

Quaker Arts Network
Annual General Meeting (AGM), 2025
as part of an online QAN Yearly Meeting Special Interest Group

Saturday 3 May at 14:00 - 15:30

Formal Minutes

1. Opening worship

We gathered in silent worship, followed by ministry from Kate Green, and an opening from Andy O'Hanlon about the agenda for the day, which can be found [here](#).

Kate Green read the following text:

“Faiths have always used art to communicate the sacred to both “insiders” and “outsiders”. A work of art can communicate in ways that go beyond words, beyond the intellectual, and touch the soul. Religious architecture, music and painting, for example, can express profound spiritual experience and inspire others to discover their own spiritual response. In this way, engaging with any of the arts, whether as creator or as recipient, can aid in the search for meaning in human life, addressing the deepest needs of human beings.”

2. Attendance

The 2025 meeting is held online as one of the Special Interest Groups' meetings in preparation for the Britain Yearly Meeting. There are currently 21 present, including eight of our Trustees. Adrian Couper and John Lampen are prevented from attending today.

3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

Last year, the AGM took place at the Priory Rooms of Bull Street Quaker Meeting House, Birmingham, on 1 June. The minutes of the 2022 AGM have been available on the website (at <https://quakerarts.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Quaker-Arts-Network-AGM-2024-final.pdf>)

4. Receiving the 2024 Annual Report and Accounts

We have received the Annual Report for 2024. Kate Green, Andy O'Hanlon, Josiane Smith and Cherry Simpkin spoke to the report and accounts. We thank all concerned for producing the report, managing the work of the charity and presenting our finances. We thank Matthew Male for examining the accounts.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2024 are available online and a link to these documents circulated in the newsletter (at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1m3JM_1kLF1LdimxW-txUmAoOhviAq5r6/view?pli=1)

5. Communications

The meeting heard from David Curtis about QAN website migration plans. David shared that at the Meeting of the Trustees of the Quaker Arts Network (QAN) held on Saturday, March 1st 2025 at Winchester Quaker Meeting House, we considered how to most effectively administer our organisation and best support its membership.

After exploring the tools available for Quaker Meetings and Groups from the Quaker Meetings Network (QMN), we found them to offer an improvement upon our existing technical infrastructure, and the associated costs to be commensurate with the features provided and acceptable for our budget.

We share our thanks with Michael Wood for his design and technical assistance of the Quaker Arts Network website for over thirteen years. It is now our wish for QAN to join the Quaker Meetings Network and for this minute to serve as the statement of intent required by QMN in its registration process.

6. Appointments

At the QAN AGM at BYM on Saturday 3rd May, we reviewed our Trustees and confirmed the re-appointment of the following Trustees: David Curtis (Clerk), Sean Jacke, Amanda Jones, Andy O'Hanlon, Cherry Simpkin (Treasurer), and Josiane Smith (Assistant Clerk).

Following a statement written by Kirsten Lavers and read by Josiane Smith, the AGM appoints Kirsten Lavers as a new Trustee. It also formally appoints David Curtis as Clerk, leading a small Clerkship team, until the 2026 QAN AGM. Discernment and preparation will be given to ensure the continuity of Clerking and Trustees of QAN in the coming year.

We also shared a Minute of Appreciation for Adrian Couper, Linda Murgatroyd and Kate Green for the completion of their service as Trustees, as well as for John Lampen upon the completion of his service in December 2025. We are grateful for their continued upholding of QAN and the Trustees.

The Statement by Kirsten Lavers and Minutes of Appreciation can be found below.

7. Closing

QAN Members and attendees of the AGM were invited to share more about their artistic practice and upcoming events. James Priestman closed our AGM by reading a poem written by Una Marson called, There Will Come A Time.

Statement for Trusteeship by Kirsten Lavers

I'm Kirsten Lavers, a Quaker for over ten years now. I have to thank Andy O'Hanlon for sowing the seeds that eventually brought me to Quakerism. I trained and worked as a nurse until going to art college in my late twenties. Since then I have practised as an artist and art teacher in higher education. Along the way I have been involved in public art projects and a great deal of work with homeless people. I'm sorry not to be able to attend the AGM but it coincides with a workshop and opening reception for my first ever solo show of my current artwork, a series of conceptual drawings.
<https://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/46492/>

Currently I am also Warden of Jesus Lane Quaker Meeting in Cambridge and have been involved in mounting an exhibition of art and crafts by Quakers across Cambridgeshire. Last year I was involved in the QAN presence at Greenbelt and took responsibility for curating a slideshow of artworks by QAN members. I hope that my involvement as a Trustee will help QAN flourish. I'm looking forward to it!

Minutes of Appreciation for the work of QAN Trustees upon completion of their service.

Our Friend Adrian Couper has asked to be released from service as a Trustee for health reasons. We thank him for his support and hold him in healing light.

This AGM is a significant one because it also marks the departure of two longstanding Trustees: Linda Murgatroyd and Kate Green.

Linda was Clerk of QAN for some years until 2023.

Linda was a founder member of the Arts Network and from the outset carefully facilitated its development, from an informal association, to a Quaker Recognised Body and now a registered charity.

Linda's vision and energy infuses her visual art work and is present when mounting exhibitions, producing QAN books and calendars, and managing work like the LEP.

She is always creating connections with others e.g. at Swarthmore, and the French protestant church and, in these different ways, a great example of the arts as a witness for Quakerism.

Kate can be described as a fabulous source of gentle wisdom and sound advice on both Quaker and admin. matters. She has served as a Clerk and

steered the organisation through the charity application process, putting together and amending the constitution. She is a dancer – and a dance teacher - and has enlivened our meetings with dance performance and reflections on dance, inspiring and encouraging others and broadening the range of the QANs offerings.

Thank you Linda and Kate.

This is also John Lampen's final AGM. His current term of service ends in December 2025.

John has served as a trustee for many years, including as treasurer His artistic contribution has mostly been through the written word, as well as organising zoom events during Covid, and finding a home for Woodbrooke's art works.

He organised Quaker arts New Year celebrations, interviewing Friends online and then presenting an example of their work - music, drama, visual art etc, The lockdown celebrations were well attended and appreciated. The Fox @ 400 video project was John's idea and again he set the tone with his own meeting's children's group.

Most recently he organised a short series of lunchtime online Meetings for Worship with prepared ministry inspired by art which were very powerful and much appreciated by those present. These projects provided ways for Friends to be more involved with QAN, and when we showed the Fox@ 400 videos at BYM last year the audience was very appreciative of the diversity of the offerings and the good humour and creativity involved. John has also been a source of wise counsel.

We are assured that all our three departing Trustees are happy in the future to offer a listening ear, make helpful suggestions, and uphold QAN trustees.