An introduction to the Trades Union Congress Library holdings, including the FWWCP Publications and Administrative Documents
FWWCP Collection

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IDENTITY STATEMENT
Title: Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP) Collection
Dates of creation: 1970s - 2007, with some publications continuing to present
Extent: 85 boxes

CONTEXT
Administrative/biographical history: The Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers was a network of writing and publishing groups that began in 1976 in London, England. Eight original groups met at Centerprise bookshop in Hackney and formed the FWWCP which self-published working-class writing until 2007. These groups published testimony about working-class experience, including topics of migration, language, gender, vocation, sexuality, food, and more. After 2007, the FWWCP folded and reformed as the FED, which is currently still active.

Custodial History: The publications and administrative documents were donated by FWWCP members, including Nick Pollard, Ken Worpole, Roger Mills, Sally Flood, and more. The majority of the documents were deposited by Nick Pollard with the TUC Collections, London Metropolitan University in 2014.

CONTENT & STRUCTURE
Accruals: There may be further deposits.
System of arrangement: The collection is arranged in 85 boxes, with two main distinctions: Publications and Administrative Publications. The publications are arranged based on the region of publication. The Administrative Publications are arranged by type (e.g., minutes; annual reports; magazines, etc.). See following information for more information on how to find specific contents.
CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

Access conditions: open

Physical Conditions: generally good

Finding Aids: There are digital and printed Research/Reading guides based on important themes within the FWWCP Collection, such as Art, Food, Gender, Local London, Migration, Sexuality, War, Work, and more.

Description Notes: Entries compiled by Dr. Jessica Pauszek and Vincent Portillo

Date: June 2018

The following is a listing of the holdings included in the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP) Collection. The holdings are organized into two main categories: first, the publications by the FWWCP; second, the administrative documents (meeting minutes; grant applications; funding applications; festival planning documents; annual reports; etc.).
Navigating the FWWCP Collection

Here we want to say a few words about the organisation of the holdings. The region of publication was important to members of the FWWCP. For instance, publications often showcase regional dialect, vocation, and cultural traditions. Therefore, based on the desire of the FWWCP/FED members, we have organised the holdings according to region of publication. Currently, the holdings are organised according to 14 regions, each of which is numbered this way:

- 01 NW (North West)
- 02 NE (North East)
- 03 Y (Yorkshire)
- 04 WM (West Midlands)
- 05 EM (East Midlands)
- 06 SW (South West)
- 07 SE (South East)
- 08 L (London)
- 09 NI (Northern Ireland)
- 10 S (Scotland)
- 11 W (Wales)
- 12 E (Europe)
- 13 US (United States)
- 14 I (International Publications)

Two boxes are marked RM in the collection, and these are publications from Roger Mills that represent some of the FWWCP’s diversity. They are currently used for presentations and can be found in RM 1 and RM 2 boxes. Once organised according to region, a second set of numbers is used to identify the box where a document can be found. Example holding: FWWCP/ REGION #, REGION LETTER, BOX #. Take, for example, the following listing: FWWCP/ 08 L 02, which indicates a document – in this case, Sally Flood’s Paper Talk – can be found in Region 8 (London) in box number 2.

The administrative documents of the FWWCP can be found in boxes beginning with the number 15. Each box contains different contents, including minutes, annual reports, in-process writing, festival planning documents, etc., and is labeled as such.
FWWCP Collection

Contents

FWWCP/ 01 NW 01 - 10
Publications from the North West Region

FWWCP/ 02 NE 01 - 03
Publications from the North East Region

FWWCP/ 03 Y 01 - 13
Publications from the Yorkshire Region

FWWCP/ 04 WM 01 - 03
Publications from the West Midlands Region

FWWCP/ 05 EM 01 - 02
Publications from the East Midlands Region

FWWCP/ 06 SW 01 - 05
Publications from the South West Region

FWWCP/ 07 SE 01 - 05
Publications from the South East Region

FWWCP/ 08 L 01 - 15
Publications from London

FWWCP/ 09 NI 01
Publications from Northern Ireland

FWWCP/ 10 S 01 - 02
Publications from Scotland

FWWCP/ 11 W 01 - 02
Publications from Wales

FWWCP/ 12 E 01 - 04
Publications from Europe

FWWCP/ 13 US 01
Publications from the United States of America
FWWCP/14 I 01
Publications from International Groups (Including but not limited to Australia, Canada, New Zealand.)

ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS
FWWCP/15 AP 01
Federation Magazine, FED News, Newsletters

FWWCP/15 AP 02
Anthologies and Publications

FWWCP/15 AP 03
Annual Reports (Beginning 1979-2005)

FWWCP/15 AP 04
Constitutional Documents
(Includes copies of FWWCP Constitution.)

FWWCP/15 AP 05
FWWCP Minutes (From 1976 - 2015)

FWWCP/15 AP 06
Member Group Applications
(Includes applications with supporting documentation and correspondence.)

FWWCP/15 AP 07
Member Group Applications, cont.
(Includes applications with supporting documentation and correspondence.)

FWWCP/15 AP 08
Group and Individual Membership
(Includes names of members and correspondence.)

FWWCP/15 AP 09
Budget and Finance
(Includes budgets, financial reports and FWWCP development and event reports from 1977-1993. Also includes external financial documents such as FWWCP insurance claims, plane ticket records, work order bills, etc., and co-operative forms, funding, and correspondence.)

FWWCP/15 AP 10
Budget and Finance
(Includes budgets, financial reports and FWWCP development and event reports from 1994-2004.)
FWWCP/15 AP 11
Business Accounts, 2001

FWWCP/15 AP 12
Fed Festivals, Workshops, Pamphlets, Advertising
Information, and Feedback Forms
(Includes FWWCP flyers, calls for writers, advertisements, graphic logo.
FED Fest posters, flyers, meeting agendas, typed and handwritten notes. Also
includes information about FED Fest workshops, descriptions of workshops,
schedule of events, and course feedback. Fed magazine and leaflets, forms, and
feedback.)

FWWCP/15 AP 13
Member Group Events, Workshops, and Publication. Advertising, Press Releases.
(Includes Individual groups within the FED: proposals, general information, meeting
notes, workshop information. Posters from the TEC/CRRIAC Conference in France,
Press releases. Pamphlets and brochures. Publicity for FED events, publications,
writing groups and more. Press releases and event information for individual member
groups of FWWCP.)

FWWCP/ 15 AP 14
“Writing For A Change” Submissions
(Includes submissions to the writing FWWCP contest “Writing for a Change” and
applications/requests for entry forms.)

FWWCP/ 15 AP 15
Misc Writing by Members

FWWCP/15 AP 16
Misc Documents About Pecket Well College

FWWCP/15 AP 17
Writing and Articles About the FWWCP/FED

FWWCP/15 AP 18
Various Educational and Adult Literacy Documents

FWWCP/15 AP 19
Multimedia tapes, CDs, and photographs featuring FWWCP events and/or groups
Introduction

The FWWCP Collection is rooted in the history of the FWWCP itself. The Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP) originated in 1976 as a network of working-class writing groups, beginning in the London area but eventually spreading into other parts of the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, Canada, South Africa, and the United States. During its 40+ year history, according to some estimates, the FWWCP produced and circulated over one million publications. A long-term goal of the FWWCP was to create an archive to preserve the writing of FWWCP members, whose work recorded working-class life in the late 20th century.

The dream of an archive became a necessity, however, when the FWWCP was forced to fold up in 2007/2008. The collapse of the FWWCP prompted a move toward the preservation of the organisation's history. From the ashes of the FWWCP rose TheFED, which worked to establish an archive. This work was headed up by an international team consisting of FWWCP member Nick Pollard, University of Virginia member Steve Parks, and Texas A&M University - Commerce member Jessica Pauszek. This team was (and is) committed to working with TheFED to establish an archive. In doing so, the working team committed to two fundamental goals:

1. The archive collection should be housed in an institution which was aligned with the values of the FWWCP.
2. The FWWCP membership should have a leadership role in the organisation of the archival materials.

Beginning in 2013, Nick Pollard and the working team reached out to London Metropolitan University’s Trade Union Congress (TUC) Library, directed by Jeff Howarth, to inquire about their interest in the materials. During this time, the working team also expanded to include Jennifer Harding, London Metropolitan University, who brings expertise in oral history projects. In 2014, the TUC acquired a deposit of FWWCP materials from Nick Pollard. This was the first step in creating a print collection at the TUC.

The next step was to develop a system for sorting and cataloguing. Through discussions with FWWCP (now FED) members at their annual FED Festival, workshops, and focus groups, it was collectively decided to sort the publications by region. The focus on regional location was important to FWWCP members because of the community that developed around the types of work they did in
those particular regions, and possibly the dialects they spoke there. These regions include the following: North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, South West, South East, and London. Additionally, regions in the Collection also include Scotland; Wales; Ireland. As the FWWCP members and other volunteers began the sorting, however, these regions expanded to include other parts of Europe; United States; and other international publications.

For the past 5 years, this team has worked to establish a core collection of materials, working from the already existing collection of Nick Pollard. It has also sought out grant materials and institutional support to sponsor workshops at FED Festivals, yearly gatherings of membership writers and community publishers. Through Steve and Jess' work, Syracuse University sponsored the FED’s annual festival for multiple years.

The archival work made up the foundation of multiple study abroad writing courses from 2015 - present. In 2015, as the archive/collection began to take shape, Jess Pauszek and Steve Parks created a London-based research course, in which undergraduate and graduate students helped sort and catalogue the materials. As part of the course, students met with FWWCP/FED members as a way of ensuring that the emerging collection continued to reflect the values of the organisation.

To date, over 2,300 unique publications (including chapbooks, magazines, meeting minutes, etc.) have been sorted and indexed. In 2018, Jess Pauszek and Vincent Portillo taught another course where students not only continued to organise the contents of the FWWCP collection, but also developed the Reading Guides that are now part of this publication. Importantly, during this course, we established a method, including holding numbers, for cataloguing each publication into a particular region and box. (These holding numbers are described in the FWWCP Collection Contents section.)

Throughout this process, FWWCP/FED members have been involved in choosing themes which merit representation. The Reading Guides represent some of the most important topics represented in the FWWCP Collection, including: Art; Design; Food; Gender; LGBTQ+; Literacy; Local London; Migration; Race; Sexuality; War; Work. The Reading Guides in this catalogue are just a beginning; we hope to produce more.
Activism

A Man to be Watched Carefully
FWWCP/ RM Part 2

A Woman’s Right to Cues
FWWCP/03 Y 07

Different Drums
Multiple authors. Lancashire Association of Trades Councils, 1984.
FWWCP/ 01 NW 02

FWWCP/08 L 10

Gold under the Hammer: Passive Resistance in Cornholme 1902-1914
Multiple authors. Cornholme W.E.A. Branch, 1982.
FWWCP/03 Y 12

FWWCP/08 L 07

Innocent Blood: The Hexham Riot of 1761
Multiple authors. Northern Voices, 1996.
FWWCP/02 NW 02

Lightyears
FWWCP/01 NW 02

May Day: 19th People’s Gala, Rally & Demonstration
Multiple authors. Chesterfield & District TUC, 1996
FWWCP/05 EM 01

May Day: 20th People’s Gala, Rally & Demonstration
Multiple authors. Chesterfield & District TUC, 1997
FWWCP/05 EM 02

May Day: 21st People’s Gala, Rally & Demonstration
Multiple authors. Chesterfield & District TUC, 1997
FWWCP/05 EM 01

Nine Days 1926: The General Strike in Southwark
Union Place. Union Place Community Resource Center, May 1976.
FWWCP/ RM Part 4

Nineteen Eighty-Three
Multiple authors. Lancashire Association of Trades Councils, 1983.
FWWCP/01 NW 02

One Life is Not Enough: A German Woman’s Antifascist Fight
FWWCP/ RM Part 3

Rebels with a Cause: The History of Hackney Trades Council 1900-1975
FWWCP/08 L 03

Strike Songs
FWWCP/08 L 07
Strikers of Hanbury Street and Other
East End Tales
Smith, Derek. Rhapsody, 2002.
FWWCP/08 L 07

THATCHERISM: The Jubilee Lent
Lectures, 1980
Leech, Kenneth. The Jubilee Group, no date.
FWWCP/ RM Part 4

Tough Annie: From Suffragette to
Stepney Councillor
Annie Barnes in conversation with Kate
Harding and Caroline Gibbs. Stepney Books,
1980.
FWWCP/08 L 14

To Struggle is to Live: A Working Class
Autobiography
FWWCP/02 NE 03

We Want Winns! The Story Behind A
School Strike, 1945
Waltham Forest Workshop, 1993.
FWWCP/08 L 14

Worker Writer No. 1
Multiple authors. Leeds Community Press, no
date.
FWWCP/03 Y 13
Art

Visual art and creative writing made by disenfranchised groups is a common theme within the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP), now recognized under a new name, TheFED. Groups focused on these creative endeavors have been active within the FWWCP since its inception, and the network has, in turn, been active in publishing these works.

