



Quaker Arts Network

Newsletter November 2018

Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to the first Quaker Arts Newsletter that is being circulated by our new volunteer, Jez Smith (based in Geneva). Thanks to Rebecca Bellamy for all she has done for QAN in recent years, and to Jez for taking over this role.

In the interim, we're sorry we haven't been able to update everyone – though there has been news on Facebook and via *the Friend* magazine.

There's a lot to look back on over 2018 and 2019 promises to be a good year for Quaker arts. In the mean time, I wish you a creative and joyful season.

In Friendship,

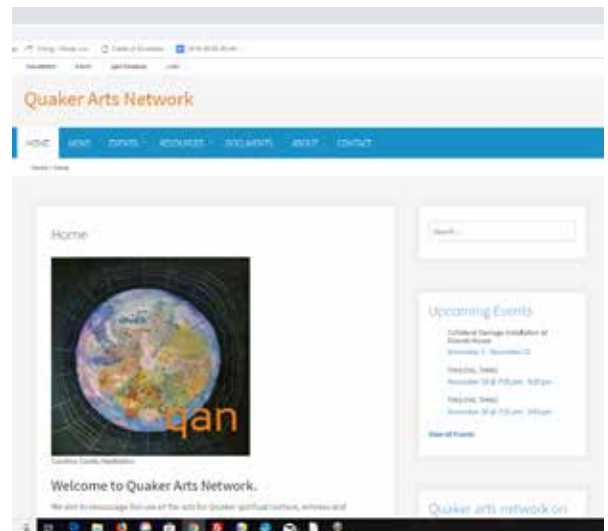
Linda Murgatroyd

Our new website

I hope that many of you are already familiar with our new website, mainly created by Michael Wood and Elena Krungold. Please let us know via quakerartsuk@gmail.com if you have any problems with it. We hope to develop it further in due course.

The website has the same address as the previous one: <https://quakerarts.net>. You will need to enter the address again or press Refresh or Ctrl+Refresh if you looked at our website before September, as your computer will probably have saved a link to the old site.

We can update the website more easily than before, and we update the News section item regularly (between newsletters). There is also a live link to our Facebook page [@quakerarts](https://www.facebook.com/quakerarts) which means that even those not on Facebook will be able to see posts (though not the whole page). The Facebook page has proved useful for outreach and for sharing news, views and various kinds of art. Please support QAN by liking it and sharing items if you're a Facebook user.



Dates for the diary

- 1 November to 21 December 2018: Collateral Damage installation, Friends House, London
 - 11 December 2018: Tour of the Patrick Heron exhibition for QAN members, Turner Contemporary, Margate
 - 19/20 July 2019: QAN AGM
- Visit <https://quakerarts.net/events/> for the full list of events and to add your own.

QAN Logo: calling Friendly calligraphers

The QAN committee would like us to have a logo, using the initials QAN, but in calligraphy. If any Quaker calligraphers would like to offer this, that would be really helpful. Please get in touch via quakerartsuk@gmail.com if you can help.

Proposed Swarthmoor Hall exhibition

The Quaker Arts Network is working with Swarthmoor Hall to mount a group art exhibition by Quaker artists there next July and August. The theme will be Sustainability, focusing on works illustrating Quaker spirituality and witness in this field. It will be a selling exhibition (though this is not its primary function), and works in any medium will be considered, subject to practicality. We hope that as well as a variety of visual arts in the exhibition, Swarthmoor Hall will be able to host other events and performances with links to this broad theme.

A lead curator for the exhibition has been appointed and we expect a call for submissions to go out in the next few

weeks, with a spring closing date. Please watch this space, and meanwhile, start thinking creatively about the challenges of living sustainably on this planet, and how our Quaker faith and practices can help.



Swarthmoor Hall. Photo: John Hall (Creative Commons)

Future QAN events

We hope to hold a QAN event and AGM in Swarthmoor next summer, at the same time as the planned exhibition would be showing at Swarthmoor Hall. The provisional dates are Friday 19 or Saturday 20 July. We hope that many QAN members and other Friends will be able to join us there for the day, or longer. We have made a provisional block booking of bedrooms in the Hall, and will circulate further details in due course, but thought Friends would like early warning if you are making travel plans.

If any local-ish Friends would be willing to help either with this day or with other events plans, please get in touch.

We are also hoping to hold a QAN event at Yearly Meeting, as in previous years.

Collateral Damage

The Collateral Damage project is currently exhibiting at Friends House until 21 December and is being well received. Around 50 Quaker groups contributed, as did many other people – thanks to everyone who made poppies, helped sew them on, etc. Do come with your friends to see the installation if you can. More information and a link to a short video about the project are at:

<https://quakerarts.net/2018/08/31/collateral-damage/>.

