



The Tyke Writer

INTERCHANGE NEWSLETTER

Issue 5/ September 2001

EVENTS GUIDE

Interchange @ the Priestley

Weekly workshop that takes place every Tuesday from 8pm at the Priestley Centre for the Arts, Chapel Street, Little Germany. It provides a friendly and informal gathering where group members can share their work.

Interchange @ the Melborn

Every last Wednesday of the month on White Abbey Road, Interchange hosts an open microphone event for writers, performers and singer-song-writers.

Singer/song-writers please contact in advance, as slots for musicians are limited.

Interchange @ the Monkey Bar

Every first Wednesday of the month from 8pm at the Monkey Bar cafe, Northgate, Wakefield.

Win yourself a grand True Life Story Competition

NORTHCLIFFE Electronic Publishing, a branch of Northcliffe Newspapers, is running a competition for true life stories through its TooWrite. com website.

The competition is for true life stories, rather than fiction, written in the first person perspective.

The stories can be about any subject and the tone can be serious or light hearted.

Every entry submitted to the competition will be published on the TooWrite site, and those deemed the best will be selected for publication in a variety of regional and evening newspapers.

The top prize is £1,000.

The first runner up will receive a £65 Royal Crown Derby

By Mark Cantrell

computer mouse paperweight.

The second runner up will receive a £65 voucher for computer equipment from Staples Derby Ltd.

Entries for the competition should be no longer than 1,500 words and they should be previously unpublished.

Up to five entries can be made by any one person.

Entries should include name, address, telephone number or email address.

NEP also retains the right to edit entries 'in the event of the use of language and subject matter it feels is inappropriate for a family orientated website.

NEP also says it will retain copyright on all entries, so potential

entrants might want to bear that in mind and think carefully before entering the competition.

The site can be browsed at [http:// www.toowrite.com](http://www.toowrite.com).

Entries should be sent to:

Nicola Gibson, NEP (Midlands), Ground Floor, East Point, Cardinal Square, 10 Nottingham Road, Derby, DE1 3QT.

They can also be emailed via the site. Email submissions are preferred.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Poetry in the Park reviewed, poetry by Miranda Rook, Joe Ogden interviewed.

Park poetry's second helping

Mark Cantrell reviews the Poetry in the Park 2 Event.

THE weather provided a dramatic welcome to poets at Lister Park last month, with multicoloured flashes of lightning and rolling thunder.

It might have been a factor in determining the lower turnout at

this second event organised at the Pavilion, but despite this Karl Dallas can be rightfully proud of organising two successful performance events.

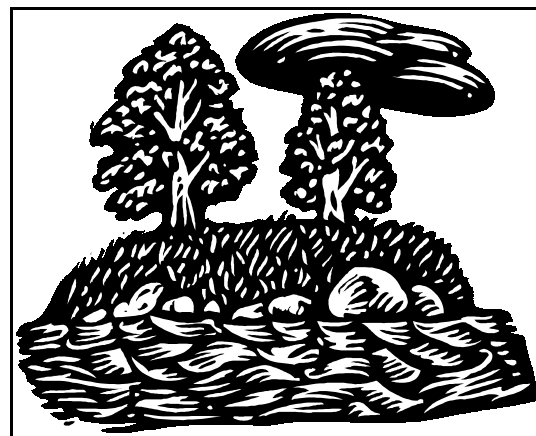
Though this second helping lacked the multicultural aspect of the first in July, it nevertheless saw a diverse range of talent in both poem and song.

Ian Reed made a welcome return to an Interchange event with some powerful and compelling poetry, rounded off with a song. His performance was one of his best and most moving for some time, perhaps because of his long absence. He returned in style and swept the audience away.

The night also saw newcomer David Riley make his debut. Despite his insistence to the contrary, he provided a strong

Left: New poets take a stand: David Riley makes his debut the hard way — by reciting from memory.

Photo: By Mark Cantrell



performance, especially so considering it was his first time. It was particularly impressive as he chose to perform the hard way – by reciting from memory.

Afterwards he said: "That was more nerve wracking than standing up in court. Never again."

We'll have to see about that.

Poetry in the Park II was a brilliant event. For those who missed it, many of the performers can be seen at the Melbourn and the Monkey Bar in Wakefield.

See them there and catch up on what you missed.



Write for it

NEWSPLETTERS are word hungry beasts; they crave copy and lots of it at that.

The Tyke Writer is no different.

As a group publication, it can only thrive if as many members

as possible write for it. The newsletter provides a vehicle for getting into print as well as pushing the group's profile.

News of members' activities and successes, reviews of group events as well as anything that might be relevant for writers is needed for these esteemed pages.

