

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Rookhow

#YSGF19W2TW submitted on 9 June 2021

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We are seeking a contribution (£2-4,000) towards a project to make Rookhow, a 300 year old Grade II* listed Quaker Meeting House more usable by Quakers and community groups by installing a sustainable and efficient energy source. This will include an air source heat pump, continuing the renovation of the stone floors with underfloor heating and by improving the loft insulation.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

Rookhow Quaker Meeting House is a 300 year old Grade II* listed property set in 12 acres of ancient oak woodland in the Rusland Valley, South Lakeland. As well as being a gathering place for Quakers of all ages, Rookhow provides simple accommodation for groups in its converted stables bunkbarn. A recent grant from the Quaker Mental Health Fund UK has meant that we have been able to support local mental health groups to stay at Rookhow and benefit from the natural tranquility and peace it has to offer.

At present the Quaker Meeting House is damp, deteriorating and has been neglected for decades. We are in the process of restoring the building so it can be used as a community venue in the Rusland Valley as well as a meeting place for Quakers and a base for forest learning and retreat. In line with our commitment to sustainability, we would like to heat the building in an energy efficient way which is also sensitive to a historic building's needs and use. An air source heat pump would give a low constant background heat and together with continued under floor heating and improved loft insulation, would improve the energy efficiency of the property.

We have researched different options and have been in consultation with the Lake District National Park planners, a conservation builder and architect as well as heating engineers and green energy consultants to make sure we are moving forward with the best plan for the long term future of the building and its use.

This is part of a larger plan to make Rookhow more accessible. We are looking to improve the entrance to make it wheelchair accessible, install an accessible toilet and make a wider path into the woods. We are increasingly attracting support groups wanting to use Rookhow for forest therapy and meditation who would also like to use the inside meeting space. At the moment, using the existing electrical heating system is costly and largely ineffective.

Over the last year we have been carrying out improvement work, supported by Britain Yearly Meeting, Historic England and other grant making trusts. At the same time we have been extending our support base, setting up the Retreat Away (mental health) Fund, running online workshops such as Understanding Peace, Resilience and Loving Earth and regular Epilogues, All age socials and a Rookhow Zoom Cafe involving local people and Quakers from across the UK. Before Covid, our regular gatherings attracted people from all 3 surrounding Area Meetings: Kendal & Sedbergh, South Cumbria and Swarthmoor and Lancashire Central and North, with the Good Friday Meeting involving 80 Quakers, with many children and young people. Our volunteer work parties and regular social events allow Quakers from the region to meet together in a space which is especially valued by children and families.

Rookhow was set up as a meeting place for the 'scattered communities of the Society of Friends'. We aim to continue this vision, as well as offering the centre as a unique outreach opportunity to the wider community, especially those in the most need.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

- A - Quaker work and witness
- D - Climate change mitigation
- F - Sustainable development

1.3a Quaker work and witness

Rookhow is a valued meeting place for Friends from the 3 surrounding Area Meetings. Meeting for Worship is held once a month, with regular socials and residential Quaker family weekends at least 3 times a year. Over 40 volunteers of all ages have been involved in the regeneration of Rookhow, motivated by sharing the resource with the wider community.

1.3d Climate change mitigation

We are committed to lessening our carbon footprint and heating the building work in the most efficient way possible. We have been advised to upgrade the hemp loft insulation and install underfloor heating downstairs. An air source heat pump will give a more efficient energy source which will be sensitive to the building and its historic contents.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

The changes in this project will have long term ongoing benefits in terms of making the space more usable by groups and protecting the fabric of the heritage building. As the building is used more, this will in turn help to generate more income to sustain the work of the charity.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

We have carried out a baseline assessment of our carbon footprint. We will monitor electricity usage and efficiency to look at carbon reductions. We will gather qualitative feedback from users about their views of using the building and share our findings about running such a system with other groups and Quaker Meetings.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Air source heat pump	£14	To heat whole building: underfloor heating downstairs, radiators upstairs, hot water
Renovation of stone floor with under floor heating and insulation	£16	Historic Meeting House floor
Loft insulation: depending on type of material used between £5-13,460	£13	We are exploring the different types of material which would work best in an historic property (with bats in the loft) with advice from our conservation builder and architect
Additional pipework to connect into existing system	£1	Some of the downstairs floors have already been renovated thanks to a Historic England grant and

		contributions from other Quaker Meetings
Screen to shield the air source heat units outside	£600	As advised by Lake District planner
TOTALS	£47,246	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Living legacy (individual donation from a local Friend)	£20	£20	Secured
Lake District Foundation low carbon grant	£20	£0	To be submitted mid June
BWECT (Baywind Energy Community Trust)	£3	£0	To be submitted mid June
TOTALS	£43,000	£20,000	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£2

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£41

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

Yes

2.6b Upload File

<https://theedithmellischaritabletrust.org/assets/uploads/2021/06/Rookhow-financial-statement-Jan-to-Dec-2020-and-til-April-2021.pdf>

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Rookhow
54251546
16-52-21

3.1 Your name

Sue Nicholls

3.2 Your contact telephone number

+447557919879

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Development Manager

3.4 Your email address

contactrookhow@gmail.com

3.5 Organisation name

Rookhow

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK Charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

With 12 acres of rich woodland habitat, a simple bunkbarn and historic Quaker Meeting House, Rookhow provides a unique opportunity for all age Quaker gatherings and for outreach with the local community. Our vision is to share Rookhow's valuable resource, being sensitive to its history and adaptable when looking to the future. Sustainability and equality are at the core of Rookhow's work, especially in engaging disadvantaged groups.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Rookhow
Rusland
Ulverston
Cumbria
LA12 8LA

3.9 UK telephone number

07557 919879

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1188409

3.11 Year established

Registered CIO in March 2020. Established as a Quaker Meeting House 1725.

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<https://rookhow.org.uk/>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://www.facebook.com/Rookhow1725/>

<https://twitter.com/rookhow1725>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf5m4SP9NH6cX6OcbfnczAg/videos>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Quakers