

magazine

Publishers

Worker Writers & Community

The Federation of

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Aut

97

- Hand in Hand
- Fat Cats at the Fed
- FedWeb site
- Working Class Studies

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ARTS  
COUNCIL  
OF ENGLAND

## Feditorial: Hand in Hand Federation in £117,000 Lottery Charity Scoop!

**The Federation has been successful in obtaining considerable funding for its Hand in Hand project, a development which is essential to the long term strategy of the FWWCP. The Hand in Hand project will see the appointment of a Training Development Co-ordinator in March 1998, with the brief to set up a training strategy tailored around local skills networks for Fed members and the needs of their communities.**

By getting Fed members to work with other community organisations and non-Fed members, the Hand in Hand project will promote the FWWCP and its methods and ethos and increase Federation membership. However, it is anticipated that a considerable proportion of the UK membership, around 400-500 people, will have been involved in the project by the Millennium.

As we draw to the close of 1987, the Federation can look back, with the acquisition of this funding, on quite a period of development in our 21st Year. We have, as described in this issue, become a limited company, and established a Website which is already attracting international interest, particularly from foreign universities interested in British working class life.

The Fed has also through an ongoing project through this magazine and the work on the logo, redesigned its self-presentation, has launched a new broadsheet to showcase members' writing, and is currently touring a stage show which is educating new audiences about working class life and community publishing.

Meanwhile the Federation continues to develop and put on training events, new writing

projects, and plan its annual festival of writing. Our members continue to publish and perform their work. Finally, a new archive of Federation materials has been set up with the Mass-Observation collection at the University of Sussex.

These successes are particularly important in a climate which continues to see the erosion of witness to working class life. They demonstrate a spirit which flies against the current trend of being uninterested in voluntary work or campaigning issues. The FWWCP is a small organisation whose wielded influence is weighted by the enormous enthusiasm of its membership, convinced of the power it has to represent the authentic culture and experience of class and community in contemporary Britain.

**Nick Pollard**

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# Fat Cats At the Fed?

**Since its formation in 1976 the FWWCP had been what is known as an Unincorporated Association, a legal status that can be set up by two people over a pint!**

**On May 15 this year The FWWCP became a Company Limited by Guarantee. This is a major step for us and one to build upon in the future. Members will not see any change to the democratic nature of our organisation and through special dispensation we will not have to use the dreaded words "Company Limited".**

So why did we become a Company and what does it involve?

It was decided at the 1995 AGM that the FWWCP become a Company Limited by Guarantee. From researching the various options of cooperative and company structures this status appeared to be the most appropriate, and the one which would effect the organisation the least.

## **Legal Status**

Since its formation in 1976 the FWWCP had been what is known as an Unincorporated Association, a legal status that can be set up by two people over a pint! At that time of the Fed's inception there was little thought about long term implications, what was most important was the organisation's formation.

An Unincorporated Association gives little or no protection to the Executive Committee if things go financially wrong and it means that any contracts, such as mine as a worker, are made with an individual on the committee (usually the Chair) rather than with the organisation. This is not good employment practice when people are being paid to work rather than do things on a voluntary basis, even more so if we are able to get our grubby paws on some Lottery funding to employ at least one other worker. We also need to have company status if we wish to pursue becoming a charity, and if we considerably increase our income, this may be worth looking at.

## **No Shares**

A Company Limited by Guarantee is a good 'vehicle' for an organisation wishing to run as a group rather than by the will of one or two people. There are no 'shares', no one will become a fat cat, and the Company is as previously 'owned' by the Membership and managed by the annually elected Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will also have some protection in the event of a financial catastrophe, being only liable for £1, unless of course they

knowingly condone bad practice.

What is a change is that the 'company' has a 'legal personality' quite distinct from it's Membership and so has an existence that could run even if all the Members left, something that will not happen but again means the Membership is not liable in case we are sued. We also have to have a registered office, as I work from home it was felt more appropriate to ask one of the Member groups to take on that role, to which Gatehouse Books in Manchester agreed.