Such visual art by disenfranchised groups is in the monthly Federation Magazine, as well as throughout many publications by individual writers. Women writers and artists have traditionally been underserved and are represented here with several collections of poetry, short stories, and art.

One of the creatives now part of TheFED is John Joseph Sheehy, who came to the group via The Big Issue when he suffered from homelessness in his fifties, now nearly twenty years ago. Sheehy was assisted through art and writing workshops that The Big Issue held and has had several collections published. The FWWCP Collection also contains donated sketchbooks and journals of Sheehy’s work.
Flame: a Collection of Poetry by Asian writers in English and Urdu
Commonword, 1991
FWWCP/01 NW 07
This bilingual text is a small, bound book with a golden yellow cover which is inset with a work of art. The book contains a publisher’s note, a translator’s note, poetry, and then concludes with a few paragraphs about each of the fifteen contributors as well as the not-for-profit organisation, Commonword. The poems describe the difficulties faced by the writers in their home countries, as both refugees and as immigrants.

Keywords: anthology | art | bilingual | migration | poetry | refugee | Urdu

Drowned in Overspill
Caroline Gilfillan, 2000
FWWCP/01 NW 07
This book cover is lavender with a graphic text title, and the back cover contains a black and white photograph of the author. This collection of poems won the Crocus North West Poetry Pamphlet Competition, 2007. The poems contain themes of marriage, illness, love, and loss.

Keywords: illness | loss | love | marriage | poetry | relationship | women

Five Women Poets: Poetry by Women Writers
Pat Winslow, et al., 1993
FWWCP/01 NW 07
The community publishing co-operative Commonword announced a call for submissions, resulting in this book of poems. The book is softbound with cover artwork in colour of a figure of a woman holding a key. The poems focus on themes from everyday life, hope, humour, optimism, childhood memories, and interpretations of historical moments. One poem, “Song of the Woman Past Forty,” laments women who succumb to the societal pressures and associated costs of beauty treatments to retain a youthful look.

Keywords: ageism | body image | childhood | family | humour | poetry | women | working-class

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Keywords: ageism | body image | childhood | family | humour | poetry | women | working-class
Healing Strategies for Women at War
Seven Black Women Poets, 1999

Healing Strategies for Women at War is an anthology that gives voice to those who normally do not get published. It contains poems from five Black British women and includes themes of identity, displacement, family, and more. The cover of this book contains a greyscale photograph of a woman in shadow with downcast eyes.

Keywords: Black British | family | identity | immigrant | sexuality | war | women | working-class

Home Truths:
Writing by North West Women
HOME TRUTHS, no date

This is a collection of poetry, short stories, drawings, and photographs by the Manchester-based women’s writing group HOME TRUTHS, which was started by workers from Commonword. The cover of the book is a collage of black and white photographs by Phil Boyd, and the title in green text. Themes of domestic life, nature, emotions, and more from twelve women writers are included. A very brief biography is included in the back of the book.

Keywords: anthology | art | domestic | drawing | family | illustration | non-fiction | poetry | women

Low Tide
John Joseph Sheehy, no date

Low Tide is a softcover book of poetry and prose by John Joseph Sheehy. It was donated and signed by the author/artist. The book cover contains a colourful drawing of a figure done by the author/artist. The short book contains poetic themes of nature, celebrations of holidays, and moments from everyday life. An example of a poem is “I’m Writing Directly on the Computer Now,” which blends stream-of-consciousness writing with a witty sense of humour.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | drawing | humour | painting | poetry | watercolour
River Boy: Short Story and Illustrations
John Joseph Sheehy, 2008
FWWCP/08 L 13

A softcover children's book written and published May 2008. There are multiple large, colourful illustrations contained within the pages to break up the large-sized text. The short book launches straight into the story of a little boy who lives in the Irish countryside with his mum, whom he observes milking the family cow. It is a coming of age story as the boy grows to learn how to milk the family cow using pop songs, instead of traditional songs.

Keywords: art | childhood | drawing | farm life | Ireland | story | watercolour

Sketchbook #1: paintings and drawings
John Joseph Sheehy, no date
FWWCP/08 L 13

This sketchbook is hardbound with a black cover and measures 29.5 cm x 21 cm. The sketchbook contains watercolour paintings, acrylic paintings, marker and pencil drawings. Some pages contain a combination of media. Some images are abstract, and some are line drawings of people.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | acrylic | drawing | graphite | line drawing | mixed media | watercolour

Sketchbook #2: paintings and drawings
John Joseph Sheehy, 2010
FWWCP/08 L 13

This sketchbook is hardbound with a black cover and closes with an attached black elastic band. The book measures 30 cm x 21 cm. The inside cover contains a drawing of a pair of figures. The first page contains drawings of children, faces of adults and a donkey, all under a sun with rays shining through a cloud. The rest of the sketchbook contains watercolour paintings, acrylic paintings, marker, and pencil drawings. Some pages contain a combination of media.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | acrylic | graphite | line drawing | mixed media | painting | watercolour
Skylight Times
Crisis Members
Magazine, Issue 10
Multiple authors, Spring 2012
FWWCP/08 L 13

A small, stapled periodical produced quarterly by the Skylight Times staff. There are fourteen contributors to Issue 10. The cover features a colour painting by Christopher Orlowsky. Inside are essays and poetry with many companion photos or works of art, some of which are made by the contributing artist/author. The back cover contains a list of contributors and a colour photo of Keith Harris standing alongside a large painting he made.

Keywords: abstract expressionism | crisis center | disability | mental health | photography
Design

These examples were chosen to showcase different approaches to creative writing, image making, layout, design, typography, and photography. Words and images are both communicative forms in which one is able to express an idea. These texts use the interplay of language and visual form in order to communicate. Many of these texts were chosen from the groups London Voices or Working Press.

Images of FWWCP book covers

London Voices was a reading group which began before, but later became associated with, the FWWCP. This reading group eventually evolved into a writing group for Londoners who wanted to share their poetry and stories.

Working Press was an inclusive agency which promoted self-publication on art and culture by working-class people. Its aims were to celebrate and communicate the differences which take us further from the mythic and heroic ‘class struggle’ - toward understanding and representing the complex cultural identity which is often attached and overlaid but not destroyed by education and so-called ‘upward mobility’.
Crossing Black Waters
Working Press, 1992

Published in 1992, this book was released in accompaniment to a touring exhibition displaying works of 13 South Asian Artists. Crossing Black Waters refers geographically to the oceans surrounding the Indian Subcontinent. To cross the oceans meant to cast yourself outside of tradition. The book contains drawings, photographs and text. The layout of the publication encourages the reader to reexamine previous pages as one goes along.

Keywords: class | exclusion | photography | Working Press

Flyposter Frenzy
Working Press, 1992

First published in 1992, this book is filled with posters from various individuals and groups who are on the fringes of society. Their powerful and witty infographics invite the reader to photocopy, edit and put up these posters around public spaces as they see fit, guiding the public voice in expressing these messages. The posters cover many issues of outrage and hypocrisy including: sexuality, economics, anti-establishment, patriotism, colonialism, feminism, strike action, work-life balance, social control and many more.

Keywords: class | economics | feminism | patriotism | sexuality | strike | working-class

If Comix: “Mental”
Graham Harwood, 1991

Published in 1991 by Working Press, this publication uses a comic book style with vast amounts of graphic greyscale illustrations set in a storyboard format. The images are interspersed with text boxes and speech bubbles exclaiming feelings of despondency with society and criticising consumerism. Both text and images are highly emotive and aggressive at points. The zine, which contains a free poster and record, is written in vernacular slang.

Keywords: consumerism | emotions | illustrations
John and Other Stories
Graham Harwood, 1987
FWWCP/08 L 10
This publication tells a story almost entirely through pictures with just a short introduction. Published in 1987 and set against the backdrop of the 1985 riots, this series of collages interspersed with cut-out news text aims to connect being an artist and being working-class. The author states that inferiority is the mechanism which sustains capitalism. By making groups of people feel 'outside' of culture, they are forced to continue with a structure which does not understand or hold their interests.

Keywords: capitalism | class | culture | working-class

On the Roof
Graham Jameson, 1982
FWWCP/08 L 04
This publication was written by a South London school teacher. It tells a story of a day in a classroom and the interactions between the students, the teacher, and also some builders who were causing a distraction. It has a journalistic feel and raises some tough issues which are not exactly resolved, but rather simply played out for the reader. There is black and white photography throughout which is candid and unedited, matching the honesty of the story told.

Keywords: education | photography | London

The Difference
A Mawuduku & A Burnham, 1994
FWWCP/08 L 10
Co-published in 1994, this monochrome publication tells a conversational story from the perspective of a working-class van driver. The narrative, almost entirely communicated through speech, is accompanied by sketched illustrations. The loose sketch drawing style is emotive and intensifies as the story moves forward matching the rise of the tempo of the story, the speed of the van and the roughness of the road.

Keywords: art | class | sketches | working-class
The ‘Suspect Generation’
Gertrude Elias, 1993
FWWCP/08 L 05

This ring bound publication from London Voices contains short stories by members. On the first 100 pages, stories are told from themes as diverse as love and Ancient Egypt. In a loose style of writing, they express fact and fiction centered from working-class life. The final 50 pages are dedicated to illustrations which take the reader on a visual journey through intense themes of despair, sex, class, and inferiority.

Keywords: class | despair | love | sex | working-class

The Unknown Deserter
Clifford Harper, 2002
FWWCP/08 L 10

This small, A6 booklet by Working Press begins with a story about young Aby Harris, swept up in the fervour of patriotism in 1914, who is then severely injured on the front line at the start of the First World War. The 8 illustrations depict scenes of systematic abuse and a lack of regard for life from hierarchical structures. Line drawings, high in contrast and detail, encourage the reader to pause and think about the narrative as it unfolds before them.

Keywords: class | patriotism | war | World War I
Disability

And You a Gentleman: A Biography of Stanley Oscar Myers
FWWCP/04 WM 01

Disability Arts Magazine
FWWCP/03 Y 13

Hidden Dragons: Writing by Disabled People in Wales
FWWCP/11 W 02

Labelled Disabled Collective
Multiple authors. The Labelled Disabeled Collective, 1989.
FWWCP/03 Y 12

Learning Disability: Working as Equal People
The Open University, no date.
FWWCP/03 Y 13

My Deaf Son
FWWCP/01 NW 03

No Restraints: an anthology of Disability Culture in Philadelphia
FWWCP/13 US 01

Pecket Well College
(Multiple documents)
FWWCP/03 Y 11

Ragged Edge: The Disability Experience in America
FWWCP/13 US 01

Rainbows in the Ice
FWWCP/01 NW 06

VAN Briefing: Disability Discrimination Act Part III
Voluntary ARTS Network, no date.
FWWCP/11 W 01
Food

Food is an underlying theme within the texts of the FWWCP. The discussion about food within this collection is often found in texts that also focus on women and migration, as some writing groups used these topics to discuss similarities and difference of food, spices, utensils, and cooking practices between their homeland and a new country. Discussion about food also appears in memoirs about childhood or family, as members reflect on important home recipes, or the availability of various food during their lifetime. For instance, throughout the collection, both World Wars and the Great Slump play a significant role in the acquisition, consumption, and sale of food.

Many food related titles in the collection include traditional recipes from the United Kingdom and abroad, particularly Indian and Caribbean countries. Note that the texts described here incorporate food to different extents. In some titles, food is more prominent, while in others, it is only briefly touched on throughout the writing.

