



# 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

## Turn It Down A Bit

*Noisy, but interesting all the same. Mark Cantrell reports on the launch of Jack and Sal by Anthony Cropper.*

**S**UDDENLY it was apologies all round at the launch of *Jack and Sal* by Anthony Cropper, but not from the people who caused the sorry urge by seeking to out talk the public address system.

Route was launching *Jack and Sal* as part of this year's festival line up. Bad luck and an open venue, meant a clash with two leaving parties at the Love Apple, so the audience had to strain to hear Anthony's words.

During a question and answer session with the audience, Bruce Barnes felt compelled to apologise for the level of background chatter. To which Paula Truman, organiser of the Bradford Book Festival, apologised in turn. She hadn't known about the leaving dos.

That said, it was a great event. Instructive and informative -- as well as entertaining -- for readers and writers alike.

The book grew out of a series of short stories written over several years. These he developed to pull together the novel. It focuses on the

characters of the title, who drift in and out of love.

During the evening, Anthony read extracts of his book to the audience. He also sat and talked (a less formal interview) with fellow Route author M Y Alam.

This focused not only on his work and what it was about, but also the way he works. This was valuable and interesting stuff for an author, as well as a lover of literature. He just writes and sees where things go. If he planned a novel in detail, he probably wouldn't feel the need to write it then, he said.

According to Anthony, novels are a tableaux of scenes that are mini stories and situations in themselves. They don't have to be tied scenes, all linked to create the narrative.

It was refreshing to hear an author talk about the blood and guts of novel writing: the pain, the trauma and the stress that can be involved, as well as the joys and pleasures of writing.

He also had an inherent message that should bolden the heart of any struggling writer, though on first hearing it might have the opposite effect. Talking on



getting published, he suggested a lot of luck is involved, but once that first hurdle is cleared it becomes much easier. So take heart, poor beleaguered author.

Persist and then persist again. As everyone gathered at the Book Launch persisted against the backwash of noise...

*Jack and Sal* by Anthony Cropper. Published by Route (ISBN 1 90192721 0). Price: £8.95. More information from [www.route-online.com](http://www.route-online.com). Write to Route, PO Box 167, Pontefract, WF8 4WW. Cheques payable to 'ID Publishing'.

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# Criminal Intent

**C**RIME lovers will gather in Harrogate next month for a pint of Theakston's and a plot or three.

The town is hosting the second Crime Writing Festival from the 22 to the 25 July. The event, sponsored by Theakston's Old Peculiar, is said to be Europe's largest literary crime-fest.

During the four-days, crime enthusiasts will be able to attend industry seminars, talks by true crime specialists, forensic experts and listen to authors talk about their works.

Among the authors included are Minette Walters, Stella Duffy, Val McDermid, Martin Sixsmith, Karin Slaughter and Inspector Morse creator Colin Dexter.

All events will take place at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate. For information or a brochure contact: Box Office Harrogate International Centre, Kings Road, Harrogate, HG1 5LA. Tel: 01423 537230. Or visit <http://www.harrogate-festival.org.uk>. Email: [box@harrogate-festival.org.uk](mailto:box@harrogate-festival.org.uk).



# Cruel World

**A** competition for poems and prose writers offers the chance to gain publication, and have a say against cruelty to animals.

The competition is organised Art Against Cruelty To Animals (Artaca) and *This Is It* magazine.

"We are looking for original, unpublished poems and short stories thematically related to our objectives of protesting against cruelty to animals, but which also stand on their as works of literature," says the competition organisers. "We are not looking for polemic or melodrama, and no additional merit will be given to pieces that claim to be true stories."

Winning entries will be published online, on both the Artaca and *This Is It* websites. There is also the suggestion that they might be published in a print anthology sometime in the unspecified future.

The *Writers Against Cruelty To Animals* project is open to anyone over the age of 16. A maximum of five poems up to 80 lines can be submitted, or two short stories up to 2,000 words. Entries must be sent as Word documents in an email attachment. They should be labelled 'WACA', and the email should include full name, age, location, email address, and a statement confirming ownership of the work.

Closing date for entries is 30 July 2004 with the winners announced by the end of August.

For more information visit Artaca's website: [www.artaca.com](http://www.artaca.com) and [www.thisisitmag.co.uk](http://www.thisisitmag.co.uk).



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# Online Archive

**B**ACK issues of Tyke Writer are available online at the re-launched archive website, so readers can catch up with what they missed.

Just click on the thumbnail of each issue to download the newsletter in Adobe's PDF format. The site will be updated with the most recent issues at regular intervals. A link is also available for browsers to download and install the Adobe Reader program required to access the newsletter. Space for the issues was kindly donated by Film Digital.

Access Tyke Writer at <http://www.tykewriter.supanet.com/tw>.

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# A Course In Crime

**S**TUDENTS at an American university have been rushing out to buy a crime novel set right here in Bradford.

The book by Keighley author Lesley Horton was considered to be an excellent example of 'sociology in action'.

*Snares of Guilt*, published by Orion in June 2002, was Ms Horton's first novel. She has since had *On Dangerous Ground* (June 2003) published, and her third novel is

due out early next year. All three are set in Bradford.

