

Issue 1
December 2006

Scribble

A WORLD OF TALES

TO GET YOUR TEETH INTO...



FREE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY TELL US ANOTHER ONE

HELLO

Welcome to the first edition of **Scribble**! **Scribble** is dedicated to story lovers and writers across Rochdale borough.

Scribble is part of the **Tell Us Another One** project, Cartwheel Arts' 3-year series of adventures in storytelling and creative writing. See page three opposite for more details. Each quarter **Scribble** will bring you stories and poems by local people; interviews, writing and top tips from published writers; competitions; news about interesting arts and cultural activities taking place near you, and much, much more.

But we don't just want you to read **Scribble**, we want you to get involved! We are looking for wonderful poems and tales by local people to showcase in forthcoming issues so don't be shy! Our contact details are below.

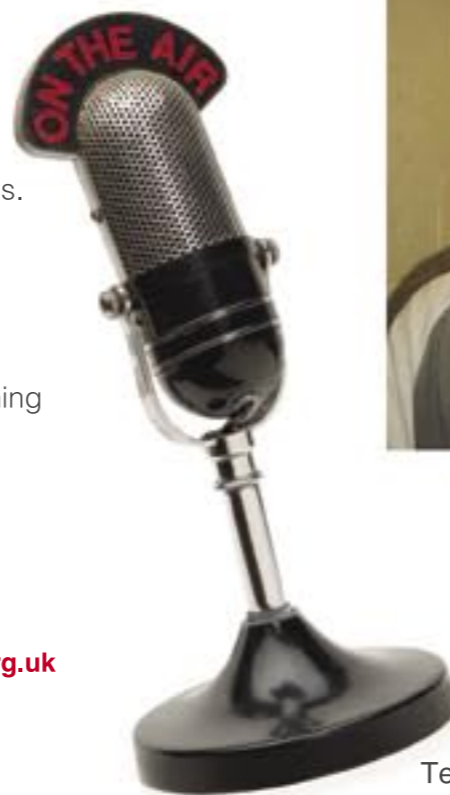
We hope you enjoy this issue and here's to a happy and story-filled 2007.....

Kim Haygarth **EDITOR**



Scribble, c/o Tell Us Another One, Cartwheel Arts,
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If you are submitting stories by mail and would like them returned to you, please send an SAE. Maximum number of words for any submissions: 300.



TELL US ANOTHER ONE: THE STORY SO FAR...

Tell Us Another One is all about telling tales. In the past year we have set up four story groups, one in each of the following areas: Darnhill (Heywood), Langley (Middleton), Deeplish and Spotland (Rochdale). These groups are for adults aged 18+ to come together to do storytelling and writing activities and workshops, meet established writers and poets and, most importantly, have loads of fun. No previous writing experience is necessary to get involved - just a love of stories.

So far we have had some excellent workshops with poets John Siddique and Joy Winkler (who are both featured in this edition of **Scribble**), crime writer Cath Staincliffe, Mancunian performance poet Mike Garry, script writer Anjum Malik, comic writer Julian Daniel and the exceptional local novelist Livi Michael. **Tell Us Another One** also involves setting up exciting mini-projects. We have recently run 'The Gathering', a storytelling project with African men and women (see page seven for a glimpse) and organised a creative writing project with children at St Margaret's Primary School which will help to transform Darnhill into a winter wonderland at this year's Darnhill Christmas Festival.

And of course, there's **Scribble**, which is designed to show off all the writing talent out there!

PRODIGAL POET: JOHN SIDDIQUE

Acclaimed poet John Siddique travels the country and the world sharing his work. Recently he came back to his hometown of Rochdale to help launch the **Tell Us Another One** project in style. Here's a poem from his very latest publication, a collection of poetry for children called 'Don't Wear it on Your Head, Don't stick it Down Your Pants'. Watch out for an interview with John in the next edition of **Scribble**!

Nostril

I love the word nostril.
I say it many ways.
I have even been known to sing it
to the sound of Beethoven's 5th symphony.

I love what nostrils do,
breathe in the air, provide bogies to dig for,
but best of all they let you smell.

Smell the breakfast cooking.
Smell the petrol at the garage.
Smell the tar as they fix the road.
Smell the memories in burning wood.

© John Siddique

So why not join us for the next chapter?