Within the FWWCP more broadly, food has always played an important role in the group. Group meetings and writing groups are always held with tea and biscuits, cakes, and other snacks. Additionally, the annual FED Festival is a time to gather with friends to write and share those writings over lunch and at the pub. Just as these writers explain, food brings us together, allows us to share our varied cultures, and represents the comfort and welcome of being part of a community.
Bagels with Babushka
Hilda Cohen, 1989
FWWCP/01 NW 02

A Jewish woman’s memoir during the period between both World Wars. Cohen recounts her young life with her grandmother and widowed father, moving to Manchester, and coming of age during the Great Slump. As a young adult, she becomes a teacher and shorthand typist, later joining The Youth Front Against War and Fascism, a Socialist social/political club. Cohen demonstrates how her social and personal upbringings helped develop her interest in the growing oppression against Jewish people.

Keywords: childhood | domestic life | fascism | Jewish | Manchester | socialism | war | women | work | World War I | World War II

Baking in Wales
S. Minwel Tibbott, 1995
FWWCP/11 W 02

A brief history on habits and customs surrounding bread and baking in Wales in the 19th and 20th centuries. Baking in Wales provides an overview of domestic traditions including practical learning of methods in the home and the later emergence of communal bake houses. Bake houses continued the customs of home baking into the mid-20th century, until commercial bakers were relied on during World War II. Recipes are included.

Keywords: baking | cooking | domestic life | Wales | women

Captain Blackbeard’s Beef Creole and other Caribbean recipes
Peckham Publishing Project, 1981
FWWCP/08 L 04

A collection of recipes from the Caribbean islands collectively written by immigrants of the West Indies. Illustrations are included by Collingwood Girls’ School in Peckham. Publication includes an encyclopaedic list of produce and ingredients particular to this cuisine, recipes, poems, and memoirs. Authors describe physical characteristics of produce, how to select it, its use, and alternative names to ingredients in the United Kingdom. Traditional food preparation methods are discussed including those specific to holidays.

Keywords: Caribbean | cooking | domestic life | migration | West Indies
Cottage Loaves & Plain Bricks: Memories of bread and baking in Waltham Forest
Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, 1986
FWWCP/08 L 14

This is the third publication by Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, which includes recollections of baking in Waltham Forest from 1913-1950. Oral histories recount the transition from family owned bakehouses to commercial bakeries. Topics discussed include baking methods, working conditions, business operations, and adapting to gas ovens and other machinery. Wartime shortages and their effects on industry are also explored. Vintage advertisements, maps, and photographs are included.

**Keywords:** baking | domestic life | industry | Waltham Forest | war | work | World War I | World War II

Nice Tastin’ Life and Food in the Caribbean
Liz Bartless, editor, 1991
FWWCP/08 L 14

Written by immigrants from the West Indies, including Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Tobago, and Trinidad, who convene as the Pepper Pot Club, this collection includes poems, folk tales, and short histories describing local food culture. Writers explore tasks related to farming, cooking, going to market, finding Caribbean ingredients in London, medicinal uses, and the role of food in social occasions. The book also describes differences in island countries relating to vernacular for food and uses for food. Recipes are included.

**Keywords:** agriculture | Caribbean | childhood | cooking | cuisine | Dominica | farming | food | medicine | West Indies

Open City: A Journal of Community Arts & Culture - Breaking Bread: The Food Issue
August Tarrier, 2000
FWWCP/13 US 01

This is the second issue of biannual magazine circulated in Philadelphia, which includes memoirs, poems, opinion editorials, interviews, and writings related to food. Cuisines discussed include Jewish, Spanish, Filipino, Mexican, and Cajun. Another major theme in this serial is agriculture in the city. Articles include stories on community gardening, food styling, the 'slow food' movement, and sustainable food sourcing. The issue focuses on food as it relates to everyday life and living in an urban area.

**Keywords:** agriculture | childhood | cuisine | domestic life | food | gardening | Philadelphia | slow food | sustainable food
Our Experience: Women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan write about their lives
Gatehouse, 1996
FWWCP/ RM 01
A collection of writings from emigres of Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan learning to write and speak English. The authors were involved in a parent storytelling workshop as part of a family literacy project. The stories were written in English then translated back to native languages. Memoirs and drawings of home countries involving childhood, daily life, food, traditions, and motherhood are inside. Recipes are included.
Keywords: Bangladesh | bilingual | childhood | folklore | food | literacy | motherhood | Pakistan | refugee | Somalia | Swahili | Tanzania | Urdu

The Smiling Bakers
George Grout, 1992
FWWCP/07 SE 04
Author George Grout recounts childhood and family life with 10 siblings in the mid 1910s and 1920s. The main setting for these memoirs is the bakehouse owned by his father, attached to his childhood home. Grout describes his involvement in the family business at a young age, detailing his duties from age six through young adulthood. Major themes in this title include siblings, family, work, baking, and World War I. Baking processes and production methods are described in detail.
Keywords: army | Brighton | childhood | domestic life | food | holidays | war | work | World War I

Strike 84 - 85
North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures
Yorkshire Arts Circus, 1985
FWWCP/03 Y 07
Published by North Yorkshire Women Against Pit Closures in 1985. Women of Yorkshire share their memoirs and poetry from the Miners’ Strike of 1984. Chapters included focus on soup kitchens and rations, fundraising, family life, protesting, and national conferences for women against pit closures. The stories shared expose the level of hardship experienced with reduced wages. This book details the complexity of daily life, family, protesting, politics, and police brutality during the strike period.
Keywords: domestic life | food | miners | police | politics | protest | strike | violence | women | working-class | Yorkshire
Sweet and Sour
Bengali Women's Support Group, 1993

This title is the second publication of the Bengali Women's Support Group in South Yorkshire. It explores the importance of food through memoirs, poetry, letters, folk tales, and stories. Recipes are prefaced with a personal story about the dish. Bengali women share the role cooking played in their lives. Together, the individual stories relay how cooking impacted the domestic, social, and professional situations of the women. Authors describe cultural traditions, medicinal uses for certain foods, and tips for Bengali cooking.

Keywords: Bengali | cooking | domestic life | migration | Indian cooking | recipe | Yorkshire | women
Gender

The specific readings listed in the FWWCP Gender Reading Guide are all written by women, with publication dates spanning from 1978 to 1991. In these pieces, some women were overtly rejecting the societal systems they lived in, while other were merely writing about their lives. Regardless, all of these women wrote about political and societal issues in one way or another through detailing their personal experiences with domestic life, motherhood, migration, race, politics, the working-class life, World War II, and more.

Images by the FWWCP

Stories about gender within the FWWCP collection not only discuss a variety of topics, but also span multiple generations, ethnicities, languages, and genres. The publications selected for this collection alone include essays, memoirs, poems, and short stories in many different formats, such as anthologies, magazines, books, and pamphlets.

Within the FWWCP materials, there are pieces written by individuals focused on gender issues and social concerns in their own lives. These might include gendered work, sexuality, masculinity, femininity, raising children, and family. In other cases, there are anthologies, such as Move on Adam that represent an organisation-wide publication written by women, in order to highlight women’s voices. Even more, though, throughout the Collection, there are discussions about the role of gender in connection to class identity (see Voices 25).
A Classy Pair of Knickers and Other Poignant Pieces of Politics and Love #34
London Voices, 1996

This substantial collection has 81 pieces of creative writing from the London Voices Poetry Workshop. Topics cover feminist issues (“a woman,” “If love is the same”), economic issues about socialism and poverty (“I stifled a yawn,” “Unemployment balance sheet”), and sex (“A classy pair of knickers”). The poems range in voices from sentimental to unforgiving.

Keywords: class | feminism | gender | poverty | women’s writing

A Woman’s Work
Annie Spike, 1978

Annie Spike chronicles her life through her relationship to work in this short memoir. She describes her time working in Ireland and Hackney, London, as a factory girl, while also detailing her relationship with labour unions, her office jobs, her work as a cleaning lady, and time spent being a mother and wife. The story was originally written for a book about thirteen people who live and perform multiple work in Hackney, Working Lives Volume Two.

Keywords: autobiography | class | gender | factory life | family | London | memoir | politics | relationships | women’s writing | working-class

Booknews No. 3, Women Writers magazine
FWWCP, 1988

Booknews No. 3, Women Writers is an educational magazine focused solely on women’s writing groups within the FWWCP. It was primarily for “teachers who want to know about writing and publishing outside the mainstream and like to encourage active involvement by their students in the writing process.” By encouraging a range of works across the FWWCP, they hoped to showcase the rich tradition of women’s writing through a variety of forms and genres.

Keywords: autobiography | class | education | gender | London | school | women’s writing | working-class
**Every Birth it Comes Different**
Hackney Reading Centre, 1980
FWWCP/08 L 03

This collection of writings is from the Hackney Reading Centre, a group that helps adult learners improve their reading, writing, and speaking skills. The stories, written with the help of tutors, vary in form, but all stem from the lives of multiple women and their experiences with childbirth. Compiling these stories allowed the women to explore the uniting theme of pregnancy and childbirth, and childbirth customs from London and beyond.

**Keywords:** autobiography | childbirth | gender | memoir | motherhood | London | relationships | women’s writing | working-class

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**Guilty Secrets: Anthology of Women’s Writing**
Scarlet Women Writing and Publishing Group, 1989
FWWCP/05 EM 02

Guilty Secrets was inspired by a feminist women’s writing workshop that discovered most feminist writings fall into the category of “guilty” secrets. These selections include poetry and prose about the secrets women hold every day. The anthology is meant to empower women to tell the stories they previously felt they had to hide.

**Keywords:** family | feminism | feminist | gender | sexuality | women’s writing

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**Move Over Adam: an anthology of short stories**
Women Writers of the FWWCP, 1990
FWWCP/ RM 01

This collection of short stories is noted for not only the quality of the stories, but the fact that the space was created specifically for women’s writers. Although creating a space for one group within the Federation was controversial, Move Over Adam presents an important moment within the FWWCP’s history to celebrate women writers.

**Keywords:** gender | London | Liverpool | relationships | women’s writing | working-class
Sheffield Sampler, A Selection of Local Women’s Writing
Mogg, Dymphna and Rachel Van Riel, editors, 1985
FWWCP/03 Y 04

This anthology of women’s writing was collected to coincide with International Women’s Day in 1985. The anthology exists primarily to celebrate the tradition of female writing. This particular selection was chosen from over 100 texts sent to the editors, with the intent to represent a broad aspect of the female experience and “local women's responses to life,” and, as such, touch on a variety of subjects.

Keywords: autobiography | domestic life | family | feminism | gender | memoir | motherhood | poetry | women’s writing | working-class | Yorkshire

Paper Talk
Sally Flood, no date
FWWCP/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Sally Flood describes life at her home in East London. Here, she writes about sleepless nights with family life, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

Keywords: class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | working-class | women’s writing

Pure Running
Louise Shore, 1982
FWWCP/08 L 03

*Pure Running* is a memoir of a working-class woman, Louise Shore, and her migration to London from Jamaica in 1960. Her aspiration to write books was stalled by a lack of education and encouragement. Yet, when she began attending the Hackney Reading Centre, she worked with tutors to achieve her goal. Her story chronicles facets of her life including issues of migration, work, housing, and relationships, and navigating all of them as a Black woman.

Keywords: Black writers | class | gender | housing | London | memoir | migration | race | relationships | women’s writing | working-class
**Time to be Bold**
Lotte Moos, 1981
FWWCP/08 L 03

Lotte Moos’ collection of poems is a response to working-class life in Hackney, London. Lotte wrote poetry at a young age, but was interrupted by WWII when home and work responsibilities took precedence. When the urge to create was too strong, she began writing again, eventually joining the Hackney Writer’s Group, where this volume was compiled. These autobiographical poems chart her life through her political views, labor, heartbreak, and relationship with family.

**Keywords:** domestic life | family | gender | Hackney | London | poetry | politics | relationships | women’s writing | working-class | World War II

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**Tough Annie: From Suffragette to Stepney Councillor**
Annie Barnes, Kate Harding, Caroline Gibbs, 1980
FWWCP/08 L 14

*Tough Annie* was written through a series of taped conversations. Barnes tells about her involvement with the Suffragettes, her family life, her work in the Labour Party, and her eventual ascension to Stepney Councillor, where she fought for the rights of working-class people and other individuals.