Creative Quaker Writers

The Quaker Arts Network hopes to support creative writing in practical ways. One thing we may be able to do is to pair writers who would like to exchange work in progress and comment on it.

If this appeals to you, please write to John Lampen (lampen@hopeproject.co.uk) saying if you would most like to offer or receive such support (or both), what genre you write in, and how often would you be likely to have work to send. This idea is in the experimental stage, and it will be good to have writers participating in its development.



AGM and Quaker Recognised Body



At our AGM on 1 September we agreed revised aims and a constitution for QAN, made new appointments and agreed to apply for Quaker Recognised body status. The latter was agreed by Meeting for Sufferings on 24 November.

We were delighted to welcome John Lampen and Kate Green to the committee, alongside Elena Krumbold, June Buffery (Treasurer), Caroline Coode, Alec Davison and Linda Murgatroyd who continue. Linda was appointed clerk, and Kate will serve as assistant clerk from 1 January 2019. The committee's priorities for the time being will be to build our communications and community, including reaching out to younger Friends, and to organise a day-long event (including an AGM) and a presence at BYM.

Papers for the meeting are all on the website at <https://quakerarts.net/documents>.

Getting together

As well as holding the AGM, our meeting on 1 September enabled about 30 of us to meet up, and enjoy each others' company and art. See <https://quakerarts.net/2018/11/21/agm-and-qan-day-at-friends-house/>.

We enjoyed many short performances in words, movement and music as well as an interesting presentation from Mey

Hasbrook, which prompted some of us to reflect on whether we too might be travelling in the ministry, and might learn a thing or two from North American Friends. We also shared some great conversations and valuable advice and developed some new ideas together, such as how to support creative writers and a group art exhibition – see previous page.

Art the Arms Fair 2019

Several Friends contributed to Art the Arms Fair's first exhibition in 2017. This used art to publicise the arms trade and its effects, at the time that the huge DSEI Arms Fair took place in London's Excel Centre. Plans are afoot to mount another exhibition in September 2019 and submissions are now invited. Details of the project and how to submit are at <https://artthearmsfair.com>.

QAN Newsletter contributions

Contributions to future newsletters, news items for the website, or items that you have difficulty with posting on Facebook can be emailed to us at quakerartsuk@gmail.com. To unsubscribe or change your email address on the list, use the links at the bottom of this newsletter or email us at quakerartsuk@gmail.com.

Turner Contemporary visits

Thanks to Dorothy Jerrome who has organised opportunities for us to visit art together in Kent. A group of QAN members and friends enjoyed a lovely visit the Journeys with the Wasteland exhibition at the Turner Contemporary, in Margate. We had a guided tour from the lead curator, our Friend Mike Toobey. A smaller group also visited the Hope All Saints sculpture park in Romney Marsh.

Dorothy has arranged another visit to Turner Contemporary on **11 December** this time to see the Patrick Heron exhibition – see <https://quakerarts.net/event/qan-visit-to-turner-contemporary-margate/>. We hope to see a few of you there. Perhaps others would like to organise similar small events locally, advertising them on our Website and/or Facebook page?



The Turner Contemporary, Margate. Photo: John Fielding (Creative Commons)

Publicising events

We hope that you will all contribute to the Quaker arts community by putting Quaker arts events on the Events page of the website. Please do this yourself – it's no more difficult than getting the information to us in other ways. It helps us and they will get online quicker. Don't worry if they don't appear online instantly as we moderate contributions. Please put events up early for best effect.

Recent and future events include exhibitions and workshops, together with theatrical performances (in November 2018) and Friends in Tune events all over the country (in March and June 2019). Take a look, and please encourage other Friends to add events if their event isn't there!

Quaker arts and Quaker outreach

On 1 September it was lovely to see the travelling exhibition put together by Quaker Life (with QAN help) and shown at Greenbelt festival. Thanks for supporting this, Friends. These large format prints should soon be available for meetings to hire and we expect them to be listed at www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/outreach-materials.

Many art forms have proved valuable as Quaker outreach, both to those who had never heard of Quakers and as a way of testing the water for those who were already

curious. Our QAN Facebook page and website are also valuable outreach tools. They have shown some attenders that there are Friends who share their arts interests, even if their local Meeting is not particularly arty or musical.

It would be good to share some of our experience at the outreach conference in February, www.quaker.org.uk/events/outreachconference2019.

If any QAN members are planning to go to that, please let us know via quakerartsuk@gmail.com.