



TALKING ZEBRAS NEWSLETTER – March 2021

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2021!

ONGOING MEETINGS

Despite the continuing Covid Restrictions, we are pleased to report that Talking Zebras is still going strong, albeit via ZOOM rather than via real live sessions in those Wickham armchairs.

We have maintained our 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday schedule and links are sent out a few days in advance both as a reminder and to aid security.

To this end we have constructed a separate mailing list. If you have not received your invitation for the 20th March you are NOT on that list. If you do wish to be included, please let Jim know by email to talking_zebras@yahoo.co.uk

If you don't want receive these periodical Newsletters, please let Jim know in the same way and he will adjust the appropriate lists.

NEW PROJECT

As some of you are aware David has introduced a new project called Cross Reading. This is a section of our webpage where you can submit or listen to recordings by members of the Talking Zebras group. For a sample, see here:- <http://www.talkingzebras.co.uk/the-cross-reading-project.html>

These recordings may be written by yourself, other TZ members or outside poets and credit is always given to the writer. If you wish to submit a recording of yourself, please contact David by email and he will organise a password to the full range of recordings.

If you cannot create your own recordings Jim or David may be able to help and will also try to help if copyright permission is required from published poets.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Many of our members have been busy writing during lockdown and quite a few have been anthologised.

One of our newer members Richard Harries has recently been published.

He writes:-

"I am delighted to announce that my very first book, an Anthology of poems, all of which matter a lot to me is being published by Stairwell books of York on 14th February 2021. The book is entitled AWAKENING and has a brilliant cover by my multi-talented friend Jim Danby. It has notes by best selling author Louise Beech and amazing modern poet Phil Pearce. Available here

<http://www.stairwellbooks.co.uk/product/awakening/> "

Another of our members have been anthologised recently Trevor Alexander has had half-a-dozen poems published in Reach Magazine over the past year, and a couple more accepted for possible future publication?

They're available via <https://www.indigodreams.co.uk/reach-poetry/4563791643>

This also gives information about making submissions should anyone be interested.

Jim has had a few Covid related works published in various magazines and has been invited to read a couple at a special event soon.

OTHER NEWS

Jim has been asked to host an open mike session on behalf of TZ as part of Huddersfield Literature Festival on-line in March and all Talking Zebras are invited to join in. <https://www.huddlitfest.org.uk/event/lockdownpoems/> (free of charge)

The main session opens at 1 pm and the Open Mike at 2 pm on Tuesday 23 March. There is no planned ending time – it depends on participants!

Indoor festival events will, hopefully, be arranged for later in the year.

THE FUTURE

According to the "Road Map" from Downing Street we may shortly be permitted to return to our "home" at the Wickham Arms but the possible dates for this are not guaranteed. What is guaranteed is our commitment to maintaining the sessions on 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays.

For now these will be via zoom and either David or Jim will be keeping these going as long as needed. Even after the Wickham Arms does re-open it is our intention to run parallel sessions for the first few months until confidence is fully restored and we can resume "normality".

However given the number of new friends from outside an easy travelling distance of Cleckheaton it is proposed that a session a month will be held on zoom. Your thoughts would be welcome.

If you have **anything** you'd like to share in the next Newsletter, please email us at talking_zebras@yahoo.co.uk

We hope you and yours continue to stay safe and sane in these interesting times.

David & Jim