

# POETRY EXPRESS

october november december 2000

number 10

*Dear Readers...*

Welcome to this latest edition of *Poetry Express*. It's not the glossy, 16 page Newsletter you've become used to from Survivors' Poetry. In truth it's more of a "*Poetry Espresso*"; a way of keeping you up to date with essential events and information. Due to a serious staffing shortage (Demet Dayanch, *Finance Worker*, Clare Douglas, *Director* and Lisa Boardman, *Information and Volunteer Coordinator* have left the organisation recently) it hasn't been possible to produce a Newsletter this time. A full edition of *Poetry Express* will return in January. ***I look forward to receiving your letters, short articles and poetry events listings for inclusion in the next Newsletter.*** The copy deadline for Issue 11 is **Monday 4th December 2000.**

**Sharon Holder** is the new *Acting-Director* of Survivors' Poetry. She also continues her role as Outreach Coordinator. Volunteer **Roy Holland** works in the Survivors' Poetry office three days a week. **Emma Parish** is the new *Information/Administration Worker*. We are a small team! But we are supported by a dedicated and talented group of Survivors in London, and by many throughout the UK, who are keen to build a strong future for Survivors' Poetry.

With warm wishes for a hopefully not too chilly Autumn!

Yours,

Emma Parish (Editor)

## tete-a-Tate

Survivors' Poetry is celebrating *World Mental Health Day* on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2000 by running a poetry workshop at the **Tate Modern**. ***I AM London***, the *Inspired Arts Movement's* London arm, will be launched on the day. A range of other Arts/Mental Health groups will also be represented, e.g. the Bethlem's Visual Arts Project and The Studio at the Diorama Arts Centre.

Using exhibits from the Tate Modern Collection, **Anne Rouse** will lead her workshop to encounter and experience these art works in poetic terms. Perception and imagination - twin sources of inspiration - will lead to the creation of poems exploring the themes of *World Mental Health Day* in celebration of Survivors past and present. Out thanks to **London Arts Board** who are coordinating this event.

## Ever Increasing Circles

**SURVIVORS' POETRY NETWORK UPDATE:**

There are now **over thirty** affiliated Survivors' Poetry groups in the UK! The Network groups vary in size, experience and artistic interests. Some of the established groups such as *Manchester Survivors* and *Leeds Survivors' Poetry* have successfully published their work. Other groups have a special interest in performance or music. Several groups have won funding from their Regional Arts Boards.

Survivors' Poetry can offer poetry groups on-going support, information and advice. **If your poetry group would like to join our network (or if you'd like to know where your nearest group is) please write to Sharon Holder at Survivors' Poetry.**

## “WIRED ON WORDS”

*Survivors Open Mic. at  
The Poetry Café*

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2000**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2000**  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2000**

**Poetry Café, 22 Betterton Street,  
WC2 9BU (Covent Garden tube)**  
**8pm (doors open 7.30pm)**  
**Admission £2, £1 concessions**

A wonderful opportunity for new and more experienced poets to have their work heard in a supportive atmosphere. There is a lift to the lower floor and a wheelchair accessible toilet.

**Please arrive between 7pm and 7.30pm to book a floor spot if you'd like to read or perform your work.**

## Write on the edge -

poetry workshops by survivors for survivors

*The Garden Studio, Diorama Arts  
Centre, 34 Osnaburgh Street, NW1 3ND*  
**FREE 7.30pm**

**Survivors' Poetry** runs fortnightly workshops for Survivors; an opportunity to have work reviewed in a friendly environment. Participants of *feedback workshops* should bring a poem (typed or clearly hand-written) from which we can take copies.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Performance Workshop**  
**October 17<sup>th</sup>: Feedback Workshop**  
**October 31<sup>st</sup>: Creative Writing**  
**November 14<sup>th</sup>: Performance Workshop**  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>: Creative Writing**  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>: Feedback Workshop**

## SOMERS TOWN

### BLUES NIGHT

#### Poetry and songs by Survivors

Come and join us on the last Saturday of every month. Poetry and songs by poets, singers, survivors, known and unknown. Plus the opportunity for you to perform a floor spot.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2000 -  
Richard McKane and Kath Tait**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2000 -  
Mike Lawson and Leah Thorn**

**Somers Town Community Centre,  
150 Ossulston Street (off Euston Rd),  
London, NW1 (Kings X/Euston tube)**  
**7.30-10pm (with interval)**

**Doors: 7pm (Floor spots arrive 7pm)**  
**Admission: £3.50, concessions: £1.50**  
**Floor spots + current inpatients: £1.00**  
**Wheelchair Access - Induction Loop**

## **Welcome!**

**Anna Menmuir and Hannah McCallum** are the **new Coordinators** of Survivors' Poetry's "Write on the Edge" Camden workshops. *Anna has attended many Survivors' Poetry workshops and Hannah is an experienced facilitator. Together they are responsible for the smooth running of the workshops; preparing the room, distributing poems and the important role of supporting anyone who becomes distressed during a workshop. Anna told me about her first workshop as Coordinator; "It was quiet, small, there were no incidents, and once I'd found the light switch in the office things were great!". Welcome to the Survivors' Poetry team!*

## Regional Facilitator Training Course

Survivors' Poetry's **Regional Facilitator Training Course**, part of our *Surviving the Millennium* programme, took place on 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2000. The training course was open to young Survivors (aged 18-30) living in the **Northern Arts** region. Ten young people attended the three day residential course at the *Riverside Centre*, North Shields. Intensive workshops covered facilitation issues such as *Creating a Safe Environment*, *Strategies for Dealing with Fear* and *Setting Up a Group*. Poetry/creative writing techniques were used to encourage participants to develop their own writing and workshop leadership skills.

**Sharon Holder**, *Outreach Worker*, described the course as "a wonderful experience to meet the grass roots supporters of Survivors' Poetry and to get a real sense of the organisation's value". Sharon is confident that strong contacts have been made in the region to ensure future development and to establish new Survivors' Poetry groups. A big thank you to the team of facilitators and support workers - **Raman Mundair**, **Leah Thorn** and **Hannah McCallum**. **Survivors' Poetry would like to thank Northern Arts for helping to fund this project.** A full course report will feature in the next issue of *Poetry Express*.