



A year of change & renewal



1999  
Annual  
Review

## Mission Statement

The Leavers welcomes anyone whether a Friend or not to experience the power of the creative spirit to release energy, vision and commitment. Through the use of participatory arts, especially music and drama, we aim to give expression to contemporary Quaker values and faith and to raise awareness of issues of social justice, nonviolence and spirituality.

## 1999 Programme

### Leavers Projects

13 - 14 March

Intermediate Drama Training

18 April

Universal Love, London

2 May

21st Anniversary Concert

13 June

Annual General Meeting

29 July - 7 August

Tree of Tales

31 July - 7 August

Woolman's Witness

24 - 26 September

Whatever Next?

16 October

Singing Workshop Leaders' Day

30 October

Choral & Chamber Music Day,  
Leicester

29 - 31 October

Basic Drama Workshop Training

1999 Annual Review

### Workshops for Meetings

20 March

Sing a Simple Song

Durham Preparative Meeting

22 May

Relationships

Shrewsbury Link Group

27 June

Sing a Song of Peace

Mansfield Preparative Meeting

17 July

Delighting the Ear with Sound

Bristol & Somerset General Meeting

22 - 24 October

Quakers & Prison

Norfolk, Cambridge & Peterboro' General  
Meeting

30 October

Awakenings

Hampshire General Meeting

### Other Workshops

13 November

A Response to the Beatitudes

Student Christian Movement

Dear Friends,

This year the Leavers have been settling in to new offices in the Midlands. Our reorganisation was completed at the end of 1998 and so this year has been spent renewing contacts within the Religious Society of Friends in Britain, and establishing new ways of supporting Quakers wanting to use music and drama for personal and group spiritual exploration.

A new staff post of full-time Drama Worker for the Quaker Youth Theatre brought Matthew Gough, a former QYT member, back to work with us for twenty months. This new post has allowed the Leavers to offer a fuller programme of drama weekends and training throughout the year.

During 1999 we began encouraging meetings to sing Quaker music through one day workshops using music collected over the past twenty years. This collection of music has finally progressed from two boxes of paper to a catalogued collection with music being separated into Quaker music and miscellaneous music, as well as being identified as choral or unison songs.

So our thanks to all the volunteers and supporters who have helped us throughout the years and we hope that you will share this report with others who may benefit from our workshops and projects.

Your friend,



Damian Entwistle

Clerk to Leavers Committee

# Equipping young people for voluntary service

The Quaker Youth Theatre encouraged members to take on more responsibility for the projects ranging from training in drama facilitation skills to leading the residential summer project.

## Peer and Professional Training

We began the year with a peer led residential weekend in drama workshop facilitation skills. This brought together older members who shared a variety of drama techniques and a final session on planning and structuring a workshop was provided by Sue Mayo, a professional drama worker.

In the autumn we ran our first annual Basic Drama Skills weekend for young people with no previous facilitation experience. This weekend is run by our Drama Worker and experienced QYT members for any young people currently involved with QYT, children's meetings, or Quaker summer schools.

The training weekends are then followed up by opportunities for gaining experience by leading workshops for young people at local preparative or monthly meetings around Britain.

In addition to our own training events, QYT members attended training provided by Leap Confronting Conflict, National Association of Youth Theatres, and Quaker Home Service's Group Facilitation Weekend for Young People.



"For me this weekend has been both stimulating and inspiring..."

## Four stories and a song: Tree of Tales at the Quaker Summer Gathering

The summer residential project took a new direction. Instead of producing a scripted musical, the company worked together devising four one-act plays. Three of these told stories from different parts of Quaker history and one looked ahead at what the future might hold for the world and young Friends in the new millennium. One unexpected source of a story came when one of the directors mentioned the project to her uncle who then provided her with the story of his time with the Friends Ambulance Unit in China and converting their trucks from petrol to charcoal burners.

The project was led by a team of older QYT members who had met with staff and adult volunteers during the spring to select stories and decide the format and style of the production. The team of eight leaders brought a new and wide range of skills to the project allowing us to expand our performance to include puppets, movement and company devised music.