After reading *Snares of Guilt*, Professor William Edwards, of the University of San Francisco placed it on the required reading list for his introduction to sociology course.

"I have been integrating mystery novels for three years as a way of letting students see sociology in action," Prof Edwards said. "There is a wealth of sociological issues inherent in mystery novels. By their very

nature, they are conflict situations and thus fit nicely into a sociological analysis of society.

"Snares of Guilt presents to a US student a portrait of race and ethnic relations that is not black and white. We tend, in the States, to conceptualise racial tensions as between blacks and whites. This is not the case in Horton's book."

"I think it means that I have got it right," Ms Horton said. "A lot of people have told me that I have got Bradford

right, and obviously because it is Bradford there is a lot of race relations. It is surprising though. I wrote the book as I saw it."

Ms Horton has also teamed up with fellow female crime writers as the 'ladykillers'. Together they are touring literary events and giving talks on crime fiction. To find out more about them visit [www.ladykillers.info](http://www.ladykillers.info). To read more about her books visit [www.lesleyhorton.co.uk](http://www.lesleyhorton.co.uk).

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## Dig A Little

**A** new website dedicated to the creative community is seeking details of writers and poets, along with information about courses, events, workshops and festivals.

Unearthit.net claims to reach 10,000 people a week, and is planning a publicity drive nationally to increase awareness of the site.

As part of this, they are looking for content. The site is said to be interactive and can be used by authors to sell their work, post examples and communicate details of workshops, festivals and so on.

A charge for joining the site has been implemented since the beginning of this month. For more information about the site and its facilities for writers visit <http://www.unearthit.net>. Or email: [christopher@unearthit.net](mailto:christopher@unearthit.net).

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## Fringe Words

**B**RADFORD Festival's latest season offers up some choice words for local scribes this month.

Friday June 18th sees the BradWord hidden river tour with Uncommon Denominator.

This is a collective group of women performers who bring together a diversity of voices and experiences together in words, music song and movement.

Monday 21st June will feature the Bradford Poetry Workshop.

Bruce Barnes, Nicholas Bielby and Ed

Reiss among others will read their work.

Wednesday 23rd June Hear4Words will hit the stage with music and blues poetry.

Friday 25th June has more music combined with poetry, courtesy of Nightdiver.

This is a family group that combines jazz sounds with poetry. They frequently do jazz/poetry evenings with the Beehive Poets.

The above fringe events will all be held in the bar/bistro of St George's Hall between 12 noon and 2pm.

# War Crime: 2004

## 'Extraordinary' Play Comes To Manningham Mills

**M**ichael Billington, the *Guardian's* theatre critic, described War

**Crime as an extraordinary event, and one of the few contemporary plays tackling the issues of war.**

Walking into an abandoned section of Lister's Mill that's awaiting Urban Splash's reconstruction, we knew there was a war on, and the car wrecks dragged onto the Mill floor suggested the battlefield was in fact Manningham.

It was theatre in the round, with seating pushed into one corner but the entire floor with its rows of wrought iron columns formed the set...in such Spartan surroundings it was good to see that you could get a drink from a bar to one side of the seating area.

My suspicion that most barmen are resting actors was confirmed when the barman, (and his bar), took a central part in the play.

The script avoided

*Bruce Barnes reviews Stephen Tiller's play 'War Crime' performed by the Wedding Collective at Lister's Mill earlier this month*

identifying the war zone, but it stretched far beyond a war of nations or of civil wars to encompass the war of the sexes and the everyday struggle between oppressor and oppressed.

During the course of a war crimes trial, narratives merge into one another creating a sense of dislocation that in the hands of a less capable

company of actors could have made for a difficult play, but the acting was exceptional; a hard faced, sexually-predatory war crimes investigator, the ghost of a young woman killed by a cluster-bomb, her barman brother caught up in ethnic cleansing, and a pilot forever barking to the court "Yes, sir!"

As wars are morally compromising, so the

play asked the audience to be judge, jury and stand in the dock.

It would be easy to see the play as a relic of '60s agit-prop theatre, but it had a subtlety and complexity that such theatre lacked.

Iraq and Israel/Palestine may give the play an immediate relevance, but the quality of the acting, and a script that twists and turns like a heat-seeking missile made it a play for our times.

**WAR Crime was inspired by the death of a young woman in the Serbian city of Nis — ironically a staunchly anti-Milosevic town — during the war against Serbia.**

She worked as a waitress at the Three Lanterns Taverna, when an off course cluster bomb exploded. She died in the owner's arms. Later, during a

succession of visits to Serbia, Stephen Tiller found and talked to the man.

The story ultimately seeded this month's production at Manningham Mills.

Originally, played in a London crypt, it is now touring the country at 'site specific' locations.

It was the political history to Lister's Mill that appealed to tour organisers, as well as its aesthetics and feel. For it was of course the focus

of a strike that saw the riot act read on the steps of City Hall, and troops actively deployed against Bradford mill workers: ultimately the strike led to the founding of the Independent Labour Party and subsequently the Labour Party.

The politics and evocative history were felt to make it a fitting venue for the play.

**Mark Cantrell**

*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.

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