

# Quaker Arts Network

## Annual Report 2019-2020



### Communications and networking

The 2019 AGM discerned that networking and helping build the community of Friends interested in the arts are key priorities for QAN. This should be a priority for the Committee, and it has been good to see a wider range of Quaker arts events advertised on our website at <http://quakerarts.net/events/>. However this facility still seems to be relatively little known among many Friends interested in the arts, so we are experimenting with regular adverts in *The Friend* to draw this to people's attention, and will review this in due course.

We also post regularly on the Facebook site and would welcome more contributions from Friends here about sharing their endeavours and experiences in the arts and news of other events or initiatives that would be of interest to others. This can be a valuable part of our outreach and mutual support both as Quakers and artists. Brief newsletters continue to be produced every two or three months, and contributions are always welcome. This year they have helped organise arts events and publications, opportunities to collaborate or exhibit and occasionally to share deeper reflections.

### Seeking Routes Exhibition



Going Going by Judith Bromley Nicholls

This was our main undertaking during 2019 and the first collective art exhibition organised by Quaker Arts Network. Our curator Sally Oliver did a lovely job of curating the exhibition, supported by Jane Pearson and her team at Swarthmoor Hall, and by Clodnah Mulhearn and Edward Bruce who helped discern which artworks to show, from among a wide field. We are most grateful to them and to the team of staff and volunteers at Swarthmoor Hall who looked after the exhibited, supported Sally with the hanging and arranged publicity and a delightful private view.

65 art works were submitted by 35 different artists, and works by 25 artists were selected. Most were two-dimensional visual artworks in a variety of styles and media, but three-dimensional works, poetry, books and quilts were also included. The high quality and variety of artworks presented was impressive, and together with the powerful statements by the artists they made for a strong expression of Quaker experience and action on sustainability. They were displayed in two separate areas of the Hall - the modern barn and the historic Hall-in separate themes of "Stewardship" and "Reverence".

Swarthmoor Hall also organised a range of other events on the sustainability theme during the exhibition, including talks, songs, poetry and performance.

Overall footfall at the exhibition was rather disappointing, though those who came seemed to appreciate it greatly. Sales were also limited as the Hall is so isolated. The importance of advertising such event both locally and among Quakers cannot be underestimated.



## QAN day at Swarthmoor.

The QAN committee arranged for our annual QAN event to coincide with the opening of the exhibition, and many of us were able to stay at the Hall or to camp at the Meeting House for the weekend. Some 20 Friends attended our AGM at Swarthmoor Meeting House, and a varied afternoon of workshops in association with the exhibition under the theme of *Fragile Abundance* was open to the public and attracted a few newcomers. They chose between experimental drawing (led by Ann Johnson), Chantraine dance (led by Kate Green), textiles (led by Linda Murgatroyd) and creative writing (led by Lucy Aphramor). The residential element and lovely surroundings all helped create a lovely event, with a sense of renewing old ties and discovering new possibilities. We are grateful to Swarthmoor Friends for their support and hospitality, and to staff and volunteers at the Hall who went out of their way to help ensure the success of these ambitious events.

## QAN projects



### Collateral Damage

This has now been laid down. Two of the panels of white poppies that had been exhibited at Friends House in 2018 have now joined the collection at the Peace Museum in Bradford. The others have been dismantled, and the poppies used in various acts of remembrance and protest around the country, including outside the DSEI Arms Fair in 2019.

### Friends in Tune

Friends in Tune became a Recognised Quaker Body in its own right during 2019, and all funds held by QAN on their behalf have now been transferred to FiT. Events this year included workshops at Cockermouth and Watford Meetings.



### Loving Earth Project

This community textile project, which started out as part of the Seeking Routes exhibition, has taken on a life of its own. The aim of the project is to help people engage with some of the challenges of environmental breakdown without being overwhelmed, through a reflective creative process, and through a travelling exhibition of the panels.

People have made panels in varied styles illustrate an exploration of what they love, and how their actions contribute to the environmental damage or may help mitigate it. From January 2020 the project started working in collaboration with Woodbrooke as part of their work commissioned by BYM to support meetings spiritually and in practical ways in their sustainability witness. It is also growing in other ways, with workshops and displays in a variety of settings.

Anyone is invited to make their own panels, to join a growing travelling collection and a small team of workshop facilitators has been created. We had hoped that this would feature at Yearly Meeting Gathering and that the touring exhibition could then be displayed in Glasgow at the time of COP 26 in November 2020, and elsewhere after that. However the COVID-19 epidemic has required a rethink, and more online materials are being developed.

The project's website [lovingearth-project.uk](http://lovingearth-project.uk) gives details about the size of panels and where to send them, and provides resources to support participants. The support of Friends World Committee for Consultation, is also appreciated.



