

NEWSLETTER

3rd TERM 2010

Issue 7

WELCOME

This is the seventh 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.

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ABOUT GROW

Grass Roots Open Writers (GROW) is a community writing and publishing group. We particularly welcome anyone who needs to develop confidence in expressing themselves.

GROW MEMBERSHIP

GROW Membership costs £5 for up to one year and is due for renewal on 1st September each year. Members will receive a Membership Pack upon receipt of their completed membership application form and membership fee.

GROW meets in the:

Children's Library,
Robertson Passage, Hastings
Every Tuesday from 10 - 12 noon
(Writing Workshop)

Roosevelt Court Lounge,
Stonehouse Drive, St Leonards
Every Wednesday from 10 - 12 noon
(Skill Sharing Workshop)

&

Every Friday from 2 - 3 pm
(Singing, Performance and
Homework Help Workshop)

We ask for Voluntary Contributions (£1 per session) to cover our printing costs and refreshments.



Grass Roots Open Writers

COMMITTEE NEWS

Since the last Newsletter we have had the 6th and 7th GROW Executive Committee Meetings and elected our new Executive Officers

The 2009-10 Executives are:

Jan Humphreys - Chair

Kim Smith - Vice-Chair

Ashley Jordan - Secretary

Nick Crump - Treasurer

Frank Burnham,

Margaret Crouch,

Maria Gethin

Next Executive Meetings

10.30 - 12 Noon

Wednesday 3rd February 2010

Wednesday 5th May 2010

in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

ALL GROW members are welcome.

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

GROW CALENDAR

We still have a few copies of the 2010 GROW Calendar left. It features a different poetry form each month, with step-by-step instructions and examples composed by GROW members.

Price £1 each.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

GROW hired a table at the Roosevelt Court Christmas Fayre on Saturday 5th December 2009. Our table was heavily laden with items donated by all the GROW members. A small team of volunteers collected the items, displayed them, manned the table and then cleared away the remnants afterwards. GROW made a total of £33 from our table. The things that we didn't manage to sell were donated to the Barby Keel Charity Shop in Bexhill.

Thanks to everyone who helped.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

On Friday 18th December 2009 many of the GROW members went for a Christmas Dinner at the Kings Arms Pub & Carvery in Ninfield.

There were so many of us (18 in all) that we were unable to sit at the same table, although we were all in the same section. It was very relaxed and enjoyable occasion. Thanks to everyone who came - especially the five drivers who managed to squeeze everybody in!

2010 ANTHOLOGY

The title and theme will be 'Reflection.'

2011 CALENDAR

Because the 2010 'Poetry Form' Calendar has proved so popular, we've decided to produce a new one for 2011.

TheFED 2009 MINIFEST

On Saturday 21st November GROW sent some of our members to The FED London MiniFest at Faraday house in Holborn, London.

We had a full day of writing, publishing art, meditation and performance related workshops, celebratory readings and TheFED AGM. We met with members of community writing and publishing groups from all over the UK and America.

A fabulous buffet lunch was laid on for us by Lucia Birch from Stevenage Survivors.

The workshops were all very interesting and generated a huge amount of work from everyone who participated. The Vale House Project workshop, which was run by Roy and Lucia Birch, included meditation, creative writing and Reiki. The theme for the writing was 'Freedom' and we decided to use the same theme for TheFED December 2009 Writing Challenge as a way of show-casing the beautiful and uplifting writing that was produced there.

The Celebratory Performance was expertly compered by Paul King from Manchester. Jan Hedger & Nick Crump very kindly prepared and performed pieces of writing done by some GROW members who were unable to come with us on this occasion. Their performance was very well received and they even took the opportunity to plug our 2010 GROW Calendar for us!

Later on, Tony May gave a spirited performance of his own work, '*Why do I*

bother?' and Jan Hedger delivered a very moving reading of her own piece '*Empty Teacups*'

We met Steve Parks and six of his students from Syracuse University in New York. They had travelled all the way from America just to attend the MiniFest.

We also met some students from King's College in London, who were all new to TheFED.

GROW had two tables to display our own publications - and those of Jan Hedger and FLOW. People were very impressed by 'Illumination' and particularly liked the fact that we had tried to make it accessible to non-readers and visually impaired people by including a DVD. It was lovely to hear that GROW's hard work is inspiring other TheFED groups to make multi-media presentations of their own work.

We enjoyed the opportunity to look at and buy books from the other groups.

We bought back with us some copies of TheFED 2010 Calendar, which features some of the work submitted to TheFED Writing Challenges.

Many of the attendees have sent in their photos, memories, writing and video clips to share their experience of the 2009 MiniFest. They can all be viewed on TheFED website.

www.fed.btik.com/p_Campaign.ikml

We are all looking forward to TheFED 2010 London MiniFest and will do everything in our power to encourage many more people to join us for our very special day out.

GROW

SOCIAL EVENING

On Saturday 19th December we held our first ever GROW Social Evening.

GROW members provided and prepared a cold Buffet and organised several party games, including 'Christmas Carol' Charades, a fun 'Sweets' Quiz devised by Maggie Crouch and the hilarious 'Who (or What) Am I?' game, prepared by Ashley Jordan. Frank Burnham organised a song-title game. There was even time for everyone to get up and have a little dance.

We read out some of the poems from the 2010 GROW Calendar.

The evening was very successful and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. The only downside was that many people were unable to come because they had other commitments, with it being so close to Christmas.

We'd particularly like to thank Jan Humphreys for all her hard work in preparing the sandwiches and clearing everything away afterwards. She even found time to make little food parcels for people to take home with them, so that none of the left-overs would go to waste.

A huge thank you to all the residents of Roosevelt Court for allowing us to use their lounge and karaoke machine.

We hope that many more of the residents will be able to join us for the next party that we organise.

ACCESS

All GROW groups have wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet. To access the Roosevelt Court Lounge please call '7' on the intercom - or knock on the patio door at the side of the building. The Lounge is on the 1st Floor (Use the lift on the right.)

TERM DATES

19th December - 3rd January - Holiday*

4th January - Term 3 Begins

13th - 21st February - Holiday*

22nd February - Term 4 Begins

27th March - 18th April - Holiday*

19th April - Term 5 Begins

29th May - 6th June - Holiday*

7th June - Term 6 Begins

26th July - 12th September - Holiday*

13th September Groups Start Back

There are NO Group Meetings between these dates

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GROW would like to thank:

The staff at Hastings Children's Library

The residents of Roosevelt Court

The Isabel Blackman Foundation

Jan Wilkins (Hedger)

Jan Humphreys

Josie Lawson

The Executive Committee

& ALL the GROW members