

ANNUAL REPORT QUAKER ARTS NETWORK 2016/17

Since the last QAN AGM held in May 2016 in Newcastle Meeting House, QAN has been operating on a limited basis with an Acting Clerk (Penny Robbins), Treasurer (June Buffery), Website (Jean Chettle and Lucy Morrill) and Exhibitions Group (Fiona Meadley, Judith Bromley Nicholls, Jill Green, Penny Robbins).

A Planning and Holding Meeting was held on 24/2/17 at Friends House attended by 13 members, when Rebecca Bellamy was requested to do a consultation with the QAN membership to help plan the future.

The resulting survey report will be discussed at the forthcoming AGM on 28/10/17 at Woodbrook.

The following activities were carried out by QAN during 2016/17:

1. Quarterly newsletters were distributed and posted on the website for (June/Sep/Dec 2016 and a quarterly newsletter for summer 2017 was prepared).

2. Exhibitions

- (a) Echo Chamber @ the Light, Aug 2016

This sound & photograph installation attracted over 800 visitors over 15 days, roughly half of whom were non Quakers (many passers by included international visitors). Associated activities included a launch, a childrens' workshop, and a conversation with artist Fiona Meadley and poet Philip Gross at the bookshop). A free catalogue and educational materials on conscientious objectors was distributed. Thirty CO families provided their stories and many took part in the associated activities. Twenty three stewards volunteered engaging with visitors and reported many interesting conversations. A summary of the visitors comments recorded (many thoughtful) is available. The event was covered in the Quaker press and BBC local radio. Project expenditure was within budget, supported by grants from Arts Council England, the Edith Ellis Trust, the James Reckitt Trust and QAN itself.

- (b) Selection Process for 2017 exhibition

An open call for proposals for an exhibitions in the corridors of Friends House was issued, and considered by a selection panel: Zelig Gross, Rowena Loverance and Rebecca Bellamy. Jill Green's proposal for an exhibition of her paintings "Making Connections" was selected.

- (c) Making connections, May – July 2017
(Jill has reported separately)

3. Other Activities

- (a) Creative workshop. Zelig & Philip Gross were invited to facilitate a workshop for QAN members at Woodbrooke in October (to precede the AGM).

- (b) FWCC 2018 calendar. Linda Murgatroyd invited QAN members to contribute images to this calendar, which is now available for sale, and will be a valuable resource for Quaker outreach.