



## Orpington MIND

Reading on Friday January 25th 2002

Readers : Debjani Chatterjee, Rogan Wolf

Photographer : Pierre Bascle

Report : Rogan Wolf



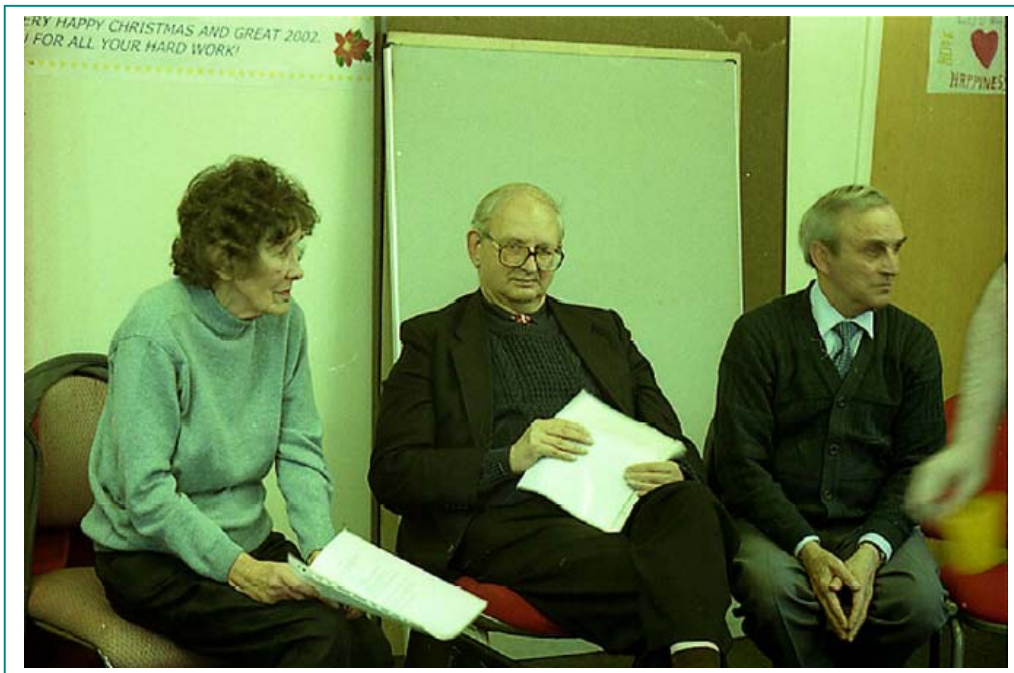
*Debjani Chatterjee*

*The reading at Orpington MIND was the first of the South London series. The poets joined a Poetry Group which meets weekly at the Centre and is run by a staff member called Dee, a poetry enthusiast and writer. Before hearing about the project, she was already displaying her group's poetry at the Centre and she gave the project's poem-posters an early welcome. She had advertised the reading in neighbouring MIND centres and some of the audience had travelled over from these places.*





*Debjani and Rogan were followed by members of the group reading their own work. Several of the poems were on the theme of waiting, and had been written in previous weeks during the group sessions. The poems were then presented to Debjani and Rogan to take away with them.*



*Afterwards, Dee collected comments about the reading from her group and sent them over.*

*“I enjoyed hearing poetry in another language. But, I did feel terrified about reading my own poetry first, and I felt relieved once I had read it out loud. I really enjoyed the whole afternoon.”* G.W.

*“Pleasant. The afternoon made me feel that I would like to write my own poetry with the help of Dee.”* JW



*“One service user said that poetry gave him great joy.”* Student

*“Thank you for the wonderful afternoon on Friday, what an event !...Please...carry on raising the flag for poetry in the community”* Dee