

Following a very successful year of activity, new projects, new staff members and a four-fold increase in subscribers to our Mailing List, we are pleased to announce that the **2005 QueenSpark Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday August 3rd, 6pm**, at our base at 49 Grand Parade. Alongside the usual formalities of such occasions, we hope that it also offers an opportunity for many of our associates on different projects to meet and chat with each other, and to find out about the wider workings of QueenSpark.

All are welcome, and if you are a current volunteer, project worker, or have some other ongoing association with QueenSpark, you can also apply to become a member for one year. Membership is free, and will entitle you to have full voting rights at the AGM, and to stand for a place on the Management Committee. Contact rosemary@queensparkbooks.org.uk or call 01273 571710 to obtain a membership form at least three weeks in advance of the meeting, which will be ratified by the Management Committee at the start of the AGM.

We hope to see you there!

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 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 9QA
Telephone 01273 571710

Director – John Riches
e-mail john@queensparkbooks.org.uk

Administrator – Rosemary Turner
e-mail rosemary@queensparkbooks.org.uk

Marketing and Readership Manager
sarah@queensparkbooks.org.uk
Join our yahoo discussion group by visiting www.queensparkbooks.org.uk/contact.html and following the instructions.
www.queensparkbooks.org.uk
www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk

Queen Spark NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the June 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 pleased to welcome Sarah Hutchings, our new Marketing and Readership Manager. Sarah will be developing lots of ideas to increase the sales of our books – for example, establishing our online bookstore, for books about Brighton as well as those by Brighton authors – and developing a range of readership campaigns.

* *Alt-History* (right) is a new collection of fiction writing by adults and children, offering original perspectives on Brighton and Hove's history, architecture and characters. Designed by Peter Oakes, the book costs £4.99 and can be ordered from our website. See inside for more details...

* One of the *Alt-History* stories, *The Wreck of the West Pier* by 11 year-old Grace Judge, has been selected to represent QueenSpark and Brighton on the *Friendship* project; a collaboration between arts organisations from 12 UK cities, the 'Ship' will be touring the country throughout the next academic year.

* QueenSpark's 2005 AGM will take place on Wednesday 3rd August, 6pm, at 49 Grand Parade. See the back page for more details.

* We now have a complete Archive of all our publications, thanks to our Digitisation Co-ordinator Stella Cardus, and volunteers Jo Mortimer and Ismay Austin. The books will now be scanned and proof-read, and we aim to make the Archive fully available online later this year. Also, look out for reprints of our most popular books!

* QueenSpark has secured two-year funding from Arts Council England's *Grants for the Arts* programme. Following our Strategic Review, and the awarding of a number of project grants after our relaunch last year, we are delighted that the Arts Council has seen fit to support us in our new direction.



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



The My Brighton and Hove website is continuing to attract record numbers of visitors each week, who log on not only to read about the history of our city, but also to share their own experiences and memories. One of the reasons for its popularity is that there is always something new to see and read about. Not only do ordinary site visitors post comments and memories daily, but the volunteer editorial team publishes weekly updates of articles and photographs produced by MyBH volunteers who research material for the site. Now, our dedicated team of 'techies' are currently engaged in working out a system to enable us to strip the content of the site, and transfer it to a new data base system. We hope that the new site, planned for launch in the autumn, will make visiting MyBH an even more productive and pleasant experience.

One of the most popular items on the MyBH website is the virtual tours of the city. Our most recent was the 'History Trail' which was a virtual walk from the station to the Museum zig-zagging between tourist spots and little known alleyways. Currently we are working on a new addition to the site called the 'Seafront Trail', which will cover the area from King's Road to Marine Drive. The tour will be based on an original plan by David Simkin who has kindly allowed MyBH to use his extensive research. The material has come from many varied sources, but none as strange as the collection of photographs of the Pamment family who managed the Metropole hotel at the beginning of the last century. These were rescued from a skip by a sharp eyed relative of someone who had recently died, and a chance email to the group led to our being allowed to publish them on the Seafront Trail.

Picture Right: A member of the Pamment family in his WWI uniform on the balcony of the Metropole Hotel.

Used with the permission of Mr Steve Pamment.

As this year marks the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2, MyBH is currently asking for contributions of memories and photographs of the time, and is working in conjunction with the BBC's project 'The Peoples' War'. We are looking for the wartime experiences of ordinary people of all ages. Perhaps you were in the military, or civil defence, or a housewife trying to feed a family on rations, or a child at the time. Whatever your story – we would love to hear it. If you have a story to tell please contact jennifer@mybrightonandhove.org.uk.

Mike Snewin, a stalwart of the volunteer group and a teacher in 'real life', has developed an interesting **MyBH Teacher's Resource**. He has produced downloadable worksheets for children of varying ages and abilities that concentrate on Brighton's three piers. Many children, and let's face it, a lot of adults in Brighton are only aware of the Palace and West Piers; but there was also the long gone, and often forgotten, Chain Pier. These worksheets encourage the children to use the website to research the piers, so that they are learning about local history while doing something they love, playing about on the computer. To date Mike has had a great response from teachers and is planning to extend the resource. The resource material is at www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/teachers_piers.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

Jennifer Drury

An e-mail from a satisfied customer: "This is just about the very best website and service you can get. The other day I e-mailed from Australia that I had found out my great great grandfather had been killed in a carriage accident at the foot of St. James's Street in 1859. Within two short days the staff running this site had located the incident in the local newspaper and sent the information back to me. Is there anything I can do for you in return?"

