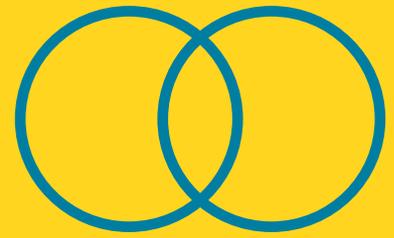


SURVIVORS' POETRY NEWSLETTER

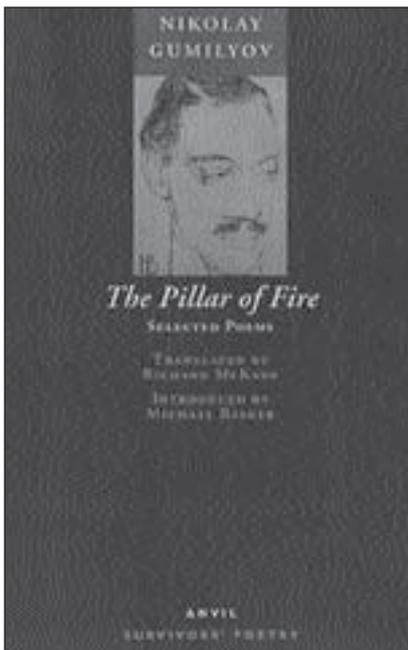
JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1999

NUMBER 5



A SURVIVOR MAY BE DEFINED AS A PERSON WITH A CURRENT OR PAST EXPERIENCE OF PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS, A RECIPIENT OF ECT, TRANQUILLISERS OR OTHER MEDICATION, A USER OF COUNSELLING SERVICES, A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ABUSE, CHILD ABUSE AND ANY OTHER PERSON WHO HAS EMPATHY WITH THE EXPERIENCES OF SURVIVORS.

RUSSIAN SURVIVOR'S POETRY PUBLISHED



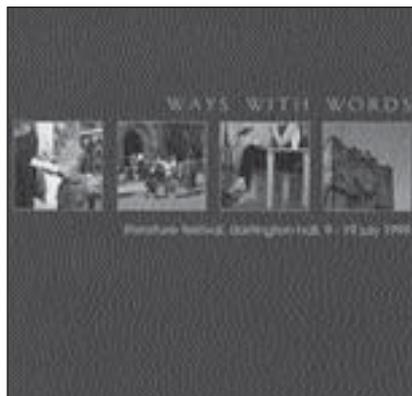
The Pillar of Fire ~ selected poems by Nikolay Gumilyov will be published in the first week of July ready for the launch at Dartington "Ways With Words" Festival on 13th July. This publication has been produced under a joint imprint of Anvil and Survivors' Poetry.

The book is a beautiful 245 page anthology with a full introduction and background information about Gumilyov, his

fascinating life and the context of his writing during Russia's Silver Age of literature. We hope that this publication, the first of his works to be published in translation in the UK, will introduce many of you to this marvellous survivor poet who is only just being re-discovered.

The book makes a perfect gift for anyone who enjoys evocative poetry or is interested in Russian literature and will be available from Survivors' Poetry at £12.95 (p&p free) from July.

We are planning a series of launch readings in and around London so keep a look out for more news about these in our next News Update.



JOINING THE SURVIVORS' POETRY NETWORK

Do you belong to a writing, poetry or storytelling group?

Does your group empower survivors in a safe and supportive environment?

If so you might like to join the Survivors' Poetry Network.

There are many benefits to be gained through joining our network of writing groups. Your group can receive free promotion, access to relevant training, advice on fundraising, guidelines about running and maintaining your group and of course the opportunity to make contact with other groups either in your area or far away. The good news is it is completely free to join. For an information leaflet and application form contact Alison Smith at Survivors' Poetry at the address shown on the back of this newsletter.

CLARE DOUGLAS WRITES...

