

Minutes of Quaker Arts Network Annual General Meeting, 2014

Tuesday July 5th at the University of Bath , during the Britain Yearly Meeting Gathering.

33 Friends present

1 Annual Report 2013

Fiona Meadley, our Convenor, presented the Annual Report for 2013-14. Our first year had been very successful, notably achieving :

- the publication of a Quaker Arts calendar, featuring artworks inspired by quaker worship, of which we sold over 800 copies, raising valuable funds for future activities;
- Further development of the website, a core resource enabling new Friends to find QAN and our rich resources. We are grateful for Jean Chettle's ministry in this regard and mindful of the burden of maintaining it;
- A successful day workshop at Woodbrooke, led by Anne McNeill in October, and a meeting at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in March;
- A retrospective exhibition of paintings by our Friend John Perkin, of Newbury meeting, organised jointly with Friends House. This was the first art exhibition in the corridors of Friends House and the experiment has been a great success.

We are delighted to see the strong arts presence at this Yearly Meeting Gathering and were glad to be able to help the curator, Rebecca Bellamy, in communicating with Friends.

QAN membership (ie people on our mailing list) number over 170 Friends, including a few in other countries.

2 Treasurer's report.

Our treasurer, June Buffery has presented our accounts and a report of financial activities. We are grateful to John Yeatman, who has examined our accounts. At the end of 2013 we were in a strong financial position, largely owing to profits from the one-off calendar project and to a very large donation from sales of work by one of our members. We are grateful for many other donations both of money and in kind.

During 2014, however, little funds have been raised so far expenditure has been much higher, including on the website and on the John Perkin exhibition at Friends House. If we are to continue to develop our exhibitions programme and the website, this will require ongoing fundraising.

3 Future priorities

Our Secretary, Linda Murgatroyd, introduced a consideration of the future priorities for QAN. Many opportunities are opening up for QAN, and choices are needed. The committee felt its priority should be to maintain the core work, i.e. maintaining the website and other communications with members. Beyond that, any QAN undertakings should be considered

on their merits, bearing in mind the aims of QAN, and Friends and resources would need to be found to make them happen.

We were glad to hear of plans to develop the website to make it easier to maintain and to add an area for members to contribute their own content on a subscription basis.

Swarthmoor Hall has being booked for the weekend of 13 to 15 March 2014 for a residential QAN weekend and we are grateful to Caroline Coode and Judith Bromley Nicholls for agreeing to organise this. They have invited expressions of interest and offers of help with this event. We encourage regional contacts and indeed any interested Friends to arrange other opportunities for QAN members to get together, and to use the QAN mailing list/ website to publicise these and other Quaker arts events.

4 Future Exhibitions at Friends House

In the light of the success of the John Perkin retrospective exhibition, QAN has been approached about other exhibitions at Friends House in future. In particular, the Friends House Hospitality Company has offered QAN the Large Meeting House, known as "The Light" for an exhibition during August 2015. This would be the first use of the space for an exhibition and would enable artists and the Hospitality Company to test and demonstrate how it could be used for exhibitions and how the arts could be effective advocates for Quaker faith and testimony.

The QAN committee had that felt any such undertaking would require considerable support from Friends willing to invigilate, publicise and organise as well as funding

Judith Bromley Nicholls presented the exhibition 'Come up to the Moors" which has been touring in the North of England and could be adapted for the Large Meeting House next Summer prior to being broken up.

Discussion of the possibilities were wide-ranging and no conclusion was reached. The committee undertook to arrange another meeting to discern the way forward, in early autumn.

5 Appointments

The following appointments were made - all until the close of BYM 2015 :

Convenor: Fona Meadley

Treasurer: June Buffery

Secretary: Linda Murgatroyd

Membership Secretary : Ellyn Stokes

Other Committee members : Anne McNeill ,Penny Robbins, Jill Green