### **Importance**

So there we are, not a great change but an important one to the organisation. At the next AGM we will present two sets of accounts for 1997, because the Company started in May and for those who receive the Minutes of the Executive Committee, you will note that meetings will be numbered as if the first ever was in June 1997!

Becoming a Company is not cheap, whatever anyone says. We worked through a solicitor and the cost was over £300 for the company set up, with costs on top such as £5.60 for receiving a letter (not writing it). The legal status of an

organisation is important and I would advise any writers group or community publisher to spend some time looking at their status and finding the format most suitable for them.

**Tim Diggles**

I used the following books to aid my work:

Croner's "Management of Voluntary Organisations" - an updateable publication usually available from your local CVS or Library.

"Regular Marvels" - an excellent handbook on the management and running of community based arts organisations by Francois Matarasso, published by CDMF, isbn 1898409-01-3, £ 14.95. The FWWCP has some copies of this for sale to Members at £9. If you want one phone/fax 01782 822327 or e-mail fwwcp @ mcmail.com.

"Teach Yourself Company Law" - a no nonsense clear introduction to most aspects of company law that you will require, published by Hodder and Stoughton, isbn 0-34058603-6. My edition cost just £6.49 but is marked £12.99.

# Friends of the Fed

Individuals can play an important part in our organisation by becoming a Friend of the Fed. As a Friend you have all the privileges that Members have except being able to vote at the AGM. You receive sometimes huge discounts for high quality training, discounts for The Festival of Writing, a free copy of this magazine and you can have work published in The Broadsheet. On our Website there will be a Friends page for you to let other people know what you do. You will receive first notice of training and publishing opportunities. To become a Friend you give us a monthly, quarterly or annual donation.

**For a Friend of the Fed form either: phone Tim Diggles on 01782 822327; e-mail us on fwwcp@mcmail.com; or write to us at FWWCP, Box 540, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DR**

**We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will become part of The FWWCP.**

## Overthrowing the Webmasters - The New FEDWEB

The Fed site has been planned to be a useful site for contacts; the promotion of the organisation and member groups; to publish members writing; an archive; a noticeboard for information about events. Creating this site was part of our strategic plans for 1997 and producing it taught me a great deal. But creating sites on the web is not something to be afraid of, basically if you can use a word processor you can create a site...

*The Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers now has its own Website in which this magazine is heavily featured.*

The address (URL) is: <http://www.fwwcp.mcmail.com/>  
For those of you with access to the Internet I hope you will use it. If you create web sites (a person called a Webmaster, which shows what sort of stuff these people must read and what sex they generally are), please make a link to it.

### Useful Contacts

The Fed site has been planned to be a useful site for contacts; the promotion of the organisation and member groups; to publish members writing; an archive; a noticeboard for information about events. Creating this site was part of our strategic plans for 1997 and producing it taught me a great deal. But creating sites on the web is not something to be afraid of, basically if you can use a word processor you can create a site.

I had not previously created work for the Internet and reading about it brought up even more jargon than the normal everyday computing work I do as part of my job.

Things like hypertext and Java script, FTP and hyperlinks. As with ordinary computing, the terminology is mainly there for a small elite to understand and use to make themselves feel superior.

So below I will try and explain something of the production and publishing of the new site, at the end of the article is a glossary of terms.

### Website

First of all you need a computer with a modem attached to a phone line.

Then you need to find a server. These are the companies who put you 'on-line' and offer some basic Internet services such as e-mail and space for a website. You can usually find the big ones on the free disks on the front of computer magazines, with names such as AOL (America on Line) and CompuServe. They will offer you some free time on a trial basis after that you pay on a monthly basis. They are not the 5 cheapest but will give you an idea of what you need.

### Fee

We are with mcmail on Cable and Wireless (formerly Mercury). With some servers you have to watch out for the size of payments for use of the Net. Mcmail have

a fixed monthly fee of £7.50 which includes five e-mail addresses, 5mb of web space (where the Fed website is and is enough for around 200 pages), and unlimited use of the Net. There are many other schemes at about the same cost, it's worth getting a magazine and looking for the best bargain.

