



QVA NEWS

QUAKER VOLUNTARY ACTION

www.qva.org.uk

2019

Clerk's welcome

Welcome to the 2019 newsletter of Quaker Voluntary Action.

We are having a busy year and, as you will see, we are following our new policy of holding a rolling programme of Retreats rather than plan everything at the start of the year. We hope that this will bring flexibility to respond to requests from local Meetings.

Do get in touch with our worker Hannah Brock hannah@qva.org.uk if you have any suggestions for our future work.

We welcomed two new trustees this year: Alice Crawford and Emily Jesson-Smith. Geoffrey Braithwaite our Company Secretary stepped down from that role after several years of hard work on our behalf. He will be greatly missed.

I must thank all the Friends who have supported our work both financially and in practical ways. We are a small charity run by volunteer trustees, but we hope to bring a Quaker perspective to voluntary work and to be on hand wherever we are needed in the future.

Do please enjoy reading our newsletter; there are new and exciting projects in the pipeline as well as old favourites and Hannah is working hard to develop new areas of work.

Offers of practical help are always welcome and do please consider if you and/or your Meeting can support us with a regular donation.

Jane Robinson

Clerk to QVA Trustees

News in brief

Last year, Quaker Voluntary Action (QVA) rewrote our mission statement. QVA exists to enable 'participation in spirit-led volunteering that makes a practical and social difference. Our projects build community and work for a more just and peaceful world'.

Towards this goal, 2018 saw Quaker Voluntary Action make return visits to Swarthmoor Hall, (the Quaker centre in Cumbria) where we tended their garden and grounds and visited nearby Quaker sites, and to Israel-Palestine, welcomed by Friends in the Quaker Meeting in Ramallah. On this trip we travelled around Israel and the West Bank and held challenging and enriching conversations with Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers. We also made a first visit to The Pales—a beautiful Quaker Meeting House and burial ground in Powys—and contributed to the transformation of the living space of Mellor House, a halfway house for refugees in High Wycombe in December. Check out our new blog on our website for reflections on all these events: www.qva.org.uk/blog

This year our theme is 'God in the movement of peoples', which will be a part of some of our reflection sessions in our working retreats over 2019. We will explore themes of belonging, displacement and home. Our 2019 working retreat programme includes two trips we've been running for a number of years: to Swarthmoor Hall in the autumn, and to Israel-Palestine, during the olive harvest, in October. We will also be visiting an eco-farm in Italy in August, volunteering in the Help Refugees Warehouse in Calais in July (likely to be repeated in November because of high interest), and spending time with Friends in Leighton Buzzard to care for their garden and grounds in October.

Looking further ahead, we can promise some events in Scotland for the first time in many years in 2020. Sign up to our mailing list (you can subscribe on our website: www.qva.org.uk) for more information about all these events, and to hear about new working retreats as plans emerge.

If you know of a project (Quaker-run or otherwise!) that could do with an input of volunteer time, please get in touch with our working retreats coordinator, Hannah by email: hannah@qva.org.uk

Donate to QVA

Donations keep us going and enable us to do new things. Please send donations and/or a standing order mandate to:

Quaker Voluntary Action, 15 Hollyway, Northenden, Manchester M22 4WS

Please make cheques payable to Quaker Voluntary Action.

For bank transfers our account number is 03269501 Sort Code 16-58-10

For taxpayers, we would gain extra income if you also complete and send the gift aid declaration (set out below) to the above address.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

(please sign if you pay tax)

Please treat all donations I make to QVA from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.

Signed

Date

(Please sign if you pay tax and remember to notify us if you no longer pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations).

STANDING ORDER FORM

Please return to:
QVA Donations, 15 Hollyway, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4WS.
Not to your bank.

Your name

Address

Postcode

Tel No

Email

Your bank name

Bank Address

Postcode

A/c No

Sort Code

Amount: (£)

First Payment Date...../...../.....

Immediately if blank

And then *(please circle)*: Monthly / Quarterly / Yearly

INSTRUCTION TO THE BANK

Please pay the above to **Triodos Bank** **16-58-10** for the credit of **Quaker Voluntary Action a/c 03269501.**

Signed

Date

Would you like a receipt? Yes / No *(Please circle)*
If so, may we use your email? Yes / No *(Please circle)*



Financial Report

In 2018 QVA's income roughly equalled its expenditure, both being a shade over £20,000. Payments from Working Retreat participants basically covered the direct costs of each project such as facilitator fees, catering and accommodation. The exception to this was the Israel / Palestine visit, for which we have for a number of years provided a subsidy for the running costs of this impactful, but more expensive, event.

We aim to cover the background costs of providing a programme out of our regular donations from individuals, Meetings and Trusts. This is approximately £8,000, the bulk of which is the salary of our part-time Co-ordinator. Further general costs of the organisation such as admin, insurance, and newsletter distribution totalled £2,300.

We were pleased to break even in the year, following the £3,500 deficit in 2017. Our staff member operates modestly from a home office, Trustees and other Friends undertake some of the general admin of QVA voluntarily, and we aim to take great care to minimise our costs. That said, without the support of our donors we would not be able to provide the range of volunteering opportunities we do. Regular donations, however small, enable us to plan work – and one-off larger donations are also very welcome! We have budgeted for an increase in Hannah's hours this year and certain other costs such as travel and insurance are on the rise. More income enables us to arrange more projects.

Could I thank everyone who supported QVA financially over the year – and appeal to any of you who may be thinking of setting up a standing order please to get in touch. Maybe you benefitted from attending one of our past events and are now in a position to support us financially to allow others the opportunity to do the same?

A final item of note – 2018 saw the decision by the Phone Co-op to end its affinity scheme whereby phone & internet subscribers could earmark a portion of their bill to a nominated charity of which QVA was one. We're disappointed that this partnership has ended without replacement, after almost two decades, but it's still appropriate to pay tribute here to the support the Phone Co-op has provided over the years which has averaged £250 annually. Thank you also to those Friends who have selected QVA as your Phone Co-op affinity partner. Although hopefully most of you are on our emailing list, we haven't been in touch directly to acknowledge your ongoing stream of small donations – which I know some of you have provided for many years. So please, as the scheme draws to a close, allow me to take this final opportunity to thank all the Friends, and in a couple of cases small firms / organisations, involved for letting part of your telephone bills support QVA.

Conor Jerram

Treasurer

2019 working retreats

**Help Refugees
Calais, France**

15-19 July (now fully booked)

Emilia Romagna, Italy

26-31 August

**Swarthmoor Hall,
Cumbria, England**

23-27 September

**Leighton Buzzard
Quaker Meeting House,
England**

9-13 October

Israel-Palestine

14-25 October

**Help Refugees
Calais, France**

4-8 November

For more info and to apply
visit www.qva.org.uk, or
email hannah@qva.org.uk



Host a QVA working retreat

We are always open to proposals for new projects! Does your Meeting House or Centre need some volunteer effort to help with a practical project? This could be a site for a working retreat. Please note, it doesn't need to be a Quaker project

Please email hannah@qva.org.uk with your ideas!

