

# NEWSLETTER

## April - June

### 2013

### Issue 21

## WELCOME

This is the twenty-first Newsletter of Grass Roots Open Writers (GROW).

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

All the GROW groups are very informal and relaxed. We are always happy to welcome new members and visitors to our workshops, events and outings.

All venues have wheelchair ramps and an accessible toilet.

We try to be aware of all our members' needs and to cater for them as far as possible. If you have any special needs, or if there is anything we can do to make it easier for you to attend our groups, please let us know.

We ask for Voluntary Contributions and suggest £1 per workshop to help cover our printing costs, the material we use and refreshments.

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## 1. COMMITTEE NEWS

The 22nd GROW Executive Committee Meeting was held on Wednesday 27th March 2013 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

At this meeting Mark Crittenden told us he had produced a film 'What It's Like in My Bubble' for World Autism Awareness Day. Mark's film can be viewed through the success page of the GROW website.

<http://grow.btck.co.uk/Success>

We also discussed several new possibilities for our Summer Outings (*See Item 3 – Planned Events*) and agreed the submission deadline dates for our 2013 anthology and 2014 calendar. (*See Item 2 - Progress Reports*)

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting – GROW couldn't run without you!

The next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30 – 12.00 in the Roosevelt Court Lounge.

All GROW members are welcome to attend our meetings and we encourage everyone to get involved in the planning and decision making.

Please do come along, if you can, and share your ideas and suggestions with us.



## **2. PROGRESS REPORTS**

### ***Monday Group***

Jan Hedger has started a new writing and art group in Bexhill.

The group is meeting fortnightly in the Roebuck Room of the Beulah Baptist Church.

The next meetings will be on Mondays 22nd April, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 from 10.30 – 12.30.

Bexhill GROW has its own pages on the GROW website and its own FaceBook.

### ***Wednesday Group***

The Wednesday group has a variety of arts and social activities planned. For the past few weeks we have been learning how to knit on round and long looms and our members have made scarves and beanie hats.

Many of our members are supporting the Horizons Community Cafe in the Four Courts Community Centre, which sells snacks, drinks and light lunches until 3pm. (They extended their open times to accommodate us.)

### ***Thursday Group***

This new Creative Writing Group is replacing the former Tuesday Group.

It will meet every Thursday from 10.00 – 12.00 in the Bevin Court Lounge, starting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (except during school holidays.)

### ***Bevin Court Breakfast Club.***

This meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month from 08.30 to 11.00. GROW members are welcome to have breakfast (£2.50 for small or £4 for

large) but they will have to book and pay in advance.

### ***Valentines Party***

GROW and the Roebuck Centre held a joint party to celebrate friendship on Valentines Day.

We made lots of valentines themed decorations in the Wednesday Group, Mark Crittenden hung them all round the Roebuck Centre and they looked really beautiful.

We also used the Roebuck Centre's new Karaoke machine and this was very much enjoyed by the party-goers.

### ***Publications***

#### ***GROW Anthology***

The 2013 GROW anthology (Book and dvd set) is going to be themed on 'Cosmic'. (space, stars & planets etc.) The title has yet to be decided.

The submissions deadlines are Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October for cover designs and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October for writing.

#### ***GROW Calendar***

The 2014 GROW Calendar is going to be themed on 'The Environment'

The submissions deadline is Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

## **3. PLANNED EVENTS**

### ***Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary***

We are now meeting every Sunday from 14.00 – 17.00 in the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary (weather permitting.)

There is an open-air cafe where you can buy hot and cold drinks, home-made cakes and snacks. There is also

a small shop where you can buy (or donate) second hand books, dvds, jewellery, clothing, pet supplies, ornaments and bric-a-brac.

Please phone or text 07932 231491 if you need - or can offer - a lift.

### ***Lunch at the Hollington Oak***

*We will be meeting up at the Hollington Oak for lunch on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00. Everyone is welcome. Please call or text 07932 231491 if you need - or can offer - a lift.*

### ***GROW Beach Parties***

We have decided to have two beach parties this year, one in June and one August.

We will meet in our usual place which is on the last beach at the west end of the Bexhill promenade (directly opposite Richmond Road.)