At first I produced a couple of pages to publish on the Web on free software provided by AOL. I put two linked pages together and through that realised how much more planning was required. The software writes the HTML scripting language for you so there's no need to worry about that side of things and you can put on screen just about what you see when you produce it, great if you are used to at best two colour printing.

### **Problems**

I had some problems uploading the pages to the site as the software was not flexible or compatible, the people at mcmill recommended CuteFTP, which is a simple programme to use, you literally drag a file with your mouse from your own computer onto the server's computer. It is downloadable shareware and costs about \$US30 to register. After those initial pages I realised that more

planning and more flexible software was required, I was having problems with getting the fonts I wanted to show. I loaded Netscape Communicator from a free disk on a magazine (you can download it if you have a modem but it takes about a 15 minute phone call).

### **Website Authoring**

Netscape Communicator has an excellent website authoring package integrated into the programme and it is free! I have also looked at Aldus, Corel and Microsoft packages but they are at least £75 to buy and the differences are not great enough to warrant the expenditure.

I began with the Home Page, the first thing people see when they come to the site. I used our new logo for the 'buttons' to go to other pages, using the 'buttonizer' filter in the excellent shareware program Paint Shop Pro. For all pages I used a background I had designed for the Fed's new leaflet in Aldus PhotoShop. I found that it is a joy to publish on the Web because you can use all the colours you like without having to worry about the cost of printing! There are many freebie bits to use on sites available through downloading, but remember to have an anti

virus programme set up, just in case!

From there I made up pages of information, extracts from the Broadsheet, Federation magazines and books, address lists, useful links and Newsletter type pages. I have also started the work on producing a page for each member organisation so they can decide what they want included. I am still waiting for information to use.

Pages on the Web are made up of tables which keep the text together. Images can be imported very easily and placed in the text, a scanner is a useful tool. We don't have one yet but have access to one in a local college. You have to remember to convert any image to GIF or JPEG format, but PaintShop Pro and PhotoShop do that easily.

### **Links to other Pages and Sites**

It is also very simple to link images and text with another page in your own site or site on the Web. For instance in the basic information about the Fed I mentioned we are funded by a grant from The Arts Council of England. I made a link to ACE's website from those words so anyone reading can find out what they do. It took just a couple of commands and there it was!

# The New FEDWEB

At the start I spent many hours working on the site when learning about links and getting the 'feel' of the programme. But after that initial input I have found it very easy to add pieces and work on it. Making sure all the links are correct and working is probably the most arduous job.

## So what use is the Internet to The FWWCP?

Everywhere you read about the importance of being on the Web, arts bodies love to see their clients and themselves on the Web. It is the thing of the moment, and of course in many ways it is the thing of the future. The Web is home to useful, fascinating and appalling stuff. I use it as an information bank for things like Yellow Pages, train times, information on grants and events. But who is using it is harder to fathom and how much use is being made of our hard work even more so.

### E-Mail

E-mail is a most useful tool especially for our organisation spread around the country. The potential is enormous, why not a Fed workshop/writers group using e-mail? Workshops running in parallel all over the World?

But of course a great deal comes down to who owns the equipment and

where it is. The majority of our membership do not have access to the Internet. Computers although nowadays relatively cheap to an organisation or business are beyond the reach of the unemployed or elderly person.

The phone charges of just using the Internet can be frightening. I am not a great 'surfer' (someone who sits and follows links from one site to another) but I have sometimes found I have been on the Net for well over an hour, so that is a one hour local phone call! We have to work to make this technology more accessible and available. The silly terminologies have to be got rid of and it has to be seen as an everyday tool. The great step forward will come when more people are linked through their televisions via cable, making it as simple to access as ceefax or teletext.

Let's get rid of the webmasters and bring in the websharers.

### Tim Diggles

### *Glossary of terms:*

#### **The Internet or Net or World-Wide Web**

- is a web of interlinked computers that can be accessed through the

phone system. So from a desk in Stoke on Trent I can retrieve in seconds information kept on a computer in Australia. Its roots are in an interlinked series of computers run by the American armed forces to keep the system up even if one part was bombed.

