

# SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR GEPOETICS

affiliated to the International Institute of Geopoetics founded by  
Kenneth White in 1989

**Newsletter 17**

**July 2005**

**Kenneth White** will again be appearing at the **Edinburgh International Book Festival on Sunday 21 August at 7 pm.** His lecture "What is World Writing?" is a must for anyone interested in geopoetics. The EIBF programme describes him as a "renowned intellectual nomad and thinker of world importance", so don't miss his visit. Some tickets are still available at the EIBF box office tel. 0131 624 5050 or book at [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk). He will also give lectures in October in Ullapool on 29th, Inverness (possibly a reading) on 30th, and Orkney 31<sup>st</sup> as part of a UHI Aurora Fellowship.

Our Alba Editions book ***Grounding a World. Essays on the work of Kenneth White*** edited by Gavin Bowd, Charles Forsdick and Norman Bissell has been well received by our members but, for reasons known to themselves, has not yet been reviewed by the media. Please order your own copy and/or ask your local library and bookshop to order copies from Graham Urquhart at the address below (cheque for £9.95 including p&p made out to Alba Editions).

Our **Islands Weekend** on the Isle of Luing in May was so successful that the summer issue of the Luing Newsletter contains three articles about it. A special issue of *island* magazine resulting from the weekend is in preparation. Check out the [www.essencepress.co.uk](http://www.essencepress.co.uk) website to view visual images of the weekend. A new pamphlet *SLANT* by Roger Bygott which was inspired by the weekend is available from him, cheques for £6.50 payable to Roger Bygott, (contact details below).

**Our visit to Falkland Estate** in Fife in June went equally well. Please send in your impressions of the visit for our next Newsletter.

## **Geopoetics Weekend Course**

Those who attended the Word Power Books' 9th Independent Radical Book Fair discussion on *Grounding a World* and Geopoetics in May and others wishing to explore geopoetics in depth should book now to attend the **Weekend Course – Geopoetics: Place, Culture, World on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November 2005 at the Edin-**

## **burgh University Office of Lifelong Learning.**

This introductory two-day course is the first one of its kind in Scotland. It is of significance in this period of transition following devolution, since it focuses on the problems of a globalised culture, and offers a means of radical cultural renewal. It will trace the development of geopoetics in the poetry, essays and waybooks of Kenneth White, and will also discuss its relationship to a general critique of modernity that includes ecological post-modernity and deep ecology. Key aspects in the history of the arts and sciences will be used to illustrate White's contention that a "new epoch of being is possible".

The origins of geopoetics are in earlier critiques of modernity, and in key developments in the history of Western and Eastern cultures. These diverse developments will be brought together in the theory and practice of geopoetics which will include lectures and discussion on such themes as modernity

### **English Network for Geopoetics**

If you would like further information about the English Network for Geopoetics (ENG) you should contact Ian Prior tel. 0121 447 8518 e-mail [ianjprior@aol.com](mailto:ianjprior@aol.com) or Roger By-

and its critics, the wanderer and his charts, grounding a world, poetic intelligence - the great work-field, a new way of being in the world, embracing the real, and opening a new cultural space. This interdisciplinary course on geopoetics, linking many branches of the Arts and Sciences, will be most timely and have a wide appeal. To obtain further details and enrol on the course phone 0131 650 4400.

### **Membership Profiles**

Responses to the members' profiles in the last Newsletter have been very favourable, so, if you haven't already, please send in a few lines about yourself and how you came to be interested in geopoetics for inclusion in our next Newsletter.

### **Friends of Patrick Geddes Group**

The Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust is trying to ascertain whether there is interest in reactivating a Friends of Patrick Geddes Group. Anyone interested can contact the Trust at [www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk](http://www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk)

gott tel. 01798 861867 or also by [roger@bygott.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:roger@bygott.wanadoo.co.uk) e-mail for more details. Contact Roger also if you are interested in obtaining a CD of the talks at the geopoetics conference in Manchester in March.

**New *Fras* Publications well worth ordering:**

***Kenneth White and the Awkward Squad*** by Hugh Learmont, a reply to the Scottish Review of Books' review of Kenneth White's poetry and prose £2, ***Adventures of a Bibliomaniac*** by Kenneth

White £4.50, *Fras* Magazine £4, all including p&p (cheques made out to John Herdman), are available from *Fras* Publications, Atholl Browse Bookshop by the Station, Blair Atholl, Perthshire PH18 5SG.

**Subscriptions: New and Due**

**All annual subscriptions are now due unless paid since July 2004.**

Please send your name, address, e-mail and phone numbers with a cheque for £10/£5 unwaged, payable to the Scottish Centre for Geopoetics to either contact below.

**Contacts:**

Norman Bissell, director, 340 Lincoln Avenue Glasgow G13 3LP tel. 0141 959 6033 or at [norman@rbissell.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:norman@rbissell.fsnet.co.uk)

Graham Urquhart, secretary, 16 Main Street Limekilns Fife KY11 3HL tel. 01383 872907 or at [gurquhart@madasafish.com](mailto:gurquhart@madasafish.com).

Previous Newsletters and links can be found on the International Institute of Geopoetics website: [www.geopoetique.net](http://www.geopoetique.net).

**Please copy this Newsletter to those whom you think may be interested.**