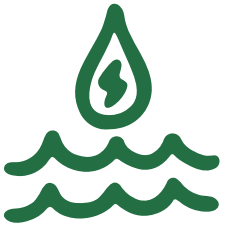


**Roots & Branches**

Seeds for Action Case Study 2022-23

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# **The Flood Tapestry Project**

## Quaker Tapestry Museum

# Quaker Tapestry Museum

350 years of social history and Quaker stories are brought to life in more than 40 vibrant embroidered panels, housed within Kendal's Georgian Meeting House.

The panels tell the story of Quaker influence on the modern world, exploring the industrial revolution, developments in science and medicine, the abolition of slavery, social reform, astronomy and ecology.

Made by over 4000 men, women and children from 15 countries, over 15 years, it is an example of beautiful needlework and craftsmanship.





# The project: The Flood Tapestry Project

## Sharing human stories of Storm Desmond

In 2015, Kendal was severely flooded by Storm Desmond. The Quaker Tapestry Museum, decided to form The Flood Tapestry Project, creating a way for the community to share human stories, interpret them onto a wall hanging, let go of their inhibitions and let others know their memories of that devastating night.

The Flood Tapestry records the voices of those who were affected by the flood and celebrates the remarkable resilience of our community when faced with disaster.





# Impacts and Outcomes



The importance of **community** when facing the challenges of extreme weather.



When planning any projects we always think about how the climate crisis fits in to the work we are doing.



The Garden Café were invited to run the museum café as a vegan only and low carbon establishment.



The project helped to bring us closer to our local community.



# Challenges and Barriers



The biggest challenges with any project or change are always:

- time,
- resources and
- knowledge.

The flood tapestry was possible because of funding and the volunteer time offered.

Making changes to the way we work and how we reduce our carbon footprint can be very challenging as funds are limited and it is not always clear what are the best steps to take.



I think that doing something **creative** in a group has a real healing effect. It balances up something that was really quite destructive. People experienced loss, shock, trauma and they've been able to come to a group and tell their story in lots of different ways.

Flood Tapestry Participant





Being part of this project has made me feel more connected to my local community. I think the project has had a positive effect on my mental health through working together on a common goal and dealing with the events of that traumatic flood.

I have mental health problems which meant I had two stays in hospital half way through this project but I felt able to drop out and come back in without any problems.”

Flood Tapestry Participant





# Next steps and future climate actions

Since this project we have been working on ways to reduce the museum's carbon footprint and impact on the climate, including:

- installing **solar panels**,
- encouraging **cycling**,
- hosting a **vegan only café** and
- creating a **wildlife friendly garden**.

Our next steps are:

- Installation of **Electric bike charging points** for staff and visitors
- Removing **single use plastic** from products we sell in the shop
- **Training** for all staff and volunteers so that the Quaker Tapestry Museum can become a Carbon Literate organisation.

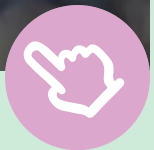




# Resources

## Video

This short film tells the story of the creation of the Flood Tapestry.  
(2 minutes 47 seconds)  
[Opens in YouTube](#)



# Find out more



[Quaker Tapestry Museum Website](#)



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# Roots & Branches

## Seeds for Action – case studies



The **Seeds for Action Programme** is part of the Roots & Branches project. It aims to connect Carbon Literate Certified museum people across England to develop and build on their carbon reduction strategies and approaches to taking climate action.



By pooling our **collective expertise and resources**, we can save ourselves time and money, and tackle the climate emergency more effectively together. Feel free to **share this case study** with others.

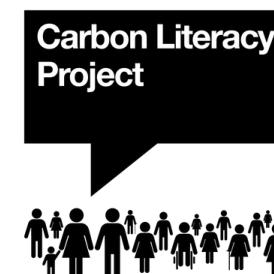


### For more information contact:

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- Case study submitted by Naomi Garnett
- Icons created by [Rutmer Zijlstra - Flaticon](#)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**