**Modem** - a shortened version of modulator/demodulator. A modem is basically what an ordinary phone is but attached to the computer. It converts the phone signals into computer language and means that through the phone system a computer can access the Internet; send and retrieve faxes; make phone calls and take messages; transfer data such as computer files and programmes. The faster the modem the faster the data transfer and the cheaper the phone call.

**E-mail** - or electronic mail, is a system for sending and delivering messages and information between computers. It is becoming one of the most important ways of sending information. For instance I can send the Chair in London an e-mail message with a computer file of a report 'attached' to it for her to work on. Within an hour or so she can make any changes and send it back. Both of us only use a local phone call whatever

country we may be in as the message is sent to the server computer then retrieved from that through the Internet, so it is very cheap. At least one e-mail address is usually part of the deal when signing up to a server system. The Fed's e-mail address is [fwwcp@mcmail.com](mailto:fwwcp@mcmail.com), write to us.

**Website** - a series of linked files of text and images created by an individual or organisation on one computer then uploaded to a server computer and accessed by others through the Internet. A good website creates the illusion of pages in a book.

**Webspace** - the amount of space allocated by the server company on their computer for you to place your website. Because the computer file language use so little memory a 5 megabyte site has space for up to 200 'pages' of text and images. This like e-mail should be part of the deal when paying a server company.

**Java Script and HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)** - these are names of the computer languages used to produce the pages for a website. For most applications no

knowledge of these are necessary as the computer programmes to create websites write them automatically. But if you are getting into websites in greater depth then it is useful to learn them. There are lots of books on them and lots on the Web. If you have the Internet have a look at: <http://education.lanl.gov/resources/html/toc.html>, this is a useful introduction to HTML.

**Netscape** - is a browser program used for searching the World-Wide Web. It is the most popular browser because of its functionality and speed. Netscape Communicator includes good e-mail facilities and website creation. It is currently made available free of charge on the Internet or from free disks with magazines. Microsoft also make an excellent browser that comes with Windows95 or can be downloaded.

**Uploading/Downloading**- uploading is when you place the files of a website created on your own computer onto the server computer. You need an FTP programme to do this. Downloading is when you take files off a server computer for use on your own. You can download pictures,

computer programmes, text, books, music, almost anything.

**FTP (file transfer protocol)** - is to upload and download files to and from a server computer for use on the World-Wide Web. There is a shareware programme called CuteFTP to do this job which is very simple to use, it is downloadable from <http://www.cuteftp.com/>

**GIF (Graphics Interchange Format), JPEG (Joint Photographic Expert Group)** - these are computer file formats for publishing graphics and photographs on the Web. Both greatly compress images to take up less memory. Computer programmes such as PaintShop Pro, CorelDraw and Aldus PhotoShop will save images in these formats.

## Working Class Studies: 3rd Youngstown Conference

**The Center for Working-Class Studies, the only research and outreach center in the United States with a focus on issues of class, aims to link academic study of working-class culture with the experiences and perspectives of working-class people, to bridge the usual gap between the college and the community.**

*The Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State University held its third conference this past June, bringing together more than 200 artists, writers, students, activists, and scholars. The conference featured readings by more than twenty writers, including keynote speaker Tillie Olsen, author of Yonnondio: From the Thirties; Carolyn Chute, author of The Beans of Egypt, Maine; and poets Jim Daniels and Larry Smith; as well as a number of local writers.*

Panels and keynote talks examined a wide range of topics, including the use of music and theatre in teaching labor history, the intersections of race and class in workingclass studies, workplace education programs, and the place of class in American politics. In addition, the conference featured an evening of performance art, a film screening, and an exhibit of photography by Martin J. Desht, Faces From An American Dream, on display at the Youngstown Museum of Labor and Industry.