**Keywords:** family | gender | Labour Party | London | memoir | politics | Suffragette | women’s writing | working class | World War I

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**Voices 25: Magazine of the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers**
FWWCP, no date
FWWCP/01 NW 08

Two pieces in this issue of *Voices* sparked conversations about gender within the FWWCP. In the piece, “Feminist Groups,” Jimmy McGovern argues that admitting feminist-focused group Women and Words to the FWWCP would compromise the movement’s focus on the working-class. Women and Words responded, expressing the value they bring to the FWWCP.

**Keywords:** feminism | gender | Manchester | women’s writing | working-class
Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

**An Independent Woman**
FWWC/08 L 03
**Digital Collection:** http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6810

**Feel My Words**
FWWC/08 L 03
**Digital Collection:** http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6843

**Herzone**
FWWC/01 NW 07

**One Over The Bakers Dozen**
FWWC/08 L 03

**Reminiscences of a Bradford Mill Girl**
FWWC/03 Y 12

**Scribe Sistren**
FWWC/08 L 03
**Digital Collection:** http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6812

**Upon Reflection. Women's Writing Group**
FWWC/03 Y 07

**Writing on the Line: 20th Century Working-Class Women Writers**
FWWC/08 L 10
Jewish Life

Auschwitz and East London
Multiple authors. THAP Books, 1983.
FWWCP/08 L 09

Keeping the Faith - The Polish Community in Britain
FWWCP/03 Y 13

The 43 Group: the untold story of their fight against fascism
FWWCP/08 L 11

The Battle of Cable Street 1936
Cable Street Group. 1995.
FWWCP/08 L 11

The Radical Bookseller Stop the Nazis Issue 1/92 (78)
FWWCP/08 L 08

Volla Volla Jew Boy
FWWCP/08 L 03

We’re Not All Rothschilds! The extraordinary lives of so ordinary Jews
FWWCP/07 SE 02
The readings in this collection highlight the life experiences of members of LGBTQ+ communities in various regions in England and beyond in the 1950-1980s. Many of the texts are collections of poems, memoirs, short stories, and illustrations.

As a whole, the collection draws attention to intersectional concerns related to living a meaningful life, including self-discovery, love, family, guilt, isolation, and violence. Furthermore, the collection describes darker tensions, including the ways in which some social groups are marginalized and persecuted, in public and in private life.

Overall, the collection seeks to draw the LGBTQ+ community away from the margins of society and into the fold.
Beyond Paradise
Lesbians and Gay Men Poetry, 1990
FWWCP/ RM 01

This collection of poems is written by lesbians and gay men living in North West. The poems share a common theme of love, highlighting attending tensions within non-heterosexual communities. The poems also speak to social concerns, including, for example, prejudice and discrimination within the workplace and family life.

Keywords: discrimination | LGBTQ+ | love | sexuality

Daring Hearts:
Lesbian and Gay Lives of 50s and 60s Brighton
Brighton Ourstory Project, 1992
FWWCP/07 SE 03

This book is a compilation of interviews with members of the lesbian and gay community in Brighton in the 1950-60s. Despite being referred to as a “Gay Mecca,” Brighton residents would still face discrimination and prejudice by neighbours. Thus, secrecy in public and private life is a recurring theme. Interviewees describe how physical presentation, including hair and dress, would draw unwanted attention. Many hid their affections from public view. Interviewees also describe the impact of their sexualities on families.

Keywords: body image | discrimination | gay | lesbian | sexuality

Healing Strategies
For Women at War
Seven Black Women Poets, 1999
FWWCP/01 NW 07

The book is a collection of poems written by seven women writers from Sri Lanka, India, China, and the Caribbean. This collection speaks to the experiences of first- and second-generation women living in Britain. Through poetry, the collection details the story of their individual journeys, with recurring themes of sexuality, racial stereotypes, and familial relationships underscoring a concern with survival.

Keywords: Black women | race | sexuality | stereotypes
Hermit Crab
Di Williams, no date
FWWCP/01 NW 07

The book is a collection of poems which strives to give voice to the underrepresented -- working-class, Black people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. The poem that gives the collection its name speaks to the difficulty of fitting in and discovering identities. Recurring themes include family relationships, immigration, and identity.

**Keywords:** Black | gay | women | working-class

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Nomad 14: The Gay Issue
Survivor’s Press Scotland, no date
FWWCP/10 S 01

This book of poems and short stories describes the life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals in Scotland. The works, as they were written by over 10 people, all touch on different themes and topics, but are all held by a common thread, however, which is membership and diversity within the LGBTQ+ community.

**Keywords:** diversity | LGBTQ+ | transgender

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Northern Gay Writers
Commonword, no date
FWWCP/01 NW 06

The book is a collection of poetry and short stories. Writers discuss experiences with self-acceptance as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Guilt and self-hate are recurring themes. The narratives also focus on identity and self-discovery. For example, narratives describe how sexuality and gender identity, especially when intersected with other identities, like race and/or class, can cause a strain on mental health and hinder safety.

**Keywords:** intersectionality | mental health | self-discovery | self-reflection
Turning Points
Northern Gay Writers, 1985
FWWCP/01 NW 06

Turning Points is a collection of poems and short stories. The collection explores prejudice within marginalized communities, conveying a deep understanding of the effects of discrimination. Most of the stories were written by members of the LGBTQ+ community, but not all. The collection also includes poems and stories written by allies of the community.

Keywords: discrimination | LGBTQ+ | prejudice

Thoughts Feelings and Lovers
Elaine Okoro, 1985
FWWCP/01 NW 06

This collection of poems is split into three sections. The first, “Thoughts,” focuses on women’s health and family relations. The second, titled “Feelings,” is concerned with self-reflection and analysis. It speaks to Okoro’s experience with love and sexuality. “Lovers,” the last section, which is mostly written in second person, centers around relationships and touches on desire. There are some instances in which the poems in one section are repeated in another section to show interconnection.

Keywords: health | poetry | relationships | sexuality

Ridge Walking
Char March and Hilary Bichovsky, no date
FWWCP/03 Y 12

The book was written by two members of the The March Hares, a group of lesbian writers, performers, and visual artists. Recurring themes include larger categories of identity, gender, and race. Other topics of violence and rape may be triggering to some. The text includes poems and illustrations.

Keywords: gender identity | performance | race
Words from the Women’s Cafe: Lesbian Poetry from ‘Word Up’
Word Up, 1993
FWWCP/08 L 03

This booklet of poems and illustrations is by lesbian writers. Word Up is an innovative reading and performance space for all women. The poetry in this collection provides insight into the daily life of lesbian women. Topics include identity, childhood, familial relationships, which overlap with racial and social class identities.

Keywords: childhood | class | lesbian | race | women
Literacy

Literacy has a broad definition within the FWWCP archive, which is a direct reflection of its mission and members. Beginning in the 1970s, it is clear that each writing group strived to meet the individual needs of its members, whether by providing materials and resources in support of formal literacy or by embracing an alternative, living definition of literacy.

The following sample of texts from the FWWCP archive includes reference materials such as guides to basic reading and writing skills, as well as directories for local establishments that supported community beliefs in the realm of reading and writing.

Further, these texts demonstrate the FWWCP legacy of addressing member wants and needs, including collaborative writing, storytelling projects, publishing, and reading that reinforced member driven definitions of literacy.
Centerprise Literature: Developing writers for the future
Centerprise Trust Ltd., 2006
FWWCP/08 L 03

This catalogue describes Centerprise Literature’s “Developing Writers for the Future” courses: Creating Writing Courses, Writing Groups, and Professional Development. Descriptions include a summary of course objectives and a brief introduction of the instructor. Lastly, dates, meeting times and places, and the course fee are provided. The final portion of the catalogue is contact information for the Centerprise Literature Project, CLR James Library, The Resource Centre, and the Islington Central Library.

Keywords: course catalogue | creative writing | professional development

Get it right!: A Pocket Guide to Written English
Michael Temple, 1978
FWWCP/08 L 07

A guidebook for the intermediate adult learner, including sections on spelling, punctuation, and useful terms in the English language. This pocket-sized reference book provides its user with concise explanations of how to employ basic grammar, along with a small dictionary of frequently used words. With just 58 pages, the text quickly aids its users in addressing common grammatical errors, and ends with tips on writing essays and note-taking.

Keywords: composition | dictionary | literacy | note-taking | writing

New readers start here
Margaret Redfern, editor, 1975
FWWCP/08 L 11

The text is an annotated bibliography of books and other learning materials such as phonic card games that aid beginner to intermediate adult learners in developing and practising literacy skills. This text can be used to locate materials related to teachers, librarians, tutors related to adult literacy. The descriptions are unique in that they also provide warnings for texts that may not work in some way or another for different types of learners or personalities.

Keywords: adult learner | career guidance | literacy | remedial
The radical bookseller directory
The Radical Bookseller, 1992
FWWCP/08 L 07

A directory to guide users to hundreds of bookshops, publishers, and periodicals that traditionally support the left-wing community. The bookshops are organised geographically along with contact information such as addresses, phone numbers, and hours of operation, and include brief descriptions of subject matters. The publishers are similarly listed in combination with radical distributors in the United Kingdom. Periodicals are listed according to subject along with details such as price and subscription rates.

Keywords: bookshop | directory | periodical | publisher | radical

The Radical Bookseller: Stop the Nazis
The Radical Bookseller, 1992
FWWCP/08 L 08

The Radical Bookseller supports left-wing communities, seeking to provide followers with information and writings that will encourage the development of community. This newsletter directory presents letters to the editor, current news or events, and a books of the month list. This newsletter also provides its readers with contact information for various establishments that provide services that align with left-wing communities.

Keywords: community | current event | directory | newsletter | radical

Nibbles: a cookbook of ideas for writers
Larry Butler, et al., no date
FWWCP/10 S 02

A cleverly written guide to the multifaceted processes of writing broken down into four sections: Starters, Writing Recipes, Chef’s Specialties, and Other Ingredients. The Starters section, among other things, includes tips for planning workshops, games to break the ice, and writing exercises. The Writing Recipes section provides guidance on the techniques of writing poetry and developing a robust story. The Chef’s Specialties section is compiled of eleven authors’ tips on writing a novel, song, or poem. Tasty.

Keywords: how-to | story development | writing workshop
Rising in the East
Multiple authors, 1992
FWWCP/08 L 11

Eastside Books, formerly Tower Hamlets Arts Project, is an arts education organisation that offers a range of community literacy education services. This book follows from a 1990s poetry award programme for children from the ages of six to sixteen. This book represents ninety hundred entries. These poems bring to life London’s East End through the words of the children living there.

Keywords: early literacy | poetry | self-confidence | agency

Where do we go from here? Adult lives without literacy
The Gatehouse Project, 1983
FWWCP/ RM 01

This book presents the experiences of eleven adults navigating language learning. Some narratives have been transcribed from interviews, and others have been written by the individual after acquiring literacy skills. Many of the stories begin in primary school as early sites of judgement and criticism, which, in turn, prompt defensive attitudes toward literacy. Further, storytellers also share their frustrations with navigating the job market with little to no literacy skills.

Keywords: adult literacy | reading | self-confidence | writing

Women Sharing Experiences
Darnley Street Family Centre, no date
FWWCP/10 S 02

This book was the culminating project of the fourth summer school for improving English language skills at the Darnley Street Family Centre. For two weeks, ethnic minority women are provided a space with childcare to develop and practice their English reading and writing skills. Overcoming their inhibitions with the language, twenty-one women contributed short stories and poems in order to share insights into their experiences as women, mothers, wives, and immigrants.

Keywords: course | language development | literacy | skill
This text transcends a traditional how-to guide, particularly related to the navigation of complexities of being a creative writer and also the desire of being published. This book is broken down into a series of concerns related to the creative writing process, including research and community. The text acknowledges the tension between intimidation and the development of self-confidence through writing and publishing.

Keywords: adult education | adult literacy | publishing | self-guidance
Local London

The Local London Reading Guide emerged as a way to document the various neighbourhoods, boroughs, and communities in London. Within the FWWCP, many writers write specifically about and from their specific location and emphasise how this space has affected their lives. The FWWCP has deep roots in the East End of London, particularly Hackney, because the inaugural FWWCP meeting was held at Centerprise Bookshop. From then on, London was where dozens of writing groups and publishing groups were founded. These groups include one of the founding FWWCP groups, the Basement Writers. Other groups in London, throughout the FWWCP’s tenure, included Working Press; Black Ink; Centerprise; Stepney Books; Tower Hamlets Arts Project (THAP); Aldgate Press; London Voices; Hammersmith and Fulham’s Ethnic Oral Histories Project, and more.

