



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.

Inside this issue...

Sundoves and bumblebees, poetry and prose, slamming and more

Poetic dissent in the name of peace

Poets4Peace launched its anthology of peace poetry at the library. Mark Cantrell reports



Seema Gill and Richard Heley

WHEN the dogs of war are clamouring for blood, the dove's cry for peace is a subversive statement, but it is also a cry for humanity in an inhumane world.

Such a dissident cry was heard on Thursday, when Bradford Central Library played host to the launch of the Poets4 Peace anthology *Sundoves, Bumblebees and Blue Streak Bananas*. The book is a collection of peace poetry, and was

produced as a reaction to the attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11 last year.

"It was so terrifying," said Seema Gill. I thought it was Third World War. Something had to be done."

So, Seema got together with Bradford poets Bruce Barnes and Lynette Shaw McKone as well as London-based performance poet Richard Heley to one small but important gesture in defiance of the warmongers.

The dissidents of peace collected within the book came from a diverse range of backgrounds, but their combined voice was as profound and as powerful as it was varied. The poets and the audience came from a wide range of backgrounds, but they were united in their view that peace not war is the thing.

It may surprise them, but even the simple act of listening to this chorus of peace was a dissident and subversive act.

Richard Heley compared the event, which was held at the Platform in the library. He introduced the acts, all of which had contributed to the book. Each performer was powerful and compelling, their words evocative and thought provoking. Most startling, for me, was Nick Toczek, who read some hard hitting but informative poems.

As a journalist, it feels especially tragic that poets have stepped into the vacuum left by journalism

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Dissent in the name of peace

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to inform, educate and entertain. But this has long been a role of poets, since before ever a newspaper was printed, or journalists began to preen themselves with their self-serving ideology of 'neutrality and unbiased', which tends only to nod in the direction of the rich and powerful. Truth is partisan, and this is something long known by poets.

In all, the night proved a successful and poignant launch of this collection of dissenting voices: one among many throughout the world. For those dismayed by the prospects of war, it is one glimmer of hope — that there are people prepared to listen to the dove not the dog..

Sundoves, Bumblebees & Blue Streak Bananas (ISBN 0 9535626 0 3) costs £6.99 (Cheques payable to 'Poets4Peace' (add 65p for P+P)). Freyja Press, PO Box 33082, London, W9 3WA.



New ezine just the ticket

SUBMISSIONS are wanted for a new literary ezine to be launched in October by online writers' group Ticket2Write, writes Mark Cantrell.

The first edition will be launched on the 1st October this year, and thereafter will run with a quarterly schedule.

The deadline for initial submissions is the 1st September. The zine is called Ticket2Write and guidelines can be found at: <http://www.ticket2write.com>.

"This is an exciting opportunity for some talented writers, poets, artists and photographers to be published

online and be seen by a world wide readership," says group moderator Susan Donahue. "Our vision is to be visually exciting and offer readers a virtual banquet of stories, poetry, articles, opinions in a format which can be accessed anywhere. We shall strive for

high quality and originality, so if you share our vision and if you want to write for us we would love to hear from you."

Contact the editors at: t2writer@yahoo.com.

Check out the group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ticket2write>.

The Rights and Ethics of Chicken Biryani.

CHICKEN Biryani, an hitherto unknown phenomena of human history. A significant source of nourishment for human kind.

A scientific anomaly that baffles science's greatest brains. Devoured in copious quantities in both East and West.

A metaphysical manifestation of the highest form of Karma, on your dish, in your restaurant or in your dining room. All praise to Chicken Biryani!

Arif Khan

Brief bits...

THIS month's Orpheus will feature a night of readings and song dedicated (and taken from) the works of Woodie Guthrie.

It will follow the poetry slam organised to find the Bradford team for the Bristol competition in August (see next page).

INTERCHANGE veteran Karl Dallas returned from his visit to Palestine, with the sounds of conflict still ringing in his ears.

He discusses his adventures in Nablus at St Paul's Church, Manningham, 21st August @ 7.30pm.

He might even read some of his work!

Slam hard for Bradford

Bruce Barnes explains about the forthcoming head to head against poets...

AS part of the Bristol Poetry Festival, in October there will be a poetry slam involving teams of two from the U.K cities vying to be European Capital of Culture in 2008.

