

## Quaker Arts Network

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

11.35 am on Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>

In-person at The Priory Rooms, Birmingham and via Zoom

#### Minutes

##### 1 Opening worship

We gathered in silent worship, during which a short extract from “A Testament of Devotion” (Thomas Kelly) was read.

##### 2 Attendance

22 Friends are present in person and via Zoom including QAN trustees. Sean Jacke and Ade Couper are prevented today.

##### 3 Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes of the 2022 AGM have been available on the website (at <http://quakerarts.net/documents/>)

##### 4 2023 Annual Report and Accounts

We accept the 2023 Annual Report and accounts which were circulated via the newsletter and have been available on the website.

Quaker Arts have continued to thrive through 2023, returning to more in-person events: these and online activities have enabled our community to continue to come together and nourish one another.

QAN projects go from strength to strength:

- The Loving Earth Project continued to inspire creative responses to the climate crisis with around 50 events during the year, from Portcullis House to Brussels and Le Havre, from Devon to Yorkshire and from Sacramento to Salford;
- the Creative Writing Group was established and soon gained a strong and diverse following with many online events;
- The Fox@400 was set up to enable Friends to create short videos celebrating the life of George Fox.

Our website contains details of all of these and is constantly updated. It's possible to see forthcoming events and for members to add their own events to publicise them more widely.

The number of subscribers to our newsletter increased from about 370 to about 440 during the year. The Facebook group had over 300 members and our Instagram following rose to 500.

During the year, QAN was successfully registered as a charity which will enable more grant applications and gift aid may now be claimed on donations. The QAN bank account was moved to CAF Bank.

Our Treasurer, Cherry Simpkin, reported on the accounts. Owing to a generous past legacy, at the end of the year QAN had reserves of just under £13,500 in unrestricted

funds enabling some financial support for QAN at Greenbelt 2024 and other future projects. Grants received for the Loving Earth Project have now nearly all been spent on the project and the remainder will soon be used up.

We thank Linda for putting the Annual Report together, and Cherry for her work (and John Lampen for his earlier work) in managing our finances, and to Matthew Male for examining the accounts.

## **5 Amending the QAN Constitution**

QAN trustees wish to move towards greater inclusivity in our trustee body to reflect the fact that we have members of QAN who are not members of the Society of Friends but are fully in sympathy with our aims and objectives and feel led to work with us.

As we are a registered charity, such a change requires an amendment of our Constitution which must be agreed at an AGM. QAN trustees propose the following text (additions in red):

### **17. Officers and trustees**

*(1) The charity and its property shall be managed and administered by a committee comprising the officers and other members appointed in accordance with this constitution. The officers and other members of the committee shall be the trustees of the Charity and in this constitution are together called 'the trustees'.*

*(2) The charity shall have the following officers:*

*(a) A clerk,*

*(b) A treasurer.*

*(3) All the trustees must **either** be members of the Religious Society of Friends in the UK **or have played an active part for at least a year in a known Quaker community in the UK and be approved by the existing trustees. The clerk and treasurer must be members of the Religious Society of Friends.***

### **18. Appointment of trustees**

*(1) The charity in general meeting shall appoint the officers and the other trustees.*

*(2) The trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act as a trustee. and **is either***

***i) a member of the Religious Society of Friends in the UK***

***or***

***ii) has played an active part for at least a year in a known Quaker community in the UK and is approved by the existing trustees.***

### **20. Disqualification and removal of trustees**

*A trustee shall cease to hold office if they:*

*(2) **cease to be a member of the Religious Society of Friends or cease to play an active part in a known Quaker community in the UK***

We welcome this proposal and agree the amended text of our Constitution.

## **6 Appointment of Trustees**

The QAN trustees form a committee to which other QAN members who would like to participate in the work of QAN are invited. Andy O'Hanlon and Martin Harnor have joined QAN meetings in this way during 2023-4. We always welcome enquiries from other QAN members who are interested in participating in our work, whether by organising or helping with events or projects or in other ways. In particular, we are looking for help with IT and communications.

The following were appointed as QAN trustees in 2023 to serve until this AGM:

Clerk vacant

Assistant clerk Kate Green (NE Thames AM) (appointed as acting clerk during the year)

Treasurer: Cherry Simkin (SE London AM)

Sean Jacke (NW London AM)

Sylvia Clare (Hants & Islands AM) (released during the year).

Amanda Jones (Devon AM)

John Lampen (Central England AM)

Linda Murgatroyd (Kingston & Wandsworth AM)

In April 2024, the trustees co-opted David Curtis (Hants & Islands AM) to serve as trustee responsible for the Greenbelt Project.

We thank Linda Murgatroyd for her long and inspiring service as QAN clerk.

## **Trustee appointments for 2024-25**

Clerk Ade Couper (Worcester and Shropshire AM)

Assistant clerk Josiane Smith (N London AM)

Treasurer Cherry Simkin (SE London AM)

Amanda Jones (Devon AM)

David Curtis (Hants & Islands AM)

John Lampen (Central England AM)

Kate Green (NE Thames AM)

Linda Murgatroyd (Kingston & Wandsworth AM)

Sean Jacke (NW London AM)

All of these are hereby appointed until our next AGM in 2025.

## **6 Upcoming QAN Events**

### 1 QAN at Britain Yearly Meeting:

- Linda will organise the QAN stall at the Groups Fair on Monday 29th July (in-person only).
- Amanda and Cherry will lead our Special Interest Group session on Saturday 6th July, 5 – 6 pm (online only).

All are welcome, whether or not they are currently members of QAN.

### 2 QAN at Greenbelt Festival 2024, 22- 25 August near Kettering.

QAN is supporting a group of volunteers who will take part in the Greenbelt Festival. More details are available on our website.

### **8 Woodbrooke Tapestries**

At Woodbrooke's request, the Quaker Arts Network found homes for seven tapestries by Elisabeth Holmgaard and three others which used to hang at Woodbrooke. One is going to Denmark where Elisabeth was born, and one to Northern Ireland; the others remain in England. We have also arranged for them to be photographed professionally. We have made three catalogues which will be held in Friends House Library, at the Quaker Tapestry at Kendal, by the Woodbrooke trustees and in our own archive.

Kate Green  
(Acting Clerk)