### **Focus on Issues of Class**

The Center for Working-Class Studies, the only research and outreach center in the United States with a focus on issues of class, aims to link academic

study of workingclass culture with the experiences and perspectives of working-class people, to bridge the usual gap between the college and the community. With this goal in mind, conference organizers arranged for a number of conference sessions to be held away from the YSU campus, at various sites in Youngstown. The most successful of these was a community housing tour that gave conference attendees a chance to visit Youngstown's working-class neighborhoods.

### **The Future of Working Class Studies**

A final plenary session brought together all the conference attendees for an open-ended discussion of the future of working-class studies, with a focus on how academics, artists, and activists can work together to generate both research and organizing that will benefit working-class people. The session also included planning for continued development of a bibliography on working-class studies, which was begun at the last conference in 1995 and will be made available internationally on the Center's web site later this year.

### **Success**

The conference's success can best be measured by the enthusiasm of those

## The Ken Worpole Collection

who attended, many of whom returned to Youngstown for the second or third time because their previous experiences with the Center's conferences were so positive. Center Director John Russo says of this year's conference, "We had the most attendance this year of any of our conferences. This shows that class is playing a central role in discussions of work, identity, and community."

**Sherry Lee Linkon**

**A considerable collection of Federation books has been donated to the MassObservation Archive. The 360 books representing over 150 worker writer groups and community publishing projects were donated by Ken Worpole from his personal library.**

The collection spans from 1972 to the present, and includes many of the milestones of community publishing and the development of the work of the groups which have made, and make up the Fed.

Ken is well known for his role in the founding of Centreprise, in Hackney, and his long involvement with the Fed. The Ken Worpole Collection will be held at the Archive, which is at the University of Sussex Library in Brighton.

Anyone wishing to consult the collection is welcome, but please write or telephone the Archive at the address below:

*The Mass-Observation  
Archive  
The University Library  
University of Sussex  
Brighton  
BN1 90L*

*Tel (01273) 678157  
Fax (01273) 678441*

## Raise Your Banners

Sheffield celebrates it's second Raise Your Banners, a festival of political song, from Friday October 31st to Sunday 2nd November. The festival, which concludes Sheffield's 'Off the Shelf' festival of writing, will celebrate music and song in struggles for justice, equality and freedom, in defence of the environment and for a better world ahead. The programme of 18 events will feature Billy Bragg and Grace Nichols amongst concerts, theatre, performance poetry, choirs, films, workshops, discussions and childrens' events.

Further details can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 'Raise Your Banners', PO Box 44, Sheffield S4 4RN, or tel (0114) 249 5185

## Apology

In Federation Magazine no. 10 we published an article "A Touch of Dutch" by Carey Andrews. It should have been stated that this article had also appeared in New Playwright's Trust Newsletter. We apologise for this oversight.

The Editor

# REVIEWS

## The Universal Impediment

**The Universal Impediment**  
by “Chappie”, Melvin  
Chapman, Third Millenium  
Press, 1997, 101 pp, ISBN  
0 9515333 2 0

Discovering the secret of a book is a delight of reading. Glancing through the index of Cahppie’s “Universal Impediment” I was lead to believe I would discover a world view stretching from Advertising to Worldwatch Institute and taking in Banking, CAPITAL, Debt, Eastern Europe.....

All these words and more were used in what appears to be on first reading a rather second rate agglomeration of undergraduate essays connected by little more than a decalred distaste for money and quotations from the Guardian. A closer reading does not reveal any subtlety of argument nor aspect of vision. Indeed, the work is riddled with tautology: “the extent to which we have succeeded in or have failed to achieve, the satisfaction of our needs and wants can be measured only by the degree to which that satisfaction is lacking”; naivety: “we think of businessmen as hard-headed knowledgeable individuals making rational decisions based on full information, but research

has suggested that directors of corporate bodies, pension funds and insurance companies are recruited for their knowledge of finance rather than with the industries with which they are concerned” and ignorance: “the needs of early man were few and his environment provided them in abundance, so that as an economic organisation the system was full efficient”.

