



## Interchange Meets @...

Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network) meets every Tuesday from 8pm at the Irish Democratic League, Rebecca St, just behind the New Beehive, Westgate.

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...

Event listings,  
Joe's film hell,  
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events...

# Lit Awards Ab Fab

*The launch of Bradford Book Festival coincided with the Yeh, Write literary 'Oscars'. Mark Cantrell wandered in for a few free glasses of wine...*

**S**O, there I was mingling with the literati in the foyer of the Pictureville Cinema.

There was a glass of wine in one hand, a pen in the other which I twiddled with longing for a fag. Around me were writers, librarians, publishers and just generally those interested in literature. And me. Not a single journalism groupie anywhere.

I slumped in a seat, and wondered how a doctor of journalism would handle this story. I didn't know. I'm not a doctor of anything, just a plain hack out to fill some space on *Tyke Writer* and grab a few freebie glasses of wine in the process.

Sat pondering, that's when she walked in. Joanna.

Our glance met across the crowds. She, cool, filled with gravitas and sophistication. Me the epitome of suave literate sensibility. My glass in hand, sat back casual, as red-nosed soted as Rudolph after too many Xmas sherries.

Then she spoke: "Don't bother me you creep!"

No, not really.

"Phew! It's hot in here," is what she real-

ly said.

"Indeed, it is," I replied, every bit as suave as a denim clad John Steed but without the broly or the bowler.

Then I woke up. We were being ushered into the auditorium ready for the literary 'Oscars'. Four lucky young people were about to find out they'd won the prize of a laptop computer.

This was the awards ceremony for the Yeh, Write competition organised by Black Amber Books

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## New Venue

**INTERCHANGE has adopted a new home, at least on a temporary basis, at the Irish Democratic League.**

The club is located on Rebecca Street, behind the New Beehive on Westgate. The venue has a dedicated function room — including a stage — that the group will be using for its Tuesday workshops.

Start times, as always, will be 8pm for an 8.30pm kick off. And again, as always, the group welcomes writers of all kinds, be they poets, novelists, journalists, singer songwriters etc

**BACK ISSUES FROM: <http://www.tykewriter.supanet.com/tw/>**

# Mark's last Wednesday

*Tyke Writer editor Mark Cantrell was a headline guest at Orpheus. Report (below) and review by Joe Ogden (right)...*

**T**HERE'S a first time for everyone, and April's Orpheus was such a time for Tyke Writer editor Mark Cantrell, when he appeared as a headline guest beside veteran Little Brother.

Though he has been no stranger to public poetry performances in the past, this is the first time Mark was asked to be a featured performer.

"It was a particularly nerve-wracking occasion," Mark said.

"Normally I have performed my three poems and rushed back to the obscurity of the audience. By the time I have finished I am a trembling wreck. But on this occasion I had to gird my loins, brace my trembling knees and push on through the fear barrier.

"What surprised me is how I managed to relax into the performance and see the fifteen minutes through to the end. I enjoyed it, and performing like that is a great confidence boost."

Audience attendance was better than the previous month's event, although still following the trend of poor attendance that has blighted the event. Although no firm decision has yet been made, it is possible that April's Orpheus will be the last.

Should that occur however, it won't be saying goodnight with a whimper, as the end of May will feature 'Peace Aid' on the last Wednesday; an extravaganza of performance organised by Karl Dallas to raise funds for war-torn countries.

## Mark meets Muse

**"LIFE is something you live when planning something else."**

**John Lennon.**

But it's a different Lenin that inspires Mark Cantrell's poetry. (*Nobody told me that —Ed.*) Mark is having a good year, organiser of Love Poetry, Hate Racism, then Scribe's Slot on BCB 96.7FM radio and now his first professional engagement as a poet, at Orpheus.

Mark gave us a selection of 7 poems from his collected works of over 500 (and not all political either). Reading from his two poetry books *Confessions of a Poetry Virgin* and *Deus Ex Insomnia*.