Many of you will know me as a familiar name and face at Survivors' Poetry since 1996 when I became Administrator. I'm delighted to say that it is now my privilege to have been appointed Director since the end of April.

I'm very excited by the challenge of this new role and do hope to encourage you to get involved in our work in whatever way you can. This is your organisation and we flourish only because of your poetry, creativity and ideas. We value all your comments and can best serve you if we know about your experiences of Survivors' Poetry.

So, please do put pen to paper and send feedback in writing to the office. We are a small, dedicated staff and volunteer team so if you don't receive a written response be assured that we have read your letter and that it will inform our decision making.

Word is spreading like wildfire about Survivors' Poetry thanks to the increasing number of events we are organising and our growing mailing list. However, one of the best ways for us to raise our profile is word of mouth. A big thank you to so many of you for spreading the good news already! Please keep on telling other survivors, poets, friends, about what we do, without forgetting the people you might not think of like the business people you know who may one day help us fund some of the events you take part in...

Warm Summer wishes to you all!
Clare Douglas ~ Director

Mind in need of help

Are you a good listener?
Mind needs volunteers to help answer phone calls on MindinfoLine. We provide full training on all aspects of mental health information. For a recruitment pack write to: MindinfoLine Recruitment, MIND Human Resources, 15-19 Broadway, Stratford, London E15 4BQ

I am Live

THE 2ND RESIDENTIAL ARTS IN MENTAL HEALTH FORUM.
Stanford Hall, Loughborough. 5th, 6th and 7th November 1999
Three days of debate, discussions, practical sessions in many arts forms, presentations on projects happening nationally, exhibitions, displays and a whole lot more!
mind the ... gap was founded in 1988 in recognition that everyone is entitled to participate in the cultural activities of our society. For further information and booking forms contact mind the ... gap, Queens House, Queens Road, Bradford, BD8 7BS. Tel. 01274 544683 or Fax. 01274 544501

New Workshop

A new writing workshop will be starting shortly at The Bridge Day Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Whealdston, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 5BP. The co-ordinator is Bob Gilbert. Please contact him on 0181 861 6390 for further details.

Contributions wanted

Poetry written in English by British South Asians is wanted for an anthology to be published by Redbeck Press in the year 2000. The anthology will be edited by Debjani Chatterjee and contributions are invited from poets resident in Britain who trace their ethnic origin to the Indian sub-continent. This invitation includes Anglo-Asian poets and British Asians from Africa and the Caribbean who see themselves in this group.

For further information write to Debjani Chatterjee at BSA Poetry, 11 Donnington Road, Sheffield S2 2RF.

The Speakout Review

A new journal from the Speakout group of writers and artists, Speakout Arts new outreach project in Mile End, London.

Speakout would like to invite contributions to their new journal; featuring unbeatable new writing, views, voices, art and humour, from those often excluded ... in their own words and issue-based writers, working for resolutions.

For more information about how to contribute contact The Speakout Review, 327a Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

Fancy having some of your writing published in a book?

"Mad Pride - A Celebration of Mad Culture"

A book edited by Robert Dellar & others commissioned by the Mind Millennium Awards.

The aim of this book is to document the achievements of the mental health survivor movement and Mad Culture generally. I immediately want material for consideration of the book. What I am interested in is prose material (preferably non-fiction, but some fiction might not go amiss) promoting MAD PRIDE - celebrating MAD culture from a standpoint of strength, confidence and good humour.

For more information or to send contributions write to: Robert Dellar, c/o Southwark Mind, Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0HF or telephone 0171 701 8535 (work) or 0181 806 7066 (home)

Remember World Mental Health Day, Sunday October 10th 1999. Let us know about any events you organise for our next newsletter.

HIGH SECURITY HOSPITALS OUTREACH

Survivors' Poetry is involved with two information and networking events for women patients within the High Security Hospitals Service.

