



Loving Earth Project

Report on activities in 2022



Summary

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.

During 2022 the project, has worked with Quakers and others in many different places helping people engage actively with major environmental issues without being overwhelmed, and inspired by love, whatever their faith or cultural background. As well as the creation of additional textile panels, a full programme of exhibitions and other events was held, supported by the publication of two small books, other merchandise.

<http://lovingearth-project.uk>

@lovingearthpro1 @LovingEarthProject



Textile panels

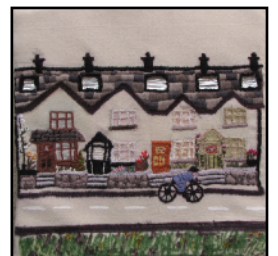
Although panel-making slowed down after the Covid lockdowns eased, textile panels continued to be made through 2022 year, both at in-person workshops and privately. Most of these are displayed at <http://lovingearth-project.uk/test-gallery/>, along with accompanying texts.



The panels continue both to be very personal and to contribute to a larger picture illustrating the diverse threats to beloved people, places, creatures and other things, and what people are doing about them. Many of the images again focus on nature (particular creatures and habitats) but there are also panels featuring wider threats (rising seas, pollution etc, and responses such as nonviolent direct action, wind-farms, conservation and regeneration). Spiritual responses and engaging in establishment politics also feature.



The making process continues to be important and the resources on our website are proving valuable in this respect. There has been interest in the process from educational and community groups and professional coaches as well as religious or spiritual communities.



Exhibitions and events

Managing this number of panels is a considerable logistical and practical task for our small group of volunteers, so we decided early in the year not to automatically invite all future panels to join the collection available for travelling exhibitions, but only to invite those which have particular artistic merit, or feature topics or responses that are not well illustrated in the existing collection, such as actions or policies by organisations or communities as opposed to individuals. We also prioritised longer and larger exhibitions over short, small ones, so as to maximise the number of people likely to see the panels, given our limited resources.



Exhibitions were held throughout 2022 in venues around the UK and beyond. Scottish exhibitions continued after COP 26, with a series of spring displays in Fife (the Scottish Fisheries Museum, St Andrews Heritage museum, the Cambo Heritage Trust and the Falkland estate) and later in the year, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Dunbar Town House Museum and Gallery. An Irish tour visited Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Portadown and Cork, and a summer display was held in Slovenia. In England, displays were held in Chorley (Lancs), Sedburgh and Grange over Sands (Cumbria), Jordans (Bucks), Newcastle and Stocksfield, Bury St Edmunds, St Neots,



Somerset and Manchester. Venues ranged from Friends Meeting Houses and other places of worship to museums, galleries, shops, wildlife centres, libraries, cultural centres and schools.

Many of the local organisers organised workshops before or during their exhibition, with opportunities for conversations, outreach and community building. In Richmond (Yorkshire) and Bournemouth textile workshops also supported local groups working with refugees or mental health challenges. These were held independently with support from Loving Earth volunteers, and our online materials. A range of other conversations took place alongside some exhibitions, often with local personalities or experts speaking about particular issues, either live or on film.



In some cases, these activities have led to further development of the project. An online creative writing workshop held by Tracey Martin invited poetic responses to Loving Earth panels, and this is developing into a book and one or more poetry readings planned for 2023. Exhibitions or workshops have inspired further invitations in 2023, including one to the UK Parliament's Portcullis House.

