

Financial Report

QVA's income in 2019 was almost exactly £25,000, with running costs exceeding that figure by roughly £500. Our donations income increased from £14,000 in 2018 to £15,600 in 2019. There was an increase in support from Meetings for our work, whilst giving by individuals and Trusts was very similar to the previous year. There was, however, a small reduction in the number of regular standing order donations, a valuable income stream which enables us to plan more easily. The remaining income was direct payments from participants on our various projects and this also increased in 2019, reflecting the greater volume of work and people involved in undertaking it.

Our main expenditure is direct costs of our projects, with the largest of those outlays being our well established tour to Israel & Palestine (£8,000). The two visits to Calais each cost a shade over £2000 to arrange, whilst our other projects, in Italy and the UK, had more modest running costs. We also cover the salary and costs of our part-time member of staff Hannah plus the general costs of running the charity such as IT, insurance and postage.

A big thank you to all our financial supporters - and an appeal to any of you who may be thinking of setting up a standing order please to get in touch. Would you be able to make a small regular payment to QVA monthly, quarterly or annually? 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? Alternatively you may like to make a one-off donation to our general funds – or to our bursary fund which enables those who cannot afford full participant fees on our events to still attend them whilst making a partial payment. To discuss any aspect of contributing to QVA please do contact me.

Conor Jerram

Treasurer

Supporting QVA

Donations keep us going and enable us to do new things. Please send donations and/or a standing order mandate to: Irena Pearse, QVA Donations Treasurer, 17 Nascot Street, Watford, Herts, WD17 4YB. Make cheques payable to: Quaker Voluntary Action. Bank transfers: Acc No. 03269501, Sort Code 16-58-10. We would gain extra income if taxpayers are able to Gift Aid your donation. Please complete the whole form and gift aid declaration and send to the above address.

First Name / Initial.....Surname

Address

Postcode

Tel No

Email

YOUR DATA

We will not share any contact data without consent with any third party. You can view our privacy policy online here: www.qva.org.uk/subscribe

Please let us know if you would like to hear more from QVA:

I would like to be updated by email.

I would like to be updated by post.

To change the way we communicate with you please email: mail@qva.org.uk

GIFT AID DECLARATION

(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).

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Quaker Voluntary Action.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature.....

Date.....

STANDING ORDER FORM

Instructions to the bank. Please pay the above to Triodos Bank 16-58-10 for the credit of Quaker Voluntary Action a/c 3269501.

Your name.....

Bank Address.....

Postcode.....

Acc No.....Sort Code.....

Amount: (£)

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

Immediately if blank.

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

Signature.....

Date.....

Would you like a receipt? Yes / No (Please circle)

(Choosing 'yes' gives us permission to email or post it to you, depending on what details you have supplied)



QVA NEWS

QUAKER VOLUNTARY ACTION

www.qva.org.uk

2020



Clerk's welcome

Welcome to the 2020 edition of the Quaker Voluntary Action Newsletter. I am writing this at a time of great difficulty and stress for us all but I hope we can remind ourselves of some of the good work which has been done in our name over the past year. On these pages you will see pictures and experiences of the retreats we ran last year where Friends were able to give practical help while joining together in fellowship.

There is more good news - our worker Hannah Brock Womack is expecting a baby. We all send our best wishes to her and her partner. We have advertised for a temporary replacement. We have also welcomed a new trustee to our group - Sally Gold.

In spite of the current difficulties, we have been looking to the future and Hannah has been planning activities with local meetings as well as with Friends abroad. Our annual visit to Ramallah in the autumn has also been arranged. There is still some time until most of these retreats and we hope to make decisions about the viability of these retreats as we go along but leaving time for Friends to cancel if necessary.

With many thanks to our supporters both financially and prayerfully and to those who keep our presence known in their Meetings.

Jane Robinson

Clerk to QVA Trustees

Upcoming working retreats

**Swarthmoor Hall,
Cumbria, England**
7-11 Sep 2020

Freiburg, Germany
AN ECO STUDY TOUR
12-18 Sept 2020

Borgo Basino, Italy
21-26 Sept 2020

Israel-Palestine Please get in touch
before 5th June.
14-25 Oct 2020

**River Garden Auchincruive
with Independence from
Alcohol and Drugs, Scotland**
Postponed from July - New dates tbc

**Refugee Community
Kitchen, Calais, France**
Dates tbc

See more info on our website
www.qva.org.uk/retreats

If you are interested in principle in any of these working retreats (either at these advertised dates or should they be postponed), please write to hannah@qva.org.uk or call 07530 844611 and we will get back to you



Borgo Basino working retreat, August 2019



Quotes from working retreats in 2019

“ In all, the week was a balanced opportunity for reflection and action, relaxation and effort. Our work together enabled progress that would not have been possible for one or two people to achieve ”

“ Overall the programme was well-balanced and the timing was adjusted to accommodate priorities ”

“ Another 'kingdom' experience ”

“ I really liked the spaces, times and chances there were to get to know other volunteers ”

“ I valued the chance to spend time in such beautiful surroundings with an interesting group of people ”

God in the movement of peoples

It seems a cliché to start by saying that 2019 seemed like a busy year for Quaker Voluntary Action, but it's also true! Our theme for the year was 'God in the movement of peoples', and this was a thread running through all of our working retreats, regardless of where in the world they were, or what kind of work the volunteers were involved in. Our reflection sessions focused on ideas of home, displacement and belonging, and where the Spirit sits in all of this.

Some of our working retreats were explicitly about supporting those who have been forced to flee. We worked with Help Refugees in Calais in July, and went again to Calais in November to volunteer with Refugee Community Kitchen, when the July working retreat was oversubscribed by double! These were enriching experiences, and ones which brought us into contact with other volunteers who were living in northern France for sometimes months and years, dedicating their time to this cause. We had judged that a lot of Friends wanted to volunteer but did not want to go on their own for the first time, and that turned out to be right we think.

Displacement and belonging are of course always themes that come up during our (usually) annual working retreat in Israel-Palestine. We went in October to help pick olives and to meet peace activists, enriched by a particularly international group this year of Friends originally from Ireland, Germany, Greece, USA, Scotland, Wales and England.



Working with Help Refugees, Calais, July 2019

A QVA group spent a day with volunteers working in a soup kitchen in Bologna at the end of a week on an eco-farm in Italy, run by Quaker Evan Welkin and family. Closer to home, volunteers spent five days working on the meeting house garden in Leighton Buzzard, with what sounds like remarkable results. And we also took our regular trip to Swarthmoor Hall in the autumn, 'digging deep into Quaker history and the earth'.

Through it all, I have been constantly amazed by the power that working together has on relationships. Getting your hands dirty is, it turns out, an amazing catalyst for connection with others. Tiredness engenders openness and vulnerability (as well as sometimes stress!), and we are trying to offer opportunities that give us a chance to live out our testimonies.

In the first working retreat of 2020, volunteers redecorated a house in Sheffield that will be used by asylum seekers. If you'd like to read reflections on our working retreats over the last year, check out our blog at:

www.qva.org.uk/blog

The rest of 2020 is for us as for everyone so far a very unknown time, but please get in touch if you like the sound of any of our planned events.

Hannah Brock Womack



Borgo Basino working retreat, August 2019