Alongside news, features and

reviews the pages are open to short poems or prose, as readers will see from previous issues.

So get writing, to make *Tyke Writer* a vehicle for the group's continued success, and get yourself a byline in the process.

Market guide launched

A new online guide to UK markets has been launched.

Thewriteukmarket.com lists over 400 markets, along with information relevant to writers such as finance matters and other advice.

"The site came about when I decided to do

something about the lack of market resources for UK writers," says editor Sian Ross-Martin. "I could find nothing for UK writers seeking UK markets. Until now."

She adds that the site is also a paying market itself. Interested contributors should

examine the site and take a look at the guidelines online.

The site can be found at <http://www.thewriteukmarket.com>.

Contact the editor at thewriteukmarket@email.com.

Nice Jam Somewhere Else

THE work of Interchange members who set up the film wing of the group can be tasted on its website.

Browse Film Digital at <http://www.filmdigital.co.uk> and be prepared for a giggle.

They Say

She flirted with a rapist and how dearly did she pay
Short skirt and half pissed she led him on they say
She led him on, she led him on they say

She didn't know his nature, saw no warning signs
Oblivious to the danger she was having a good time
She danced, she drank, she giggled, wiggled her sensual hips
Carefree, hot and cheerful she smiled and licked her lips

She actually fancied him and let him take her home
Then he turned and did his thing, raped her when they were alone
NO she screamed and NO she meant, he didn't give a damn
No witnesses, no evidence, besides he knows what women want
He has his way 'cos hey, she led him on, she led him on they'll say

She serves her sentence of disgust, low esteem and shattered trust
He cursed her memory and then he stole away scot-free
Like a sniper stalking prey, again he's searching for a target
Looking for an easy lay, so be aware because he's out there
On his path of devastation
Perhaps next time he has his way
You led him on, you led him on they'll say

Miranda Rook

Change Time

FOLLOWING a recent business meeting, members of the Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network) have decided on some significant alterations to its activities.

As ever, the Tuesday workshop at the Priestley remains the core activity of the group. It will continue to provide an informal forum for sharing work and gaining advice and feedback.

Major changes are planned for the performance events later this year. Details to follow in next month's issue.

Scribbling in life's margin

HE'S an actor, lighting wizard, artist, script writer and a poet too.

When he's not doing these things then Joe Ogden is serving at the bar of the Priestley Centre for Arts. This teddy-bear figure with a jolly grin has pulled many a patron's pint. It's almost enough to put you off your beer.

"I am always going off on a tangent," he says. "That's what poets do -- they dream, and go off on a tangent."

That probably explains why his activities are so varied and intermingled; they are the product of a thousand tangents in the course of his search for life's narrative flow.

His route into writing was equally haphazard

and tangential, but the path eventually took him into the arms of Interchange, where he became a regular at the Tuesday meetings and the performance events. The latter, he confesses, were more to support the group than any desire to be a performer.

Poetry for Joe is often an outlet for pain, a way of making sense of his life. "Sometimes I think the page of my life is filled in," he adds.

"So I am writing in the margins and between the lines. You can't actually stamp out the script. You can alter it, but the only way to re-type it is to tear it all up. You waste a lot of paper each time you re-write a script.

Sometimes you've got to live with a certain

pain, a certain script."

Some of these margin scribbles were published in the group's second anthology last year (*Love, Sex, Death & Carrots*). He also helped with the artwork for this project, posed nude (don't ask) and built the coffin in which the models posed (definitely don't ask). He still has it; it rests in the front room of his council flat. Not exactly Dracula, more Steptoe & Son.

Despite this, he still feels that the highlights of his writing are yet to come. Next year he hopes to follow in the footsteps of other Interchange members by travelling to the States to perform his poetry in Austin, Texas, and Cape Cod.

It's safe to say that

the Americans are far from ready for this one.

"With [Interchange] it works every way; it knows about poems, plays, short stories. You can learn by just listening," he says. "I don't think a writer can write for themselves. I believe that a writers' group helps you to see things in your writing that you didn't even know was there. It also brings to writers a social life.

"It's a good thing to be able to mix with other writers and hear other people's work. There's nothing worse than writing on your own and having nowhere to express that work."

Mark Cantrell

Contact Interchange

For further details of the group, or to get involved, either come down to the Priestley on Tuesdays from 8pm or contact:

Lynette Shaw McKone, Interchange (Bradford Writers' Network):

Tel: 07930 236122

Email: interchangebwn@hotmail.com. **Web:** <http://www.writers-circles.com/interchange>

Editorial contributions welcome, but will be edited for space and style. All contributions must bear the author's name, which may appear as a byline.

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