

Minutes of the Quaker Arts Network Annual General Meeting held at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre 28 October 2017

Previously stated aims of the Quaker Arts Network

- To develop a community of Friends interested in the arts.
- To encourage and support the use of arts for Quaker outreach and spiritual growth.
- To provide a forum for Quakers to share insights about how the creative arts feeds into their spiritual well-being.
- To explore the expression of Quakerism through the arts.
- To celebrate, publicise and document the diverse work of Quaker artists, for instance by providing a website with links to the websites of Quaker artists.

There are 18 present

17/01 Reports of QAN activities since the last AGM held in Newcastle May 2016

We have received reports about the activities of QAN from Fiona Meadley and Jill Green, copies of which are filed with these minutes. We thank them for their ministry.

17/02 Finance report

June Buffery has presented the QAN accounts a copy of which is filed with these minutes. We note that financially we are in a healthy position. June Buffery has summarised the reasons for our need for funding to keep our presence visible and to support new projects. We thank June for her steadfast work as treasurer.

17/03 Contacts from other groups

We have heard of contacts from other groups as follows:

- a) The Leaveners' Trustees may wish to give some of their remaining legacy money to QAN, and also some money intended for a group called Singing Quakers which is not yet formed. The total sum would be something in the region of £8000, with the portion for Singing Quakers defaulting to QAN if the singing group never becomes a formal organisation.
- b) We have had correspondence from someone who was involved with 'a project involving a group of Quakers writing, performing and recording new, contemporary style songs, the aims being to use the project and the songs themselves for outreach, inreach and fundraising (for QSA and EAPPI) around the country.'
- c) We have heard that there are also a Quaker chamber orchestra and a Quaker singing group being set up.
- d) We have heard of an approach made by an artist and curator who would like to hold an exhibition in Friends House of the paintings of four women artists entitled 'The Sound of Silence'. Their work explores how we experience silence in our lives.

We will bear these contacts in mind as we move forward in our discernment about our future.

17/04 The Way forward

Rebecca Bellamy has led us through a presentation and discussion about the research she conducted for us about the future of QAN. A copy of her Report arising from the results of the Questionnaire is filed with these minutes.

We thank Rebecca for all the work she has done for us by collecting and collating the information to help us formulate the future of QAN more clearly.

17/05 The Future of QAN

We have held a deep period of Worship Sharing:

How can we keep a place where we can connect with each other and where others can find us and connect with us? We need a secure base which can be held for us so that we can hibernate. There is a time and a season, as the leaves drop the buds develop on the twigs left bare. If we hold this place for younger and more energetic buds to develop, we may find we can branch out and find new growth.

17/06 Appointment of officers

Rebecca Bellamy, June Buffery, Linda Murgatroyd, Ann Johnson, Dorothy Jerrome, and Caroline Coode will work as a holding team until Yearly Meeting in May 2018. We ask the holding group to:

- a) to receive and look after the Leaveners Legacy, if the Trustees do make that request.
- b) to respond to the people referred to in minute 17/03.
- c) to consider making an application to become a Quaker recognised Body if required.

Judith Bromley Nicholls: Clerk this time