Dates for forthcoming story group meetings are as follows:

Darnhill Story Group:

Monday 15th January, 19th February, 19th March, 16th April
All meetings 6pm - 7.30pm, Darnhill Library

Deeplish Story Group:

Monday 8th January, 12th February, 12th March, 2nd April
All meetings 1pm - 3pm, April meeting 10am -12noon, Deeplish Community Centre

Langley Story Group:

Monday 15th January, 19th February, 19th March, 16th April
All meetings 2pm - 3.30pm, Langley Library

Spotland Story Group:

Wednesday 10th January, 21st February, 14th March
All meetings 1pm - 3pm Spotland Primary School

For more information about any of these groups contact
Kim at Cartwheel Arts on 01706 361300 / kim@cartwheelarts.org.uk

...And see the back page for the wonderful 'Hair' event taking place on
Saturday 27th January in the Wheatsheaf Library, Rochdale!



Yoga

I've started going to yoga
 To help me to relax.
 We all go down to the community hall and lie upon our backs.
 I've got an orange leotard and orange tights as well
 I bought a little yoga mat - to put myself through hell!
 We've "yings" and "yangs" and "yongs"
 We chant a little mantra
 But we've not learned any songs
 We've got some relaxation tapes
 Of seagulls, seas and shores
 It only takes a moment or two
 Before you hear the snores!
 Our group they come in many forms
 Some fat, some thin, some dumpy
 Some life and souls.
 Some good as golds and some are rather grumpy.
 But, twisted into lotus form
 And deep in concentration
 We are all brought down to basics
 With our yoga dedication.

© Gordon Chorlton

It's The Little Things

It's the little things that make our lives worthwhile
 Like a glimpse of blue in a dull grey sky, or a sincere friendly smile.
 It's the small gestures of thoughtfulness, like the hand that dries a tear
 Or a comforting word to reassure, when your heart is filled with fear.
 It's the sights of nature's miracles, when spring's here once again
 Or the brilliant hues of a rainbow, in the sky after summer rain.
 It's the sound of a new born baby's cry, when they say that all is fine
 And the scent of flowers in a garden, as sweet and rich as wine.
 It's all these things and many more, that help us over the stile
 And guide our walk through life's rough paths, to make our lives worthwhile.

© Rosemary Heaney

How To Be a Go-Between

Make sure you mention during conversations any birthdays or anniversaries that are coming up.
 You are bound to be told, "I am glad you mentioned that".

Tell your kids that their brothers or sisters have been asking about them when they phoned you.

But definitely do not say that one phones or visits more than the other.

© Anne Kennedy

Loneliness

It is often so surprising
 Just how lonely some folk are
 House walls are a barrier
 Making neighbours seem so far
 Let the spirit of human kindness
 Walk beside you for a while
 Make a special effort
 To make a sad face smile
 Then as you tread life's highway
 On your daily rounds
 You will find a host of budding friends
 Just waiting to be found.

© L.M. Davies

Music Box

Her body moves slowly
 Combined with the beat of a heart
 Each breath she moves
 Then the music starts
 Her lover's eyes widen
 Filled with intensity
 His breath quickens
 He becomes all tingly
 She moves like a feather
 Dancing in the breeze
 Her body is so smooth
 She dances perfectly
 She takes a breath
 Then glides like a dove
 His eyes fill
 The tears of love
 For she is beautiful
 Beyond this world
 Almost an angel
 As unique as pearl
 He realises he must have her
 Lock her in a box
 So only he can see her beauty
 Whenever his heart stops
 And so he created
 The first music chest
 Forever she'll be dancing
 Whenever the lid is lifted
 But when she's closed away
 Her eyes do fill with tears
 For she is alone
 She has many fears
 She wishes to dance
 Dance in the breeze
 Feel the wind in her hair
 The goosebumps on her knees
 But forever in a box
 She will always be
 A little ballerina
 For the pleasure of you and me.

© Katie Haigh

Noise

Noise, noise is all I hear
 With five children in my ear.
 Screaming, shouting, "Play another tune"
 A lullaby please soon!
 Relaxing, dreaming melody
 Soothing, gentle along the way
 While the children happily play

© Julia McClay

Versatility

Oh Britain, how I love your versatility!
 Your different aspects always calling out to me.
 The rolling moors, the mountains and the hills.
 Beautiful green oases, plenty with the thrills.
 On going to your coasts, the cliffs so proudly stand
 Alongside pretty coves and bays of golden sand.
 Stray from the motorways, the country lanes will catch
 Quaint little villages with cottages topped by thatch.
 And now your splendid cities rise,
 Often from the ashes of misguided thought.
 Buildings of modern and transcendent shape
 Soar into the sky making marvellous landscape
 For the people to see - look at all their faces.
 People from all classes, many creeds and many races.
 So many gathered to admire you.
 Oh Britain, how I love your versatility -
 My home, my heart - you're everything to me.