These have been organised by SUSAC, the Service Users Standing Advisory Committee at the Department of Health to ensure that the women residents have access to information about organisations like Survivors' Poetry with whom they can make links. The women and staff at Broadmoor were very interested in our work and we are very encouraged by their response. As a result of the day one resident has already joined our mailing list and we hope to be able to develop from this initial contact in the future.

Christina Dunhill represented Survivors' Poetry at the information day at Broadmoor Hospital on 3rd June and Clare Douglas will be at Rampton Hospital on August 16th.

Facilitator Training Course

The next training course taking place at the end of July is now full. There will be more courses so

please contact Alison or write in to be put forward. For the first time Survivors' Poetry is running the course especially for Asian and Black survivors - there are few workshop leaders around and this course will be a small step to redressing the balance. The course will cover survivor issues, cultural identity, creative writing and performance skills.

Facilitators include Patience Agbabi (performance poet), Malika B (from Apples and Snakes), Vanessa Richards (Mannfest), Dominic Walker (Down to Earth Black People's Mental Health Users Group) and Raman Mundair (Punjabi poet / performer / playwright).

I have been volunteering in Survivors' Poetry's office for two days a week since February 1999. My principal task has been to catalogue the library of poetry journals, put it on the database, and contact the editors for outreach purposes to

VOLUNTEERING by Roy Holland

see if they'll carry articles, listings or ads about Survivors' Poetry or arrange inserts in their mailings on a reciprocal basis. I've also rearranged the reports and periodicals which the staff consult on management, charity and mental health issues, and, now that the new cabinets have arrived, my next job will be to catalogue the poetry books. It is hoped to make the poetry books and journals available for reference to survivors on the mailing list.

Other work I've done includes the usual collating, stuffing, addressing and stamping mailings, statistical work, drafting a schedule of rates for adverts, minuting the bi-monthly meeting of the Workers' Forum, answering the phone, and attending meetings to discuss the Diorama Arts Centre's open day, which will celebrate World Mental Health Day this October.

I hope to attend the workshop facilitators' training later this year. In fact, Survivors' Poetry will pay £5 per half-day towards the cost of a

volunteer's training, and this can be any training which you consider might be useful to your career.

The Diorama Arts Centre is a pleasant building with lots going on and an excellent café at lunchtime. I feel privileged to work with Clare, Lisa and Alison and the other volunteers as colleagues. All of us are survivors, and the office is very busy and lively with all the events being planned.

There are a whole variety of tasks awaiting new volunteers such as fund-raising, working on the Newsletter, organising events, distribution of publications, and, for those who have attended the training, workshop facilitation. If you'd like to explore the possibilities, please contact the Survivors' Poetry office (0171-916-5317).

The Survivors' Poetry Network re-launch

The response so far has been excellent with many more groups joining and others, in the pipeline of being set up from scratch, include groups across London, Stevenage, Windsor, and Northumberland.

Contact Alison Smith for further information or advice on setting up a group.

Survivors' Poetry Group News

Congratulations to Survivors' Poetry Scotland for obtaining a provisional £15,000 from The National Lottery through Scottish Arts Council along with a further £5K from Camelot to build up their Web Site.

Editorial

Survivors' Poetry Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Its purpose is to publicise events and activities organised by Survivors' Poetry and by Survivor-led Poetry groups all over the country. Please send us articles, small features and events listings about your group or about anything that you think may be of interest to our readers. Work should be typed or on disc. We cannot guarantee publication and the editor reserves the right to edit any contributions. No more than 500 words. No poetry please. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of Survivors' Poetry. **Next copy deadline (for Oct/Nov/Dec issue) Friday 17th September 1999.**

Designed and edited by

Lisa Boardman (Information Worker)

« DATES FOR YOUR DIARY » EVE

WRITING COMPETITIONS

Bedford Open Poetry Competition
First Prize £300. Runners-up (two prizes)
£100 + publication in The Interpreter's
House magazine.

Closing date 30th July 1999.

