



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...

Published By Damn

Mark Cantrell on a competition for unpublished novels

TWO UK publishing companies are offering novelists the chance to win a publishing deal.

Publish And Be Damned along with UK Authors are scouring the world in search of unpublished manuscripts for the competition. The goal is to find 'creativity and originality' and give the lucky author an airing.

The competition will be judged by a panel of editors, readers and writers from both companies, who will establish the initial shortlist. From this the winner will be chosen

and announced at the end of October.

There is a £10 entry fee and the deadline is the 31st August.

The winner will receive:

- Professional editorial support from UKA Press (the book publishing arm of UK Authors)
- Book publication through PABD, including cover design and ISBN number
- Twenty free copies of the book
- Inclusion on outlets such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, PABD, UKA Press and UK Authors websites

Entrants should send their entire manuscript and synopsis as a Word attachment to novelcompetition@ukauthors.com.

The body text must be 12 point, left justified, single spaced and with bold or italics used sparingly. A single

space must be used between words and new sentences, and there should be no global or local text formatting. The word count should be included at the bottom of the last page.

Copyright on all entries, including the winner, will remain with the author.

The entry fee can be paid online by credit card or again online with *PayPal* or *No Chex*.

Alternatively send a cheque/PO (payable to 'UK Authors') to UKA/PABD Novel Writing Competition, Richard Harris, UK Authors, 25 Quantock Close, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham, B4 0DT.

For more information on the competition visit www.ukauthors.com or www.pabd.net. Email Andrea Lowe (andrea@ukauthors.com) or Iain Plunkett at PABD (iain_plunkett@adlibbed.com).



Hostess With The Mostess

'On Air' With Tina Watkin



Tina Watkin. Photo By Phil Wainman

*A host of local authors have gained radio exposure thanks to Tina Watkin and the Scribe Slot. Now **Mark Cantrell** gives the woman herself a slot at the mic*

YOU don't need to be a famous author to get on the radio: just ask Tina Watkin.

That's not a sideways swipe, incidentally, just an acknowledgement of the work Tina has done for local writers, together with Bradford Community Broadcasting (BCB), over the last four years.

Tina is the presenter of the *Scribe Slot*, which goes out live ever fourth Tuesday at 6.30pm (repeated the following Wednesday at 1.30pm).

The programme is a *pot-pourri* of poetry, prose, music and chat with local literary types.

Whether interested amateurs taking their first steps out of the garret, or the keen enthusiasts determined to taste success with their words, Tina has shown them the door -- to exposure on air.

"People don't want to know you unless you've already got something under your belt," Tina says, "So the *Scribe Slot* exists for the non-professional writer to

make a stand and climb the ladder. It's all about the process of getting a track record."

It's the gold dust of exposure, an emblem of kudos on a literary CV, like a poem included in a magazine, or a slot in a local open mic. Not only that, it makes for the kind of challenging testing ground every author needs to hone their words and their craft.

Writers after all are notorious shrinking violets about their work. Either they take coy to the extent of invisibility, or they react with outrageous arrogance. The root tends to be the same: a dreadful insecurity about the worth of their words. The *Scribe Slot* offers another medium to combat such insecurities.

"The programme gives people a bit of confidence," Tina adds. "Most writers experience the doubt that their work is not good enough, but being on air gives a boost that other people want to listen to what they have written. We've found that quite a lot of people bloom as a result of the experience."

Originally, the programme began life as a mechanism for promoting the works and members of the Bradford Writers' Circle, which

Tina also co-ordinates. Since its inception, Tina has steered the *Scribe Slot* into deeper waters to trawl for writers further afield. Nowadays individual writers and literary organisations across the district gain the benefit of airtime exposure.

"There's quite a wealth of talent at Bradford Writers' Circle, and at the time there wasn't really anywhere locally for people to be heard," Tina explains. "We decided that if we could find a way for unknown people to read it would be some kind of incentive to other people out there to actually have a go."

And the whole thing grew from there.

As you might expect, material on the programme features poetry and prose writing, along with interview style material about the authors and their work. Beyond that, the programme maintains an open approach to content and style, with the scope very much open for experimentation.

In the past, the *Scribe Slot* has featured short scripted pieces as well as work accompanied by the piano and contributors singing songs.

"It adds another

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dimension," she says. "Really we're an open forum in that if anyone has anything different that they want to bring along. Poetry is not just words on paper. It can be put to music."

That said, Tina points out that some things work better than others. On air, the visual cues of a person's face are naturally absent. This can make some work difficult for an audience to focus on. On the whole, she advises (especially for prose material) that it should not be too complex.

The synergy of creative writing and creative radio, plays its own part in creating a broader sense of the variety and diversity of writing in Bradford and beyond.