Throughout the publications from London, we see writing about the shops on Brick Lane in the East End to the houses of Hoxton and Bethnal Green. We see stories of activists in Stepney and school children who went on strike to support their teacher Chris Searle. There is history about Old Poplar’s churches and Kennington Park’s political events. Finally, within many of the publications, we see how the various spaces of London are each unique and diverse in their own way from the types of work central to those locations to the dialects used among the community.

While the FWWCP reached at least 5 continents, London remained one of the key cities for the organisation’s publishing and writing groups, its annual FED Festival, and now the location of the FWWCP Collection.
Roger Mills recalls his childhood and education in East London. He discusses the disconnect between childhood teachings and their purpose later in life. Prompted by unemployment, Mills shares stories ranging in topics that include friends, bullies, and holiday plans. He begins with his first day of school and concludes with a reflection ten years later.

**Keywords:** childhood | East End | education | memoir

As a child, George A. Cook spent much time in a tuberculosis hospital. Instead of lamenting his diagnosis and further isolation, Cook focuses on the positive memories. Even though his stories are the majority of the book, he takes time to think about why these stories are the ones he remembers. Cook emphasises the relationships throughout his memoir and their importance from childhood into adulthood.

**Keywords:** Hackney | hospital | memoir | tuberculosis

A. S. Jasper recalls his childhood in Hoxton. He describes his family, weaving the stories together rather than telling one at a time. Jasper focuses on how his family changes after his older sister learns of her pregnancy. He deals with issues such as how alcohol, poverty, and war shapes families.

**Keywords:** childhood | Hoxton | memoir | war | working-class
**Children of the Green**
Doris M. Bailey, 1981
FWWCP/08 L 07

Doris Bailey shares stories from her childhood in Bethnal Green from 1922 to 1937. She starts with a recollection of being checked for lice by the school nurse, an instance where she learned the futility of arguing with authority figures. She includes details about her home life, her friends, and her neighbourhood in order to paint a picture of life in the 1920’s East End.

**Keywords:** childhood | community | East End | memoir | working-class

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**Coronation Cups and Jam Jars**
Ron Barns, 1976
No box

Ron Barnes chronicles three generation of his family in the East End. He collects the stories of his grandparents and his parents, dedicating a section of the book to each of their times. He stresses the importance of writing down these memories to create a sort of living history, complete with humour and hardship.

**Keywords:** class | family | East End | working-class

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**Edith and Stepney: 60 Years of Education, Politics and Social Change**
Bertha Sokoloff, 1987
FWWCP/08 L 07

*Edith and Stepney* by Bertha Sokoloff tells the life story of Edith Ramsey and her work with the Women’s Evening Institute. These historical accounts show how Edith impacts the lives of working women and migrants in the East End. A hero among the working class, Edith was interested in the relationships between people and how they shaped society. Through her work, she was able to help change the lives of East Enders of all backgrounds.

**Keywords:** activism | East End | gender | literacy | migration
Memories
Paul George, 1977
FWWCP/08 L 14

Paul George’s Memories is a reflection of his childhood. George uses both prose and poetry to tell his stories. After migrating to England from Grenada, he wrote this collection at the age of sixteen, shortly before he left school in 1976. He includes tales of working and having fun as a child in the prose section, and the poetry section focuses on more serious issues such as prejudice and oppression.

Keywords: childhood | migration | poetry | Southall

In My World and Other Poems
Sally Flood, 1989
FWWCP/08 L 02

Sally Flood’s collection of poetry looks at the cycles of life, beginning with birth and going through our confrontations with our own mortality. This collection emphasises the importance of experiences and writing, regardless of formal education. She shows that the working class has as much truth in writing as the academic elite.

Keywords: class | children | community | gender | poetry

Kennington Park: Birthplace of People’s Democracy
Stefan Szczekun, no date
FWWCP/08 L 10

This pamphlet chronicles the birth of British democracy in Kennington Park and its rise since the mid-1800s. There are short sections on various topics, including executions, radicalism, and war. In addition to historical information, it includes current events from the time of publication in the late 1990s. It looks at the history and contemplates the changes throughout the years.

Keywords: class | history | political conflict
Memories of Old Poplar
John Blake, 1977
FWWCP/08 L 07

John Blake’s Memories of Old Poplar recounts his life in Poplar during Edwardian times. He realises that changes have happened and seeks to preserve the everyday memories of the past. In addition to his family, Blake describes churches, entertainment, and political events that stuck out in his mind. He remembers Poplar as a vibrant and thriving place in his youth, but he also remembers the decline in the dock working industry.

Keywords: activism | community | dock workers | memoir

No Dawn in Poplar
The Tower Hamlets Worker Writers Group, 1980
FWWCP/ RM Part 1

Multiple authors contribute to this collection of creative writing. It includes prose, poetry, photographs, and drawings that reflect personal experiences. Many of the pieces place the writers in the role of an outsider, emphasising the details that alienate them from their surroundings. The pieces evoke a sense of desperation with little hope of escape.

Keywords: East End | poetry | prose

My Poplar Eastenders
Carrie Lumsden, 1991
FWWCP/08 L 07

Carrie Lumsden reflects on growing up in Poplar and working in Aldgate. She chronicles events that happen before, during, and after World War I. Her memoir covers events from her birth in 1912 to the end of her employment in 1921. She includes stories of childhood entertainment, holidays, and education.

Keywords: adolescence | community | World War I
Old Age Ain’t No Place for Sissies
Gladys McGee, 1986
FWWCP/08 L 14

Gladys McGee tackles the topic of changing times in her collection of poetry. She includes poems commenting on finances and class structure. Many of her poems include an element of humour and humility, showing both the positive experiences and the struggles of the working class.

Keywords: class | East End | old age | poetry

Paper Talk
Sally Flood, no date
FWWCP/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Flood describes life at her home in East London. Here, she writes about sleepless nights with family, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

Keywords: class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | work | working-class | women’s writing

Scenes... from a Stepney Youth
Charles Poulson, 1988
FWWCP/08 L 09

In this memoir, Charles Poulson recalls growing up as a Jewish migrant in the East End during the 1920s and 1930s. He includes descriptions of his education and employment in a workshop, and he details his struggles with racism, economic diversity, and becoming "British." He goes on to describe entertainment and politics, featuring colourful characters of the time.

Keywords: adolescence | East End | Jewish | migration | working-class
This collection features poems by mothers that are unaltered by the publishing company, striving to be an example for other aspiring poets. Some of the topics include childhood nostalgia, motherly love, adulthood, and education.

**Keywords:** childhood | community | education | family | gender | motherhood | poetry

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Cyril Spector’s memoir reflects on the history of Jewish life in London, from migration to establishing employment. Instead of the image shown in recent times, Spector shows the long journey that Jewish migrants and their descendants had from the early 1900s to the 1990s. Spector includes sections of his own education, family, and employment.

**Keywords:** East End | Hackney | Jewish | migration | racism

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The Oak King collects poems and prose from multiple authors that celebrate the themes of strength and nature’s wonders. Drawings accompany some of the stories. This anthology is divided into five sections, including hopes, trauma, love, and people. The remaining section is devoted to Bill Eburn, a founding member of London Voices.

**Keywords:** community | London Voices | poetry | trauma

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Star Mum’s: Poetry from Canning Town
Multiple authors, 1980

**Keywords:** childhood | community | education | family | gender | motherhood | poetry
Mental Health

Tensions between empowerment and stigmatisation of those suffering from mental distress is a concern of the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers/TheFED. Numerous writing groups contribute to the discourse about mental health. Genres range from poetry and memoirs written by patients of mental institutions, to newsletters that provide resources for those released from the system and looking for community.

One organisation, Survivor’s Poetry, is made up of dozens of groups that work to enable “survivors” of the mental health system to use creative writing as an outlet for self-expression. Other publishing groups work with similar intentions of rewriting the narrative of mental health stigma and marginalisation throughout the UK.
And the World Really Had Changed
Leeds Survivor Poets, 1996
FWWCP/03 Y 03

Leeds Survivor Poets had been called “the most active writing group in West Yorkshire.” *And the World Really Had Changed* is a collection of 99 poems written by the group created to help members recover from ‘mental health system involvement.’ The collection confronts the pain and stigma of their pasts, but mainly dwells on joy, irony, and “belly laughs.” It is their first publication as a group, and it features poems from as early as 1973.

**Keywords:** empowerment | institutionalisation | love | mental health | poetry

In and Out of a Psychiatric Unit
S5 7AU, 1990
FWWCP/03 Y 04

The book has two parts: in Part 1, “Let the People Speak”, survivors of the mental health system explore their experiences of rehabilitation and stigma through poetry, prose, opinion pieces, and newsletter articles (several are borrowed from other newsletters and publications). Part 2, “Help Yourself,” describes resources meant to benefit the mental health community in Sheffield.

**Keywords:** mental health | poetry | prose | Sheffield

Shut Up and Hear What I’ve Got to Say!
Jenny Dixon, 1998
FWWCP/03 Y 03

Jenny Dixon’s collection of poetry was supported by Leeds Survivors Poets. Dixon, who struggles with manic depression, set up Doncaster Survivor’s Poetry in 1995 to create an avenue of self-expression for those, who, like herself, struggle with mental distress. Although she is not afraid to tackle melancholy subjects with sincerity, she addresses most of the topics with a great amount of humour.

**Keywords:** depression | Doncaster | empowerment | mental health | Yorkshire
Southwark Mind Newsletter Issue 67: Let’s Put the Fun Back in Dysfunctional
Southwark Council, 2003
FWWCP/08 L 08

The publication aims to raise awareness for disorders and illnesses, empower through poetry, and serve as a resource for local support groups and organisations. Much of this issue is devoted to advocacy and literacy as government forms are difficult to fill out for those with mental health issues. A ‘Community Noticeboard’ helps readers connect with advocates and allies. The newsletter concludes with some short prose.

Keywords: advocacy | community noticeboard | mental health | poetry

Sweet, Sour and Serious
Survivors’ Poetry Scotland, 1996
FWWCP/10 S 01

Survivors’ Poetry Scotland defines a “survivor” as “a person with current or past experience of psychiatric hospitals, users of tranquillisers and other medication, users of counseling and therapy services, survivors of physical and sexual abuse, and other survivors who have empathy with our experience.” This anthology features poetry and illustrations from survivors all over Scotland. Though certainly framed by it, most of the work included isn’t really about mental illness.

Keywords: empowerment | mental health | poetry | Scotland

The House that Hope Built
Richard J. N. Copeland, editor, 2002
FWWCP/08 L 11

Published in 2002 by the Stevenage Survivors poetry group, The House that Hope Built is a collection of poetry from Vale House, a drug and alcohol treatment centre in Stevenage. The poets don’t hold back their thoughts about addiction and substance dependence. Reflecting upon their lives on and recovering from drugs and alcohol, residents of Vale House often come back to a sense of hope that allows them to truly find themselves in their writing.

Keywords: addiction | healing | poetry | recovery
The Whirlwind Continues: Users Perspectives of Mental Health in Words and Pictures

Brendan Wilson and Sav Kyriacou, 1996

Through interviews and photographs, the text documents the lives of people in the psychiatric system. Brendan Wilson and Sav Kyriacou encourage people to tell their stories how they want to tell them. To get access to these stories, it seems the creators, Wilson and Kyriacou, ‘sneak in’ to some facilities to get ‘guerilla interviews’ with patients. Despite the questionable ethical methods, their actions yielded a personal look into the lives of those afflicted with mental distress.

**Keywords:** interviews | mental health | mental institutions | photography | storytelling
The World is Full of Laughter is a memoir about Dolly Sen’s experience with psychosis and manic-depression. The story describes Sen’s troubling relationship with her drunk and verbally abusive father, a life complicated by auditory hallucinations, and raw, personal accounts of suicide attempts. However, Sen comes to terms with her personal troubles, fuelling her creative heart. Recurring themes include mental health, self-doubt and contentment, writing, and family troubles.

