

# **SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR GEOPOETICS**

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

## **Newsletter 15 November 2004**

Our walk along part of the John Muir Way and AGM in Dunbar in October were most successful, thanks to Colin Will, who provided expert geological guidance about its volcanic cliffs and raised beaches, and Lesley-May Miller, who arranged our lunch and meeting room. In the course of a very positive discussion at our AGM (see director's report and minutes) it was agreed:

### **i) Members' Profiles**

**to invite all members to submit a short profile of themselves to Norman Bissell indicating how they had become interested in geopoetics and their particular areas of interest.**

Our purpose is to circulate this information to members to encourage connections, ideas and discussion about geopoetic theory and practice e.g. in the visual arts, natural sciences, literature; about our field visits to Roslin, the Isle of May, Little Sparta and Dunbar; and responses to the four new Kenneth White books published in Scotland since last year. This will enable members who cannot attend talks and visits to participate more fully in our work.

### **ii) Election of Council**

**to invite members to nominate themselves for our Council (4 members plus office-bearers) which meets twice a year to discuss how best to develop our work.**

We now have over 60 members and would welcome your participation in the Council.

### **iii) Geopoetics Course**

**to prepare a course in geopoetics to submit to Edinburgh University Open Studies department to commence in October 2005, and to Glasgow University Department of Adult and Continuing Education for January 2006. Suggestions about the**

course should be sent to [weddie1@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:weddie1@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)  
fao Bill Eddie.

#### **iv) Islands Weekend 6-8 May 2005**

**to invite members to come to our islands weekend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon on the Isle of Luing in Argyll.**

There will be talks, discussions, walking, writing, artwork, a ceilidh etc, approx £35 plus travel costs. Send £10 deposit made out to the Scottish Centre for Geopoetics to Norman Bissell to book your place (only 21 places available at present). It is intended that a special geopoetics issue of *island* magazine will result from our Islands weekend.

#### **Alba Editions**

Our Alba Editions book of essays based on the Forty Years of the White World conference at the University of St Andrews is almost ready for publication.

It contains sixteen essays on many different aspects of Kenneth White's work as poet, thinker, and teacher, as well as 'Grounding a World', a new essay by him. This book will provide the first detailed analysis and evaluation in English of his work and will be a rich source book for the development of geopoetics. Members will receive notification of its publication, launch events and the offer of a special discount price. Reserve your copy now by contacting any of the Office-bearers.

One of the contributors to the book is Padmakara, who has also written an Urthona magazine review of *Open World: Collected Poems 1960-2000* which is on his website [www.polestar-arts.co.uk](http://www.polestar-arts.co.uk), along with photographs, poems etc.

[Www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk](http://Www.patrickgeddestrust.co.uk) website has information about the Patrick Geddes conference in October in which some of us took part.

Kenneth White will give a lecture on Gauguin in July 2005 at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, which in early summer will also host an exhibition of his artist-books.

## Special Offer to Members

The following books by Kenneth White are available to members at our events and by post at a special discount (including post and packing):

*Geopoetics: place, culture, world* at £5 (cf. £6)

*Coast to Coast, Interviews and Conversation* at £6 (cf £7.95)

*Open World: Collected Poems 1960 – 2000* at £18 (cf £20)

*The Wanderer and his Charts* (essays) and *Across the Territories* (waybook) at £8 each or £15 together (cf £9.99 each).

Orders and cheques payable to the Scottish Centre for Geopoetics should be sent to Norman Bissell at the address below.

**Subscriptions: New and Due** Please send your name, postal and e-mail address with a cheque for £10/£5 unwaged, payable to the Scottish Centre for Geopoetics, to the treasurer, Richard Browne, at the address below. **All annual subscriptions are now due unless paid since November 2003.**

### Contacts:

Norman Bissell, director, 340 Lincoln Avenue Glasgow G13 3LP tel. 0141 959 6033 or at

<mailto:norman@rbissell.fsnet.co.uk>

Graham Urquhart, secretary, 16 Main Street Limekilns Fife KY11 3HL tel. 01383 872907 or at

<mailto:gurquhart@madasafish.com>

Richard Browne, treasurer, Main Point Books, 8 Lauriston Street Edinburgh EH3 9DJ tel. 0131 228 4837 or at

[jennie@essbc.demon.co.uk](mailto:jennie@essbc.demon.co.uk)

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.