



CLERK VIRGINIA PAWLYN EXPLAINS WHY MAKING THE DIFFERENCE MAKES HER PASSIONATE ABOUT QHT

QUAKER HOUSING TRUST (QHT) clerk Virginia Pawlyn is passionate about QHT because of the impact it makes on people's lives.

She believes that the housing trust makes the difference that turns a house into a home. "It is often the final slice in the pie," she explained. She uses the example of her role as *trustee in touch* for Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP), which used a £10,000 QHT grant to buy the furniture for its new house. "Cirencester had not got anywhere for people to sleep, so we provided the beds."

According to the Banbury & Evesham MM member, what makes QHT good at what it does is the result of a number of factors – all of which make her even more committed. She first points to the skills base that is necessary to making the right decisions on how to best support vulnerable people.

"All the QHT trustees have the right



Virginia Pawlyn (right), trustee and North Somerset & Wilts MM member Philip Hunt (centre), and QHT secretary Paula Harvey (left).

skills and experience for a housing charity. You need people who have a good mix of skills to get it right." So housing management, finance and administration, practical building work, and housing policy are key professional skills available to QHT.

Secondly, and equally important to the QHT clerk, is the business-like way the housing charity is run. "What I experience with QHT is an efficient, effective and well run organisation. This is something that I do not always find in other aspects of Friends' work,"

Virginia Pawlyn commented.

IN BRIEF

• **New news sheet**
This is the first of a series of occasional news sheets from QHT illustrating aspects of Friends' housing concern. This replaces ACORN. If you wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list contact Paula Harvey (see back page).

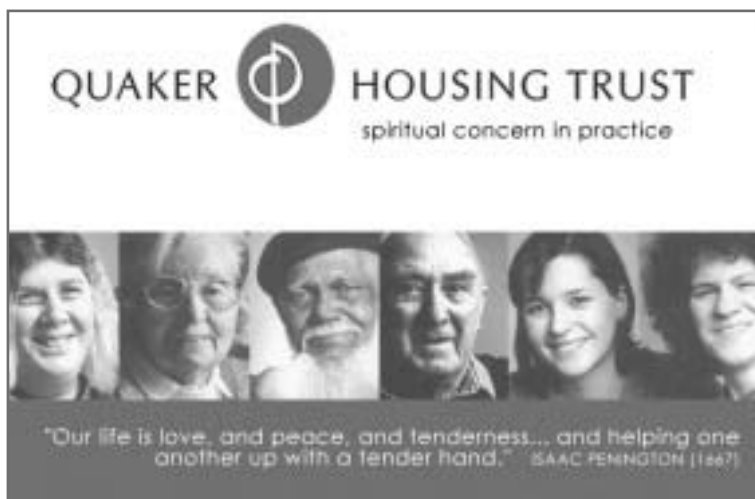
• **Spare Room**
Wanstead PM's project recruits and supports Friends and Attenders who offer short-term hospitality to asylum seekers who have no support. A QHT grant of £1,700 covers the costs of new publicity to recruit more volunteer hosts, and a Good Practice Guide.

• **Social Property Trust** This is an innovative scheme to finance homes for homeless people by attracting ethical investment in residential property. Initially a Quaker Social Action project, it is now an independent charity supported by a bond issue from Triodos Bank and a £10,000 QHT grant.

QHT ONLINE

IF YOU haven't already found the new QHT website here is the *splash* page you will find when you enter it. The development of the website is just one of the many firsts for QHT this year. We hope you like using it.

www.qht.org.uk



CHIPPING AWAY AT HOUSING NEED

CIRENCESTER HOUSING for Young People (CHYP) is a good example of the kind of project where QHT has made the difference to their work.

CHYP helps 50 young people each year with housing or advice at their Ashcroft Road scheme "until they find their feet," CHYP's liaison officer Andrew Coles explains.

After well-organised fundraising CHYP realised their goal at the end of last year and opened the Next Step House. The housing is designed to provide a lower level of support until the young people can live independent lives and find a home of their own.

The conversion of the pair of semi's took just over a year to complete, and QHT's £10,000 cheque helped CHYP equip the houses with good quality furniture that they otherwise would not have been able to afford.

The number of Friends from Cirencester Meeting who work closely with CHYP and QHT made the grant possible. CHYP's *trustee in touch* and QHT clerk Virginia Pawlyn says that CHYP is a unique and vital service. "It's a delight to deal with them. They have worked hard at getting all sorts of organisations involved. It's a good project." More than this Andrew Coles says that local Friends "help out in a big way" by raising £3,000 a year.

CHYP faces increasing challenges as even younger people come to them needing "a lot of support". QHT and Friends' support will continue to make the difference.



CHYP'S newly refurbished Next Step House for seven young homeless people.

QHT IS A UNIQUE NATIONAL CHANNEL FOR PRACTICAL QUAKER WITNESS IN HOUSING
We facilitate Quaker-linked social housing projects through advice, support, loans and grants.

WE HELP YOU

- explore the housing concern
- start new social housing projects
- expand existing housing work
- contact other Quaker projects
- invest in housing projects through Quaker Social Housing Account.

YOU HELP BY

- bringing your projects
- giving us donations
- opening a Quaker Social Housing Account
- keeping in touch with us.

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COMMUNICATING OUR VISION AND PASSION

THIS IS an exciting time for QHT. The need for our support, expertise and resources has never been greater. We are rising to the challenge of reaching out to meet this need by ensuring that we tell more people about who we are, what we do and how we do it.

You may already be aware of the some of the changes that are taking place such as *trustees in touch*. Trustees, who come from all corners of the country, are now responsible for maintaining and developing a relationship with applicant housing projects. This way QHT is improving its communication, information and support links with projects.



QHT trustees (left to right, front): Bill Edgar, Paula Harvey, Virginia Pawlyn, Lynn Moseley, Peter Davey, Trefor Howorth. (Back): Philip Hunt, Kenneth Allchin, Michael Stevens, Malcolm Bowker, and Tony Manasseh.

Our brand new website is an exciting development that we believe will ensure that a much wider audience sees QHT's work. We have our new occasional news sheet to keep you in touch with the latest developments, and a credit card-sized leaflet about our work that can be handed out at every opportunity.

These are all new ways that QHT is using to communicate its passion and vision for the work that we do. We hope that you will use our new ideas – and contribute to them too.

Paula Harvey,
Secretary, Quaker Housing Trust