© Ann Robinson

Claire

Claire has really green fingers, her plants always look healthy
 and she knows their proper names.

Claire will take anybody anywhere, whenever she is available,
 she loves to travel the world, but is just as happy walking
 'round Hollingworth Lake.

Claire listens to Classic FM, her radio is permanently tuned to it.
 Her home is an oasis of peace, with plants, crystals and music.

© Freda Robinson

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WORDS OF JOY

INTERVIEW WITH A POET LAUREATE

Wonderful wordsmith Joy Winkler spent 2005 as Cheshire Poet Laureate. She was commissioned to write poetry about all manner of unusual events across the county. Taking time out of her job as Writer in Residence at Styal Prison, Joy visited both Darnhill and Langley Story Groups this year to inspire members. Kathleen Chorlton recently caught up with her.

Was there a specific event in your life that 'kick-started' your writing career?

In a way, yes, but a small thing really. My cousin, Peter, sent me a really lovely birthday present when I was about 8 I think, and I sent a thank-you letter back. Apparently he then mentioned to my parents what a lovely letter it was and how well I wrote. As I was a really shy little girl this did wonders for my self-esteem and I sort of knew from then on that although I may not be effusive with speech, I would always be able to express myself well with the written word.

Which person, past or present, do you most aspire to be like and why?

I always wanted to be Jo March in 'Little Women'. I was quite young when I read it the first time and she seemed so sure of herself and she was a writer. I wanted to dress in those lovely big dresses, and have to hold back the cuff so that ink wouldn't get onto them. Jeans and Tee shirts don't quite have the same attraction do they?

I am a chocoholic are you?

I am. I went to Brussels last year with my daughter and we both love chocolate. We spent such a lot of our visit in the chocolate shops and brought lots back with us. The best thing, though, was the chocolate museum. The smell was unbelievable and the taste....

What would be your idea of bliss?

Probably drowning in that vat of chocolate. No, not really. My idea of bliss is easy. Armchair, squashy but supportive, dim autumn day, fire lit, a book with a story that can't be left unread - and chocolate raisins.

I like the poem "When I Am Old I Shall Wear Purple" because it reflects my attitude to growing older - do you have any such eccentricities?

You know that phrase, 'letting yourself go', well I think as I get older it has developed quite a different meaning. I am becoming grumpier, and I like it. All those times when I wouldn't say 'boo' to a goose, and now I can't stop myself complaining when something bugs me. I also like going out in the rain without an umbrella and getting thoroughly wet. After all it doesn't hurt and it can be exhilarating.

Tell us about a poem or book that changed your life.

I was bought 'Heidi' for Christmas when I was quite young and I loved it so much, I slept with it under my pillow. However, I think books in general have changed my life. We didn't have many books at home, but going to the library and being able to borrow anything that took my fancy, that was magic. The things I learned and the places I visited in my imagination, made me see what an exciting place the world could be.

Remembering My Parents

In a gentle vapour trail of ether they waft into the corners of my room. Sometimes she's a cloud of soft perfume 'Evening in Paris', which smells cheaper than the smart blue bottle would imply. My father, always pipe smoke on fresh air Old Holborn tamped and sucked into a flare of tiny embers, puffed into the sky. Other times she's Johnson's Baby Powder and he the smell of workman's overalls with hints of putty, paint or planed wood curls. But other times there is this different odour, not one you'd choose to dab behind each ear, their final fragrance, TCP and fear.

© Joy Winkler

From 'On the Edge' by Joy Winkler. 'On the Edge' is available from Anne Sherman at Cheshire County Council. Tel: 01244 602898

THE GATHERING

Tell Us Another One recently co-ordinated 'The Gathering' project with NESTAC (New Steps for African Communities).

Writer Michelle Green worked with men and women to collect their amazing stories for a new illustrated book which will be launched in early 2007. Watch out for it in libraries across Rochdale borough.

And in the meanwhile, here's a taste of what's in store...

This poem is inspired by the meanings behind participants' names.



Who are you?

- I am someone who loves people
- I am sweet potato
- I am the youngest of the twins
- I am the mountain on the border
- I am proof that everything is good
- I am the sea
- I am conceived
- I am a queen
- I am the day
- I am a shining star
- I am my parents 'ours'
- I am a prophet
- I am a ruler
- I am the gate of the green garden
- I am a promise made by my grandmother
- I am friendship
- I am a traveller
- I am the child who is born at the railway station
- I am beautiful
- I am a lion
- I am the one who comes after the twins
- I am the chief
- I am my father's daughter
- I am my mother's son
- I am a warrior
- I am love
- I am never alone

MY LIFE STORY

Scribble recently caught up with bookworm Pat Kirwen who is a Teaching Assistant at St Mary's RC High School in Langley.

What do books mean to you?

My life would have been so different if I didn't enjoy reading. There's nothing like it for escaping your troubles. Reading can also give you hope that there are better times ahead for the world.

Do you have a favourite story from childhood?

One Christmas I was bought 'The Water Babies' by Charles Kingsley. The pictures were absolutely beautiful; I can still remember them clearly today. I also loved the Enid Blyton boarding school books about Malory Towers and St Clare's.

What phrase do you use a lot?

The children at school would say that it's "If you don't read, you won't learn"!

If a film were made about your life, who would you like to play you?

Meryl Streep because she's a great actress.

What good news story would you like to read in the newspapers?

I'd like to read about peace, no more wars, and everyone in the world getting on.



SMALL TALK

Children are a source of endless inspiration with their expressions...

"My daughter Ashleigh (aged 5) saw an advert on TV for Slimfast. It said something about how you could lose four pounds on the Slimfast diet. Ashleigh responded 'That's a lot of money to lose'!!"

Keep **Scribble** posted on funny things your children have said!



COMPETITION

WHAT'S THE STORY?



They say a picture speaks a thousand words; so what story do you see in this photograph? Send us a poem, or short story (maximum 200 words though!) inspired by the image and the best one will win its author a £50 voucher of their choice and will be published in the next edition of **Scribble**. All entries to: Kim Haygarth at the **Scribble** address. Deadline: Friday 16th February 2007.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Scribble highlights local arts, cultural and learning opportunities.

Read Between the Lines, Touchstones, Rochdale

15th December - 11th March

Explore the work of three artists using text in their jewellery, sculpture and textile work. Call 01706 924928 for more details.

Learn with Learn Local!

Fancy brushing up on your English skills? Contact Learn Local on 0161 643 3618 for more information on a whole variety of training courses in your area.

Get into Libraries

If you want to find out more about reading groups, writing groups and events at libraries near you, check out www.rochdale.gov.uk/libraries or ring 01706 924900.

Shamwari Project Mentoring Training

The Shamwari Project is offering 2-week Mentoring Training courses in the new year for people with refugee status living in Rochdale. Training is free! For more information please call 01706 653 724.



GOOD HAIR DAY

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY

From the myth of Medusa to the fraught tale of Samson and Delilah, hair has always been a key part of cultural identity. To celebrate the launch of the excellent new 'Hair' anthology from Suitcase Press which celebrates the Afro and Asian experience of hair, **Tell Us Another One** has teamed up with the Wheatsheaf Library, Rochdale to offer a day of fun, fiction and styling!

On Saturday 27th January 2007 the Wheatsheaf Library will welcome an exceptional line-up of 'Hair' writers to create and share stories about hair with Rochdale people from all cultures.

The programme for the day is:

11am - 1pm

Creative writing workshop on the subject of 'Hair'. Free. All levels of writing experience welcome. To reserve a place, ring the Wheatsheaf Library on 01706 924911.

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Readings and performances by 'Hair' anthology writers plus hair styling! Entry free.

A Photo

Middleton, Manchester, June 1978
Standing outside my front door, the sun glowing on my face,
Casting its gaze on my mop of brown curly hair,
My father's red Suzuki motorcycle by my side.

I feel proud, the light cast over my locks flowing and shining
As though its own source of light, the strands like
Wire: strong and powerful, like nothing else on earth.

© Nadeem Zafar

From 'Hair', edited by Shirley May and Pete Kalu, Suitcase Press.



LOTTERY FUNDED



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