



## Interchange @ the Priestley

Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network) meets every Tuesday from 8pm at the Priestley Centre for Arts (formerly the Bradford Playhouse).

The sessions are informal and provide a sounding board for members' work, as well as constructive criticism and feedback should this be required.

Support, encouragement and words are at the forefront of the group's activities, and all kinds of writing is welcomed: poetry, short and long fiction, plays, memoirs, articles and songs.

### This issue...

Prison writers, poetry by Ann Morgan and Arif Khan, Priestley Arts weekend, news, views and events.

# End of the Melborn -- birth of Orpheus

*A new monthly performance venue has been launched to replace the old Melborn event. Mark Cantrell reports*

**The Melborn performance event is dead -- long live the Melborn performance event.**

Though the monthly Interchange @ the Melborn was closed at the end of March, Karl Dallas has stepped into the breach to launch Orpheus.

The venue, dates and times remain the same (8.30pm start on the last Wednesday of

every month at the Melborn on White Abbey Road), but the event is significantly different from anything that has gone before.

Starting with the very first Orpheus on April 24th, headline performers from across the country and the county are to be booked to give us their song or verse.

Bingley poet Alan Whitaker is the first guest star and the supporting act will be Joe Stead.

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## One Year On

**TYKE Writer, the monthly newsletter of the Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network) is one year old this month.**

In the time since it was launched, these pages have sought to track and record the activities of both the group and its members, as well as persuade other writers to join the

fold. Members have also gained the chance to see their work in print.

Previous issues have seen poems by Howard Frost, David Riley, Kissemmee Daniel, Miranda Rook, Joe Ogden, Thom the World Poet, Patrick Blues, Chris J Adams, and of course, the editor of this esteemed publication.

The pages are always open to members' work — be it poetry or prose. So keep scribbling..

# Writing on the prison wall

*Mark Cantrell talks to Ruth Malkin about her new job as a 'prison writer'...*

**INMATES at Leeds Prison, formerly Armley, are to be given the chance to express their creative side with the appointment of the prison's first writer in residence.**

Fortunately, for Ruth Malkin, who started this month, the job does not mean that she must literally take up residence at the Category B institution.

She will be expected to work with prisoners to develop a prison magazine, hold workshops during the day, and work closely with the institution's drama group and education department to develop the inmate's self-expression through creative writing.

"I'll work with the prisoners on what is

performance poetry, get them to practice their performance and then hopefully get them 'slamming' with people from outside," Ruth says. A 'slam' is a kind of poetry competition.

Her appointment has followed the success of writers in residence at other institutions. These are run under the auspices of the Prison Writers' Network. Though linked to this successful initiative, Ruth's appointment and the scheme at Leeds is run by Leeds Arts Arena.

"For the prisoners it's another level of activity," she adds. There is also the notion of rehabilitation in the establishment of the scheme.

"It's about creative thinking. When some-

one has been told their thinking is wrong, and it's so wrong that they have been locked up for it, then any way of encouraging them to think differently is useful.

"Perhaps some people are inside because they have difficulty managing their anger. With a pen and a piece of paper, they'll be able to manage their anger in a different kind of way.

"It won't mean that miraculously nobody re-offends again, but to just change the attitudes and outlook of one or two people will be an outstanding success — especially considering the costs involved in keeping them locked up. If I can keep one person out of prison for one year, then I will have paid for myself. But it's not just about money, of course, it's also about quality of life."

The job is expected to last for a year, and follows a successful stint working in disability arts in Leeds and, of course, her long association with Interchange.

"It's a wonderful opportunity," Ruth adds. "I feel absolutely thrilled at every aspect of the job. I feel incredibly privileged about being given this opportunity.

"I feel that as a person, as a writer, I am ready for this. It's what I have been working towards all my life."

## Change of venue

**BRADFORD Poetry Workshop (BPW) has changed its venue and meeting times.**

The group now meets at the Beehive on Westgate and is to work in collaboration with the Beehive Poets.

The first such meeting of BPW will take place on 22nd April at 8.30pm and then on the fourth Monday of each month.

The group works to provide constructive criticism of work.

For more information about BPW contact either Clare Chapman (01274 575993) or Bruce Barnes (01274 223665).

## Sleepless in poetry

*TYKE Writer* editor Mark Cantrell published his second collection of poetry last month. *Deus Ex Insomnia* contains thirty of his poetic scribbles written during 2001 and 2002. The A5 sized booklet costs £4 and is available from the author. The publication follows the launch of his first collection last year, *Confessions Of A Poetry Virgin*.

## The Chase

For months,  
the Grim Reaper he did chase,  
'til at last,  
he could no more.  
With no  
strength or will  
he lay to rest  
and the Grim Reaper did come ashore.

**Ann Morgan**

## Orpheus born

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Alan's *Snow in June* Collection was published by Redbeck Press and was a best-seller.

The May event will feature Cream rock lyricist Pete Brown, with Rahel Guzellian as the supporting act.

Though Orpheus is not an 'open mic' event, it will feature four spots each night

for local poets and singer-songwriters.

These slots will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Entry on the door will cost £4 or £2 concessions, another difference to the old Melborn event.

