

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...

**Slam winners,
PIPF, fiction
wanted, news,
views and events**

The heat is on

Two poets won the chance to represent Bradford in a national slam competition last month. Mark Cantrell reports

LAST month's Orpheus saw the selection of Bradford's team for the forthcoming City of Culture Poetry slam to be held in Bristol this October.

Local poets — and newcomers to the Interchange scene — Trish Dillon and Kevin Flaherty won the first and second prizes respectively and so will represent Bradford.

They will face a tough challenge, according to event organiser Bruce Barnes. "Other cities have much more of a tradition of slam, but I am hoping they will do reasonably well in Bristol."

This was the first slam — or competition — that Bruce has organised. It has been something of an ambition of his to organise one here in Bradford. "It went exceptionally well, being the first slam I have ever organised," he added. "I saw one put on in New York earlier this year. We had a nice blend of poetry and the two people that won

certainly deserve it. The poems about Bradford were lively and they picked up the character of the city."

Five poets, mostly newcomers went head to head to win the prizes of £150 travel expenses and £100 prize money. A packed audience at the Melborn (the biggest Interchange has seen for some time) were dazzled by some hard hitting and powerful poems.

Competing was tough for the five entrants. The rules were simple: a poem about Bradford no longer than two and

half minutes followed by a poem on any theme no longer than three minutes.

"Judging is about what's been said, how it's performed and how the audience respond," Bruce said. "The more noise the audience makes, the more points the performer gets."

It proved somewhat tough, and timekeeper Karl Dallas cut off more than one performer. Between slots, Bruce provided some dazzlingly weird and at times 'in yer face' comparing.

The two winners will go on to represent Bradford in the Bristol slam organised on 5th October. Teams from

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Toczek it out

BEST-selling poet Nick Toczek is this month's headline performer at Interchange's monthly Orpheus poetry and song event.

And if that isn't enough to blow your mind, next month Thom the World poet will be back in Bradford to hold the top slot to conclude his latest UK tour.

Hear Nick, Wednesday 25th September and Thom on October 30th at the Melborn on White Abbey Road, Bradford, from 8.30pm.

Floor spots will be available for local poets to tread the boards. Sign up at 8pm (first come, first served).

Thom's sky-high bus shelter

When **Bruce Barnes** dreams there's no telling where the words will end....

THE Bradford Metro bus shelter has at its base a bulging apron string of polyplastic in a yellow that mimics freshly sand blasted Yorkshire stone.

Above this is a hump of perspex bent towards the expectation of being a greenhouse or an observatory but the darkened roof disappoints.

Thom heads a queue. The people in it are featureless, patient souls, who are able to wait, the queue contracting and expanding

without the someone leaving in a huff or turning up in hope.

I know that I am one of the featureless people in the queue and this is utterly pleasurable. The phrase 'out of body experience' doesn't cut the mustard. To refer to the itchy, twitchy, house of sensations is to remain locked up inside it. I am talking about an absence of reflection, the void that's filled up with colour sight and sound parachuted in from an elsewhere. I'm in and out of the bus queue

as the living antithesis of self consciousness.

The case for a timetable is blank. Thom looks up at the bus stop sign that's fixed to a toothpick like post. There is a number to ring and I guess you wait in a queue; at the foot of the sign are the word 'in both directions' and I think Thom has treated this as a petty rule. He puts his hand out, as if he were at a request stop, and the bus shelter takes off.

I mean upwards, as opposed to the regulation horizontal, in stubborn contradiction to six trunks that should root the bus shelter to the pavement. Tarmac comes away with the yellow apron string. Thom's arm returns to his side and those waiting now can look up through a clear view roof, as the bus shelter overtakes clouds or turns into one. You wait ages for a dream and then one comes all at once.

Poetry slam winners

Continued from page 1

each city bidding to be culture capital in 2008 will be competing for a prize of £500 and the chance to add a notch to their home town's chances.

