

**The QueenSpark AGM** on July 22nd saw a number of structural changes to the Constitution. These were chiefly concerned with updating the criteria for membership of the Management Committee - places had previously been reserved for representatives from the Manuscripts Group and the Office Group - neither of which are still in operation and the rules for membership of QueenSpark. The latter was becoming increasingly time and cost consuming to manage, so it was decided that, as current memberships lapse, they will not be renewed. All interested people, rather than just members, would from now on receive this newsletter free of charge, which will broaden the awareness of the range of QueenSpark's work.

We would very much like to thank our Management Committee for their hard work over the past year; as a result of a thorough Strategic Review of the organisation, the future looks increasingly bright, and this is in large part due to our Committee members. We would also like to offer our great thanks and best wishes to John Roles, Head of Collections and Archive at the Museums Service, who is moving to a new post in Leeds; his support and enthusiasm will be missed at QueenSpark.

*Spread the word!*

If you would like this newsletter delivered direct to your door, or would like a direct email version, please fill in your details below. Also, if you know anyone, or anywhere, that would like to receive our newsletter, fill in their details!

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone number

email address

Please post future copies of the newsletter

Please email future copies of the newsletter

(Tick as appropriate)

Return to: QueenSpark Books, 49 Grand Parade, BN2 2QA

#### WRITING GROUP DETAILS

QueenSpark is pleased to host a number of writing groups here at our base at 49 Grand Parade. If you are interested in joining any of these, please contact them direct.

##### Women Writers

Thursdays 10am-12 noon  
Contact Claire Shelton-Jones  
Tel. 505642

For women of all ages and outlooks. Small informal group reading our work: poetry, stories etc, engaging in constructive criticism and doing group writing exercises.

##### Club '94

Thursdays 2.30-4.30pm  
Contact Simon Jenner  
Tel. 01273 202876

'We're free-range writers with no pecking order'

A long established, dynamic group with a strong focus on poetry, offering detailed critique and constructive discussion. Whilst keen on publication and public readings, participation at any level is welcomed.

##### Novelist's Group

Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm  
Contact Stephanie  
Tel. 01273 727877

This enthusiastic group warmly welcomes would-be novelists at any stage. Anyone with work to share or an idea to discuss can be sure of direct and useful input.

##### Circus Street Writers

Having completed the CCE Creative Writing Certificate at the University of Sussex, we now meet bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings to exchange criticism and feedback and generally support one another in finishing our novels. We are not therefore looking for new members.

#### Contact details

QueenSpark, 49 Grand Parade, BN2 2QA  
email [john@queensparkbooks.org.uk](mailto:john@queensparkbooks.org.uk)  
Join our yahoo discussion group by visiting [www.queensparkbooks.org.uk/contact.html](http://www.queensparkbooks.org.uk/contact.html) and following the instructions.  
Websites [www.queensparkbooks.org.uk](http://www.queensparkbooks.org.uk)  
[www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk)  
Telephone 01273 571710



Supported by the  
Heritage Lottery Fund

# QueenSpark NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the new quarterly QueenSpark newsletter. It includes news of all of the exciting new developments and projects for the organisation, and offers many opportunities for you to get involved.

This newsletter is distributed to all interested individuals, groups and funding bodies concerned with the work of QueenSpark. We hope that you enjoy and are interested in the contents. Do you feel strongly about anything here? Or do you have an opinion on an aspect of writing and/or publishing that you'd like to share? Or you may want to publicise a writing event! Feel free to contribute and, space permitting, we'll publish it in the next issue.

**QueenSpark** is a non-profit community publishing and writing organisation. We publish books about local people's lives, run creative writing groups and courses and facilitate oral history projects. For the last thirty years, QueenSpark has helped people in Brighton and Hove tell their stories.