Discovering the secret of a book is a delight of reading. Turning from the tirade on money to the Preface, the Pythonesque secret of “The Universal Impediment” is obvious. “Should any reader consider the arguments are sufficiently important to warrant a wider distribution, donations for a reprint... would be greatly appreciated.”

Laugh. I did.

**Eric Moore**

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# Democracy and Popular Culture

***The Heart of the Matter: Diana, democracy, and popular culture***, ISBN 1 870736 97 4, and

***Kennington Park, birthplace of British democracy***, ISBN 870736 98 2 by **Stefan Szczelkun**, both **Working Press, 12pp, 99p + 26p p&p, from WP@ 54 SE17 3TN UK/http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/working\_press**

These two pamphlets chart the expression of popular opinion and culture. The first discusses the "outpouring of national grief" at the death of the late Diana, Princess of Wales and the way in which the public seized the event for its own through the many personalised messages left as tributes.

There have been two ways afforded many of us to react to this event. One perhaps has been to participate in the events staged around Diana's death; the other has been to dismiss much of the portrayal and continuing discussion of the tragedy as hype. This pamphlet provides an interesting angle, to consider Diana as a "people's princess" from the left, particularly in terms of the focus her life and death has brought to the issue of whether or not to

continue tolerating the royal family. This discussion, argues Szczelkun, has taken spontaneous and autonomous cultural forms in which a collection of individual writings are added to a collective experience read by everybody: "...the messages would have been considered treason in my childhood. It was practically a peoples' coronation - Diana was given her HRH back; the Queen was publicly castigated for her stoicism on the railings of palaces and Prince Charles was asked to abdicate in favour of William - on the understanding that he would take after his mother!". Szczelkun argues that here is an example for developing a shared and participatory culture, rather than one which is determined for us, but while illustrating how the public innovated their own responses to Diana's death, it has to be recognised that Diana's position as an establishment figure meant that, despite her popularity for being the human face of a dried up archaicism, ultimately public feeling has been containable, quickly channelled into buying copies of *Candle in the Wind* (The Diana mix). Royalty may have to buck its ideas up, but remains pretty safe.

Furthering his argument Szczelkun's pamphlet on Kennington Park traces its emergence from common land to a place of execution, to a Victorian park (and now a threatened redevelopment as a reproduction Victorian park) against the history of the site as a rallying point for Methodists, Chartists and more recent protestors. Kennington Park saw the birth of the world's first national labour movement, but its significance remains unmarked.

Both pamphlets contribute to the continuing discussion about the kind of participatory cultural practice groups like the Federation are arguing for. The assertion of public claims upon parks and princesses asks "whose democracy? whose culture?". Who could stand in their way - but what else than Diana's sacrifice will it take to keep them running with the ball?

Nick Pollard

## Innocent Blood

**Innocent Blood, The Hexham Riot of 1761, by Keith Armstrong, Northern Voices, 10 . Greenhaugh Rd, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE25 9HF in association with Crowquill, PO Box 439, Belfast BT9 SLY, 22pp, £3.50, ISBN 1 871536 12 X**

Commemorating the 235th anniversary of the Hexham Riot, this unusual booklet uses contemporary accounts to tell the story of how 51 people died in a protest against the raising of a Northumberland Militia. 49 of the dead were civilians, whose voices are evoked for the pages of history by Keith Armstrong.

This interesting project challenges the poet to speak for people about whom little more than names and a few details of their deaths are known, but I felt most of the poems unsatisfactory in answering for the victims. "Hexham Tans" and "Ring Your Bells", which preface and endpiece the collection promise more than some of the other poems deliver. The difficulty is somewhat ethical; deciding whether to use more imagined material, or to respect and work closely with the documented history. I'd have gone for

## Another Page

**Life Turns Another Page, Fred Magan, Barney Publications, 106 Eton Avenue, Newark, Notts NG24 4JJ, £2.95, 34pp, ISBN 0 9529813 0 0**

Suffering from 'mad writers' disease', Fred Magan here offers examples of his 'folksy verse', in tributes to Martin Luther King, Kennedy and John Lennon, Tommy Cooper, Leonard Rossiter and Eric Morcambe are mixed with love songs and photographs of Fred's dogs. The dogs are, since they don't feature in the poems, something of a distraction.

