

Minutes of QAN AGM held 02.05.15 and updating to Friends on the work of the Quaker Arts Network 2014-15

This was well attended by between 40-50 people – the room was overflowing, and discussion lively.

Some disquiet was expressed as people arrived at the meeting about the fact that it had not been advertised as an AGM in the Events listing for BYM, although it was publicised as such on our website.

Our Convenor, Fiona Meadley, explained that in future it proposed we de-couple the AGM from Yearly Meetings.. It was suggested that it might be a good idea to hold the next AGM during August 2016 so that people can come to the exhibition that is selected for that period in “the Light” at Friends House at the same time. Another suggestion, given the strong attendance and interest shown by Friends at this BYM, was that QAN consider offering an event such as an artist’s talk at a future BYM/YMG.

1. Activities to date

Fiona Meadley presented the annual report for 2014 illustrated with slides with a taster of possible exciting things to come including future exhibitions at Friends House. This has been achieved with a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding agreed between **QAN** and “**the Dressing Friends House group**” comprised of BYM staff.

Fiona explained that QAN committee had worked this year on setting up an Independent selection panel with an open and transparent process to deal with our concern about possible conflicts of interest.

A discussion followed as to whether QAN committee members should be able to submit proposals for exhibitions, and members agreed that to exclude committee members would be discriminatory, and we should trust the independent process that had been set up.

The current Selection panel comprises 3 professionals:

- **Mike Tooby**, an Independent Arts Curator who has worked recently at the Museum of Wales
- **Alec Davison** founding Director of the Leavers
- **Deborah Arrowsmith** an Arts administrator who is currently Manager of Oxford Local Meeting and the Quaker gardens scheme coordinator.
- The criteria for selection includes: artistic merit of the work, how it illustrates Quaker experience and witness, how it would fit in the available space, the capability of the artist to organise and raise money to support the exhibition in a professional manner, and whether the proposal has been through a process of discernment at local or area meeting level.

2. Finance/Treasurers report

June Buffery explained that we had a donation at the beginning of the Network coming into being some 3 years ago, and the sales from our calendar had also made a small profit. Outgoings in our second year were around £300.00 to transport paintings, mount and show a retrospective exhibition of the work of John Perkin outside the George Fox Room on the first floor of Friends House, and our income rather small from some Calendar profits. In our 3rd year, 2014-15 to date £500.00 was raised from the Swarthmoor Hall workshop in

March. We are spending £30.00 pcm on a small honorarium to our website manager Jean Chettle. 20% commission will be received from any future exhibitors. All this activity leaves us with a balance of £2,000 of which £1,000 is required to maintain our reserves, and to cover seed money support to exhibitors.

The meeting approved these accounts which have already been independently examined. (In future, copies of the accounts will be made available and posted on the QAN website in advance).

3. **Committee**

A request for release from the position of Secretary has been received by our Friend Linda Murgatroyd. Linda was the inspiration behind the Quaker Arts Network, and has worked tirelessly on our behalf for four years now. We much appreciate the work she has done and know that we will very shortly start to feel the loss of her contribution. We have a great deal to thank her for. We have thus decided a change to the structure of our committee as follows to accommodate this loss.

Clerk: Fiona Meadley

Assistant Clerk: Jill Green

Treasurer: June Buffery

Membership secretary: Ellyn Stokes

Correspondence Clerk **vacant**

Committee members Penny Robbins, Anne McNeill

Exhibitions Group Fiona Meadley, Jill Green, Penny Robbins Chris Macallan

A vote of thanks was given to Linda Murgatroyd and all the above Committee members. We are now in very much need of a **Correspondence Clerk**. In a network like ours, a hub with excellent communication is at the core of our success. We are unable to fill this post from our existing committee, and need someone genuinely enthusiastic to take on this exciting role. It would also be extremely helpful to us to have someone experienced in fundraising to join the committee.

4. **Future workshops**

Will need to be proposed by people willing to offer and organise them with details for venues, costings and proposed dates, and publicised on QAN website.

5. **QAN "Climb to the Moor" exhibition** to be held in the Large Meeting Room (the Light) at Friends House from 17th-29th August.

The artist, Judith Bromley Nicholls, told us that all QAN members are invited to the launch from 6-7.30pm on 18th August. **RSVP essential please** to: jbuffery@btinternet.com

Help is still needed in the form of

- A minimum of 3 stewards from 11-4 on all days of the exhibition
- Offers of accommodation from London Quakers
- Distribution of fliers to LM's and other interested venues around the country
- While there are now sufficient funds available for the exhibition to go ahead as planned, further contributions will allow more extensive publicity and expenses to be paid to stewards for their travel to London
- A person to compile a list of potentially interested organisations and individuals that should be sent information – particularly within Camden
- Contacting journalists

QAN Artist's mounted Prints, books and cards will be sold during the exhibition. All items must be in transparent sleeves and clearly marked with the Artist's name and the price being charged, which should be in whole pounds and no pence for ease of stewards, and delivered to FH for the start of the show. 20% of all sales will go to QAN as this is a fundraising event for us.

- Invitations are invited to submit additions to the Groundcover installation. We hope that this invitation together with instructions for these and a picture of the installation to date can be shared on the QAN website.

6. New members

Membership remains free. Leaflets are available for those wishing to join, or applications can be completed via www.quakerarts.net