FOLLOWING the slam, Orpheus presented Karl Dallas's tribute to Woody Guthrie, which included a personal message from the American folk singer's son Arlo, and a world premiere of his recording of Do Re Mi.

"This has never before been heard outside the recording studio," Karl told the audience.

Interchange members read extracts of his work and musicians including Tim Moon and band play For Ale, along with Interchange's Carol Solorz, sang his songs. It was at times chaotic, the performers mostly being inexperienced at such performances, but the show came off a treat.

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Talking heads & hands

THE first Scribble workshop for disabled writers will take place at Leeds Central Library, The Headrow, Leeds on Saturday 5th October at 1.30 to 4pm., writes Ruth Malkin.

Ruth Collett, playwright, will run Talking Heads, Talking Hands. This is about dramatic

monologue/one person shows (like the Alan Bennett Talking Heads.)

Disabled/ Deaf people are welcome. Booking is essential, to make sure that everyone's access needs are met. Please book by e-mailing as soon as possible to: a-scribe @supanet.com.

Paddington's message of peace

THE third Paddington International Poetry Festival will feature the auction of a painting estimated to be worth £2,000 — and it doesn't even exist yet.

The painting will be produced by performance painter (and poet) Richard Heley as part of the festival, at which people will be invited to participate in its production. The proceeds of the sale will go to the poets who performed at the three-day event.

Richard Heley, the director of PIPF, established the event in 2000, with a view to showcasing local poets and songwriters. This year's event will run from the 4th to the 6th October and has a theme of peace.

"In the wake of September 11, this year's Paddington International Poetry Festival intends to show that poetry is a wonderful way of getting the world into constructive dialogue rather than conflict," said Richard. "The festival will provide three days of stunning performance, fun and entertainment with some top international spoken word artists, songwriters and with the audience invited to participate in a painting for peace."

This year, PIPF will

feature a group of five poets from Miami, Florida, famed for their collaborative work. Lip, Tongue and Ear will stage a 30-minute performance piece called *Catch A Fire*. The play deals with ordinary people coping with problems of drugs, poverty, infidelity and disease.

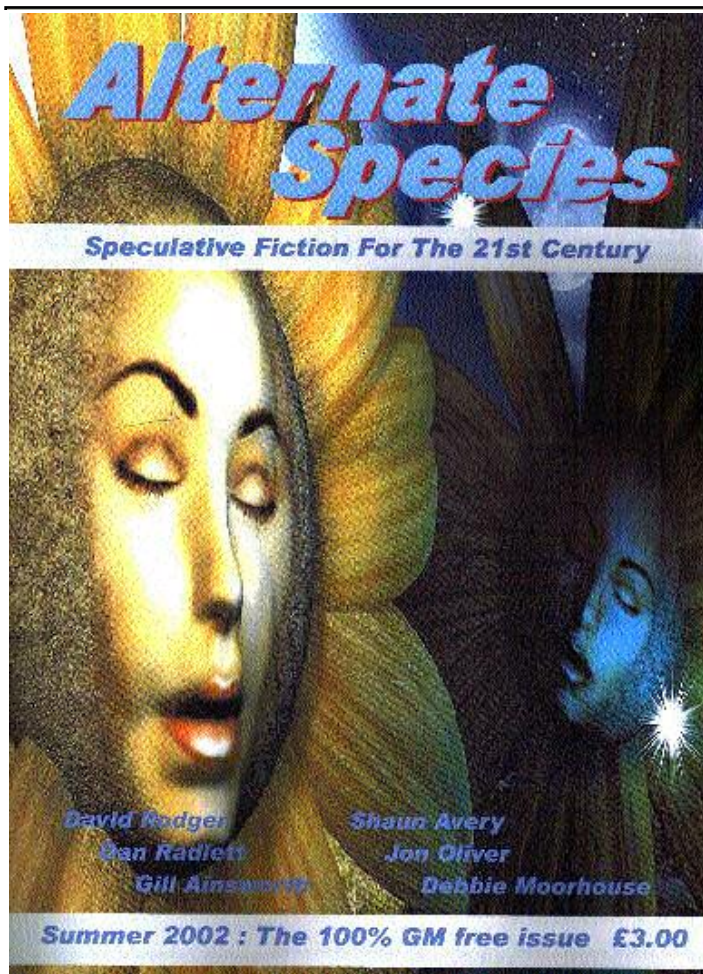
Poets will also be taking part in a poetry slam. Last year's winner Taalam Acey from the Nuyorican Café in New York, who will be back to flex his poetic muscles as the slam champion and showcase performer.