Former stonemason Fred also turns his attention to nuclear waste, rampant monetarism, and the lottery. Gentle humour and gentle verse, occasionally a bit wobbly on the scansion.

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imagination over truth, if only to round out things a little more.

However, it's a good idea which other publishers and writers could emulate to revive the memory of forgotten and unknown workers' lives in local struggles.

## A Classy Pair of Knickers

**A Classy Pair of Knickers and other poignant pieces, London Voices, c/o FWWCP, PO Box 540, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, ST6 6DR, 134pp, £3.60 & 50p p&p, ISBN 0 950 9478 9 X**

35 London Voices, to be exact, in this eclectic but mainly poetic collection, amidst which is also buried a brief history of the Qarmates (an early egalitarian movement in Iraq) and several biographies.

This makes for an interesting and surprising collection which publishes and makes available things that might not otherwise see the light of day on the one hand, but on the other risks doing some of them a disservice. Against all the poetry it might be better to plan a special biographical edition of the regular London Voices publication, give the subjects more space to breathe a little more of their lives into. There would still be the appropriate poetic space for such as Dan Melchior's Auntie Dobbin, Ian Cameron's "Elsie Knott Lingers On a Little Longer", and Richard Bell's poems for his wife. Still, though bitty, some good poems, some good pictures, but a want of focus.

**Chas Trent**

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# Karibu:

## New Writing from Asylum-seekers and Volunteers

**Karibu. New Writing from Asylum-seekers and Volunteers at the Karibu Day Centre, Vauxhall (No3, March 1997) A4, 36pp, from The Karibu Centre, Vauxhall Methodist Mission, Worgan St, Vauxhall, London SE11**

This collection of writings features work by Asylumseekers from Tunisia, Algeria, Ecuador, Colombia, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, The Ukraine, Rwanda and Somalia. Some of the writers, like 'A', below, have already disappeared. The accounts they give are not only of the terrifying situations from which they have escaped, but also of the daily difficulties of being an asylum seeker in Britain - being totally destitute, without financial support, finding that the promises of residency permits given you by agents in your home country turn out to be worthless in the UK, and often having to go back. It's perhaps best for the writers of this collection to speak for it:

"...For 2-3 days I didn't eat anything. I used to get a seat in the park and just wait and wait. I hoped to hear someone speaking Albanian. It is a very ancient

language and very difficult.

By chance, the next morning, a young woman from Albania was walking in the park with her young children. She was fair-haired and very beautiful and three young children followed her. One of the children - 100 metres away - said in my language, "Did you take the bag?" I followed her and followed her. I was ashamed to present myself to her. When she was waiting at the bus stop I spoke to her in my language. I explained briefly and she told me, "You must go to the Home Office - it is a very safe, sure place.

But there was a tube strike, so I couldn't get there that day. A day later I caught the train to Croydon. When I got there I saw lots and lots of people waiting in a queue. I couldn't speak in English, not a word. There was no interpreter, but I could speak in Italian. It was Friday. After all their questions, and they took fingerprints - I thought, that's it; I must spend all day Saturday and Sunday on the streets.

I was so emotional, so stressed. I couldn't dial my home number. I missed my home so badly I couldn't dial. I couldn't face hearing my mother's voice. At last

I dialled. When I heard my mother's voice I cried and cried. I hung up because I couldn't speak to her. On top of the suffering and the journey I was unable to speak..." A.

### Running Life

My young life. I remember I know some people many years ago. I cannot see them again. the image of these people is still in my head because sometimes before sleep I remember what we were doing together. We were dreaming together of the future, our ambition to be stars of music, football players or motobike riders. The future we were dreaming is spoiled, broken. Now everything we were dreaming about is dead and impossible because I don't know if these people are still living or still running like me.