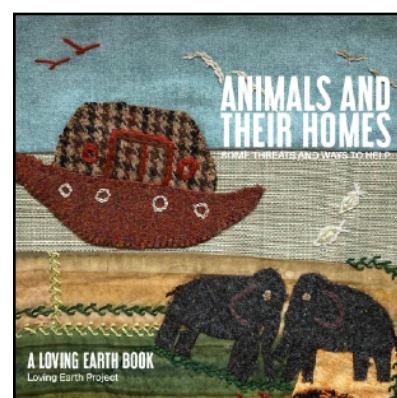
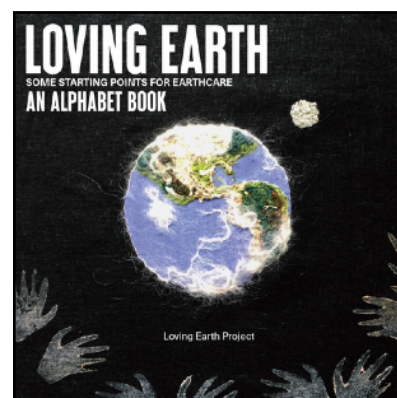
Loving Earth Project events are listed on our website as a summary, with selected photos on the past exhibitions page of the site.

Publications

The quality of submissions inspired us to produce two small illustrated books featuring some of the panels and comments on their themes. *Loving Earth: Some starting points for Earthcare, An Alphabet book*¹ illustrates a wide range of approaches to the challenges of climate change, from Awareness (of ourselves as part of nature) to Zimbabwe (as an example of the climate change in poorer countries and the need for social justice in addressing climate issues). *Animals and their Homes : some threats and ways to help*² illustrates the threats to creatures living on land, in water, and in the air, through damage to their ecosystems, and some ways to prevent further harm in future.

These have been published by the Quaker Arts Network and have been very well received, selling well at exhibitions and also online and at the Quaker Centre Bookshop. Further greetings cards have also been produced — at total of 20 designs in all .

We also reprinted the green heart postcards which publicise the Loving Earth questions and project; they have been used in workshops and exhibitions for individuals to respond interactively. A large decorative poster has widened the scope for public display and has been used alone or as part of exhibitions. Further publications in 2023 are under consideration.



¹ 60 pages; 15x15 cm; 26 colour illustrations. ISBN 978-1-7391405-1-9

² 76 pages; 15x15cm; 36 colour illustrations. ISBN 978-1-7391405-0-2

Funding and oversight

The Loving Earth Project is formally a project of the Quaker Arts Network³, and our funds have been administrated by its treasurer and accounted for in its accounts. Annex 2 summarises the financial position in 2022.

This only includes those expenses covered via QAN, not those incurred by partner organisations. The formal association with Woodbrooke came to an end once the online courses were complete and the infrastructure bedded down, and an small honorarium was awarded to Marleen Schepers who has maintained the database of panels and administrative infrastructure since then. A small grant was also awarded to a school in Bolivia to enable them to train volunteers to run Loving Earth workshops locally using our resources, translated and adapted appropriately.



Funding for the project has come from grants from Westhill Foundation, the Edith M Ellis Trust and the Southall Trust, and a number of smaller donations. These have paid for exhibition expenses, design work for books and all costs of publicity materials, grants and administration. Quaker Arts Network has paid for printing of books and their ISBNs. QAN receives income from their sale with prices have been set to cover these costs if /when they are all sold.

The Steering Group (whose members are listed in Annex 1) is committed to continuing exhibitions through 2023 and expects to wind it down thereafter.



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Annex 1 Steering Group membership 2022

The following were members of the LEP Steering Group members during 2022

Rici Marshall Cross (Clerk)

Tracey Martin

Linda Murgatroyd (QAN)

Sue Tyldesley (QAN)

Sue Chisnall-Sumner

Matt Rosen

Annex 2 Financial Summary

LOVING EARTH PROJECT

Account for the year ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS

Donations	£3,400
TOTALS	£3,400

PAYMENTS

cards, advertising and leaflets and other design work	£908
LEP Exhibition costs	£816
LEP Honoraria; Bolivia grant	£1,755
Zoom subscription, Dropbox	£347
Postage & office expenses	£114
TOTALS	£3,941
(Deficit)/surplus of receipts over payments	-£541

SUMMARY

Brought forward start of year	£3,771
Donation	£3,400
less outgoings	£3,941
Carried forward end of year	£3,230