**Keywords:** abuse | hallucination | memoir | mental health | suicide
Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

Am I Safe Yet?
Multiple authors. Women Asylum Seekers Together, 2008.
FWWCP/01 NW 10

Out of Mind Out of Sight
Multiple authors. Yorkshire Art Circus, 1996.
FWWCP/03 Y 07

Psychopoetica Vol. 27
Multiple authors. University of Hull Department of Psychology, no date.
FWWCP/03 Y 12
Migration

Although the FWWCP began in London, England, the network has included writing/publishing groups from across the globe for multiple decades. Some groups were located throughout the North American, African, and Australian continents. However, FWWCP groups in England often published texts about coming to England as migrants from other places in the world. For instance, within the FWWCP Collection, there are bilingual stories detailing the journey from Poland, Bangladesh, Ireland, Iran, Jamaica, Greece, and more.

Each of the texts in this reading guide is concerned with migration, immigration, and emigration in the twentieth century. The publications appear as books, booklets, short stories, poetry, and anthologies.

Often written as a memoir or life history, writers offer reflections on their lives in their home countries, as well as obstacles to meaningful lives in England. Sometimes, writers describe differences between their hometowns and Britain in regard to housing, culture, food, identity, labour, and stereotypes, while others reflect more on politics and activism.
A Visit to my Aunt’s House
Fay Cattini, 1982
FWWCP/08 L 09

Fay Cattini wrote and illustrated a book about her childhood for her two preschool-aged daughters. Cattini describes the people, locations, food, and games from her early years in India. The story is set in Cattini’s childhood home and her aunt’s house. Recurring themes of childhood memories, imagination, and culture are complemented with illustrations, which make it easy for a young child to follow.

Keywords: childhood | culture | family | short story | travel

Across Seven Seas and Thirteen Rivers: Life Stories of Pioneer Sylheti Settlers in Britain
Catherine Adams, editor, 1987
FWWCP/08 L 12

Across Seven Seas and Thirteen Rivers: Life Stories of Pioneer Sylheti Settlers in Britain was compiled and edited by Catherine Adams and published in 1987 by THAP Books. The book is a historical account of the relationship between Britain and the Bengal region of India in the 19th and 20th centuries. The first part of the book focuses on Bengali men who left home to work at foreign shipping companies (Calcutta Crews, Lascar Seamen) and who settled in London after their contracts expired. The second part of the book describes how those men learned how to live life in England.

Keywords: Bangladesh | employment | family | government | labour | laws | migration | World War II

‘Across the Irish Sea’: An Age Exchange Publication Based on Memories of London Irish Pensioners
Pam Schweitzer, editor, 1989
FWWCP/08 L 12

Booknews No. 3, Women Writers is an educational magazine focused solely on women’s writing groups within the FWWCP. It was primarily for “teachers who want to know about writing and publishing outside the mainstream and like to encourage active involvement by their students in the writing process.” By encouraging a range of works across the FWWCP, they hoped to showcase the rich tradition of women’s writing through a variety of forms and genres.

Keywords: family | labour | marriage | nostalgia | theatre
**Asian Voices: Life stories from the Indian Subcontinent**

Hammersmith and Fulham Community History Series, 1993

FWWCP/ RM 01

*Asian Voices* is a joint project between the Hammersmith & Fulham association, the Bangladesh Association for Culture and Education, and the Ethnic Communities Oral History Project in 1993. The book is a collection of memoirs and autobiographies from people from different regions of India. Many authors remark on the blissful simplicity of their childhood and their experience of immigration to England. Many also comment on the hardships that emerge from immigration. Stories are written in English, Bengali, and Urdu.

**Keywords:** childhood | family | housing | labor | memory | sports

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**Be My Guest: The Autobiography of an Ex-Japanese Prisoner of War**

Bill Eburn, 1985

FWWCP/08 L 12

Eburn’s autobiography begins with his early childhood being raised by his aunt and uncle. He then focuses on his time in World War II, writing about his feelings surrounding the draft, following his time on the HMS Collingwood, being assigned to submarines, his capture and coming home. Perhaps most poignantly, he also details the contrast between the glory that comes from wearing a military uniform and the realities of war. This publication is written like a diary, with poetry included.

**Keywords:** childhood | poetry | war

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**Home to Home: Reminiscences of Bangladeshi Women in Sheffield**

Safuran Ara and Debjani Chatterjee, 1995

FWWCP/03 Y 12

*Home to Home* is a collection of stories from Bangladeshi women compiled and edited by Safuran Ara and Debjani Chatterjee. Writers discuss cultural differences related to gender roles, language, appearance, and the maintenance of their gendered identity. Some writers reminisce on the difficulties of cooking in England, where the tools needed for their way of cooking are unavailable. Many of these writers discuss the loneliness that they feel in England. *Home to Home* is a bilingual text, in English and Bengali, with some images.

**Keywords:** education | family | gender | language | marriage
Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London
Hammersmith and Fulham Community History Series, Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence Group, 1988
FWWCP/08 L 12

This publication recounts the journey of the Gujarati people coming to Britain beginning in 1833 and ending in 1950. The narrative traces the move from India to East Africa before settling in Wellingborough where the first Gujarati, Nagarbhai Patel, settled. The authors discuss feelings of acceptance in Britain, learning about British culture, maintaining their cultural identity, and eventually becoming active in British society by supporting Indian social and political initiatives.

Keywords: activism | art | childhood | family | labour | Poland | war

Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London is the second publication in the Hammersmith & Fulham Community History series. This bilingual publication was transcribed, translated, and edited by Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence group. The publication includes five autobiographies, which describe Poles coming to London in the 1940s, their lives in their new homes, and the reasons they chose to stay. Cultural expectations dominate discussion of bias and stereotypes. This publication continues into another called, Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil.

Keywords: activism | art | childhood | family | labour | Poland | war

Migration, Work and Identity: Gujaratis in Wellingborough
Uma Kothari and Emma Crewe, 1997
FWWCP/03 Y 12

This publication recounts the journey of the Gujarati people coming to Britain beginning in 1833 and ending in 1950. The narrative traces the move from India to East Africa before settling in Wellingborough where the first Gujarati, Nagarbhai Patel, settled. The authors discuss feelings of acceptance in Britain, learning about British culture, maintaining their cultural identity, and eventually becoming active in British society by supporting Indian social and political initiatives.

Keywords: autobiography | education | Gujaratis | housing | racism | West Asia | work

Our Experience: Women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Pakistan Write About Their Lives
Gatehouse, 1996
FWWCP/ RM 01

Our Experience is a collection of stories written by women from Somalia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Pakistan about their lives. These women talk about the differences in cultural expectations, including food, money, religion, school, and gender roles. Many focus on their first night in England and how they eventually came to consider England home. Our Experience represents some of the authors’ first writings in English. Some stories are translated into Somali, Ki Swahili, Bengali, or Urdu, and have illustrations.

Keywords: childhood | education | gender | language | patriotism | religion | war
So This is England
Multiple authors, 1984
FWWCP/ RM 01

The memoirs in *So This is England* are mainly from people of African-Caribbean descent, while some Vietnamese, Italian, and Irish descendant stories are also included. Stories are divided and presented in five sections: coming to England, housing, work, schooldays, and memories. Many of the stories describe processes of migration, acclimation to daily life in England, and cultural assimilation.

**Keywords:** childhood | factory | family | labour | work

The Irish in Exile: Stories of Emigration
Hammersmith and Fulham Community History Series, no date
FWWCP/08 L 12

*The Irish in Exile* contains memoirs of Irish immigrants that came to Britain in the first half of the 20th century. Those who emigrated as children describe feeling very secure in Ireland, yet, once in England, recall great economic, social, and educational disadvantages. Others who came to London for work describe the impact of labour shortages in Ireland as drivers of immigration. Authors focus on the struggles of changing labour conditions and the daily impact of poverty.

**Keywords:** activism | childhood | emigration | housing | Irish | labour | short story
Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

A Bowl of Wisdom
FWWC/08 L 12
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6816

Brick Lane 1978: The Events and their Significance
FWWC/ RM Part 4

Home from Home British Pakistanis in Mirpur
FWWC/03 Y 13

Just for Five Years? Reminiscences of Pakistani Senior Citizens of Sheffield
FWWC/03 Y 12

Sailing on Two Boats: Second Generation Perspectives
FWWC/08 L 12

The Motherland Calls: African/Caribbean Experiences
FWWC/08 L 12

Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil
FWWC/08 L 12
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6864

Xeni: Greek-Cypriots in London
FWWC/08 L 12
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6863
Mining

Bill of Bulwell
FWWCP/04 WM 01

But the World Goes On the Same
FWWCP/02 NE 02

City Pit: Memoirs of a Speedwell Miner
FWWCP/ RM Part 4

Fighting Talk in Verse Song
FWWCP/05 EM 02

Hello, Are You Working?
FWWCP/

“Here We Go” with the Miners: Songs for Pickets and Street Collectors
FWWCP/04 WM 02

Means-Test Man
FWWCP/05 EM 02

More Valuable Than Gold
FWWCP/01 NW 02

The Echo of Pit Boots: Pitwork, Politics & Poetry
Purdon, Jock. The Common Trust/Northern Voices, no date.
FWWCP/02 NE 01

The Miners & Other Stories
FWWCP/08 L 07

Where Explosions are no More
FWWCP/02 NE 01
**Multi/Translingual Writing**

A Song for Carrying Water: and other stories from Somalia  
FWWCP/01 NW 03

Another Province: new Chinese writing from London  
FWWCP/08 L 07

Changed Destinies: memoirs of the Spanish community in London  
FWWCP/08 L 10

Circling Awhile  
FWWCP/08 L 08

Daughters of the East  
The Common Trust, 1990. Urdu/English  
FWWCP/02 NE 01

Dreams into Words: The Cleveland Writers' Project  
FWWCP/02 NE 01

Flame: a collection of poetry by Asian writers in English and Urdu  
FWWCP/01 NW 07

Home to Home: Reminiscences of Bangladeshi Women in Sheffield  
FWWCP/03 Y 12

Hum Log: Stories of Oldham's Asian Communities  
FWWCP/01 NW 07

Just For Five Years? Reminiscences of Pakistani Senior Citizens in Sheffield  
FWWCP/03 Y 12

L’atelier typographique et pedagogique de Creafi  
Bernard Lecointe. CREAFI, no date. French.  
FWWCP/12 E 01

Mediatec Magazine (multiple)  
FWWCP/12 SE 02

My Deaf Son  
FWWCP/01 NW 03

Night Out  
FWWCP/08 L 08

Oceans Apart  
FWWCP/01 NW 03
Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London
Polish/English.
FWWCP/08 L 12

Poetry in Text and Braille: A Crocus Selection
Poetry in Text and Braille: A Crocus Selection
FWWCP/01 NW 07

Ri na Sioga
FWWCP/08 L 13

Rencontres et ateliers/ meetings and workshops
FWWCP/12 E 01

Sonnets Under Full Moon
FWWCP/08 L 08

Turkish Education Group Annual Report
FWWCP/08 L 07

Who Cares? Reminiscences of Yemeni Carers in Sheffield
FWWCP/03 Y 12
Publishing

DIY Publishing
Pollard, Nick. FWWCP, No Date.
FWWCP/03 Y 11

Here is the Other News: Challenges to the Local Commercial Press
Multiple authors. Minority Press Group, 1980.
FWWCP/08 L 11

FWWCP/08 L 12

FWWCP/08 L 10
During the years 1979-1994, groups of Black writers emerged, creating their own safe spaces to practise the written word. These writing groups worked to create an array of publications, despite social norms and mainstream publications working against them. While most of the groups were based in London, other English regions like Yorkshire and North West are seen.

The writing groups that focused their written work on race-based societal issues are Young Women’s Writing Group, Black Ink, Chapeltown Black Women Writers Group, and Black Anthology group. These groups addressed issues such as racism, inequality, and freedom. Most of the publications listed in this section are poetry books and anthologies.
A Second Chance
Delroy Smith, 1981
FWWCP/08 L 04
This short story is about overcoming obstacles to literacy, education, and labour. The topic of discussion is accessibility to education, especially for immigrants. Delroy left Jamaica, where he failed to get an education, when he was fourteen years old to come to England and rejoin his parents. This short testimony depicts the life of working-class immigrants.

Keywords: education | Jamaican student | labour | literacy | working-class

Black and Priceless
Black Ink, 1988
FWWCP/ RM 01
The book is an anthology written by Black writers. Much of the narrative in this publication deals with racism in one form or another, particularly how everyday lives are impacted, and how individuals are forced to justify their existence. The short poems and short plays share the themes of empowerment.