#### • **Ways to Kiss the Earth - publication**

After the Seeking Routes exhibition, the QAN committee decided to publish a small book drawing on the work presented there. It was felt this could be a useful contribution to presenting and nurturing Quaker spirituality and witness through the arts, at this time of growing environmental crisis. This is currently in preparation, and should be published in summer 2020.

### **Small Grant**

The committee awarded a small grant to Lucy Aphramor, to support her in researching some performance material on the arms trade and/or sustainability issues. Lucy had planned to perform at Art the Arms Fair in September but was prevented by illness. She has been invited to headline at a new poetry night in Oswestry in May and plans to launch some of this material there.

This grant was awarded on an *ad hoc* basis as there was a unique opportunity for this witness at Art the Arms Fair. The committee would like to set up a system for awarding further small grants when funds are available, but cannot do so without volunteers willing to join the committee, and to set up and run a system for this.

### **Membership**

In March 2020, QAN membership was around 320, similar to last year, with a small but steady number of people joining and a similar number leaving. However it is not clear that all of these are active members. We have few direct responses to our mailings, but a steady stream of enquiries. Our Facebook page has started to be used more, and the Quaker Arts Network Group has enabled some members to share their creative activities more actively since the Coronavirus lockdown.

### **Appointments**

Committee members for 2019-20 were :  
June Buffery (Treasurer and Membership Secretary)  
Caroline Coode  
Alec Davison  
Kate Green (Assistant Clerk)  
Elena Krumgold (Website and newsletter manager)  
John Lampen  
Linda Murgatroyd (clerk).

No new committee members were appointed during 2019 and we very much hope for some renewal in 2020, to help us diversify and support a wider range of Quaker arts and life in the coming years.

**Linda Murgatroyd**

**Clerk  
April 2020**

## £ Quaker Arts Network Treasurer's report and accounts 2019 £

### *Income*

General donations received in support of QAN was £160, these were mainly from Quaker Local Meetings. There were addition donations and a bursary in support of the Swarthmoor event which amounted to £107.50. We are always grateful for any financial support.

### *Expenses*

Our aim to raise our profile and presence this year is reflected in the increase of our advertising expenditure to just over £500.

We had our usual running costs such as travelling expenses to enable committee members from outside of London to attend meetings at Friends House; and having our accounts examined. We were in a fortunate position to offer £250 to support an QAN member to developing a possible new project.

QAN supported the curatorial expenses of the "Seeking Routes" art exhibition. This exhibition and a programme of accompanying events was organised jointly between QAN and Swarthmoor Hall and other expenses were supported by the Hall. A good turnout for the residential weekend, generous donations and careful budgeting meant that overall the Swarthmoor events were only in deficit by around £200, considerably less than the committee's initial budget. This has enabled the committee to underwrite the costs of producing a small book based on the exhibition.

We did not incur any expenses for the running of our website and communications in Facebook, Instagram and Mailchimp accounts this year as we had members generously offering their time and expertise. We did not have any room hire expenses – thanks to the offer of space from Friends, notably Swarthmoor Meeting.

In February we completed the transfer of all funds we held for Friends in Tune.

The accounts were examined on 23 March 2020 by Barry Mercer of Oxford and Swindon Area Meeting.

### £ Summary

We had a good year with a very successful event at Swarthmoor and it felt right to support new artists. However we clearly need to attract more donations and/or find creative ways to raise funds if we are to continue with exciting events and to support more artists in future

June Buffery

Treasurer to Quaker Arts Network

## Quaker Arts Network (QAN) – 2019 accounts

<b>Opening balance on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2019</b>	<b>8185.74</b>
Receipts	2879.46
Payments	6103.46
<b>Closing balance on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019</b>	<b>4961.74</b>

### Breakdown of receipts and payments

#### Receipts

Donations	160.00
Swarthmoor event (more details below)	2719.46
<b>Receipts total</b>	<b>2879.46</b>

#### Payments

Return of remaining funds to Friends in Tune	2288.08
General QAN Advertising	510.17
Swarthmoor event (more details below)	2926.86
Support for artists	250.00
Examination of 2018 accounts	20.00
Travel expenses for meetings	108.35
<b>Payments total</b>	<b>6103.46</b>

## Breakdown of receipts and outgoings of Swarthmoor event

### Receipts

Payment by residents for staying at Swarthmoor Hall	2170.00
Payments by campers at Swarthmoor meeting House	70.00
Workshops	170.00
Bursary and donations to support event, donations for food, sale of cards	219.30
Commission from sales of artworks	92.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>2722.14</b>

### Outgoings

Hire of Swarthmoor Hall and rooms	1958.30
Camping at Swarthmoor Meeting House and donation	120.00
Food bill	105.18
Honorarium to Seeking Routes curator	500.00
Expenses for Seeking Routes selection panel and curator	152.60
Cost of shipping of artworks	93.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>2929.54</b>