This year the final judge is John Burnside, author of two novels and six collections of poetry. Born in Dunfirmline, Scotland, he received the Scottish Arts Council Book Award in 1991, 1995 and 1998. In 1994 he was selected as one of the Poetry Society's New Generation Poets. His new collection of poems, *The Asylum Dance*, is forthcoming from Jonathan Cape.

If you would like an entry form please send an SAE to The Bedford Open Poetry Competition, Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford, MK40 1PG.

The Sue Napolitano Award

Prize: £10,000 writing commission
Closing date: Friday 17th September 1999.

An award of £10,000 will be made to a disabled writer to produce a body of creative writing which explores issues of disability as a main theme. This could comprise a collection of poems or short stories; a novel; or a full length play script. The manuscript must reflect disabled people's experiences in a way that is consistent with the Social model of disability. The commissioned writer will be given twelve months to complete their proposed manuscript, which will then be published in an appropriate format. The award is being co-ordinated by Commonword in association with the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People. We hope this will be the first of several bi-annual awards.

To receive more information and an application form contact: Bev Burkitt or Cathy Bolton at Commonword, 21 Newton Street, Manchester, M1 1FZ. Tel. 0161 236 2773.

The Poetry Business: Book and Pamphlet Competition.

£1,000 total in prizes plus publication.

Closing date: 31st October 1999

Entrants should send a collection of poems - between 14 and 16 pages.

For further information and an application form write to: The Competition Administrator, The Poetry Business, The Studio, Byram Arcade, Westgate, Huddersfield HD1 1ND.

The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society 1999 Short Story and Poetry Competition

Overall Winning Entry: £500. Best Poem: £250. Best Short Story: £250. In addition, there will be 40 Runners-up prizes worth £25 each.

Closing date: 11am, Thursday 11th November 1999.

Support the Society by writing a poem or short story on the theme of 'A Century of War', 'The Pity of War', or 'Humour in Uniform'.

To receive an application form contact: The Competition Secretary, Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RL. Telephone: 0181 543 6333.

Somers Town

Somers Town Community Centre,
150 Ossulston Street,
(off Euston Road), London NW1

7.30pm - 10pm (doors 7pm)

Admission: £3.50 (full),

£1.50 (conc) £1 (floorspots/ current inpatients)

Saturday July 24th 1999.

MC: Julie McNamara and other Irish women poets living in London: Ann Dalton, Carolyn O'Connell, Eamer O'Keefe, Siubhan McNally and Kathleen O'Sullivan will enthrall with extracts from their dynamic anthology, *Fresher than Green, Brighter than Orange*. Also, poet Mike Lawson (*Psychiatric Survivor & Shaman-in-Exile*) and musician Viv Youell (*Superlatively Innovative Singer-Songstress*).

New Venue for August Somerstown Date

Diorama Arts Centre, 34

Osnaburgh Street, London NW1

3ND. 7.30pm - 10pm (doors 7pm).

Entry: £3.50 (full), £1.50 (conc)

£1 (floorspots/
current inpatients)

Saturday 21st August 1999. Andrew Spencer and A.J. Murray. Other performers to be confirmed. The August Survivors' Poetry Somerstown event will take place at the Diorama Arts Centre this month. We would like to experiment with using this venue for our regular event. The performances will take place in a small theatre space with tiered seats and a few tables. It has excellent lighting equipment and may be better suited accoustically. Refreshments will be served in the foyer. The building is non-smoking but there is a small sheltered area outside for smoking. Please come along to this event and tell us what you think. Let us know the things which you like and don't like about both venues. We would like the views of all our regular Somerstown performers and audience to be taken into account if or when we decide to move for good.

SOMERS TOWN NEWS

On May 22 the song-poetry of Asher Hoyles linked an evening of strong solo performances: Survivors' Poetry "veterans" Hilary Porter and Peter Campbell treated us to poems old and new while Johnny Oslo dazzled with an eclectic new song collection.