Originally, however, Tina's involvement with the radio was somewhat less literary in its focus. She began as just another interested amateur, who had never thought of radio until she found a leaflet explaining the station's community activities.

This being Tina, the leaflet sat in storage for two years, before she plucked it from obscurity and took the first step towards likewise plucking scribes from the same. And to think it was only a visit to the Environmental Health Department Offices that led her to nip in and take the plunge.

What followed was a hands on course in radio, followed by a twelve week stint at the Kirkgate Studios in Shipley. She

was the first voice to be heard on the half-hour programme *Shipley Corner*. Her radio work has expanded since those beginnings.

On several occasions she joined the all women's team *Radio Venus* both interviewing and being interviewed on a variety of subjects, and in May 2001 she began to co-host the *Afternoon Stretch* programme with Alan Keeling.

"We have a wide audience and we try to reach everyone," Tina says, "so we're open to everyone."

As with BCB, as with the Scribe Slot. Maybe your's will be the next voice to resonate on the city's airwaves.

Contact Tina at BCB 96.7FM. See below.

It's Alive

ANY Tyke down in London next month might be interested in crashing a literary launch party at the Poetry Cafe in Covent Garden.

Website UK Authors will present UK Alive, the simultaneous launch of its second print anthology and several books by members.

The site, which regularly publishes writing, journalism, fiction by member writers, recently ventured into print with the birth of the UKA Press.

Voices From the Web will be joined in the limelight by *Brother, What Strange Place Is This* by Tom Saunders, *A Boy's Face With Swan Wings* by Swep Lovitt, and *Private Histories* by John Webber.

The event will feature readings from the books in question, as well as words from various other UK Authors members.

Doors open at 7pm on Saturday, 7th August with readings beginning at 7.30pm. Entry costs £5.

"It's a good excuse for drinking, talking and meeting up with people," say the organisers. The Poetry Cafe is located at 22 Bretherton Street. For more information visit www.ukauthors.com.

BBC? No, It's BCB

BRADFORD Community Broadcasting is currently based in Forster Square. It's one of only 15 'access radio' stations within the UK that has a full time broadcast license.

A community organisation, it is run by membership and works to encourage local people to be involved in its running. Along with the training courses it runs throughout the year, it also works with community organisations, schools and individuals to enable ordinary Bradfordians to produce and present their own shows. Earlier this year, it celebrated its tenth birthday.

In addition to its regular broadcasting on 96.7FM, the station's programmes also go out through the Yorkshire Cable Network on 104FM, and via the Internet on Real Audio.

Contact BCB: Tel: 01274 771677. Fax: 01274 771680. Web: www.bcb.yorks.com. Email: info@bcb.yorks.com. Email Tina Watkin about her programme, or the writers' group at bradfordwriterscircle@hotmail.com.

A Cut Away View Of Bronte

By Mark Cantrell

A new book exploring the theory that Branwell -- not Emily -- was the real author of *Wuthering Heights* will be published this month.

The controversy is revisited as a work of fiction and told through a barber's point of view. Branwell Bronte's barber to be exact.



Branwell Bronte's Barber's Tale examines

his sister Charlotte's demonising of him in her letters, and also in her first biography, written by her friend Elizabeth Gaskell. Though it's unclear why she should carry out a 'hatchet' job on her brother, Firth takes this and weaves it into the basis for his historical thriller.

The book is said to create a 'vivid picture of Victorian artistic,

bohemian and cultural life' and contains a wealth of allegedly genuine Bronte anecdotes.

Branwell Bronte's Barber's Tale by Chris Firth. Published by East Coast Books (ISBN: 0-953605-8-4). Price £7.99. For more information email electraglade@aol.com or visit www.electraglade.com.

Jeremy Gets Some Serious Vice

TAKE a few hundred A5 pages, fill them with poems, take a pot of glue and a vice of the kind used by DIY enthusiasts, and you come up with *The Blue Book*.

This is Jeremy Young's first full collection of poetry.

"I was looking at the four hundred or so poems I have written in the past few years and I thought I should do something with them," Jeremy

said.

"*The Blue Book* isn't about this nonsense of what school you went to, or what job you do, or whether this is the correct form, grammar, spelling and all that bullshit of those that try to be expert without being expert in the one thing that matters -- writing."

The book costs a fiver for those lucky enough to bump into Jeremy when he has a copy or three on him.

If you're desperate for a copy, then bear with him, he does have to make each one himself. No fancy publishers, or staplers here.

"It boils down to this," he adds, "if you like the book then great, if you don't then there are no refunds. If you like it tell your friends, if you don't then tell your shrink."

Watch out for a review of The Blue Book in next month's issue of Tyke Writer...

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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