His deliverance was clear with a wry sense

of wit from the life on the left. Maybe a little rushed; we need time to catch our breath, however his interactions with the audience is getting better. They listened.

The "Waiting for the Muse" poem worked for me. And the Muse must be working for him at the mo. One week a professional poet, he's mixing with Bradford's literati and meeting Joanna Lumley. Ah! but that's another story for the memoirs. Other than to say, she thought it was "...a hot night!"

Well done, Mark.

**Joe Ogden.**

Continued from page 1  
and Bradford 2008 back when the city was still a contender for the Capital of Culture bid.

The theme was One Landscape, Many Views.

Well, the bid was blown out of the water, but the competition awards coincided with the launch of the latest

Bradford Book Festival; and made for rather a snazzy start to the whole affair.

Introduced and compared with style by Joanna Lumley, the awards took us through the four categories: short story, poem, feature and radio/TV/play script.

Extracts of the 19 shortlisted entries weren't simply read

out on stage. Nope, the organisers had gone one better with a filmed presentation featuring young actors reading and 'acting' the extracts on screen.

Just like the Oscars, a guest presenter for each section then read out the winner.

The talent displayed was remarkable, and Joanna, along with guest presenters,

made an enthralling evening between the presentations. The enthusiasm for the written word was tangible in the air.

"It's an incredible achievement to be shortlisted," Joanna told the entrants. "I hope you all go on writing. Please go on writing!"

*Too write!*

# Joe phones mobile hell

*From group secretary to screen idol? Hardly, but Joe was funny in a student film called iMOBILEized. Mark Cantrell called in to see how he did...*

**F**OR those in the know, there's more to Joe Ogden than just the words (or the beer, for that matter). In fact, he's also been something of an amateur thespian at the Priestley, and now more recently in a student film production *iMOBILEized*, screened at the university.

Joe played the part of Terry, one of many 'inmates' in a fictional rehabilitation centre for the victims of severe mobile phone addiction. A middle-aged

businessman, with a penchant for black shirts and braces that make him look kind of Mafiosi, Terry is lost among the many sad people in the centre. In fact, the only time he stops looking lost is when he's talking to some imaginary friend on his imaginary mobile phone. Joe plays this part disturbingly well.

Around him, the other inmates all display symptoms related to phone culture; from the gobby Katie (played by Helen Kennedy), through to James (Daniel Kent) who suffers SMS-addiction so bad he's lost the power of speech, to the poor sod who shakes and shudders like a vibrating phone (Steve Yeo). And then there's Rob (played by Kieran Banks), the guy who has memorised over 200 tones.

Not the kind of people you'd want to get stuck with at the pub. Together, they are the bane of centre manager Alexander Bell (Christopher Barlow) and it is funny to watch them slowly drive this character out of his sanity.

The film was made by *the Productionists*, a team of students on their final year of a

Media, Technical & Production course at Bradford University. The team had to produce it as a part of the course, so in that sense it is a glorified visual essay. If only all such academic exercises could be this entertaining.

Production and editing was carried out by Gayani Wanigaratne, who also came up with the concept, and the script was written by Ken Flat. Other team members included Laura Hornsby, Edward Mawson and Engin Kayali.

Although a fictional documentary (or 'mockumentary'), the subject matter takes a dig at the all too real dependency and obsession we all seem to have for mobile phones. And as we laugh at these pitiful techno-junkies, perhaps we should all take a long hard look at ourselves and each other just to see how bad we've all been hooked.

Styled as the first 30-minute episode in a 'fly-on-the-wall' series, the film was cleverly written and presented on the screen. The acting and dialogue was first rate, and there was many a humorous moment in the film, which is both a credit to the actors themselves and the scriptwriter. However, it is difficult to say if the concept could be stretched across an

entire series without wearing thin.