The final performance for all those attending the Quaker Summer Gathering in Canterbury left the QYT members feeling that all their hard work and long days were well worth the effort.



The Sultan enters for his audience with Mary Fisher

"Having my 'devised' play paired with Rachael's director-led piece really allowed the participants to engage in a wide-ranging theatre experience as well as a 'Quaker' experience; which always seemed to me to be the point of QYT."

- Paul Levy

## **Reaching out to young people at local meetings**

A small team of QYT members have been offering workshops to children and young people at preparative meetings and on general meeting residential weekends.

The volunteers leading the workshop have completed either the basic or intermediate training weekend. This year they have run workshops ranging from a weekend on relationships in Shrewsbury to Quakers & Prison at Norfolk, Cambridge & Peterborough General Meeting.

This was our first year to begin building a team of workshop leaders and we hope to add new members in successive years so that we will be able to encourage and support more young adults to help work with children and young people in local meetings. Many of the reflections gathered from the workshop participants commented on how much they enjoyed working with younger adults and the peer led workshops.

"And next morning when I was with the (young people), those (who were) at the workshop started telling those who hadn't been there what it was all about by facilitating many of the exercises! True empowerment!"

## **Devolving decisions to the members**

In the autumn we followed up on the residential summer project with *Whatever Next?*, a weekend for any interested members to gather in Birmingham and help plan new projects for the year 2000. Sharing ideas from past projects and discussing ideas for new projects the twenty-five members who attended split themselves up into smaller groups to work out plans for those projects which most interested them. Many new ideas came out and the QYT programme for 2000 was drawn up with a full schedule of weekend training and events.

## Delighting the ear with sound

The Quaker Festival Orchestra and Chorus focused on encouraging singing and music making by more Friends around the country.



We organised our first day for people interested in helping to lead a singing workshop in meetings. Twelve Friends travelled to Birmingham from around Britain to share ideas and music. We look forward to enabling those who participated to develop a music ministry volunteering their skills to meetings through singing workshops.

We were pleased to be able to lead four music days at meetings. Three of these came in response to an invitation from preparative and general meetings. The fourth day was to try out a new Leavers event which we hope to be able to organise more frequently to encourage choral and chamber music around the country. These will be regional open days where singers and instrumentalists of mixed ability gather and share in music making at a Quaker meeting house.

### **Cataloging Quaker music**

This year we were at last able to complete a long standing commitment to catalogue the extensive collection of music which has been sent in by Friends from around the country. Much of it has been written by Quakers while the rest feature themes in sympathy with Quaker values. So we are looking forward to being able to make wider use of this rich source of music for future workshops and events.

## Testing the waters with Woolman's Witness

Our next Quaker cantata which will focus on the ministry of the 18th century American Friend John Woolman, had its an initial performance at the Quaker Summer Gathering in Canterbury. This event was a new format for the Leavers for two reasons. First it was a try-out of the first act of a work-in-progress. Secondly it was our first attempt at creating a full music performance within the context of a Summer Gathering where the singers also participated in Gathering workshops.

Woolman's Witness is being written by Alec Davison (Libretto) and Peter Avis (music). Initially conceived over eight years ago, Alec and Peter have been actively writing this new cantata over the last two years, and we are looking forward to developing the work to its full length version in 2002.

The work does not so much tell a story but rather sets the words of John Woolman to music with added commentary about his practice of boycotting products of slaves, and inhuman and degrading working conditions.



Barry Wilsher (r) and Alec Davison (l) with the Quaker choir at Summer Gathering in Canterbury.

## Initiating new ways of learning new works

In the spring Peter and Alec led a study weekend at Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Centre, focussing on this new work. Twenty singers, many new to the Leavers, enrolled for the weekend to begin singing the music under Peter's direction. Concurrently in other parts of Woodbrooke four Friends were studying John Woolman and his ministry and at the end of the weekend they were the first to hear the songs.

# Reaching out beyond Quakers

## Seeking a common thread amongst faiths

This year saw the culmination of Universal Love, a project to promote cooperation among faiths initiated by Margot Tennyson to mark the new millennium. In 1998 we had published a booklet as a guide to help raise universal awareness of the common thread of love in most major world faiths.

