

Backyard Brighton

Engaging people in local history
through locative media

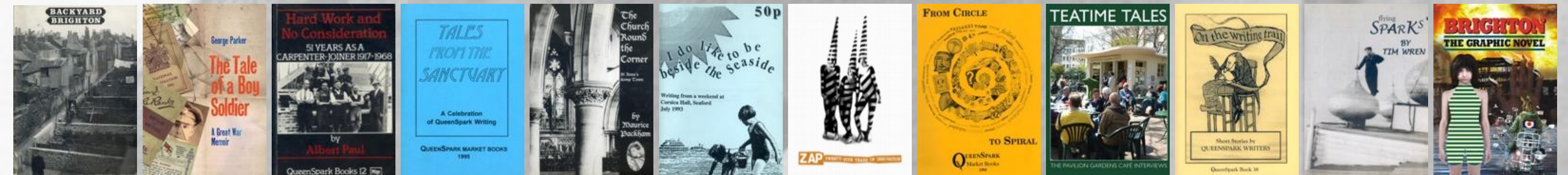
Marcus Winter
John Riches

QueenSpark Books
Brighton & Hove's
Community Publisher

CEM
School of Computing,
Engineering and
Mathematics

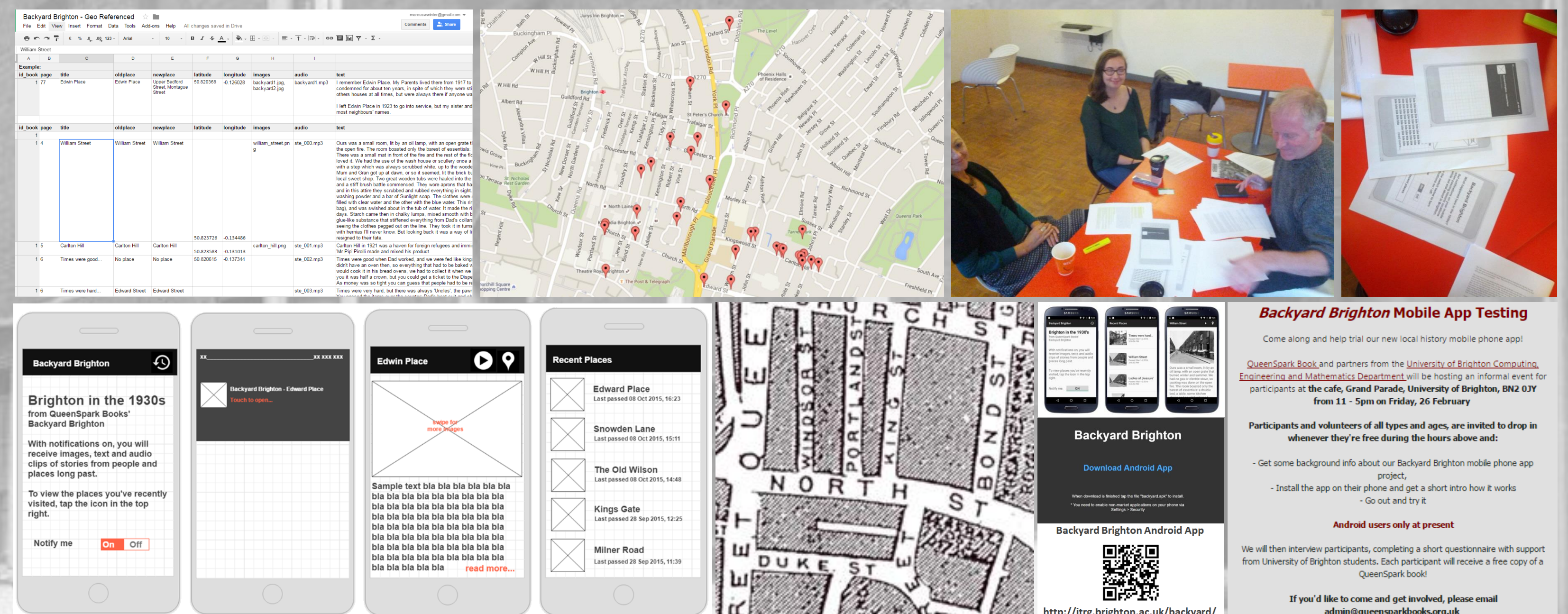
- Large archive of materials
- 100+ published books
- Many books out of print
- Large volunteer community
- Typically older audience

- Expertise in app development and locative media
- Research-informed teaching
- Involve students in development and evaluation of mobile app



How to reach new audiences? How to make materials more accessible?

1. Take one book: Backyard Brighton
2. Geo-reference and audio-record it with volunteers
3. Build a mobile app that delivers its content in-situ
4. Evaluate the geo-referencing process and mobile app
5. Bid for funding to develop full app and include more books



Preliminary evaluation results:

- Effective process for distributed volunteer-based geo-referencing
- Wide range of expectations how the mobile app would / should work
- Some people asked for functionality that guides them from place to place
- Some people did not discover the audio or expected it to just start playing
- Some people found images meaningless when not matched to exact location

Project outcomes and impact:

- 30+ computing and digital media students involved
- 70+ volunteers and participants
- Open source mobile app prototype
- Follow-up funding bids in preparation

University of Brighton
Community
University
Partnership
Programme

QueenSpark Books

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