

Quaker Arts Network newsletter

June 2021



[QAN Annual General Meeting](#)

You are invited to our AGM by Zoom on **Sunday 27th June at 07:00 PM** . Our Annual Report and Accounts are attached and will shortly be posted on the website (Documents page)
The Agenda will be posted there a few days before the meeting.

The main items are consideration and approval of the Annual Report and Appointments. Please consider whether you or others you know might be willing to join the committee, and talk to others about it. Please contact the quakerartsuk@gmail.com with nominations or enquiries, or speak to one of the clerks (Linda Murgatroyd and Kate Green) or a member of the committee if you are interested.

We may then spend some time reflecting on what we might wish to do in the coming year, and how that might be taken forward. If you wish to raise any other matters please contact the clerk before 20th June.

Zoom details for the AGM are included in the version of this newsletter which will be sent out to members . Other enquiries : email quakerartsuk@gmail.com .

[QAN Committee, newsletter and communications](#)

COVID has affected the QAN committee as it has other areas of life. Two Friends who had recently joined the committee were unable to continue, and the remaining QAN committee members have all had additional demands placed on them as a result of the pandemic and is overstretched.

Yet our committee meetings by Zoom have been a delight - they have been short, informal, slightly more frequent, and we've been able to share news, explore issues and possibilities and get lots done in a short time. It was particularly lovely to get to see and know better Friends from outside our usual circles, and from different parts of the country.

The committee agreed at its recent meeting that unless new volunteers come forward, we will be unable to do more than the minimum of maintaining the website, core administration and hold AGM, events at YMG and maintain our current commitment to the Loving Earth Project, working with Woodbrooke. We would like to be able to do more - eg online events and discussions, active use of social media to share news and creations recently, but will need new volunteers to do any of this. (NB you don't need to be an active 'artist' to join our committee or take on a supporting role, but use of the internet is essential at this time.)

Meanwhile, our newsletters will also need to be curtailed until more volunteers appear. Sorry Friends. Don't forget you can still put your events up on our website and share news and creations via our the QAN Facebook Group . It's not difficult can be a lovely way of meeting and keeping in touch with Friends with shared interests.

[Yearly Meeting Gathering](#)

We are offering a number of events at YMG:

- On the evening of **Sunday 25th July** we will take part in the **Groups Fair**. This is an opportunity for informal conversations, for anyone to find out more about the Network see what we have done in the past and , depending on interests, explore future possibilities (perhaps continuing

discussions from the AGM), share experience, ask questions etc. If you would like to run an on-line event about or using the arts for Quaker purposes this would be a good time to come and share your ideas, for example.

- An evening entertainment “**Truths and Diversities**” on **Tuesday 3 August at 7pm** will comprise a varied programme of short performances in different art forms , on themes broadly linked to the theme of the Gathering. It will be hosted by Geoffery Durham and followed by an opportunity for informal conversations for those who wish. More details of the programme will be published in our newsletter, shortly before YMG.
- At **lunchtime** on Thursday 5 August at 12.20 there will be an opportunity to meet QAN members, introduce ourselves and our interests and hear more about what QAN is doing and might do in future, ‘ as led’.

Please put these dates in your diary and look out for more details in the YMG publicity.

Don't forget to register in advance for YMG if you want to participate in any events. REgistration is now open, at <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>.

Online art exhibition

Sadly have been unable to find anyone willing to organise an online exhibition of Quaker art, which we had hoped to offer for the YMG.

We would love to set up an online resource with **links to Quaker artists's** /musicians/poets/actors' etc websites . This would be a great way to help support our Friends and to help build and share culture reflecting Quaker values and experiences - reflecting our diversity as well as what we have in common, our use of the arts in our witness as activists as well as for spiritual growth, nurture and exploration. For those without a website we could include information about a publication or art work and/or contact details, if you wish.

The simplest way to do this would be a page on our website. This is not very difficult (it's a Wordpress website) and technical help is at hand if needed. However it would need someone to coordinate it, and to put the information up.

Please contact us at quakerartsuk@gmail.com if you would be interested in helping make something like this happen. It would be great to be able to help Quakers in all kinds of arts in this way, and great to be able to share and enjoy our work.

Loving Earth Project

This project , being run in partnership with Woodbrooke is now engaging with a wide range of friends from, from St Andrews to Cornwall, Belfast to Slovenia and Upsalla to Uganda and USA. A wide range of others are also involved in the community textile project and we've had some wonderful online conversations meandering from action on sustainability to textile technicalities. Woodbrooke is organising events relating to the project at YMG and continues to offer courses using the project as part of its work on sustainability for BYM.

For more news of the project, subscribe to the newsletter by emailing lovingearthproject@Woodbrooke.org.uk. Events and resources for all ages and in several languages can be found on the lovingearth-project.uk website.

The project is entering a new phase as we start to organise exhibitions and displays, and develop materials to support the touring exhibition. We would welcome more support with support with social media especailly over the next few months, in the run-up to COP 26. (Twitter @lovingearthpro1 and Facebook/Instagram @LovingEarthProject)

“This Place”

Finally, our Friend Sam Donaldson has been working with Mike Sprout on a book of illustrated poems “exploring deep experience with place”. they are seeking funds to publish the book and share some of it through their excellent crowdfunder video. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/this-place-project> . Do take a look and consider supporting them; it certainly transported me far from my computer screen, to new (yet sometimes familiar) places.