In April there was a performance in the crowded small meeting house of Friends House and representatives from nine major faiths ranging from Muslims to Bahais gathered and shared songs, dramatic performances, and dances from their faith. Many of the participants came in response to Margot's personal invitation based on their acquaintance with her life-long work promoting cooperation amongst different faiths.

## **Networking in Birmingham**

The Leavers joined the Birmingham Voluntary Services Council this year. While attending various training courses at BVSC, Tina and Jayne began networking with other Birmingham based groups.

With the support of BVSC the Leavers have begun using Performance Quality Assurance System for Small Organisation to assure our commitment to quality for our project management and delivery.

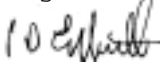
## Summary income and expenditure account for 1999

	1999	1998
Incoming resources	109,432	326,675
Resources used		
Direct charitable expenditure	95,822	315,163
Management and publicity	<u>6,284</u>	<u>56,364</u>
Total resources used	102,106	371,527
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investment	<u>(2,686)</u>	<u>10,326</u>
Net movement in funds	4,240	(34,256)
Balance sheet as at 31.12.99	1999	1998
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	5,638	11,194
Joy Blanche endowment	<u>34,224</u>	<u>36,910</u>
Total	39,862	48,104
Current assets		
Debtors	3,916	39,702
CAF deposit funds	48,094	60,708
Cash at bank	<u>6,227</u>	<u>4,650</u>
Total	58,237	105,060
less creditors	<u>4,940</u>	<u>25,640</u>
Net assets	93,159	127,524

### Trustees' statement

These summarised accounts are a summary of information extracted from the audited account on which the auditor's opinion was unqualified. The full report and accounts were approved by the trustees on 2 April 2000 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission. These summarised account may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full accounts, the auditor's report and the trustees' annual report can be obtained from the office.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

 Damian Entwistle, Clerk  
27. iv. 2000

### Auditors' statement

As auditors to the charity, we have reviewed the summarised accounts above and consider that they are consistent with the full accounts on which we gave our opinion.

signed *Slade & Cooper*  
date 18-5-00

# The Leavers

Charity reg no 292499

## Patrons

Sydney Carter  
Judi Dench  
Sheila Hancock  
Ben Kingsley  
John Whitney

## Leavers Committee

Peter Aviss (until June)  
Scilla Beck (until March)  
Sarah Burney, Treasurer  
Rachael Davis, QYT representative  
Peter Eccles, Trustee  
Damian Entwistle, Clerk (from June)  
Tim Garrett, QYT rep (until August)  
Lucy Hilken, QYT rep (from August)  
Patrick Jones, Trustee  
Paul Jon Levy, QYT rep (from August)  
Jill Main (until March)  
Roger Moon, QFOC representative  
Ros Morley, Trustee  
Wendy Needham, QFOC representative  
Joanne O'Malley (from June)  
Nick Rendle, QYT representative  
David Saunders, Clerk (until June)  
Jo Smith, Trustee  
Joe Steinhardt, QYT rep (until August)  
Helen Whittington, Trustee

## Staff

Jayne Baylie, Administrator  
Alec Davison, Quaker Outreach  
Matthew Gough, Drama Worker  
Tina Helfrich, Coordinator  
Christina Lawson, Volunteer

## Nominations Committee

Damian Entwistle  
Ros Morley  
Jo Smith

## Finance Committee

Sarah Burney, Clerk  
Patrick Jones  
Ros Morley  
Nick Rendle

## Personnel Committee

Damian Entwistle  
Wendy Needham  
Joanne O'Malley  
Jo Smith

## Leavers Representatives:

Quaker Youth Forum  
Becky Robson & Viveka Dagnell

Children & Young People's  
Committee (Quaker Home Service)  
Katy Roucoux

National Association of Youth  
Theatre AGM  
Harry Kingham

The Leavers are members of:  
Birmingham Voluntary Services Council  
National Association of Youth Theatres  
National Council of Voluntary Youth  
Services  
Quaker Fellowship of the Arts  
Voluntary Arts Network  
Youth Clubs UK

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