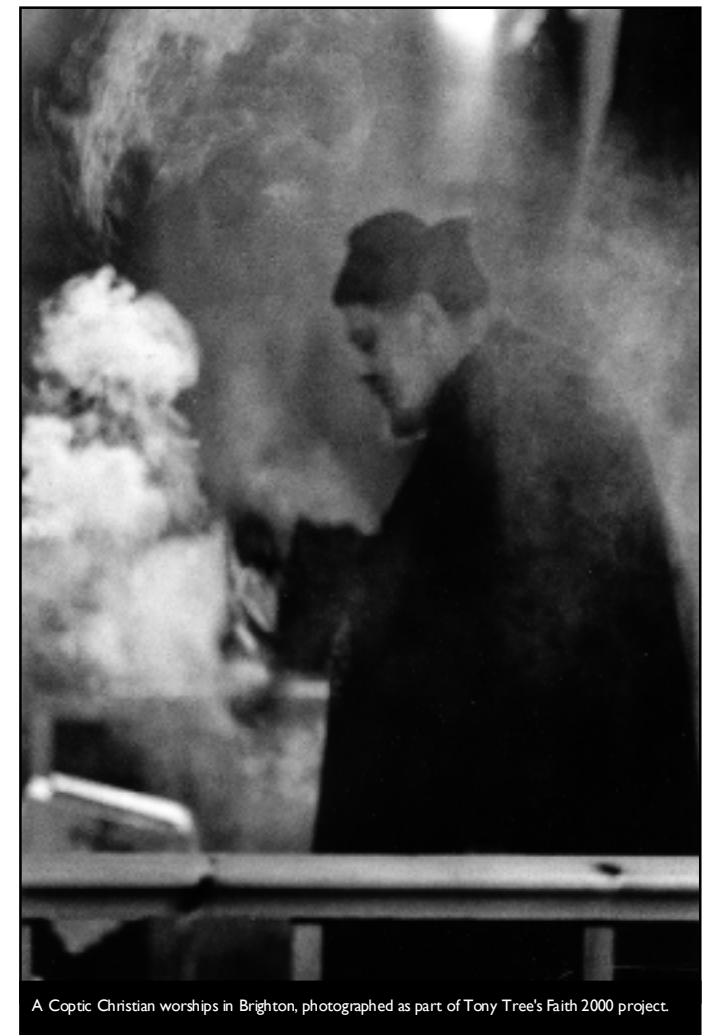
**Great news! QueenSpark has been awarded a major grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund for our Archive and Education Project. The grant will enable us to:**

- research and catalogue all of the 80-plus books that QueenSpark has produced over the past 30 years.
- physically and digitally archive the entire collection, in collaboration with Brighton and Hove Museums Service - making it available online to everybody, via our own website and the Museum's.
- collate and reprint some of our most popular titles, such as *Backstreet Brighton* and *Backyard Brighton*.
- produce a CD-Rom Education Pack to accompany the archive, highlighting its' educational uses and available free to all Brighton and Hove Schools.

The grant secures QueenSpark's immediate future, and will afford us the opportunity to develop an ongoing, high-profile project.

## Faith in Brighton

QueenSpark is initiating a major new project, which will begin later this year, entitled 'Faith in Brighton'. The aim is to document the histories of some of the lesser-reported faiths in the city, such as Islam, Judaism, Coptic Christianity and Hinduism. Each of these has a long and interesting association with Brighton and Hove, yet are often not found in traditional portraits. Our plan is to work with the communities in order to document how and when their faith came to Brighton, the sort of traditions and customs that they brought, what their lives were like, and the contribution that the community and the faith has made to the city. A collection of these stories will be published in a book, alongside an exhibition. All material will go on to form a special section of our website, which will also include video diaries and photographs. The project will not be about 'promoting' any particular faith; rather it will be about the positive contributions that all faiths make to the history and vibrancy of the city.



A Coptic Christian worships in Brighton, photographed as part of Tony Tree's Faith 2000 project.



Many of you know the [www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk) project. Formed ten years ago, the site is a living history of Brighton and Hove. On it, people share their memories, photos, knowledge and opinions about the city - as it is today and as it was in the past. There are over 1,500 pages about local places and topics, and the entire site is built and edited by volunteers. The project has been hugely successful – currently receiving 7,500 visitor sessions per week - and was recently commissioned by the national 24 Hour Museum to create Brighton's first History Trail. (visit [www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/historytrail.htm](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/historytrail.htm)).

'We're so pleased to have been able to work with My Brighton and Hove,' said 24 Hour Museum Editor, Jon Pratty. 'They have a national reputation as an exemplary local history site and we have relied closely on their expertise'

However, you may not know that MyBrightonandHove are affiliated to QueenSpark, and have operated from our offices for four years! As a result, and because of the obvious parallels between the work of the two projects, MyBrightonandHove is being merged with QueenSpark. We will be linking our projects and the websites much more closely, creating an exciting and accessible

exchange for offline and online accounts of Brighton and Hove's past and present.