Friends and family, children and dogs are all welcome. We'll be ordering pizza for everyone who wants to chip in for it – or you can bring your own picnic if you prefer.

We have not set dates as they do not require much advance planning so we will just wait for a nice hot sunny day and go.

### ***Summer Outings***

We are waiting for the weather to improve before setting a date for our summer outings.

Suggestions include Michelham Priory, Bodiam Steam Trains, Scotney Castley, Bewl Bridge Reservoir, Angling Club (meal), Bexhill Museum, Hastings Museum, Fish Farm, and the De La Warr Pavilion. The final decisions will be made at the next committee meeting

(26<sup>th</sup> June) so if you have any other suggestions please do come along and share them with us.

## **4. GROW MEMBERSHIP**

GROW membership costs £5 per year, and became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 (valid until the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.)

All GROW members are entitled to set up a member's profile on the GROW website, if they wish. Some of our members have included links to their own websites, video recordings and personal biographies as part of their profiles.

## **5. CONTACT GROW**

The GROW website address is:

[www.grow.btck.co.uk](http://www.grow.btck.co.uk)

The GROW GroupSpace address is:

[www.groupspaces.com/GROW](http://www.groupspaces.com/GROW)

Email Address:

[grass.roots.open.writers@gmail.com](mailto:grass.roots.open.writers@gmail.com)

Phone / Text: 07932 231491

## **6. SURVIVORS POETRY**

GROW is a member of the Survivors Poetry Network (for survivors of mental distress.)

Their magazine 'Poetry Express' can be downloaded from their website:

<http://www.survivorspoetry.org>

## **7. TheFED NEWS**

TheFED website :

<http://www.thefed.btck.co.uk/>

### ***Writing Festival (London)***

This will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It is a great opportunity for GROW members to

meet people from other writing groups and take part in a wide range of workshops.

GROW is planning to hire a coach and driver to enable our members to attend this event. We will be applying to a local charity for a grant to help with the cost.

TheFED is looking for volunteers to lead a ninety minute workshop at the festival and is hoping to encourage more people to attend this years event. Help with publicising, organising and promoting the event would also be appreciated.

### **Writing Challenges**

The next three Writing Challenges are:

April – 'Before I Die'

May – 'Angels & Demons'

June – 'Identity'

Writing can be factual, fictional, poetry or a short story and in any form or style. All entries will be displayed on TheFED website and may also be featured in future publications and anthologies of TheFED.

TheFED is also looking for suggestions for future writing challenges. Ideally these should be open to various interpretations to allow for a wide variety of entries and writing styles.

### **Coleford Festival of Words**

Coleford Festival of Words runs from 1st to the 6<sup>th</sup> July in the Forest of Dean.

All members of TheFED have been invited to offer to run a workshop on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Please send an email to Roger Drury [roger@coalway.f9.co.uk](mailto:roger@coalway.f9.co.uk) for information.

## **8. THANKS TO...**

GROW would like to thank:

- The residents of Roosevelt Court.
- The residents of Bevin Court
- Pamela Brayford
- The staff at the Roebuck Centre.
- Beulah Baptist Church
- Jan Hedger
- Josie Lawson
- The Four Courts Community Cafe
- The GROW Executive Committee and all the GROW members.

## **9. GROW DATES**

**\*29<sup>th</sup> March - 14<sup>th</sup> April**

*- Easter Holiday*

**10<sup>th</sup> April (12.00 – 14.00)**

*- Lunch at the Hollington Oak Pub.*

**12<sup>th</sup> April (10.00 – 12.00)**

*- Coffee Morning / GROW Introduction*

**18<sup>th</sup> April (10.00 – 12.00)**

*- NEW Thursday Writing Group Begins*

**\*25<sup>th</sup> May - 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

*- Half Term Holiday*

**26<sup>th</sup> June (10.30 – 12.00)**

*- Executive Committee Meeting*

**1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July**

*- Coleford Festival of Words*

**\*27<sup>th</sup> July - 8<sup>th</sup> September**

*- Summer Holiday*

**25<sup>th</sup> September (10.30 – 12.00)**

*- Executive Committee Meeting*

**16<sup>th</sup> November**

*- TheFED Festival*

**\*No GROW Groups**