Keywords: activism | Black writers | empowerment | oppression | racism | society

Black and White
On The Buses: the 1963 Colour Bar Dispute in Bristol
Madge Dresser, 1986
FWWCP/ RM 01
The book offers a historical overview of the 1963 Colour Bar Dispute in Bristol. As mentioned in the introduction, it was written with the intent to teach Black youth about the events their forebears experienced in their hometowns. Although this book was not written with intention to stir up controversy, or to promote boycotting, it exposes the racism and insensitivity of union and bus crews. In addition, this book may help individuals evolve their own policies against racism.

Keywords: Black history | boycotting | history | oppression
In this anthology, young Black writers use their poetry to express their emotions of anger, hopelessness, and determination to overcome labelling. Writers describe the racism they face, feeling like strangers within the culture they were born into. Another common theme in this anthology is identity. Writers describe their journeys in seeking their identity and a sense of belonging, outside of European culture.

**Keywords:** Black writers | culture | identity | oppression | racism

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This anthology of poems is written by and for young women. Themes reflect the voice of Black writers coming to realise that their worth and ability are greater than what White culture would otherwise have them believe. Other topics include moving on from the past and living for the future, as well as optimism and remaining true to one's self. Included in the text are poems about tradition, kinship, and activism. This book ends with a powerful call to educate readers on histories of social and racial injustice.

**Keywords:** activism | Black writers | kinship | racism | women's writing

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This is a short book of poetry. Goodman describes her experience of double oppression, a double fight as she describes it, of being Black and being a woman. She uses her poems as a way to tell the story of the suffering and plight that Black women face. She illustrates her life through the poems that have recurring themes of gender and oppression.

**Keywords:** Black women | double oppression | gender | plight | poetry | racism | suffering
Kiss
Multiple authors, 1994
FWWCP/01 NW 07

This book of poetry was written by Asian, African, Caribbean, and Chinese writers. Made up of 88 poems, each writer delves into the topics of love, heartbreak, and safe sex. With the diversity of cultural backgrounds, life experiences at school and work, the reader gets great insight into their lives. With all the external prejudices, bigotry, and injustices these women face, they still write about the recurring themes of culture, love, and strength.

Keywords: African | Asian | bigotry | Caribbean | Chinese | prejudice | women

One-minute Anthology
Asian Women Writers Group, 1991
FWWCP/01 NW 06

This unique anthology of poetry and short stories offers insight into the lives of Asian women. One of the topics in the poetry is about the democratic protest in Tiananmen Square in China in 1989 that ended in the massacre of hundreds of civilians. Another dives into Indian culture and motherhood. Poets share a theme of compromising their long-cherished identity and native culture in exchange for finding a home in Britain.

Keywords: Asian studies | motherhood | poetry | short story

When Our Ship Comes In: Black women talk
Chapeltown Black Women Writers Group, 1992
FWWCP/03 Y 12

This book contains short stories and poems. It consists of multiple narrations, with topics of migration, oppression, and obstacles in the workforce and domestic life that older Black Caribbean women faced in England. Each author writes with the purpose and hope that their grandchildren and future generations will read and learn from their accounts. This book serves to demonstrate that Black voices matter, and the Black history needs to be preserved.

Keywords: Black women | Caribbean | domestic life | migration | poetry | racism | short story | working-class
Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

As Good As We Make It
FWWCP/08 L 03
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6835

Black Ink Publications No. 1
FWWCP/ RM 01
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6993

Going Where the Work Is
FWWCP/08 L 03
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6820

Scribe Sistren
FWWCP/08 L 03

Somali Stories
Multiple authors. Somali Stories Creative Writing Group, Centerprise, London, 1982.
FWWCP/08 L 03
Digital Collection: http://fwwcp.gn.apc.org/node/6832
During the FWWCP’s active years from 1976-2007, numerous members wrote about the impact of war on their lives. Often, this included growing up during World War I and/or II, the Korean War, and more. Some FWWCP members themselves were evacuated from London as children during World War II bombings.

War also became an important topic for FWWCP members or groups who immigrated to England because of war in their homelands of Iran, Ireland, Poland, South Africa, and Bangladesh. Because of this movement between countries, many of the texts include languages from their homeland and their new home. These texts include poetry, memoirs, oral histories, and more, which detail the emotional, physical, and national impacts of war.

A note to readers: many writers describe the trauma and struggles they faced because of war, while documenting their paths of recovery and continued struggle. These texts might be emotionally difficult to read for some.
**Be My Guest: The Autobiography of an Ex-Japanese Prisoner of War**
Bill Eburn, 1985

Eburn’s autobiography begins with his early childhood being raised by his aunt and uncle. He then focuses on his time in World War II, writing about his feelings surrounding the draft, following his time on the HMS Collingwood, being assigned to submarines, his capture and coming home. Perhaps most poignantly, he also details the contrast between the glory that comes from wearing a military uniform and the realities of war. This publication is written like a diary, with poetry included.

**Keywords:** childhood | poetry | war

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**Dolly Tints and Dabbities**
Workers Education Association, 1985

Eleven people recount their lives in Scotland and Ireland in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of the stories are from their childhood experiences, including working mothers, poverty following World War I, and family activities. The mothers often worked and took care of domestic duties while the fathers also worked. Some of the families were more privileged than others, but they all found ways to enjoy their childhoods.

**Keywords:** childhood | domestic life | family | Scotland | war

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**Flood at the Door**
Savitri Hensman, 1979

Poet Savitri Hensman and illustrator Sarah Moriarty share their viewpoints on racism and nature. Half of the poems focus on racism, showing different aspects of the outcomes of racism, from prostitution to education, and the other half comment on the abuse of the earth at the hands of mankind.

**Keywords:** nature | poetry | race | racism | war
In Exile: Iranian Recollections
Ethnic Communities Oral History Project, 1989

Iranian migrants tell their stories of escaping the political turmoil of Iran only to be victims of racism in the United Kingdom. Many Iranians were torn between the better life offered in Britain and loyalties to their home country, despite the oppression and violence encountered in both places to different degrees. This book has two parts, one written in English and the other in Arabic.

Keywords: Iran | migration | refugee | revolution | war

Londoners Remember: Living Through the Blitz
Age Exchange, 1991

The beginning of World War II changed the lives of all, and London was bombed every night for several months. Following the food rationing in January, London was frequently attacked, an event that would later be known as the Blitz. This collection takes a look at the stories of the survivors of the 1940 bombings and shows the resilience of Londoners. Contributors share their first-hand experiences of close encounters with the bombs and their recovery from the trauma.

Keywords: recovery | survival | war | World War II

Liberation Soldier
Joe Smythe, 1986

This collection showcases different styles of poetry to convey the political discontent and its resulting riots. Working-class poet Joe Smythe uses humour to address various concerns, including the apartheid in South Africa, and his poems encourage the reader to confront and challenge the assumptions society has of the working class.

Keywords: poetry | South Africa | war | working-class
Moulsecoomb Days
Ruby Dann, 1994
FWWCP/07 SE 04
Ruby Dunn's memoir looks both at her life and at her neighbourhood's reconstruction after World War I. Dunn describes how her family came to live in the suburb of Moulsecoomb, a public house-building programme, when the family outgrew their initial house. She also chronicles her family life, her social life, her education, and concludes with a section on her teaching career.
Keywords: family | education | post-war | war

Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London
Polish Reminiscence Group, 1988
FWWCP/08 L 12
Passport to Exile: the Polish Way to London is the second publication in the Hammersmith & Fulham Community History series. This bilingual publication was transcribed, translated, and edited by Sav Kyriacou and the Polish Reminiscence group. The publication includes five autobiographies, which describe Poles coming to London in the 1940s, their lives in their new homes, and the reasons they chose to stay. Cultural expectations dominate discussion of bias and stereotypes. This publication continues into another called, Travelling Light: Poles on Foreign Soil.
Keywords: activism | art | childhood | family | labour | Poland | war

Seeking the Enemy
Lorraine Sitzia and Arthur Thickett, 2002
FWWCP/08 L 14
Straying from the typical military memoir, Arthur Thickett shares his stories of everyday life with Lorraine Sitzia. As a veteran of two wars, Thickett shows how his military experiences shaped his view of life and the choices he makes. This book also shows the impact war has on soldiers' lives, not just during the conflict, but also afterwards.
Keywords: Korean War | memoir | war | World War II
The Peckham People’s History gathers the stories of Southwark citizens from the beginning of the twentieth century through the end of World War II. Contributors share experiences with family life, education, entertainment, and work. They use their memories to evoke a sense of nostalgia without glorifying the past because they understand that the past was full of hard times.

**Keywords:** Southwark | war | World War I | World War II

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The Whiston Reminiscence Group shares their memories through a combination of poetry, prose, and illustrations. Their tales include childhood outings, dating, and a run-in with a gangster. Some authors focus on the available entertainment of the 1930s, such as the royal news and reports of a monkey with a habit of escaping the zoo.

**Keywords:** community | poetry | memoir | war | work

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War Paint is a collection of poems and illustrations that covers several topics, including alcoholism, comic book characters, and death. Each topic represents a different aspect of life, such as the problems we bring upon ourselves, our personal dreams, and the loss of loved ones. Brown also demonstrates his frustration with the political unrest in the world.

**Keywords:** death | memories | poetry | war
Further Reading in the FWWCP Collection:

A License to Live: Scenes from a Post-War Working Life in Hackney
FWWCP/08 L 14

A Matter of Time
FWWCP/01 NW 05

Bill of Bulwell
FWWCP/04 WM 01

Black Saturday: The First Day of the Blitz- East London Memories of September 7th 1940
FWWCP/08 L 14

Canary Girls
Hall, Edith. WEA Luton Branch Publisher. 1977
FWWCP/07 SE 04

Chinthe Women: Women’s Auxiliary Service Burma 1942-1946
Jaffe, Sally and Lucy. 2001.
FWWCP/07 SE 04

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FWWCP/07 SE 04

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FWWC/07 SE 03

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FWWC/08 L 01

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FWWC/08 L 14
Work

The Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers began with a focus on working-class and Socialist writing and publishing. With this focus, many of the network’s publications centred on themes of work, including the description of vocations such as mining, baking, dock work, embroidery, and more. Other times, people would write about the work they did at home or across countries as they immigrated. These descriptions of work and the labour involved were written by the workers themselves to emphasise the knowledge and skills needed to perform the work.

As the FWWCP Collection was being organised and sorted, one of the main conversations occurred around how work, labour, and vocations would be represented. Within the FWWCP, for instance, work was often impacted by the regions in which people lived.

In Yorkshire, the text could be about coal mining, while in places like London, there could be writing about working at the docklands. Work is central to the FWWCP and is represented by many members as they express what working-class labour means to them.

“The old streets of Saltaire Village” by Paul Stevenson is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0
A Life Behind Bars
Marjory Batchelor, 1999
FWWCP/07 SE 03

Marjory Batchelor tells the story of her life, from growing up in Brighton to her work as a barmaid. She details her childhood, including chores and hobbies, from cleaning and cooking, to marbles and hopscotch. She writes about the hardship during each of the World Wars and how they impacted her marriage. After starting to work as a waitress, she took over as a barmaid and was able to interact with others in the working class.

Keywords: autobiography | pubs | working-class | World War I | World War II

A Woman's Work
Annie Spike, 1978
FWWCP/08 L 03

Annie Spike chronicles her life through her relationship to work in this short memoir. She describes her time working both in Ireland and Hackney, London, as a factory girl, while also detailing her relationship with labour unions, office jobs, and her work as a cleaning lady. She also writes about her time spent as a mother and a wife. The story was originally written for a book about people who live and work in Hackney, *Working Lives Volume Two*, where thirteen people describe the multiple work they perform.

Keywords: autobiography | class | gender | factory life | family | London | politics | women's writing | working-class

But the World Goes on the Same:
Changing Times in Durham Pit Villages
Multiple authors, 1979
FWWCP/02 NE 02

Multiple people from all backgrounds share their stories and show how big companies changed their lives. The selections explore how families, work ethics, and privileges were in the past compared to the 1970s. The authors understand that their sense of humour stemmed from shared hardships from the physical labour and the multiple strikes. The collection shows the duties expected of men and women during the early to mid 1900s.