Many of the volunteers that have contributed to the success of MyBrightonandHove are keen to continue to be involved, but we are always looking for new volunteers, either to carry out research and interviews about various aspects of Brighton, or to be trained in web skills in order to upload all the new information that is constantly coming in. Contact us at the web address above.

At the last volunteer's meeting, it was suggested that we look into developing specific themes on the site, in order to encourage new individuals to contribute. Following feedback, and an approach from the Museum, we've decided to concentrate on:

- Alt-History; linked to the competition on page 3 of this newsletter, a section of the site dedicated to imaginative fictional accounts of Brighton and Hove's history.
- Brighton Boozers; working with the Museum to document the history – oral and photographic – of a number of the city's most historic and interesting pubs.
- Entertainment venues; personal accounts of special events and memories situated in different venues, past and present. From clubs to theatres, bingo halls to skateboard parks, we will be collaborating with particular institutions and locations in Brighton and Hove to encourage their users to contribute.

## Sudanese book

QueenSpark has been collaborating with the Adult Learners Department at Brighton and Hove Council, and the Museums Service, in order to produce a book about **Brighton's Sudanese community**. Writer Jackie Wills has collected transcripts of interviews with individuals carried out by volunteers, detailing their thoughts on everything from why they came here from Sudan, to their first impressions of the city, and how they have assimilated into the community. Jackie is busy structuring a narrative for the book, which will be printed in English and Arabic in November.



Management Committee member Stella Cardus, new QueenSpark Director John Riches, Chair Jack Latimer and outgoing Committee Member John Roles

## Alt-History

### Exciting New Competition and Writing Course for local people

QueenSpark is creating an imaginary Brighton and Hove, and want residents to make it up!

We will be publishing a book of fictional stories inspired by the landscape, buildings, people, or events of the city, in order to create an alternative history – and we are particularly looking for stories from those people who have never been published before.

Stories can be anything from 50-3,500 words. There are three age categories: Adult, under 18, and under 11. A prize of £100.00 in book tokens will be awarded to the three winners, and their stories will be published alongside up to 15 other entries in the Spring of 2005.

For those who would like help from a supportive tutor and group to develop their story writing skills, QueenSpark are running a new course on fictional history writing. The course will run on Tuesday evenings, from 7-9pm, from 19<sup>th</sup> October for 10 weeks, at QueenSpark, 49 Grand Parade. It will be led by local author and travel writer Dominique De-Light.

There are 10 places available. Places cost £60.00 (waged) for the ten weeks. Full bursaries to cover costs are available for unwaged, on application and with proof of status. To reserve a place, call 571710, or email [john@queensparkbooks.org.uk](mailto:john@queensparkbooks.org.uk)

## Check out our websites

**We are gradually making all of our books available to buy online, and you can find regularly updated news of all our projects and courses. Both QueenSpark and MyBrightonandHove have been nominated for a Brighton and Hove Web Award as part of this year's Virtual Festival – go online to see if we've won.**



[www.queensparkbooks.org.uk](http://www.queensparkbooks.org.uk)



[www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk)

*Let your imagination run wild...  
From waking up in the bedroom at the Royal Pavilion, to your first day at school; from the Albion winning the Champion's League to the day that the sea never came in, or anything in between or beyond, we would like to hear your completely made-up story.*

**Entries for the competition must be received by Tuesday 21st December 2004**

Send by post to Alt-Brighton, QueenSpark, 49 Grand Parade, BN2 2QA, or emailed to [john@queensparkbooks.org.uk](mailto:john@queensparkbooks.org.uk). Please attach full name and address, age, daytime telephone number, and email address if you have one.

## Cityscape

QueenSpark is also involved in a long-term initiative with the Museum and the Foundation Programme. Entitled 'Cityscape', the project will work with some of the city's rough sleepers at a series of artist-led workshops – in writing, photography, oral history, visual art - with the outcome to include developing their creative skills in order to mount an exhibition at the Museum, and a book detailing their stories and experiences. It follows on from a successful pilot led by ex-QueenSpark Chair David Kendall and the Museum two years ago. We are currently through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the funding process overseen by the South East Museum, Library and Archive Council – fingers crossed! – so there will hopefully be some more good news in the next newsletter!