

QUAKER ARTS NETWORK Annual Report 2013-2014

Since our first AGM in May 2013 we have achieved an enormous amount:

1. The 2014 QAN calendar.

This was the initiative of Linda Murgatroyd, supported by a group who trawled through the archives and selected images to go with the theme “Meetings for Worship” – ranging from historic paintings, contemporary paintings to more abstract work. Explanatory text, Poems & quotes were also included and Mary-Jane Thornton’s did a splendid design job putting it all together. We’ve had really positive feedback from people all round the world who have enjoyed using the calendar.

In all, over 800 copies were sold, so that we not only covered the £ 3600 costs, but also made a healthy surplus. More importantly, it was a piece of outreach, and showed how the visual arts can help spread the Quaker message. It was a huge effort, and many thanks to all concerned including those who helped sell the calendars. We have no immediate plans to produce another one but if anyone would like to help do so in future, please get in touch.

2. QAN website

Since its launch, the website continues to be updated, so we have been able to use it to notify members of upcoming events, including exhibitions involving QAN members, and to recruit still more members. We have to thank our professional web designer Jean Chettle. Many organisations spend a significant amount on websites, and Jean has enabled us to get a splendid site up and running with a minimal spend. We are currently working through plans to make the website more interactive and more robust but progress is necessarily limited by volunteer time.

3. Events

- (a) A second creative weekend at Woodbrooke was, facilitated by Anne McNeill last October. She shared her practice of Prayer Doodles. Amongst the fifteen members who attended, there were a number of poets, and Eve Jackson’s poem about her experience was published in *Quaker Voices*. It’s an interesting example of how the visual arts and poetry can spark off each other.
- (b) In March, there was a QAN Northern meeting at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park organised by Caroline Coode and attended by 16 people, most new to QAN. It had been organised to coincide with an event about Quaker light artist James Turrell. We are keen not to be London centric, and we hope to be able to support QAN members willing to take initiatives in their region.
- (c) For starters, a creative weekend is being planned at Swarthmoor Hall next March. It’ll be a good chance to get to know each other better and be creative together. We hope to see many of you there.