Roz Kane on June 26 introduced the enthusiastic audience to the poetry of Brian Daldorph and Heather Beveridge while Kym, Chris and Mick made "Dirty Contact" in a tenderly

tuneful way that packed real clout.

Excellent floorspots, as usual, but PLEASE if you have material you wish to share as a floorspot, to avoid disappointment, book in advance through the Survivors' Poetry office or be at Somers town before 7pm.

(Your organiser and MC have to manage this embarrassment of riches somehow!)

- Alistair Brinkley

EVENTS u WORKSHOPS u FESTIVALS u

Poetry Cafe Readings

Poetry Cafe,
22 Betterton Street, WC2 9BU
(nearest tube Covent Garden)
7.30pm - 11pm
Admission £2, £1 conc.

Friday 30th July 1999,
(closed during August for
renovations),
Friday 24th September 1999.

All welcome. A wonderful opportunity for new and more experienced poets to have their work heard in a friendly and supportive atmosphere ... and have a drink or food at the same time. Book your floorspot on arrival. There is a lift to the lower floor and a wheelchair accessible toilet. Smoking upstairs, non-smoking downstairs. Something for everyone!

Poetry Festival events

Dartington Ways With Words
Festival Tuesday 13th July 1999
Launch of The Pillar of Fire and
Selected Poems of Nikolay
Gumilyov. Translated by Richard
McKane. Introduction and Notes by
Michael Basker

Gumilyov : The Poet- Magician
Michael Basker and Richard
McKane
2pm Duke's Room £4
Michael Basker (the world authority
on Gumilyov) will illustrate his talk
on the work and life of poet Nikolay
Gumilyov with stirring readings
of his poetry in Russian. Richard
McKane, the acclaimed translator
will read from The Pillar of Fire his
translations of these same rich,
exotic poems.

Poet for Poet
Richard McKane
3.30pm Duke's Room £4
'A champion of the oppressed, the
imprisoned, the silenced'. Richard
McKane seems able to enter the
spirit and soul of the poets he
translates. Today he will read from
his translation of poems as well
as his own poems dedicated to
individual poets whose work he
translates.

SURVIVORS' POETRY MANCHESTER

Poetry and performances by and for survivors
of the Mental Health system



Members of the Survivors' Poetry Manchester group

Friday the 13th 1998 was lucky for Survivors' Poetry Manchester who held their first performance at Manchester Central Library on that date, as part of the Manchester Poetry Festival. There were two performance slots during the event. Poems and stories which have grown out of the Survivors' writing workshops were read out and enjoyed by all, performers and visitors alike.

People were welcome to drop in at any time between 1pm and 3pm to listen to the poetry, and chat about the regular writing workshops which take place every Monday at Commonword (21 Newton St. off Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 1FZ) between 2 - 4pm. There was a

relaxed, friendly atmosphere - the Library kindly provided us with tea and coffee - and many people who came along to the performance have since come to the Monday writing session. As one woman said, "it's the first poetry group I've been to as long as I can remember where you can actually write".

Needless to say, anyone reading this is more than welcome to come along. Bring your pencils ready sharpened. For further details please contact Clare on 0161 226 8264.

Free creative writing workshops for Asian and Black survivors.

Survivors' Poetry in association with The Family Welfare Association have organised a series of creative writing workshops to take place on the last Wednesday of each month, 28th July, 25th August and 29th September 1999. 2.30pm - 4.30pm at The Family Welfare Association, 1 Bedford Hill, Balham, London SW12.

With Raman Mundair and Lloyd

Lindsay. Come along and explore and share your stories, meet other survivors in a supportive, relaxed space. Just bring a pen, paper and your enthusiasm! Raman is an experienced facilitator/poet of Punjabi heritage. Lloyd is an African poet/performer from Fulham & Chelsea Survivors' Poetry. Contact Taiwo at The Family Welfare Association on 0181 675 1765.