Keywords: family | mining | socialism | working-class
Cottage Loaves & Plain Bricks: Memories of bread and baking in Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, 1986

FWWCP/08 L 14

This is the third publication by Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop, which includes recollections of baking in Waltham Forest from 1913-1950. Oral histories recount the transition from family owned bakehouses to commercial bakeries. Topics discussed include baking methods, working conditions, business operations, and adapting to gas ovens and other machinery. Wartime shortages and their effects on industry are also explored. Vintage advertisements, maps, and photographs are included.

Keywords: baking | domestic life | industry | war | work | World War I | World War II

Going Where the Work Is

Isaac Gordon, 1979

FWWCP/08 L 03

Isaac Gordon tells the story of his life. He discusses his struggles with school and farm work in Jamaica, America, and England. He describes the differences between each country, including the church atmosphere, the environment, and the work opportunities. He focused on working throughout most of his life but eventually learned the importance of reading and writing. Once he started learning to read and write, he never stopped.

Keywords: literacy | memoir | migration | work | working-class

Hard Work and No Consideration: 51 Years as a Carpenter-Joiner 1917-1968

Albert Paul, 1981

FWWCP/07 SE 02

Albert Paul recalls his time as a carpenter-joiner, a career spanning over half of a century. He describes how, at age 14, his superiors taught him lessons about safety in the workplace in a strict manner. Paul then recounts how he met his wife, the life they made, and the dangers he encountered through his work, especially during the time of war. He acknowledges how having the right skills at the right time helped him survive.

Keywords: carpentry | war | working-class
**Paper Talk**

Sally Flood, no date

FWWCP/08 L 02

In this book of poetry, Sally Flood describes her life at her home in East London. She writes about sleepless nights with family, as well as drawn out days working as an embroidery machinist. Her poetry simultaneously draws attention to the beauty and hardships as a working-class woman.

*Keywords:* class | community | family | gender | migration | poetry | poverty | work | working-class | women’s writing

**Pullman Craftsmen**

Three Former Pullman Craftsmen, 1992

FWWCP/07 SE 02

Three men formerly employed by Pullman Car Company recount their experiences between the late 1940s and early 1960s. They tackle topics including strikes, women workers, workplace accidents, and entertaining themselves in the workplace. It is written in the form of a conversation with images of work documents and photographs of the workers inserted throughout.

*Keywords:* Brighton | craftsmen | memoir | work | working-class

**Shipyard Muddling**

Ripyard Cuddling, 1997

FWWCP/02 NE 02

This collection of poems illustrates the everyday tasks performed by a welder in a shipyard as a means to bridge the gap between working-class people and the view of language as a privilege of the academic elite. It also contains encouragement for workers dreaming of a better life. The inclusion of hand-drawn illustrations enhances the message.

*Keywords:* class | language | poetry | shipyard | welding | work | working-class
Women of Yorkshire share their memoirs and poetry from the Miners' Strike of 1984. Chapters included focus on soup kitchens and rations, fundraising, family life, protesting, and national conferences for women against pit closures. The stories shared expose the level of hardship experienced with reduced wages. This book details the complexity of daily life, family, protesting, politics, and police brutality during the strike period.

**Keywords:** food | miners | politics | protest | strike | women | work | working-class | Yorkshire

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Railway worker Ernie Ross shares his stories of his career. He includes bits of humour while also discussing serious issues, such as the problems faced during war times as well as how constant changes in the railway system affect the safety of the passengers. He acknowledges that the changes in the railways may erase memories of the past.

**Keywords:** memoir | railway | war | work | working-class

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Harry Harris recounts his life as a dockworker, beginning with his childhood and continuing through his career as a waterman and, later, a lighterman on the River Thames. He started his apprenticeship at age thirteen, despite the dangers of his ideal jobs. Harris fondly remembers finding employment in the difficult times while highlighting the importance of dock workers.

**Keywords:** class | dock workers | memoir | work | working-class
Ways of Learning
Florence Agbah, 1987
FWWCP/03 Y 11

Florence Agbah reflects on how she learned English. After migrating to Britain, she began working at a YMCA. Even though she did not speak English, she learned through listening to her coworkers talk. Later, she went on to work at a cafeteria. Many of the people there made fun of her for not speaking English, but she viewed every interaction as a learning moment.

**Keywords:** language | migration | work | working-class

We Struggled to Laugh
Barnsley Miners Wives Action Group, 1987
FWWCP/03 Y 13

Several women share their stories of the Miners’ Strike of 1984. This collection includes poetry, prose, photographs, and an interview with one of the wives. The topics include organising soup kitchens, picket lines, how the strike impacted children, and how the miners and women overcame troubling times. There are short bits of humourous memories as well as photographs included.

**Keywords:** class | community | feminism | poetry | working-class

Who Was Harry Cowley
Multiple authors, 1984
FWWCP/07 SE 04

This is a collaboratively written history remembering Harry Cowley, affectionately called “The Guv’nor.” Cowley was a chimney sweep who fought for the homeless and unemployed. While many questions are still left about Cowley’s life, those who knew Cowley piece together—through testimonials, photographs, newspaper articles, letters—examples of his constant fight for the betterment of his community.

**Keywords:** class | homelessness | unemployment | work | working-class
This collection includes stories from twelve different professions from the early 1900s through World War II. The workers range from child labourers to soldiers, demolition workers to craftsmen. It shows the lives of men, women, and children making a living as members of the working class. The stories intend to showcase the dangers encountered by the working class and how much skill is required for the so-called unskilled.

**Keywords:** class | Hackney | work | working-class | World War I | World War II

Following the stories of the first volume, citizens of Hackney recount the work done by men and women in the forty years since World War II. These tales once again concentrate on the dangers faced by the working class while emphasising their successes and importance to society. The contributions of these workers are a constant, creating a sense of community among the members.

**Keywords:** class | Hackney | work | working-class
These reading guides are only possible thanks to the work of multiple students, FWWCP members, and collaborators.

Editors:

Jessica Pauszek is the Director of Writing and an Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M University - Commerce. She earned her PhD in Composition and Cultural Rhetoric from Syracuse University and taught the Civic Writing course for three summers in London. Her dissertation “Literacy and Labor: Archives, Networks, and Histories in Working-Class Communities” explores the history of the FWWCP through the collaborative curation of the FWWCP Print and Digital Collections. She has been involved with the FED for over 6 years now, and is the current magazine editor for the FED Executive Board.

Vincent Portillo taught the Civic Writing archive study abroad course as part of an international coalition of universities and libraries. He is a University Fellow and PhD candidate at Syracuse University in Composition and Cultural Rhetoric. His research interests are founded on a concern for immigrant and working-class students. He is completing his dissertation -- an archival project on the history of the Ford Motors English School in Detroit, Michigan.

New City Community Press Founder:

Steve Parks is the Founder and Director of New City Community Press as well as an Associate Professor in the University of Virginia's Academic and Professional Writing Program and Department of English. He has published two books, Class Politics: The Students' Right To Their Own Language (NCTE, 2000) and Gravyland: Writing Beyond the Curriculum in the City of Brotherly Love (Syracuse University Press, 2010), and is the current editor of the Studies of Writing and Rhetoric series. Parks is also Président de l'association Centre Vérité et Justice pour le Moyen-Orient.

Designer:

Ahnaliese Bell received her Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies from Texas A&M University-Commerce, and is currently working as a freelance graphic designer based in Commerce, Texas.
Collaborators:

Gabriela Isabel Arguindegui is a graduate student based in Austin, Texas. Currently, she is pursuing a degree in Library and Information Science at the iSchool of Syracuse University. Her focus in London was to further establish the FWWCP archive, improving access for future research. Gabriela’s professional interests include archival preservation and historical materials. Gabriela authored the summaries for the Food Reading Guide.

Hannah Bennett earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fashion and Textiles from Cass School of Art and worked at the TUC library as a Graduate Intern. Hannah worked alongside the Civic Writing Course to create a Design and Illustration Reading Guide. Her interests are focused around the exchange which text and images have (such as on a page from a book). Hannah currently works as an assistant to an Art Department in a Secondary School and draws upon the influences from her time in the Archives and Library for personal and professional work to this day.

Ana Karen Gonzalez is an undergraduate student from Los Angeles, California. She is currently working towards her BA in Sociology with a Professional Writing Minor emphasis in Civic Engagement at the University of California Santa Barbara. Ana Karen enrolled in the Civic Writing course to expand on her studies of writing for civic engagement, from the perspective of a foreign culture. Ana Karen authored the Race Reading Guide.

Joshua Johnston is an undergraduate student from Fort Payne, Alabama attending Auburn University. He studies Sociology and English Literature. He came to London to explore theories of writing and their applications in regard to cultivating a more just and equitable society. In the archive, he focuses on the empowerment and agency of those stigmatised by the mental health system. Joshua authored the Mental Health Reading Guide.

Nancy Lee is an undergraduate student from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis studying English and focusing on Creative Writing. Lee was drawn to the Civic Writing program for the opportunity to work with artists and writers from London, to be involved in producing a publication, and to visit the many historical sights London has to offer. Lee authored the Art Reading Guide.
Andria Olson recently graduated with her M.S. in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. Her focus is in Historical Materials and has work experience in the digitization of archival collections. Andria enrolled in the London Civic Writing course to contribute to and learn from the digitisation efforts of an international archival collection. Andria is now the assistant map librarian at the Branner Earth Sciences Map Library and Map Collections at Stanford University. Andria authored the Literacy Reading Guide.

Dr. Victoria Lynne Scholz graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2018, Bowling Green State University in 2011, and Cameron University in 2008. She specialises in young adult novels and fairy tale retellings, but she is also experienced in teaching first year composition. She has published an article on critical pedagogy in the Harry Potter series in The Midwest Quarterly and has presented at the annual conferences for the Midwest Modern Languages Association (M/MLA) and Children’s Literature Association. Victoria worked on developing the FWWCP Reading Guides for Local London, War, and Work.

Trenna Soderling is a student from Lawrence, Kansas attending Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her areas of study are English with a concentration in Creative Writing and American Sign Language/English Interpreting. She came to London to explore writing and issues of social justice from a new perspective, in hopes that it could augment her work back home. Trenna authored the Gender Reading Guide.

Michelle Tiburcio is an undergraduate student from New York City. She currently attends Syracuse University where she studies Writing, Rhetoric & Composition with a minor in Information Management & Technology. Michelle enrolled in Civic Writing because of her desire to learn more about civic life in London, immerse herself in a new culture, and explore all of what the city has to offer. She hopes to use this new insight to improve her writing skills. Michelle authored the LGBTQ+ Reading Guide.

Brittney West is an undergraduate student from Los Alamitos, California who studies at Syracuse University. She is working to earn a degree in Writing and Rhetoric major, with minors in both Spanish and History. She enrolled in the London Civic Writing course because she was interested in studying its people and their unique histories. Brittney authored the Immigration Reading Guide.
What FWWCP/FED Members Are Saying About The FWWCP/FED Collection

"The written heartbeat of people for too long denied a voice, the archive is a social, educational, and creative resource of unique and immense value. An inspiration for everyone committed to ending intellectual and cultural apartheid, it reminds us that the purest aesthetic is a willing acceptance of collective humanity."
— Roy Birch, FWWCP/FED member and past Chair

"The FED Archive/Collection has preserved and protected words, thoughts, feelings and experiences that are not recorded anywhere else. Memories have been given a reach and life beyond the wildest dreams of those who shared them, little thinking that anyone would be interested in the writing of ordinary, uneducated, working people, even at the time, let alone decades later. Digitisation and online access to the archive has opened a window into the past, an authentic and unfiltered peek into a world that is slipping out of living memory much faster than we ever thought it would."
— Ashley Jordan, FWWCP/FED member and Communications/Website Development Officer

"I’m incredibly excited about the archive. We wrote despite people sneering at us, and we created a community. So the FWWCP archive, for me, is my main connection to the FED at the moment… People working at the Federation, looking at Centerprise, Black activism, in that period, gay activism, feminism — that needs to be studied. It’s a sort of history lesson, so that’s why I’m hoping that the Federation’s archive will be a living archive where people will be able to look at it, school groups could go there, performances could take part. Readings and events, based around it — because it is such a wealth of information and wisdom and entertainment there."
— Roger Mills, FWWCP/FED member and Executive Board member

"The FED was always about the way that we allow for a lot of diversity in the way that allowed people to take control of their identity… Being part of a community, in various ways, I mean meeting people, making new friends, but also getting to know a community of writers, artists, and musicians, that journey and that process is something I hope will never stop."
— Brian Docherty, FWWCP/FED member