Other international voices include Maninder Suri, June Melby and Katie O'Loughlin from California, and Ajmer Rode from Canada. Local talent will include Agnes Meadows, Bola Animashaun, Freddy Macha, Richard Heley, Seema Gill, Richard Pereira, Rob Ward and Amarjit Chandan.

The venue is at Westbourne Studios, 242 Acklam Road, London, W10. The event is sponsored by 'New Life For Paddington'.

For further information on the event contact Richard Heley at richardheley@yahoo.co.uk.

Mark Cantrell



A new science fiction magazine is calling for submission for its second issue. *Alternative Species Print Magazine* (ASmag) is a quarterly print publication, which features horror, science fiction and fantasy. Submissions should be emailed as text only ASCII files to asmag@alternatespecies.com. The magazine's guidelines can be found at its website: <http://www.alternatespecies.com>.

Schism in fiction

SUBMISSIONS of short fiction are wanted for a new publication due to be launched in January next year.

Schism is based in Manchester, and will be sold in outlets in that city and by mail order. Fiction up to 5,000 words long is wanted for the inaugural issue.

"Although numerous outlets for fiction exist on the Internet, any writer will tell you this will always be the poorer brother to having your work in print. *Schism's* designers have been briefed to format the page design around the content of each story selected to give a vibrant, fresh and individual look to every contribution," according to the editor.

There are no restrictions on subject or style, with the exception of

hardcore erotica. The magazine is not interested in poetry submission either. All contributors will receive a copy of the magazine by post, and the editor claims that all submissions will receive feedback on their work regardless of whether it is selected for publication or not.

Currently, a copy of the magazine is the only payment authors will receive, but the editors plan to approach North West Arts for funding to provide a cash payment in future.

The deadline for the first (January 2003 issue) is the 31st October 2002. Submissions should be sent as a Word attachment to schism.magazine@ntlworld.com.

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>

Brew Me A Page

Brew me a poem
And make it fast.
Pour it in my ears;
That golden
Honey-tongued verse.
I'll ingest the words
And digest the
thoughts
And absorb it through
My brain.
Nutrition for the soul;
Those amber words,
Scintillating bright
Like energy to
Recharge my soul.

Mark Cantrell

Verse couldn't be better

KARL Dallas has given his electronic newsletter *Verse 'n Worse* over to Interchange as an additional means for members and other writers to communicate the muse.

Launched last October, he described it at the time as: "A list for poets and lyricists and also those who enjoy reading poetry."

Now, anyone who subscribes can post a message to fellow scribes simply by emailing versenworse@topica.com. Karl has only one request: 'no spamming per-lease'.

Subscription is free and is achieved by sending a blank email to versenworse-subscribe@topica.com. Subscribers don't have

to live in Bradford to register for the newsletter.

"Interchange has been undergoing something of a renaissance of late," Karl says. "Attendance at our monthly public events at the Melborn pub are going up and up. And we are attracting a new range of writers to our weekly Tuesday evening gatherings at the Priestley Centre for Arts."

Recently, group members took part in the Priestley's Heritage Day, reading poetry to visitors. The group is also planning a day school on performance technique at the Priestley. Details to come.

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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