This was ended after a period of declining audiences triggered the need for a rethink. That a significant audience exists

for such venues was shown by the earlier Dialogue Through poetry event organised by Lynette Shaw McKone, who had also hosted the Melborn since Ruth Malkin vacated the MC slot in the summer last year.

Karl's notion in creating and launching this new event is that headline acts will pull in people, thereby creating bigger audiences for the local talent to

display their work.

Orpheus will also provide material for another new venture -- Radio Orpheus.

Recordings of the evening will be piped through the Internet, and made available to a potentially global audience through Internet radio.

It will go 'live' after the April event and can be found at <http://live365.com/stations/292543>.

## Weekend Arts

**I**NTERCHANGE members are to take part in a weekend extravaganza of arts intended to promote the Priestley Centre for Arts next month.

The Priestley Arts Weekend runs on the 3rd and 4th of May, and will feature comedy, drama, workshops, music, dance and poetry. Howard Frost, Patrick Blues, Karl Dallas and Carol Solorz has (at the time of writing) stepped forward to add Interchange's voice to the event.

Students on the Electronic Imaging and Media Communications course at the University of Bradford organised the weekend as part of their course, but they chose the

Priestley to showcase its activities and raise the Little-Germany based theatre's profile.

"The event is a response to the major financial difficulties experience by the Priestley during 2001 that cast doubt on the future of this multipurpose, historic arts venue," said Rob Birchall, one of the students.

"The Priestley Centre for Arts is an essential element for a richer cultural and community landscape in Bradford," he added.

The five students set up NewView to promote, organise, and raise funds for the weekend.

Tickets cost between £3 and £10, covering concessions, full weekend, or day.

## Mistrust

Mistrust is trust I missed when it was being handed out

I missed trust and trust missed me

It was misplaced, without a trace and remains a mystery.

I say trust, trust, in-the-bush-down-on-your-knees-with-the-birds-and-the-bees

I said trust, trust in-the-bush.

Mistrust can drive you insane, as though you are playing a game

that has no name, but nonetheless, has an impact upon your brain.

But do not strain, nor refrain, for trust can be learnt in time again.

Mistrust is a disease that leaves you ill at-ease wondering just who exactly you should appease.

Trust got lost somewhere along the way it probably got lost on a hot sunny day.

**Arif Khan**

## Brief bits...

**HORSHAM's Muse & Music Society is running its second competition for dramatists, creative writers, actors and poets.**

Entrants must write or write and perform a monologue or duologue.

Prizes range from £200 to £50. The closing date is 31 August.

For more information call Gwyn Redgers (0208 5431748 or email: gwyn@answergroup.co.uk.

**GLOBAL Village Idiot is a new website**

**dedicated to satire. The site wants writers who want to make their mark, though it cannot afford to pay.**

The site is at: <http://www.globalvillageidiot.co.uk>. Email the editor Jules at the above address for more information.

A short touch of fiction...

# And God Said Unto Them

“**YOU idiots! You’ve made a right fu—**”

“Don’t swear, Oh Master-Chef of the Cosmic Cake!”

God looked at Gabriel livid. He could feel his veins throbbing. “Don’t you tell me when I can and can’t *fucking* swear! I made the rules, so I’ll bloody break ‘em if I want.”

Gabriel looked down at his feet and mumbled something. It better be apologetic, God thought. Then he added with a snarl: “What do you think this is? A fucking democracy?”

A chorus. “No, Sir.”

It did nothing for his mood. The Angelic host huddled together like a bunch of naughty children. Eyes down cast. Feet shuffling. The fear they radiated would save an Antarctic expedition

from exposure. They clearly remembered Satan. Don’t mess with the Boss, ‘cos the Boss’ll mess you, he thought.

“How could you be so bloody stupid?”

They said nothing. Just shuffled a bit more. When he made the Angels, he really should have given them a bit more backbone.

“Honestly, I go away for three million years to tidy up all that dark matter...”

“We’re sorry your Eminence. It was a rush job, and the paperwork wasn’t clearly written. It was an honest mistake.”

“But look at the *bloody* mess down there! It’s worse than the *bloody* dinosaurs!”

Gabriel looked away, and shuffled behind the other Angels. Clearly he’d decided to stand down

as spokesman. God suppressed a curse. This one might have had serious repercussions for the fabric of reality. Instead he irritably fiddled with the pencil stub behind his ears, and then placed his hands in the pockets of his overalls. Otherwise, he might seriously smite the sniveling host in front of him.

“I suppose it’s my own fault,” he added. “That’s what you get when you leave a bunch of Angels in charge. You were built to be sycophants — not cosmological engineers...”

“We’re sorry of masterful one!”

“I just don’t see how even you lot can be that stupid as to put a soul in the wrong thing! The Cockroach was supposed to be in charge. I built Humanity as the comic touch!”

**Mark Cantrell**

**T**he *Tyke Writer* is the monthly newsletter of the Interchange (Bradford Writers’ Network).

For further details of the group, or to get involved, come down to the Priestley Centre for Arts, Chapel Street, Little Germany, Bradford.

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All contributions must bear the author’s name, which may appear as a byline. Contributions are also preferably received in type written form.

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