

# NEWS

## SPRING TERM

### 2009

Issue 3

## WELCOME

This is the third Newsletter of Grass Roots Open Writers (GROW).

This is where you will find details of all the activities we have organised, local and national events and other useful information.

## ABOUT GROW

Grass Roots Open Writers (GROW) is a community writing and publishing group, that particularly welcomes people who need to develop confidence in expressing themselves.

**GROW** meets in the  
Children's Library,  
Robertson Passage, Hastings,  
Every Tuesday from 10 – 12 noon  
(Except School Holidays)

## CONTACT

**Ashley**

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## COMMITTEE

Since the last Newsletter we have had the first GROW AGM and Executive Meetings, adopted our Constitution, and elected our Executive Committee

### The 2008-09 Executives are:

Stephen Taylor (Chair)

Kim Smith (Vice-Chair)

Ashley Jordan (Secretary)

Nick Crump (Treasurer)

Mary Cook, Sue Horncastle,

Jan Humphreys, Jean Rodmell and

Bernard Weekes-Lock. (Executives)

### Next Executive Meeting

10.30 am – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in the Resident's Lounge, Roosevelt Court, Stonehouse Drive, St Leonards.

**ALL GROW members are welcome.**

**Please do come along if you can, bring your ideas and suggestions and get involved with the planning and development of GROW.**



Grass Roots Open Writers

## **GROW WEBSITE**

<http://www.grow.btik.com>

The GROW website is proving to be a very useful tool. It is provided free to us as a Voluntary Group.

There is a Calendar, where you can view all the GROW events and activities as well as check the latest GROW Group and Homework Writing Assignments and download the most recently used handouts.

You can read samples of our members' work in the Gallery and view, download or print out your own copy of the GROW Magazines and Newsletters.

Important announcements and updates can be found in the NEWS FLASH section.

Look in the Links section to find direct links to all the other GROW Internet Resources (we have a Yahoo E-Group and a BLOG) as well as links to TheFED website, E-Group, BLOG and links to other FED member groups.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Josie Lawson. 3 poems published in Issue 130 (Dec 08) of The Entertainer.

Jan Hedger - Published in 'Voices of the Poppies' The first anthology of Forces Literary Organisation Worldwide (FLOW) For All.

Nick Crump - Started a new job.

Ryan Liffen – Performed In Stagecoach Show in East Grinstead.

Mary Cook -Animal poem published.

## **TheFED**

GROW is a member of TheFED  
*- A Network of Writing  
and Community Publishers.*

**For more information please visit:**

<http://www.fed.btik.com>

## **MAGAZINE**

The Title & Theme for the  
2009 GROW anthology is

**'ILLUMINATION'**

Submissions Deadline

**31<sup>st</sup> May 2009**

## **CHRISTMAS MEAL 2008**

The GROW Christmas Meal has been booked for 5.30pm in the Toby Inn, Eastbourne on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Carvery costs £5 a head and drinks are extra. Contact Ashley to book your seat.

## **TERM DATES**

6<sup>th</sup> January '09 - Spring Term begins

17<sup>th</sup> February '09 - Half Term Holiday

30<sup>th</sup> March '09 - End of Term Party

7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April '09 - Easter Holidays

21<sup>st</sup> April '09 - Summer Term begins

## **FINANCE & FUND-RAISING**

GROW has opened a Community Account, which means we are now able to apply for grants.

At the first Exec Meeting it was agreed to charge a GROW membership fee of £5 per year, starting in September 2009.

A Payment Scheme has been started to help our members save up for any GROW activity that they might otherwise find it hard to afford. (e.g., attending The FED London MiniFest or paying the GROW Membership Fee.)

**Payment Record Cards and further details are available from Ashley.**

Ashley has designed and produced some GROW Bookmarks. They cost 20p each and all proceeds will go to GROW.

We have decided to have raffles at the Book Launch and Christmas Parties. We need items to give as raffle prizes and volunteers to sell tickets.

The Hastings Lions Club awarded GROW a very generous donation of £225 towards the cost of hiring a coach and driver to take us to The FED London MiniFest.

Can you help? GROW is developing fast and needs to raise money for printing costs, paper and materials. We have Magazines and Bookmarks to sell and Raffles to organise. If we each do a little, we can all achieve a lot!!!

## **GROW EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2008-09**

Games Night

Skill-Sharing Workshops

Handicrafts Days

Group Theatre Trip

Coffee Morning

Lunch Club

Reading & Performance Evening

Film Night

Film Discussion Group

Beach Party

Picnic in the Park

'NATURE' Book Launch Party

'ILLUMINATION' Book Launch Party

2<sup>nd</sup> AGM

Group trip to The FED London MiniFest

Christmas Party

Christmas Meal

Social Evening at the White Rock Hotel

Visiting Writers

Play Writing Workshops

Play Performance

Song Writing Workshops

Music / Singing Evening

## **SKILL SHARING WORKSHOPS**

The GROW Skills-Sharing Workshops start on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008. They will be held every Wednesday Morning in Roosevelt Court Residents Lounge, (1<sup>st</sup> Floor) Stonehouse Drive from 10 – 12 Noon.

Please come along, and teach others what you have learned. Ideas and suggestions for workshops include:

- How to laminate.
- Making Personalised Bookmarks
- Making Greetings Cards.
- Basic Computer Skills
- Desk Top Publishing
- Punctuation & Grammar
- Planning & Organising Events
- Fund-Raising
- Emails – Sending & Receiving.
- Web page Design
- Workshop Preparation & Leading

## **The FED**

## **LONDON MINIFEST**

GROW sent 22 members to this event on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November at Faraday House in Holborn, London.

It was a fantastic day, with a wide choice of workshops, a buffet lunch and lots of time to meet old and new friends from other writing and publishing groups all over the country.

We ended the day with a 2 hour celebratory performance of poetry, music, song and short stories.

## **BAR BLUE OPEN MIKE**

Second Thursday Every Month  
8pm - Late.

Hosted by Alvin Culzac at Bar Blue, Grand parade, St Leonards. Bring something to read, sing or play, or just come along to listen.

## **BARBY KEEL ANIMAL SANCTUARY**

Every Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> October  
2pm – 4.30pm

**(Weather Permitting)**

Join us for refreshments  
in the outdoor café  
and meet all the residents of the  
Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary

**Please contact Ashley  
if you need - or can offer – transport.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**GROW would like to thank:**

Hastings Children's Library  
Bernard Weekes-Lock and the  
residents of Roosevelt Court

The Hastings Lions Club  
Josie Lawson

The Executive Committee  
ALL the GROW members