



# Tyke Writer

The Newsletter For Creative Writers In Bradford & District

Where to find us...

**Tyke Writer is published on behalf of the Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network).**

The group meets every Tuesday from 8pm at the Irish Democratic League, Rebecca Street, just behind the New Beehive pub on Westgate, Bradford.

No matter what kind of writing you are into, you will find it welcome at Interchange.

Along with poetry, the group also welcomes novelists, short story writers, journalists, singer-songwriters and just about every kind of writing imaginable.

The group is informal, and the emphasis is very much on the words. Critical feedback is available for those who feel the need, but the emphasis is on developing the writing and the writer in a relaxed and friendly environment. So step out of the garrett and join the scribes...

## Jamming With The Fans

Dominic Holland Breaks In The 2004 Bradford Book Festival

*Comedy, wine and a free jam doughnut. There was no way that Mark Cantrell was going to miss the launch of the Bradford Book Festival...*

**S**O there I was, enjoying my free wine and rubbing shoulders with the city's literati -- at least until one of them threatened to call security -- when suddenly I discovered exactly what kind of party I'd crashed.

Author -- and stand up comic -- Dominic Holland was up to talk about his novels and launch the sixth Bradford Book Festival.

Suddenly, I had to work.

Never one to shirk when duty calls, I quickly downed the wine, donned my notepad and pen and sozzled after the audience.

The plan for the evening (apart from grabbing some more free wine) was for Dominic to talk about his work as a novelist,

read from his books, lament the state of football and hopefully sell a few copies. And that's more or less how it went.

The jam doughnut was an unexpected -- and pleasant -- surprise. You'll have to

read the book to find out why.

Dominic's comedy background showed through in his routine. Even while he was discussing his writing, and the experiences he's had as a novelist,

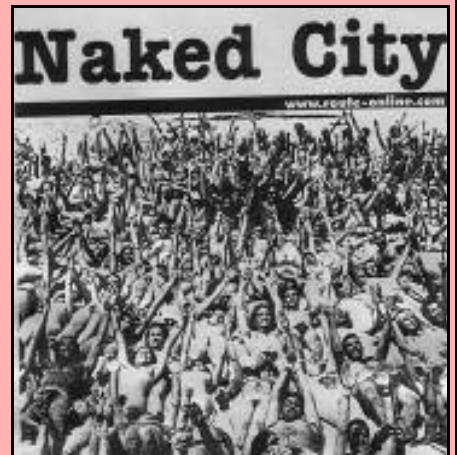
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Dare To Bare

**ROUTE wants to get you naked.**

The organisation is working with the *Leeds Guide* for its latest literary and photographic event centred on Leeds. It wants brave people to bare all for the camera, and some slightly less brave ones to write short stories for the *Naked City*.

For more information, or to simply flaunt it, contact Route by email: [info@route-online.com](mailto:info@route-online.com). Phone: 01977 797695. Or visit the website: <http://www.route-online.com>.



# Festival Jamming

(Continued from page 1)

every line was delivered with a punchy comic style. It all added up to a hilarious night: in fact I was laughing so much that I could hardly take notes.

His latest book *The Ripple Effect* is highly poignant for football lovers in Bradford. The book is a comic look at a football club struggling to survive. Life mimicking art, mimicking life. Indeed, Dominic has coughed up £800 in contribution to the campaign to save the club. He hopes his book can do more, not just for ailing Bradford City, but for other ailing football clubs.

"I enjoyed the evening," said Paula Truman, festival organiser. "It was just sorry that

there wasn't a larger audience for Dominic, especially in view of what he has done for Bradford City, but I think those there appreciated the more intimate atmosphere. People missed a brilliant event for three quid -- their loss."

Absolutely.

For those of you who went somewhere else, more fool you. The cosy little gig at the Alhambra Studio was an excellent introduction to Bradford's Book Festival. Entertaining and down right funny. And you missed the opportunity to buy a nifty little book from some serious comic talent.

Now where's that wine?

## Book Festival Forthcoming Events

### **Passionate About Poetry**

Joolz, James Nash & Siobhan McMahon  
Alhambra Studio  
Tuesday 1 June 7.30pm

### **The Ladykillers**

ShIPLEY Library  
Wednesday 2 June 7.30pm

### **Poems on the Underground** with

Gerard Benson  
Thursday 3 June 7.45pm  
Central Library

### **Joanne Harris and Chocolat**

Tuesday 8 June 7pm  
NMPFT

### **Julie Myerson**

Wednesday 9 June  
Keighley Reference Library

### **Sean Hughes**

Thursday 10 June 8pm  
Alhambra Studio

### **Book Festival Refugee Week Poetry Night**

Wednesday 16 June 8.00pm  
Alhambra Studio

### **Clare Boylan**

Thursday 17 June 2pm  
Haworth School Room  
Organised in conjunction with the  
Bronte Parsonage Museum

### **Tom Stacey**

Thursday 17 June 7.30pm  
Cartwright Hall, Lister Park

*For further information pick up a brochure from the library, or other information source. There's loads lying around...*

## Wait, There's More

**T**HERE'S not enough space in *Tyke Writer* to cover everything the Festival has to offer, (nor worse luck is the editor capable of being everywhere!), but some of the highlights of the Bradford Book festival included poet **John Hegley**.

He performed at both the library and the Priestley. Elsewhere, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, M J Simpson talked about the life and work of Douglas Adams (better known to roadies on the SF convention circuit as 'Doug Who') at the film museum. Simpson wrote the biography of Adams, and during the evening

there was a screening of *The Man Who Blew Up The World*, again, funnily enough, about Adams.

