

Quaker Arts Network Annual Report 2017-18

QAN Holding Group

At the Annual General Meeting in October 2017, A small Holding Group was appointed to serve until BYM in May 2018. However no clerk was appointed at the time. In the event, it was impractical to hold an AGM at or near the time of BYM, so most of the Holding Group has continued to serve, with Dorothy Jerrome and Linda Murgatroyd acting as co-clerks. In April Ann Johnson was released from service at her own request, and Alec Davison was co-opted to it. Elena Krumgold was co-opted in June. The other members of the Holding Group have been June Buffery (Treasurer), Rebecca Bellamy and Caroline Coode.

The Holding Group was asked to:

- a) receive and look after the Leaveners' Legacy, if the Trustees do make that request;
- b) to respond to various items of correspondence; and
- c) to consider making an application to become a Quaker recognised Body if required.

The group has carried out these requests and is in a strong position to continue to act as an umbrella body, to support and foster quaker arts, in line with our aims. We have enjoyed working together and getting to know one another, and the contact with other Friends, far and wide, through the internet or face to face.

QAN has great potential and is ready to apply to become a Quaker Registered Body if the AGM so desires. However, members of the current team all have other commitments so our ability to take forward further events and projects will depend on what other members of the Network are willing to take on. The Committee welcomes offers of service.

Membership

Our current membership (mailing list) stands at around 300 Friends; most are in Britain but there is a scattering of Friends around the globe. A mailing to Area Meetings and our ventures into Social Media have resulted in a flurry of new members joining. The sad demise of the Leaveners means that we are now the only Quaker organisation devoted to the arts broadly defined. We are delighted at the growth arts activities among Friends in general, with greater arts coverage in Quaker publications, greater use of the arts for outreach and witness and the formation of some new Quaker musical groups.

Leaveners Legacy and *Friends In Tune*

We are delighted that *Friends in Tune*, led by Alec Davison and Tony Biggin, has become a project of Quaker Arts Network. We accepted a "legacy" from funds remaining after the Leaveners' closure in 2017, earmarked for this particular project and this will be administered by our Treasurer and reported on in future years. Alec and Tony have started travelling in the ministry with their Quaker songs and stories. They have already run their first events and have a busy schedule of events for the Autumn, listed on the QAN website. They are also about to publish a new book of Quaker songs. They have ambitious plans for the future and hope to set up Friends in Tune as a separate Quaker Recognised Body, as well as keeping the association with QAN.

We were also most grateful for a donation from the Leaveners' Trustees to QAN for our general purposes. This has enabled us to commission a redevelopment of our website, and has allowed us to continue to function at a low level without money worries for the time being.

Events

We held a well attended meeting at Friends House during Yearly Meeting, and it was a pleasure to meet many Friends whose first opportunity this was to come to a QAN event. We had a wide range of arts interests and Quaker experience between us. There was enthusiasm for further discussion and collaboration.

Internet and Social Media

Caroline Coode has set up Facebook and Instagram accounts for QAN. The Facebook is starting to be quite well used to share reflections, information, and art photos, words and sound record-

ings. The Facebook Group (for discussions) and Instagram accounts have so far been less used. It is gratifying that in a short time, some new Friends discovered QAN through social media; we hope that more QAN members may be willing to use Facebook for this purpose in future.

Updating our Website has proved to be challenging in recent years. We are very grateful to Jean Chettle who set our existing website up in the first place and has continued to maintain it until now. Over 50 events have been advertised on the website calendar so far this year.

In May, the Holding Group commissioned Michael Wood to develop a new website, based on Wordpress, working with Elena Krumgold and Linda Murgatroyd. This will be a simpler website, which should be easier to maintain though it will have fewer images. It will complement the Facebook page, and the latter will have a live feed on the website home page.

Visual arts

“**Making Connections**”, the exhibition at Friends House, of Jill green’s paintings in Spring 2017 was reported on at the last AGM. QAN has not held any art exhibitions since then.

However we have been able to support others wanting to promote quaker visual arts as follows:

- “**Quaker Peace-building in Art : 2018 Calendar**” About 1000 copies have been sold world-wide. This represents considerable promotion of Quaker witness for peace and Quaker art works, as well as publicising FWCC and raising funds for them. FWCC and QAN is grateful to all those who offered artworks; there was a wide range to choose from, from around the world.
- **Greenbelt art exhibition.** Quaker Life invited QAN to help them create an art exhibition illustrating Quaker spirituality and witness for their tent at the 2018 Greenbelt festival. The QAN call for works resulted in a rich selection of artworks to choose from, though the choice was circumscribed by exhibiting conditions at Greenbelt. 12 large scale prints were made which Quaker Life will make available for Meetings to hire.
- **The Collateral Damage Project .** This community textile project was launched by a couple of Friends early in 2018, to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One by making white poppies to honour victims of wars in the last hundred years for an installation in Friends House in the autumn. QAN has been able to offer moral and practical support to this initiative, through publicity and seeking volunteers to help with the installation.
- **Other exhibitions.** QAN has been approached by one or two groups for advice on holding exhibitions or commissioning works. Our ability to offer advice and act as a conduit for communication with Quaker artists, and to publicise events has helped others make such things happen.
- We were also approached by some non-Quaker artists seeking support for a project about silence, but discerned that this did not fit with our aims.

QAN Constitution and Quaker Recognised Body status

It is clear that QRB status would be desirable if QAN is to continue. Our co-clerks have worked with staff at Friends House to prepare an application for Quaker Recognised Body status. This is ready to go, if the AGM agrees to move ahead. It would need to be approved by Meeting for Sufferings. Some clarification of our constitution would be desirable and a draft constitution has been prepared for the AGM’s consideration.

Data Protection: GDPR

The Holding Group agreed the following data protection policy in April and it has been publicised to members through our website, and e-newsletters. It is available at http://www.quakerarts.net/documents/pdf%20downloads/downloads2018/data_protection_policy.pdf

Requests to join QAN (and hence our email list) need to be made or confirmed directly by the person concerned, they can withdraw at any time. Their information will only be used for QAN purposes and no personal details will be passed to a third party without their express consent in advance.

Linda Murgatroyd and Dorothy Jerrome
co-clerks
August 2018