ACUMEN LITERARY JOURNAL

SURVIVORS' POETRY SPECIAL
NO. 34, MAY 1999

A literary journal with an emphasis on poetry. This issue, arranged in conjunction with Survivors' Poetry, includes a special collection of poems by survivors and an interesting introduction. Let's hope it opens the way for more magazine editors to dedicate individual issues to poetry by survivors. Our thanks goes to the Acumen's editor, Patricia Oxley.

£4.00 ISBN 0964 0304.

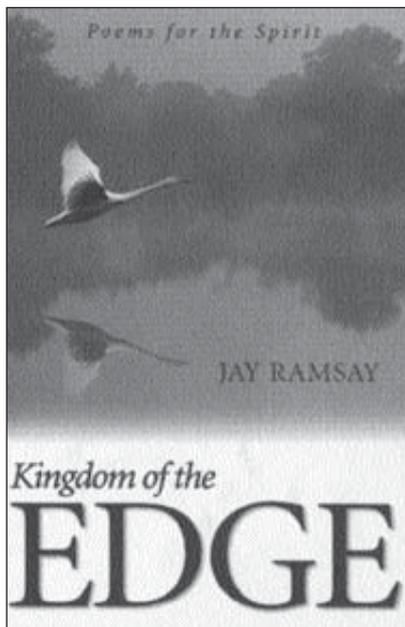
(Subscription rates: £10 per year, three issues). Cheques payable to Acumen. Acumen, The Editor, 6 The Mount, Higher Furzeham, Brixham, South Devon. TQ5 8QY.

KINGDOM OF THE EDGE

NEW AND SELECTED POEMS 1080 - 1998
by Jay Ramsay. Published by Element Books.

"In this major selection from his best work Jay Ramsay charts the territory we are in at the end of a

troubled century, with the challenge of a new millennium before us. His



vision of a world at the edge is sharp and unremitting, yet at the same time he sees cause for optimism and celebration in society's recent upheavals. As old structures die we are brought closer to each other in the true spirit of what connects us as living, awake and loving beings. Kingdom of the Edge is an accessible and dynamic collection for anyone interested in arts, spirituality, literature and healing, and will become a classic in today's multi-media poetry renaissance. Jay Ramsay is poetry editor of Kindred Spirit magazine and Founder of the Chrysalis poetry project. £8.99

Cheques payable to Element Books. Element Books, Longmead, Shaftesbury, Dorset. SP7 8PL.

THE SELF ON THE PAGE

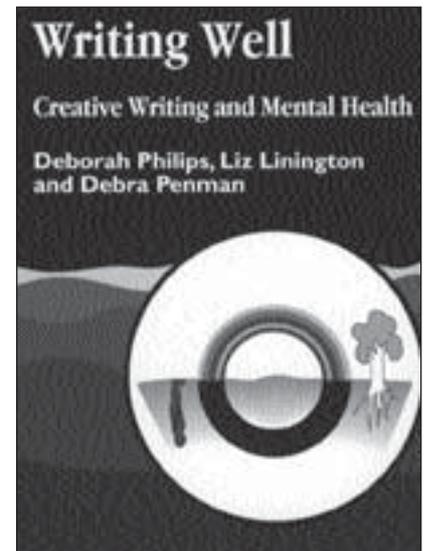
THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CREATIVE WRITING IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
Edited by Celia Hunt and Fiona Sampson

This book examines the potential of creative writing as a therapeutic tool, particularly in terms of its influence on the self and personal development. The Self on the Page provides an overview of current work in the field, based on the contributors' experiences of conducting courses, workshops and research projects with creative writing students, and clients as diverse as people with learning difficulties or dementia and people in hospices, using various genres of creative writing from poetry to autobiography and literary fiction. The book also contains many practical suggestions for writing techniques that can be used for personal development.