([Stephen J. Craig-Smith](mailto:Stephen.J.Craig-Smith), 18-05-2005)

Faith in Brighton

Participants from the Coptic community and the Muslim and Progressive Jewish faiths have completed their oral history training with Siobhan Warrington, and are now busy interviewing key figures from their faith groups. Others are producing video films in collaboration with Amy Riley, and later this year a programme of web-skills training at the CSV Media Clubhouse will enable participants to upload the story of their faith's relationship with the history of Brighton and Hove onto our website. In addition, a book will be published and launched at the end of 2005.



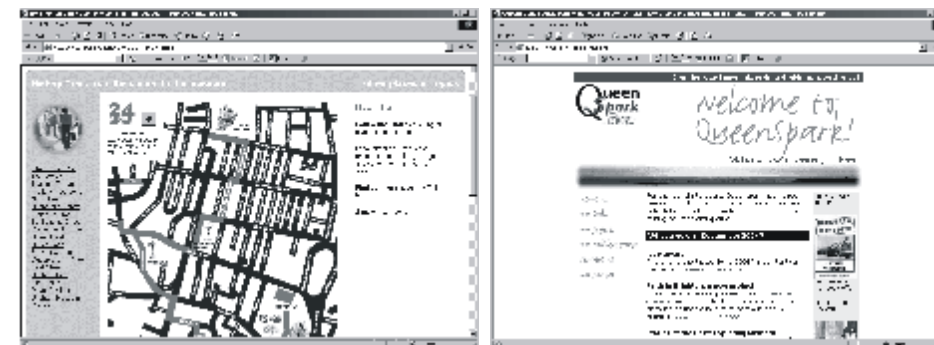
Alt-History

Are seagulls emissaries from heaven? Do the worst bands make the best music? What is the truth about the origins of football? Here is a collection of fifteen original stories by new writers - many of whom are being published for the first time. We are also delighted to include in this collection five works by authors who are under the age of twelve. The stories are a mixture of the funny, the poignant and the surreal. All of them are written from a Brighton perspective and each one opens up a new vision of the past. In these tales you will find love, revenge, murder, theft, friendship, Chinese take-away and some rather elegant conversation concerning rabbits; experience the horrors of war, witness the righting of ancient wrongs and keep company with a few of the eccentric, heroic, extraordinary and compelling people of Brighton.

This book is the result of our *Alt-History* writing competition. We were delighted with the quality, and the amount, of entries, with Jane Hansford and Emily Atkinson-Dalton winning the Adults and Childrens awards respectively – and a £100.00 book token each! You can buy the book by visiting our website, www.queensparkbooks.org.uk/alt_hist.htm, priced at £4.99 (plus 2.00 p&p), or you can send a cheque for £6.99 to 49 Grand Parade, BN2 9QA, or you can call us on 01273 571710 and visit the office to buy a copy. It is also available in local bookshops, particularly the Kemptown Bookshop in St. Georges Street, Kemptown, and City Books in Western Road, Hove.

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.mybrightonandhove.org.uk

www.queensparkbooks.org.uk

A QueenSpark partner...

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) at the University of Sussex in Brighton offers a range of courses about oral history and life history work.

- The part time 'Certificate In Life History Work' is taught on Tuesday evenings over two years; students may also enrol for single courses.
- Two stand-alone courses are each taught through four Saturday day schools. 'Exploring oral history: an interview training course' and 'Exploring family life stories'
- The 'MA in Life History Research: Oral History and Life Story Documents' can be taken full time in one year or part time over two years.
- Research degrees that offer the opportunity to research a particular subject in depth using life history methodologies.

Recent students have found employment, published autobiographies, biographies and local or family histories, developed reminiscence projects, and progressed to postgraduate programmes. They've discovered that by working with people's histories we can illuminate forgotten pasts, produce riveting social histories and bring rich pleasure and affirmation to anyone with a life story to tell.

Full details are available on www.sussex.ac.uk/cce (click on life history). Or contact Al Thomson: 01273 873585 or a.s.thomson@sussex.ac.uk

As you may know, the deadline for our *Where I've Lived* writing competition was extended to 17th June. The judges will then pore over the entries, and the contributors will be notified shortly afterwards. The book will be available in September, priced £4.99; full details of winning entries and how you can purchase it will be in our next newsletter.

Cityscape

The first round of workshops for this collaboration with the Museum and the Foundation Programme – who work with homeless and ex-homeless people - took place in March and April. Participants produced work in drama, photography and visual art, and are due to continue the photography and visual art work, as well as developing video films, in the forthcoming ten-week programme. All the material will contribute to an archive to be stored at the Museum, and selected work will form an exhibition in the Museum's South Gallery at the beginning of 2007.