Bradford is running a contest to select the Bradford team; the event takes place at Orpheus, the Melborn, White Abbey Rd, Bradford on Wednesday 28/8/02 at 8.30p.m.

The rules for the Bradford heat are in part modelled on those of the Bristol event and are as follows:

All contestants must be available for the City of Culture Slam in Bristol on 5/10/02, and be willing to be involved in Bradford publicity prior to the event.

(Travel grants and accommodation will be provided by the Bristol organisers.)

Contestants must make

themselves known to the door staff at the Melborn by 8.00pm on 28/8/02

Each contestant to perform their own poem about Bradford to last 2 and a half minutes.

Each contestant to perform another poem of their own on any theme lasting three minutes.

No props are to be used.

Judging will take place after each poem and will be based on quality of writing, quality of performance and audience reaction. Judges will score 1-10 and points will be deducted for reading overtime.

Heats will be arranged according to the numbers taking part, with the winner and runner up going on to the City of Culture Slam in Bristol.

The competition in Bristol will feature prizes of £150 for the winning team and £100 for the best individual performer.

Writing Boys

Watch out!
The scribes
Are on the piss.
From pub to club
They stagger,
Belching out the
Verse.
Don't get close
Or you'll hear 'em shout:
"You looking at my word?"
No simile is safe.
No cliché too sour.
No grammar too crude
For these wide boys
Of prose.
Pint after pint
Of muse juice they down
Until the words begin
To slur.
No problem,
For these boys,
Their chat up lines
Are worse.
After the club,
The curry,
And our scribes
Are worse for wear.
By now their words
Are slurry
But they don't seem to care.
No menu is safe
From their critical
Tongue-lash blade,
As their superior air consumes
Poppadoms & bhajies,
Meat curry and sauce.
Then taxi home,
The night now done,
They stagger to bed.
And in the morning,
Headache in hand,
They find the
Inspiration they sought,
As the verbal diarrhoea
Flows.

Mark Cantrell

Cock in bottle? No thanks it'll ruin the beer

THERE'S always one, as Interchange discovered last month when the Priestley closed for Summer.

As an alternative, the group tried the Cock & Bottle, but discovered it was far from amenable to literary delights.

One patron sent a note through the door, of such wit and sophistication that Oscar

Wilde has cancelled his planned comeback tour:

'Poetry -- keep masturbating', the local wit advised.

Interchange will leave that to the penless wonder who scrawled the note, but was he in fact trying to tell us why the pub is so named? Hmm, thought the beer tasted funny...

Make love and win

LOVE might hurt, but it could certainly pay for a handful of lucky entrants to a national competition for love poetry. So stop whispering sweet nothings and get them written down.

Winning entries to the 9th open competition for love poems will be published in *How Do I Love Thee?* magazine. Final judging will be carried out by Ruth Padel.

Closing date for entries is 28th September 2002 and each submitted poem must be accompanied by £3 entry fee. Prizes range from £500 for the first prize, £100 for second prize, £50 for third and fourth and there will be a further 20 special commendations earning a £10 book token. All of the prize winners and commended entries will be published in the magazine.

Entries should be sent to: *How Do I Love Thee?* magazine, Poetry Life Publishing, No 1 Blue Ball Corner, Water lane, Winchester,



Hampshire, SO23 0ER. Cheques should be made payable to 'Poetry Life'. Back issues of the magazine are available from this address (price £3).

Mark Cantrell

The *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.

Or contact:

Email: interchange@brad.communigate.co.uk

Web: <http://www.communigate.co.uk/brad/interchange>

Editorial contributions are welcome, but will be edited for space and style.

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

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network).

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Conditions of entry

1. Entry fee of £3 for each poem.
2. Poems must be the original work of the entrant
3. Poems must not have been previously published in a book, or been a prize winner in a competition (publication in magazines or journals are acceptable).
4. Entries are judged anonymously and should not be by lined. A separate A4 sheet should be included with name and address and a list of poem titles and first lines.
5. Poems are regarded as copies and cannot be returned. So don't send originals.
6. Copyright remains with the author
7. No one may win more than one prize per competition.
8. You can make as many entries as you wish, in any style up to 80 lines.

Deaf!

A word like a bird
Escaped from
That last formation
That sentence
Making nonsense
Of the sense
You gave me
Give it to me again
Entire and louder.

Gloria Dallas