

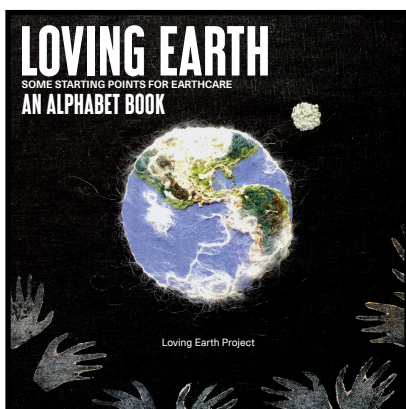


Quaker Arts Network

Annual Report 2022

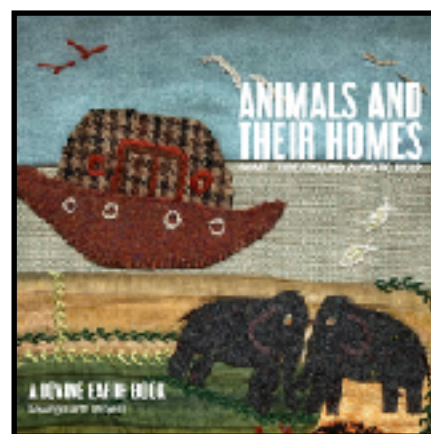
Quaker Arts Activities

Looking back over 2022 it's been very heartening to recognise the wide variety of ways in which the arts are now playing an important role in our Quaker lives. Poetry, theatre, painting, textiles, music, dance, fiction and historical research were all well represented on the Events pages of our website during the year. As well as exhibitions, there were retreats, courses, performances, creative workshops and even a poetry competition.



Quaker arts publications featured more than usual this year; QAN published two little books : *Loving Earth*, *an Alphabet Book*, and *Animals and their Homes: some threats and ways to help*, both based on the Loving Earth Project textile artworks. In addition, we were able to publicise Stephen Cox's second novel *A Child of Two Worlds*, Isa Levy's memoir *Conversations with a Blank Canvas*, 'Let's Live the Quaker Way' a picture book by Rebecca Price. The latter illustrates lived Quaker values in a thoughtful and engaging manner, and

provides a starting point for reflection and discussions for anyone aged from 3 to 103! QAN has also acquired a few ISBNs which can be made available for sale to members.



Performances included a wonderful selection of musical offerings at the online New Year Concert splendidly organised and presented by John Lampen. Highly polished performances of theatrical works written by the actors included Andy O'Hanlon's *Numinous* (about educationalist Henry Morris) and Michael Mears' *The Mistake* (a kaleidoscopic play about the Hiroshima nuclear bomb) .



Andy O'Hanlon in *Numinous*



The Loving Earth Project went from strength to strength, and over 400 textile art panels about environmental damage threatening what people love, and actions they are taking had been made by the end of the year. Following the 2021 exhibitions for COP 26 further events took place in Scotland at Fife's Scottish Maritime Museum, the St Andrew's Museum, the Falklands Estate, in Dunbar and at the Edinburgh Festival. Different groups of panels have also visited Manchester, Somerset, St Neots, Bury St Edmunds, and Northumberland and Slovenia, often in multiple linked exhibitions or with other associated events. Plans are in hand for further exhibitions through 2023, including at the UK Parliament and elsewhere in Britain, in France and California, along with further publications.

By publicising and supporting the work of Quaker artists (widely defined) and by sharing opportunities through our newsletter and social media, we have been able both to strengthen Quaker community and culture and to help share Quaker values and insights more widely. The Loving Earth Project, led by QAN, has worked with Quakers and others in many different places and has provided Quaker outreach as well as helping people engage actively with major environmental issues without being overwhelmed, and inspired by love.

Charitable Status

A revised constitution was agreed, at our 2022 AGM, and we decided to apply to the Charity Commission for registration as an unincorporated charitable body, as our recent higher income has required this. An application was submitted in October.

Membership

As discussed at our last AGM, our new constitution required that we are clearer about our membership, and we have been progressing this. As we don't charge a membership fee, we have not been removing people from the mailing list unless they request this or we discover that the email address is no longer valid.

Friends who have been on the mailing list since before April 2018 did not reply to repeated enquiries or had not been in touch by email for other reasons are no longer considered formal members, though for the time being they remain on our mailing list. At the end of 2022, our membership thus defined numbered 164 people. A total of 366 were on the mailing list.

Trustees

Sylvia Clare, John Lampen, Kate Green, Linda Murgatroyd, and Sue Tyldesley were reappointed to the committee (ie as our trustees) at the AGM, and Elena Krumgold was released after many years' faithful service mostly on communicatiosteping down at the AGM. We were delighted to appoint Cherry Simkin and Sean Jacke as trustees during the year and to welcome Cherry as the incoming treasurer designate. Sean has taken on the role of communications manager, managing the website and newsletter and liaising with Sylvia and with Amanda Jones on social media. The QAN Facebook group continues to thrive, with



21 members, and this makes it easy for Friends to share their news or artworks.

However many of those who have served as QAN trustees for some years are needing to stand back and in particular a new clerk is needed. We welcome expressions of interest from those willing to serve QAN as trustees, or to support particular events or with communications. Working through the internet via Zoom and in other ways has made it much easier for Friends to collaborate from afar. We also hope that more in-person events can be organised soon, if Friends come forward who are willing to make them happen .

Looking forward

A variety of events already features on our website for 2023, including at Britain Yearly Meeting, and a new video project to celebrate George Fox's 400 years is in the pipeline. There may be interest in a more regular poetry strand to QAN's activities, opportunities for exhibitions of Quaker visual artworks, and to offer some financial support for Quaker arts initiatives, but these will depend on Friends' willingness to make concrete proposals to trustees, which they are willing to help take forward.

Linda Murgatroyd (Clerk)

Treasurer's report

The accounts for 2022 are in the appendix to this report. We are grateful to Peter Ullathorne who has examined them for us.

The Quaker Arts Network received £500 from The Leaveners when they laid down their work and distributed their remaining funds to Quaker organisations with a similar purpose. The Westhill Endowment gave £3400 to support the Loving Earth Project.

Much of the financial activity this year was connected with the Loving Earth Project, supporting the costs of administering the website and communications, sending panels to the many exhibitions, designing and printing support and publicity materials, and meeting volunteer expenses. A small grant was made to a group in Bolivia to enable them to run Loving Earth workshops in a local school. Two Loving Earth books were published, and the first was reprinted twice. Design costs for these were met from Loving Earth grants and the printing costs by Quaker Arts Network. Sales have been going well, as have those of Loving Earth greeting cards which were reprinted on the same basis; we expect in due course to cover the printing and production costs completely.

The financial position for 2023 is looking good, enabling many Loving Earth exhibitions continue at least until the end of 2023. Once we have received our charity registration, we plan to move our accounts to the Charities Aid Foundation Bank and invest some of the Sturge legacy (received in 2021) to enable new projects in the longer future.

John Lampen (Treasurer)



ANNEX : Annual Quaker Arts Network Annual Accounts 2022

[TO BE ADDED]