£14.95 ISBN 1 85302 470 1998

WRITING WELL CREATIVE WRITING AND MENTAL HEALTH.

Deborah Philips, Liz Linington & Debra Penham



Writing Well is a practical handbook of creative writing exercises. The exercises are taken from the authors' successful practice with groups of people from a range of backgrounds and a variety of settings. The book is structured and easy to use. The warm-ups and main exercises are organised by themes, such as positive memories, imagined worlds, changes and painful feelings. Guidelines are given for developing and adapting the exercises and practical suggestions for materials are included in the appendix.

£15.95 ISBN 1 85302 650 1998

THE THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF CREATIVE WRITING

WRITING MYSELF
Gillie Bolton, Forward by Sir Kenneth Calman

Writing is a means of making sense of experience, and of arriving at a deeper

understanding of the self. This book provides practical, well tried and tested suggestions for beginning

PUBLICATIONS

to write and for developing writing further. It includes ideas for writing individually and for directing groups, and explores journal writing, poetry, fiction, autobiography and writing out trauma, with established writers and those who have taken up writing for private enjoyment.

£15.95 ISBN 1 85302 599 1998

The above three books are all published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers. Available from: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JB.



PULLING THROUGH ON A JOURNEY THROUGH MADNESS. A COLLECTION OF POEMS by Kathleen A. King edited by Penelope Elias

"I find these poems wonderfully meaningful, reflecting the pain of a manic depressive."- Spike Milligan. Penelope translated the book *Accepting Voices* published by MIND in 1993, from its original Dutch, and has had various articles and poems published. She is group coordinator of the Workington Manic Depression Fellowship. Penelope is married and has four children. *Pulling Through* is available from Pennyroyal Publications, 3 Ashfield Road, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3HU, enclosing a cheque/postal order for £3.50 (inc. p&p).

STRAIGHT FROM THE HANDBAG'S MOUTH

by The Essex Girls Poetry Collective

This 2nd anthology *Straight from the Handbags Mouth* charts their progress and includes a wealth of poetry produced during workshops over the last year. Notwithstanding any central theme the anthology includes lipstick, sweets, morning thoughts, inheritance, memories and favourite places. The publication is not just about a group of survivor poets but about life itself and all that it impacts on us. Available from The Essex Girls. For details of their 1999 programme contact Anita 01245 262020 or Sandie 01278 733 259.

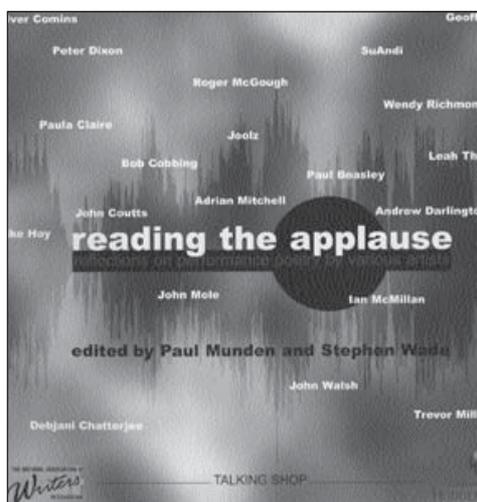
READING THE APPLAUSE REFLECTIONS ON PERFORMANCE POETRY BY VARIOUS ARTISTS edited by Paul Munden and Stephen Wade

"Friendly, accessible, immediate, democratic, historic, profound and a damn good laugh". So Ian McMillan describes performance poetry in his forward to this book. While printed poems have words dancing on the page, performance poetry works in an additional dimension. From hi-tech presentation to the ranter in a pub, the delivery - by vocal and other means - is vital in creating the

emotional effect. Sometimes this involves a collaboration with other art forms, music in particular. At other times it seems that a new hybrid is developing, or as Trevor Millum puts it: "performance poetry is singing for those who can't sing". Stephen Wade and Paul Munden have assembled a range of interviews, reflective articles and essays by a wide range of poets involved in performance - both as a public presentation of written work and as an art in its own right. £8.95 ISBN 0-9514429-3-7 Talking Shop, PO Box 1, Sheriff Hutton, York YO60 7YU

