the 9th December 2013 and up until now we haven't received anything – so please do start writing. Subjects could include extreme weather, seasons, habitats, pollution, solutions, hopes & fears for the future of our planet, ecology, environmental changes for better or worse...

3. PLANNED EVENTS

TheFED Writing Festival (London)

This will take place on Saturday 16th November 2013. 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 will be applying to a local charity for a grant to help with the cost.

TheFED is looking for volunteers to lead a ninety minute workshop at the festival and is hoping to encourage more people to attend this years event. Help with publicising, organising and promoting the event would also be appreciated.

Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

We are still meeting every Sunday from 14.00 – 17.00 in the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary, weather permitting.

The last open day this year will be on the 20th October, after which the sanctuary will be closed to visitors for the winter months.

Barby Keel Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 17th November from 11am – 2pm in the Bexhill Youth and Community Centre in Station Road.

There will be a café and plenty of stalls where you can buy books, toys, games, Christmas decorations and gifts, hand made cards, DVDs, jewellery, clothing, pet supplies, ornaments and bric-a-brac, tombola, a raffle and other games where you can win many great prizes.

All proceeds go towards feeding and caring for the animals at the sanctuary – so you can snap up some bargains and help a very worthy cause at the same time.

Please phone or text 07932 231491 if you need - or can offer - a lift.

GROW AGM

Our 6th AGM will take place on Wednesday 11th December 2013 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge from 10.30am – 12 Noon.

Please do not miss this meeting.

We will of course be sharing a huge cake to celebrate our 6th year of happy GROWing!

GROW Christmas Meal

This will take place on Friday 13th December at 7pm – venue still to be decided... So if you have any ideas of where we can all get in, be well fed and that we can all afford let us know :-)

GROW Gatherings

We have decided to try to get together at various places once a week. It might be a drink in a local pub, a film, a games night, a meal out, a show, a coffee morning, a shopping trip, a walk

or a location visit... We are open to all cheap and accessible suggestions.

To find out what's happening next please check out the GROW Diary on our website or come along to one of our groups.

4. GROW MEMBERSHIP

GROW membership costs £5 per year, and is due from the 1st September 2013 (valid until the 31st August 2014.)

All GROW members are entitled to set up a member's profile and their own Author Page on the GROW website exclusively for their own creative writing, photos and artwork.

Some of our members have included links to their own websites, video recordings and personal biographies as part of their profiles.

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](tel:07932231491)

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. TheFED NEWS

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

Writing Challenges

The next three Writing Challenges are:

October – 'In the Dead of Night'

November – 'Doing, Being, Becoming & Belonging'

December – 'Letters'

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.

TheFED is also looking for suggestions for future writing challenges. Ideally these should be open to various interpretations to allow for a wide variety of entries and writing styles.

8. THANKS TO...

GROW would like to thank:

- The residents of Roosevelt Court.
- The residents of Bevin Court
- Pamela Brayford
- Pauline Faulkner
- Jan Hedger
- Josie Lawson
- The Four Courts Community Café
- The GROW Executive Committee and all the GROW members.

9. GROW DATES

16th November - *TheFED Festival*

11th December - *GROW AGM*

13th December *GROW Christmas Meal*

26th October - 1st November

- *Half Term Holiday*

14th December - 5th January

- *Christmas Holiday*

- **(No GROW Groups between these dates)**