

## THE NORWICH POETRY GROUP - INFORMATION SHEET

The Norwich Poetry Group has been active since 1990. Members meet regularly every month for workshops and, sometimes, for other events as well.

Back in the 90s we organised and hosted regular Saturday night readings, and also several poetry festivals, at the King of Hearts (now called Anteros Arts) with well known and acclaimed poets on the bill.

We've produced a couple of anthologies (Waiting for the Echo, published in 1994 and Spiral, published in 2011) of which a limited number of copies are still available. We've also published the first three in an ongoing series of pamphlet books by members of the group.

We organise fairly regular 'Away Days' at suitably quiet locations with space and facilities indoors, and interesting places nearby in which to sit or walk or visit. These, as well as being social events, are also a "retreat" for members who want some time away from their normal, and probably hectic, lives in order to concentrate on writing.

Our regular workshops take place at 8 pm on the first Monday of every month in the Alexandra Tavern – 16 Stafford Street, Norwich NR2 3BB and are usually pretty lively. We start by distributing and sharing any poetry-related information (competitions, readings, magazines, publication opportunities, etc) and then run the workshop as follows: -

*Members wishing to "workshop" a poem bring several copies so that everyone present has access to the text. The poem is read aloud by the poet and then discussed by the group. The poet is not allowed to say anything to introduce or explain the poem until after the discussion. The reason for this is so that we can consider the text as it stands, which is what somebody coming across the poem in a magazine or book would have to do. After the discussion, the poet is invited to talk about their poem and to respond to any constructive criticism that has been given. We are a friendly and supportive group, and the criticism is never intended to be destructive. We always treat our own writing, and that of other members, in a serious and considered manner.*

*N.B. It is not compulsory to bring a poem every time. Members often just listen to other people's poems and take part in the discussion.*

**Anyone who writes poetry is very welcome to join the group.**

For any further information, please contact me:

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Hilary Mellon (January 2020)