I'M WRITING POETRY AGAIN by Phil Jaqueiry

Moudon Press is delighted to announce the publication of a book of poetry by Phil Jaqueiry, a mental health survivor and outspoken campaigner for the rights of those who suffer mental health problems. When asked how those involved with Phil's initial care might react to his poems Phil replied "Tell them to put their concerns in verse - they never listened to my concerns until I wrote these poems. £5.95 (Cheques payable to Moudon Press). Moudon Press, The Old George, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge SO20 8HN.



WHO'S WHO AT SURVIVORS' POETRY

TRUSTEES

Jim Green
Richard Hallward
Danielle Hope
Roger Moulson
Anne Rouse (Acting Chair)
Julian Turner
Scott Verner

OFFICE STAFF

Lisa Boardman
(Information Worker)
Clare Douglas
(Director)
Alison Smith
(Outreach Co-ordinator)

ADDITIONAL KEY WORKERS

Alistair Brinkley
Peter Campbell
Jenny Ford
Roy Holland
Isha
Mala Mason
Emma Parish
Kit Parke
Amita Patel
Hilary Porter
Dave Russell
Xochitl Tuck

ADVISORY GROUP

Paul Beasley, Christina Dunhill,
Kwabena Gyedu, Miriam
Hastings, Mimi Khalvati, Jane
Law, Peter McDonald, Emma
McMullen, Andrew Pinnock,
Richard Sutton.

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The Arts Council of England
London Arts Board

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support of:

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City Parochial Foundation
Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust

SURVIVORS' POETRY
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TEL: 0171 916 5317
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E-MAIL:
survivor@survivorspoetry.
org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1040177

"THE VALUE OF SURVIVORS' POETRY IS THAT IT OFFERS OUR
EXPERIENCE A VALID VEHICLE FOR EXPRESSION.
IT GIVES PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO CLAIM BACK SOME OF
THE DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN FROM
THEM". ~ A SURVIVOR ~

Joining Forces - in the North 30th September 1999

Survivors' Poetry will be hosting the second Joining Forces seminar bringing together the arts, health and education in Newcastle in September. To be held at the premises of Northern Arts, this seminar will look at the issues and methods of working across the sectors for the benefits of young survivors. Survivors' Poetry will be outreaching over the coming months across the region establishing contacts and working with local mental health, arts, education and disability organisations on this event. Contact Alison Smith for further information.

Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month in October - Survivors' Poetry will be hosting two key events; a special performance of survivor poets at Somers Town and Images of Reality - Survivors' Poetry with Apples and Snakes is at The Brix - hosting a performance of Patience Agbabi, Raman Mundair, Dorothea Smartt, Mimi Khalvati and Jean Binta Breeze alongside Lloyd Lindsay and Greg Henry. The performance will also launch the setting up of an Asian

and Black Survivors' Poetry group - with a discussion around the issues of supporting a group. Meena Jafrey ~ (Artsline Multicultural Arts Officer) and Dominic Walker will be hosting the discussion. Survivors' Poetry is grateful for the support of Durlabh Singh and Lloyd Lindsay in putting this event together.

Survivors' Poetry Mailing Parties

As our mailing list grows so does the pile of envelopes we need to stuff every six weeks! Which is why we need your help. If you live in London you are very welcome to attend our mailing parties (see address below). We will pay your travel costs and provide drinks and snacks. The event is always fun and a positive way in which you can contribute to our work. Ring Lisa Boardman to let us know if you will be attending on either of these dates:
Thursday 19th August 1999
Thursday 30th September 1999
(4.30pm - approx 6.30pm)



CALOUSTE
GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

cpf CITY PAROCHIAL
FOUNDATION



The Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust