

You may have noticed that, instead of 'QueenSpark Books', we are now 'QueenSpark Publishers'. This decision was taken at the last Management Committee in recognition of the fact that over the next year, in addition to producing books, QueenSpark is also moving into publishing on the internet, both as part of the *Archive* project and the *Faith* project.

Once again, QueenSpark would like to thank our Management Committee for their hard work; in addition to their attendance at meetings, they are also involved in the recruitment of new staff and advise the staff on numerous others issues. While this may sound quite onerous, it is also very interesting – so if you would like to become involved in the Management Committee, please contact us. We would also like to thank Stella Cardus for her period as Treasurer, and welcome Anne Morrison to the role.

Spread the word!

If you are not currently on our Mailing List, and 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 Bernadette Cremin
Tel. 01273 551309

'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
Join our yahoo discussion group by visiting www.queensparkbooks.org.uk/contact.html and following the instructions.
Websites www.queensparkbooks.org.uk
www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk
Telephone 01273 571710



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the February 2005 QueenSpark newsletter. Once again, we are pleased to offer you the chance to catch up on all of the news about our projects, and also to offer you many opportunities to get involved. This newsletter is distributed to all interested individuals and organisations concerned with the work of QueenSpark, and we hope that you enjoy 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 would you like to publicise a writing event? Feel free to contribute and, space permitting, we'll publish it in the next issue.

QueenSpark Publishers 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.

NEWS

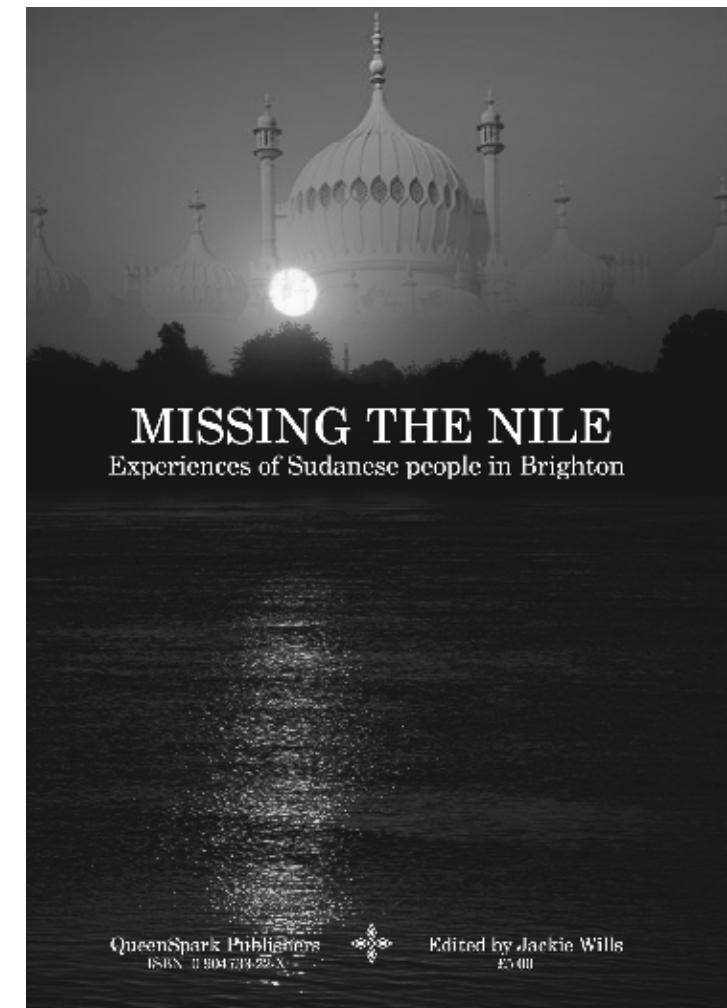
* QueenSpark is growing! Our Mailing List has nearly tripled in size since October, the recent writing course was oversubscribed, and hits on our website are rising. We are also pleased to announce two new appointments: Rosemary Turner joins as our new part-time Administrator, and Desktop Display are going to be co-ordinating the Digitisation element of the *Archive* project.

* *Missing the Nile*, (right) our book produced in collaboration with members of the city's Sudanese community and the Council's Adult Learner's Unit, and edited by Jackie Wills, is now available! Designed by Amanda Stones, and printed in English and Arabic, it offers a vivid account of the challenges faced by individuals who arrived from Sudan, how they adapted to life in the city, and their memories of home. Priced at £5.00, contact us if you would like to purchase a copy. Sections of the book will feature in Brighton and Hove Museum's forthcoming touring exhibition. For information go to www.virtualmuseum.info.

* In addition to the Heritage Lottery Fund award for the *Archive and Digitisation Project* detailed in the last newsletter, QueenSpark has also managed to secure an *Awards for All* grant for our *Faith in Brighton* project, which is being supplemented by an *Arts Partnership Award* from Brighton and Hove Council (*more inside*).

* We have confirmed our collaboration with Brighton and Hove Museums Service and the Foundation Project on the *Cityscape* project, funded by the South East Museums, Libraries and Archive Council (*more inside*).

* *The South*, the creative literature network, will be sharing our office space in order to develop their work, offering us many opportunities for future collaboration on workshops and events.



* MyBrightonandhove.org.uk won the Community Award at the Brighton and Hove Virtual Festival, for which QueenSpark was also nominated.

* See inside for the results of our *Alt-History* competition and the book's publication, and details of a brand new competition!



2004 was a very exciting year for those working on the My Brighton and Hove website.

In the last year the hard work and expertise of the group has contributed to the growing size and popularity of the site. This period last year saw visitor numbers running at 75,000 per day; it is now a massive 175,000. With regular updating of the site, which now has in excess of 1,700 pages, visitors certainly keep coming back. In fact the increasing popularity of My Brighton and Hove was illustrated in 2004 when it won the Best Community Website in the Brighton and Hove Virtual Festival.

The My Brighton and Hove website is entirely constructed and managed by volunteers. There is a core group of fourteen who meet together every fortnight. In between these meetings we also work from home, uploading the material sent in by contributors, working on current projects, and doing the day-to-day maintenance of the site. This group is supported by a number of other volunteers who help occasionally with current projects.

A great deal of the site content is contributed by ordinary people who can upload their memories, views and photographs via a special site facility called Pagemaker.

But on a regular basis My Brighton and Hove is involved in special projects; one of these is 'Brighton Boozers'.

This project is run in association with the History Centre, which is based at Brighton Museum, and features galleries of photographs of Brighton pubs across the years. The galleries show the oldest existing photographs of the pubs juxtaposed with images of just what the pubs look like today. Sue and Mike from the group went around the city snapping the boozers and had some interesting experiences in the process. Mike dined with death by having to stand in the middle of a busy road to photograph a pub from the same angle as the old photograph. In her travels with her camera, Sue talked to a lady whose house had once been a pub and she had no idea! There has been a very good response from site visitors to this feature, and many people have contributed their particular memories of some of their favourite pubs. The 'Brighton Boozers' exhibition is running at the History Centre, Brighton Museum from January to December 2005.

Apart from the memories and photographs that are published on the site, there is a part of My Brighton and Hove that never makes it to the public domain. Every day emails arrive from all over the world from people who have found the website and request help with various things. For example, we regularly have queries from individuals who are researching a particular area of interest; these range from dissertation students, to kids wanting help with their homework, and people researching their family history. Often people who are trying to find old friends from the Brighton area contact us; recently we received an email from a man who had lost contact with an old friend from 30 years ago but had seen a comment on the website about his old neighbourhood. We were eventually able to track down the email address of the contributor and a re-union between very old friends will be taking place later this year – and they have promised to write and tell us about it. Perhaps the most unusual recent event concerns the Brighton lady who wrote into the site about her husband who had been snatched from his pram when he was a very small baby. Luckily he was found, not too much later, on a doorstep not far away. When this story went out onto the site, the son of the woman who had found the baby emailed us. We managed to put both parties into contact with each other and are hoping we will get a new story!

▪ If you would like to learn more about My Brighton and Hove you can find the website at <http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/index.htm>. Would you like to find out how you could be involved? We are always looking for new volunteers. You don't have to be computer literate – although that definitely helps – there are many ways in which you could participate. Interested? Email us at info@mybrightonandhove.org.uk

Faith in Brighton

Members of the Coptic community, and the Muslim and Progressive Jewish faiths are beginning a programme of video and oral history training with QueenSpark practitioners. They will interview members of their community and produce video diaries, in advance of web-skills training at the CSV Media Clubhouse, to enable them to tell the story of their faith's relationship with the history of Brighton and Hove. In addition to the internet presence on QueenSpark's website, a book will be published and launched at the end of 2005.



As you can see, what used to be the Mash Tun has always attracted the trendy young things... (see left)

Where I've Lived

A New Competition and Writing Course

Patcham, Brunswick, Moulescoomb, Portslade, Kemptown, Queens Park, Whitehawk... Brighton and Hove consists of many districts that combine to make a unique whole, and we would like to hear your stories about all of them...

QueenSpark is publishing a book of stories inspired by areas in which we live – and once again we are particularly looking for stories from those people who have never been published before.

You may have a particular memory about the characters or the environment - or you can imagine one... maybe you once lived in the Helter-Skelter on the pier, or the Grandstand at the Racecourse!

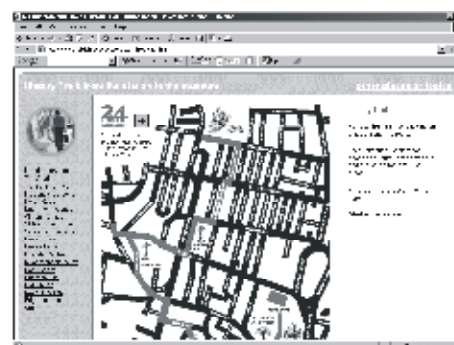
Stories can be anything from 50-3,500 words. There are three age categories: Adult, under 18, and under 11. The stories will be published in an anthology in June.

For those who would like help from a supportive tutor and group to develop their story writing skills, QueenSpark are running a new course. It will run on Tuesday evenings, from 7-9pm, from 8th March for 10 weeks (excluding 29th March), at QueenSpark, 49 Grand Parade. It will be led by local author and 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.

Check out our websites

We are gradually making all of our books available to buy online via credit card, and you can see a full publications list. You can also find out all the latest news on our projects, subscribe to the Mailing List, and volunteer to join in!



www.queensparkbooks.org.uk



www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk

We had over 70 entries for our Alt-History competition, which gave the judges much food for thought! Fifteen of the entries will be published in the book, which is currently in production, and will be available at the end of February. Contact us or visit the website to find out how you can purchase a copy, priced £4.95.

Entries for the competition must be received by Tuesday 17th May 2005
Send by post to *Where I've Lived*, QueenSpark, 49 Grand Parade, BN2 2QA, or emailed to john@queensparkbooks.org.uk. Please attach full name and address, age, daytime telephone number, and email address if you have one.

Cityscape

More news on our collaboration with the Museum and the Foundation Programme. The project will work with rough sleepers on a series of artist-led workshops, aimed at developing their creative skills as part of a wider life-skills programme run by Foundation. Over the next two years the participants will use drama, video, writing and visual art to tell their stories, culminating in an exhibition at the Museum, and a book detailing their stories and experiences. Funding from the South East Museum, Libraries and Archive Council has now been approved, and the workshops will begin in March.