Tariq Mehmood was at the library to talk about his second novel *Where There Is Light*. The book focuses on the issues of identity and is set in the social turmoil of the early 80s. Tariq is an author and film maker brought up on Bradford.

Keighley wasn't left out either, when Roop Singh presented live story telling at the library.

And as if that wasn't enough, there's more lined up for June.

# Love Apple Book Launch

By MARK CANTRELL

**A**UTHOR Anthony Cropper will be launching his latest book at the Love Apple cafe next month as part of the Bradford Book Festival.

*Jack and Sal* is published by Route, which is sponsoring the event. It is his second novel to be published under this label, though he has written a wealth of short fiction for Route's anthologies.

Ian Daley, Route editor, said: "The book is presented as a novel but could equally be presented as a tightly themed series of short stories. Anthony is at home with short fiction, and has developed his own style."

Cropper was born in Fleetwood, Lancashire (hardly Tyke, but never mind!). His first novel *Weatherman* was also published by Route (October 2001). He has worked in education for over ten years, and is currently employed by East Coast Media as a part-time lecturer in creative writing. Much of his work was produced in his caravan at the bottom of his garden in Goole.

*Jack and Sal*, by Anthony Cropper, Route June 2004, ISBN 1 901927 210. Price: £8.95. Launched at the Love Apple, Friday 11 June at 7pm.

Route: PO Box 167, Pontefract, WF8 4WW. Further information from [info@route-online.com](mailto:info@route-online.com), or pick up a brochure from the library.

# Networking

**D**ONCASTER-based **Networxs** is keen to hear from other writers and writing groups.

The organisation is a co-operative of northern writers that meets once every six weeks in Doncaster. Funded by Yorkshire Arts they put this to work with a series workshops in the morning, followed by shared readings from group members.

The next workshop is on 5th June and is called Writing for Magazines, with journalist and poet Carolyn Waudby. She is a lecturer in journalism at Sheffield University.

It began about five years ago as the brainchild of Sheffield writer Bill Allerton. To date it brings together Sheffield's Heeley Writers, some of Rotherham's Metro Writers and Doncaster's YMCA women writers, along with poet Ann Samson.

Lorraine Madden, who took over its organisation last year, said: "I am trying to develop Networxs further so that groups can benefit from innovative workshops at minimal cost, learn new skills, get their work showcased, exchange ideas and information, make contacts and friendships between groups and just generate a good all round interaction across the region."

Contact her for further information at email: [lorraine@maddenl.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:lorraine@maddenl.fsnet.co.uk).

# Camel Nights

**J**OHN Hegley performed the premiere of his epic poem *The Light At The End Of The Camel* at the Priestley this month.

His appearance marked the launch of the Baa-Ha Club by Grey Sheep Productions, a season of live cabaret and variety acts.



# Bashing Out The Words

**T**YKE Writer is three years old this month, so there's no better occasion to speak to its editor about what makes his writing tick...

**What do you do outside writing?**

*Drink lots of coffee and smoke cigarettes. Oh, actually I do that while I'm writing. So I guess it must be drink lots of beer and smoke cigarettes. Occasionally I do something interesting.*

**Why do you write?**

*Damned if I know. It's like an obsession married to a compulsion. I think an idea gets lodged in my brain and starts to itch, and the writing is my way of trying to dislodge the thing before it starts to go gangrenous.*

**How did you become a writer?**

*I sat down, picked up a pen and scribbled a*

*few words. I still haven't figured out how to stop. Actually, I used to write computer adventure games for the Spectrum, and it kind of grew out of that.*

**What was your greatest literary moment?**

*Not sure if this counts, but winning an award for one of my computer games. That came out of the blue, but I was quite happy to accept my game being the Best Mail Order Adventure of 1989. I still have the certificate. Framed. Yes, I am that sad. Aside from that, I suppose it was organising my first poetry gig last year.*

**What was your worst literary moment?**

*Organising the poetry gig last year, and the people I organised it for couldn't be bothered to turn up. Still, it was their loss. Otherwise, the worst moments happen*

*frequently: whenever I am staring at a blank page or screen and the ideas just won't materialise in front of me.*

**How has writing affected your life?**

*You mean I have one? When did that happen?*

**What advice can you give fellow scribes?**

*Seek help. Never give up. Get me out of here!*

**What is your involvement in literary activities?**

*Seriously committed (I'm feeling much better now, Doctor. Honest.) Editor of Tyke Writer, member of Interchange. Proud owner of a stack of rejection letters.*

**Brief bibliography**

*Doppelganger Broadsheet (May 2004), Not Quite Opposite Morrisons Enough (Beehive Poets, 2003), Diary of a Schizo (Nine Hearts*

*Publishing, 2003), Sundoves, Bumblebees & Blue Streak Bananas (Poets4Peace, 2002), Love, Sex, Death & Carrots (Interchange, 2001), Spirit of Darkness (Clover Books, 1998), Sci-Fright, Linkway Magazine, The Asphalt Jungle, The Pen Magazine, The Velvet Vampyre, and many more.*

**Who or what has influenced your work?**

*Those things that live on the dark side of the portal in my Mind, and tell me what to say. Oh yes, and alcohol, nicotine and caffeine.*

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*DON'T forget, newsletters like Tyke Writer are ever-hungry beasts. The pages are always open for news, features, cartoons, literary anecdotes and words of a literary nature. So get in touch (details at the bottom of this page).*

*The next issue is June.*

*TYKE Writer welcomes editorial contributions, but such will be edited for space and style restrictions.*

*All contributions must bear the author's name, which may appear as a byline. Material is also preferred in a type written form.*

*Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the respective authors, and are not necessarily shared by Tyke Writer or Interchange (Bradford*

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