According to Gayani, footage for *iMOBILEized* was filmed with Mini-DV cameras, the same as used by professional broadcasters for this kind of handheld/ fly-on-the-wall material. Even so, the playback seemed to lack the quality you'd expect on the TV, sounding a little tinny at times and appearing washed out and thin. Most likely this was a result of the video projection equipment used at the showing, which took place in a lecture room in the Richmond Building. Hardly an ideal place for a film viewing.

This is not to detract from the obvious skills of the production staff. As a demonstration of their abilities with sound, camera and editing equipment it was top-notch. But it was more than a technical demonstration for academia and beyond, it also told an amusing tale. You couldn't wish for more: a funny script, brought to life by good acting, and put together in a neat package by the technical crew. If only all student films were like this.

*iMOBILEized* is a credit to all involved, and it's just a shame more of us couldn't be there to laugh at Interchange's resident phone nut.

*Put it down, Joe!*

## Bradford Book Festival

BRADFORD'S latest book festival features a host of literary figures.

The Festival continues into June, with events in Bradford and Shipley.

Route - Next Stop Hope will run at the Central Library on 2 June, followed by Jill Paton Walsh (Shipley Library, 3 June), Carol Ann Duffy (Studio Theatre, 4 June), Matt Dickinson (Pictureville, 5 June), Nick Toczek (Central Library, 7 June), David Leather (Waterstones, 10 June) and Will Self (Central Library, 11 June).

To book events call 01274 433600 (Libraries) or 01274 202030 (Pictureville) or 01274 432000 (Studio). For details of the full programme of events call 01274 433915, or call into your local library.

# Therapy in muse

*Hear4Words presented Therapoetre in Shipley. Sheila Atkinson went along and joined the performers for a verse or two*

**H**ear 4 Words had its first 'therapoetry' outing at Heaven Scent café and holistic centre in Shipley on 1st of May.

An open mic event which attracted an eclectic group of poets, writers, and musicians into a small, but welcoming arena. Joe Ogden, our MC for the night ensured fair play at the mic and kept us amused with his creative links, almost as smooth as the froth on the cappuccinos.

Adrian Splendow makes leeks interesting. With his sidewalk wit and humorous observations of life on an allotment and when 'Reality Rippled' the cause was food additives, the stage ain't big enough for this enthusiastic performer; His partner, Sharon contemplated how a

life lost had been remembered by some, but not others.

Home grown David Gill brought us thought provoking pieces of pigeons and puddings in his colourful northern style. Real chin scratchers.

Kevin Flaherty gave us a non rose tinted spectacle of life in Bradford followed by a man's love for his pig.

Sheila Atkinson invited the audience to walk though her dreams and talked of observations made sitting in a café.

Carol Soronz, writer, singer and voice coach shared 'What a day I had'. Let's hope others don't have spiders and broken mirrors. She sang for peace around the world, a theme which Gani, an African poet, spoke of in his poems of street kids orphaned by HIV and shouted against the

massacres in Zimbabwe.

In contrast Maureen Beaumont painted with poetry pictures of sunsets, tranquillity and ducks. Whilst Tina Watkins charmed and humoured us with the idea that her 'brain had died away', a thought more than one writer can identify with.

Anzir Boodoo. How do you introduce him? Dark, sinister, thought provoking and stirs your soul with his almost nihilistic view of life. A must see performer.

In contrast Tony Dickinson compared women to football and with his offside humour nearly scored a home goal. He redeemed himself with 'Vampires valentine' definitely something to get your teeth into.

A musical medley was provided by Patrick Blues our man on the harmonica.

What can I say 'Sweet poetry'.

**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 Irish Democratic League, Rebecca Street, behind the New Beehive pub.

Or contact:

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**E**ditorial 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.

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Open Mic

## Hear4Words Presents Caravan of Words

*A night of poems far off and exotic*  
**Kada's Cafe**

3 Crown Street, Leeds (next to Corn Exchange)  
Thursday 5th June 2003: 7.30pm for 8pm

For more details contact Anzir Boodoo 07941 376722

Open Mic