

QUAKER ARTS NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

It's been an exciting year, with QAN being asked by BYM to facilitate exhibitions at Friends House. The website continues to publicise member's activities and showcase our work, and we have just held our first residential workshop at Swarthmoor Hall.

1. Main Activities

(a) YMG Bath (Aug 2014)

Yearly Meeting Gathering last year incorporated an arts programme curated by Rebecca Bellamy. Many QAN artists took part in the group exhibition, and lead workshops and art events.

(b) Swarthmore Hall weekend (Mar 2015)

Eighteen members took part in a creative workshop *Roots, Shoots & Leaves* facilitated by Judith Bromley Nicholls and Caroline Coode in the beautiful surroundings of Swarthmoor Hall. (The photographs on the website capture some of the joy of the occasion).

2. Membership

We now have over 200 on our email list; this includes friends involved in a wide range of the arts, whether as artists, organisers or audience. Most are in Britain but it has been good to make links with Friends in the arts in many other countries, who have often found us through the internet. We have had good feedback from Friends who have learned of arts events through our website or newsletter. Membership of QAN continues to be free and we rely on volunteers and donations to continue our work.

3. QAN website

Jean Chettle continues to update our website quakerarts.net and members can now post details of exhibitions and events directly. We have received a number of requests to provide images of the work of "modern Quaker artists" – including from *The Friend* (which included a colour spread in their Christmas issue). It has been good to be able to refer these enquirers to the QAN website. We have been thinking of expanding our gallery to include images of more members' works, but would need significantly more resources to enable this.

4. Exhibitions

After months of discussion, including a meeting for clearness, QAN has signed a memorandum of understanding with Britain Yearly Meeting, whereby areas of Friends House (including the Light) are made available for exhibitions at agreed times.

QAN has appointed an independent selection panel comprising Mike Tooby (independent curator), Alec Davison (founding director of the Leaveners), and Deborah Arrowsmith (manager of Oxford Meeting house); and in February this year, issued an open invitation for proposals for exhibitions.

As a result of this, the panel has selected young artists Holly Rees and Naomi Lethbridge to exhibit in autumn 2015, and is in discussion with Fiona Meadley regarding a possible exhibition on Conscientious Objectors in summer 2016. The selected artists are responsible for raising funds and organising the exhibitions. Given its limited resources, QAN can only help fund flyers and posters, and mobilise volunteers to help with stewarding. This is a learning curve for QAN, and if successful there is a possibility the arrangement might be extended beyond 2016 - so it'll be great to have your support.

In the meantime, the first QAN exhibition at the Light will be held between Aug 18th-29th. *Climb up to the Moor*, is inspired by the moorland, the fragility of this landscape, its importance for carbon capture and our relationship with the natural world. It will feature the paintings of Judith Bromley Nicholls and Robert Nicholls, and a participatory floor installation.

5. Finance report

Income received during 2014 totalled £1599 (including £944 deposits for Swarthmore workshop), and expenditure was £715. After adjusting for Swarthmoor deposits, the closing bank balance on 31/12/14 is £2946.

Donations in 2014 were £186, sales (from calendar and exhibition commissions) £457.

During the year, QAN paid some expenses for a meeting at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in March, and £353 towards an exhibition at Friends House (John Perkin retrospective). Other expenditure included: examination of accounts, advertising and room hire, and an honorarium for our website designer/manager. We have started to pay £30 per month for our website.

Looking to the future, we need to have sufficient funds for the maintenance and any further development of our website, administrative expenses (including occasional travel expenses), and to facilitate exhibitions. The Swarthmoor Hall workshop in March 2015 made a welcome surplus of £500.

Regarding fundraising: members have suggested asking people and meetings for donations. We are grateful to a number of QAN members who have generously offered a percentage of their exhibition sales. QAN can reclaim income tax on donations in future.

6. Committee changes

Committee members who served during 2014/15 were:

Convenor: Fiona Meadley

Secretary: Linda Murgatroyd

Treasurer: June Buffery

Membership Secretary: Ellyn Stokes

Committee Members: Jill Green, Penny Robbins, Anne McNeil,

One of QAN's founding members, and a key driving force, Linda Murgatroyd, is standing down from the committee due to her many commitments. We are very grateful for all she has done for QAN.

We are proposing a slightly revised structure. If you are interested in serving on the QAN committee, please get in touch. In particular, we are looking for a correspondence clerk, to be responsible for email communications and newsletters. The committee meets about three times a year. As well as taking forward the business, we aim to have fun, and this includes visits to exhibitions & museums.

We would like the flexibility to arrange future AGM's (ie from 2016 onwards) around an event/talk/workshop, and not necessarily during BYM or YMG. We have been told that it will not always be possible or practical to hold a meeting at BYM in future. We are open to your suggestions and assistance in organising a QAN gathering in 2016.

April 2015

QAN Income and Expenditure 2014	
Income	£
Donations	186.00
2014 QAN calendar sales	428.30
Swarthmoor Event March 2015 (deposits)	945.00
Commission from Perkin Exhibition	40.00
Total Income	1599.30
Expenditure	
Swarthmoor 2015 dep	100.00
Exhibitions- John Perkin	331.02
YSP event expenses	80.00
Services & honorarium	20.00
Meetings/conferences	60.00
Stationery/postage/materials	58.67
Advertising	65.51
total expenditure	715.20
Balance on 1st Jan 2014	3006.65
Total income	1599.30
total expenditure	715.20
Balance on 31st Dec 2014	3890.75
Adjusted balance minus deposits held for Hall event (March 2015)	2945.75
Accounts examined on 31st March 2015	