

QUAKER ARTS NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

1. ACTIVITIES

Since our last AGM (held during BYM on 2.5.15 attended by over 40 people interested in QAN's activities) we have held two exhibitions at Friends House. QAN's first exhibition at the Light (see para 5 on *Climb up to the Moor*) and a corridor exhibition for young artists Naomi Lethbridge and Holly Rees. The next QAN exhibition, *Echo Chamber*, will be held in August 2016 at the Light.

No workshops have been held since *Roots, Shoots and Leaves* in March 2015, and volunteers are needed to plan the next one.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership remains about the same level. The members list has 200+ names and includes the geographic area and type of artistic activity each member is interested in. Ellyn Stokes maintains the list and updates members by emailing a quarterly newsletter.

There hasn't been much progress with forming cluster groups, except for one informal cluster group which organised a joint exhibition of paintings at St Martins in the Field in August 2015.

3. WEBSITE

The QAN website was maintained by Jean Chettle until March 2016, and the events page is actively used by members to list their activities. Thank you so much Jean for all your work on the website these past four years.

4. FINANCE

At the end of the financial year, 31/12/15 QAN had a balance of £4263 slightly more than at the beginning of the year. The Treasurer's report is attached.

5. COMMITTEE & GOVERNANCE

Through the year we continued discussions with the Leaveners about merging, but with the recent appointment of a new Leaveners Director , this has now been postponed for the time being. At the threshing meeting held on 6.2.16, a nominations committee comprising Jill

Green, June Buffery and Caroline Coode was asked to bring forward names for new committee members, as both the current Clerk and Assistant Clerk have asked to stand down at the AGM. The committee welcome your suggestions – please email June.

6. CLIMB UP TO THE MOOR/JUDITH BROMLEY NICHOLLS

This pioneering exhibition attracted 1000 visitors over 12 days, an estimated 30% of whom were non Quakers. The exhibition had an ecological theme and was launched by Roger Clarke of Friends of the Earth. It included two guided walks around Euston and a workshop led by the Arts and Spirituality Network. Visitors made pieces to add to a groundcover installation, including young people on their way to Summer School. Visitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, appreciative of finding a peaceful oasis in the middle of London.

A total of 18 volunteers helped to steward the exhibition. Feedback from stewards was also positive – it was a chance to do Quaker outreach and to meet other QAN members.

The exhibition was reported in the Friend and Quaker Voices (making the front cover of both).

QAN received grants totalling £5075 for this exhibition, of which £4941 was spent, and after receiving a commission on art sales, there was a net income to QAN of £1626. (Exhibition accounts are attached).

Thank you to everyone who made this possible, including Jill Green who organised the rota, June Buffery who handled the finances, and of course Judith Bromley Nicholls who worked like a Trojan for months and months.

7. ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

After serving four years and with other pressing commitments, both of us are sadly standing down. We have enjoyed helping QAN grow and have made many friends thanks to the network. If you are able to come to Newcastle to the AGM on 7 May (starting 2pm at the Meeting House) do stay for a meal afterwards and get to know one another better.

Fiona Meadley (Clerk) and Jill Green (Assistant Clerk), March 2016