**Roberto**

# Why Not Become a Member of the FWWCP?

Membership is open to all writing groups and community publishers who believe that writing should be made more accessible. As a Member you become part of an international network of groups who work together, share skills, debate issues. You can take an active role in all aspects of our work, be a part of training networks, perform, join others in publishing projects.

There are three types of Membership - FULL MEMBERSHIP where your own members can become part of the decision making process; 1st CHAPTER Membership, for groups who wish to 'try us out' for a year; ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP for groups who cannot take an active role, such as groups abroad or prison based groups. For full details and forms either contact Tim Diggles on 01782 822327; or write to FWWCP, PO Box 540, Burslem, Stoke on Trent ST6 6DR; or email us on [fwwcp@mcmail.com](mailto:fwwcp@mcmail.com); or look up our Website <http://www.fwwcp.mcmail.com> We look forward to hearing from you.

## Say "FED" in style!

Federation T shirts, (in black and red on white, XL size fits all), price £7.50 each inc. p&p, and FED badges (white enamel shaped design on nickel chrome), price £2 inc. p&p are available from -

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# Subscribe Today to Federation Magazine

As a Subscriber you become a valued part of the Fed. Not only do you receive the magazine but you get Member rates for The Festival of Writing and Training, which can mean up to a £140 saving! You will receive the Fed Broadsheet and have your writing considered for publication in it. You will receive details of all events and publishing opportunities. Subscription is just £7 for 1 year and £ 13 for 2 years.

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# Events and Information

For the latest and updated information look at our new Internet site - <http://www.fwwcp.mcmail.com>

## New Fed Members

Yorkshire Art Circus a community writing, arts, publishing and training organisation from Castleford, have become Full Members subject to ratification at the AGM. Exposure Magazine a youth arts magazine from Haringey in London have become First Chapter Members.

## 1998 Festival of Writing

The 1998 Festival will take place at Bretton Hall College near Wakefield between April 17 and 19. There will be workshops, performances and debates. The final costs are still being set. For an information leaflet as soon as it is ready ring or fax 01782 822327 or E-mail [fwwcp@mcmail.com](mailto:fwwcp@mcmail.com). Remember the Festival is open to ALL not just the membership.

## Lottery Success

As well as the £117,000 the FWWCP have been awarded, our members have had considerable success in gaining Lottery Funds. Pecket Well College received £396,000, Gatehouse Books £110,000, Survivors' Poetry £379,000. Well done and to all our members who received funds large and small. It's hard work but well worth the efforts.

## Poetry Competitions and Magazines

There are now so many poetry competitions and magazines that it is impossible to list them here. The Poetry Library have very good listings sheets that are regularly updated. You can either pick copies up or get them sent to you, send a large S.A.E. to:

The Poetry Library, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 8XX

## VAN Training

The Voluntary Arts Network are running two weekends of top quality arts management training. The first will be at The Cooperative College near Loughborough November 22 and 23, and the second at Debden House near London March 21 and 22 1998. The cost for full board is a remarkable £35 due to generous funding. This is open to all Fed members. For full information phone Lydia Bassett at VAN on 01222 395395.

## Raymond Williams Prize

Congratulations to QueenSpark Books for being short-listed for their book "Catching Stories". The winner was "Portobello, its People, its Past, its Present" from the Kensington and Chelsea Community History Group. For details about the Raymond Williams Prize, contact The Arts Council of England Literature Department on 0171 973 6442

## Fed Dates

**Federation Magazine and Federation Broadsheet** - next deadline 28 November, send contributions if possible on disk to FWWCP, Box 540, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DR, or by e-mail on [fwwcp@mcmail.com](mailto:fwwcp@mcmail.com).

**Executive Committee Meetings** - in Liverpool on November 22, in London on January 17. Phone 01782 822327 for details of venues.

Federation Magazine is published quarterly by The Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers, the views and opinions expressed in Federation Magazine are not necessarily those of the organisation. Copyright of all articles remains with the authors. To contact the editor write to The FWWCP, Box 540, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6DX or e-mail [fwwcp@mcmail.com](mailto:fwwcp@mcmail.com)