



Heritage Crafts Association

# Heritage Crafts Association

President: HRH The Prince of Wales

*PATRONS: Emma Bridgewater CBE, Professor May Cassar, Lord Cormack KBE, Kaffe Fassett, Sir Christopher Frayling, Mark Henderson, Dr Alex Langlands, Paul Martin*

## NEWS RELEASE

Monday 30 March 2020

### Eight new grants awarded to help save endangered crafts from extinction

**An apprentice sail maker, boot tree maker and folding knife maker are among the recipients of the latest round of grants awarded to help safeguard some of the UK's most endangered craft skills.**



The **Heritage Crafts Association (HCA)**, which last year published the second edition of its groundbreaking ***HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts***, has awarded a further eight grants from its Endangered Crafts Fund, which was launched in July 2019 to increase the likelihood of endangered crafts surviving into the next generation.

This round of the HCA Endangered Crafts Fund has been offered with support from **Allchurches Trust** and **The Radcliffe Trust**. The eight successful recipients are:

- **Ratsey & Laphorne** (Isle of Wight) – to train an apprentice sail maker to craftsman level while making sails for a historic yacht.
- **Horace Batten** (Northamptonshire) – to train an apprentice boot tree maker who will go on to work in-house at the boot making firm.
- **Michael May** (Sheffield) – to equip his folding knife making apprentice with the tools he needs to learn all aspects of the trade.

*Supporting and promoting heritage crafts as a fundamental part of our living heritage*

[www.heritagecrafts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk)

The Heritage Crafts Association is registered with the Charity Commission as Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1159208

- **Justine Burgess** (Carmarthen) – to train in Teifi and Tywi coracle making so that she can pass on the skills to others.
- **Eve Eunson** (Shetland) – to record the skills of Fair Isle straw back chair making in a film that can be used to train others.
- **Coates Willow** (Somerset) – to forge new tools for an apprentice working with one of the last practicing basketwork furniture makers.
- **Tom Boulton** (West Sussex) – to do a feasibility study into creating new wooden type for letterpress printing using CNC machining.
- **Lorna Singleton** (Cumbria) – to buy a boiler and swiller’s mares (a special type of shave horse) to enable her to teach oak swill basket making to small groups.

These eight projects follow five awarded in the previous round, covering the endangered crafts of scissor making, damask weaving, cockle basket making, neon bending and fan making. Again the fund was massively oversubscribed and the HCA hopes to work with many of the unsuccessful candidates to identify other funding and support opportunities.

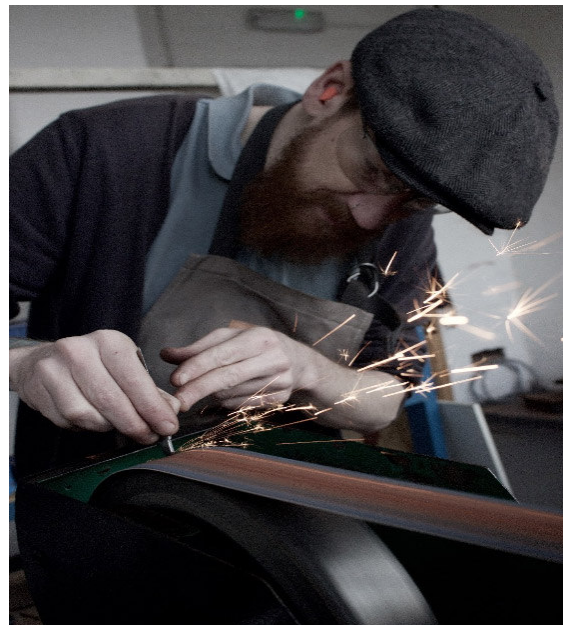
HCA Endangered Crafts Officer Mary Lewis said:

*“When we first published the HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts the task of safeguarding so many at-risk skills seemed overwhelming. Thanks to the support of our donors and funders like Allchurches Trust and The Radcliffe Trust we now have thirteen projects underway, but there is still so much to do to ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from this important part of our culture.”*

The Endangered Crafts Fund has been set up thanks to a number of generous donations from organisations including **Allchurches Trust** and **The Radcliffe Trust**, as well as individuals, who have donated sums from £5 right up to several thousands of pounds.

Paul Playford, who heads up the heritage grants programme at Allchurches Trust, said:

*“It’s fascinating to see the wide range of endangered craftspeople and places that are represented in the latest Endangered Crafts Fund cohort, and we’re proud that our funding will help ensure that these at-risk crafts can be*



*handed down, along with the tools and training needed to enable their protection in the longer term. We're looking forward to hearing more from these skilled craftspeople as they develop their skills and hope to play our part in telling their story, raising awareness of ancient practices that are so important to preserve for future generations and hopefully inspiring others to follow their lead."*

The HCA has also announced that its President HRH The Prince of Wales has established a new award for endangered crafts. Each year the **President's Award for Endangered Crafts** will present £3,000 to a heritage craftsman who will use the funding to ensure that craft skills are passed on. The Award will be presented at a special reception at Dumfries House, home of The Prince's Foundation, as well as at a prestigious winners' reception at the Houses of Parliament. Applications are invited via [www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/presidentsaward](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/presidentsaward) by Friday 1 May 2020.

The HCA continues to seek further donations to save even more of Britain's most endangered crafts from oblivion. Donations are welcome at any time – for more information visit [www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/ecf](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/ecf).

Applications for grants are accepted on a rolling basis, with the next deadline for consideration 30 September 2020.

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#### **Contacts:**

- For press information and photographs, contact **Daniel Carpenter**, Communications Officer – [daniel@heritagecrafts.org.uk](mailto:daniel@heritagecrafts.org.uk).
- For information about the Endangered Crafts Fund, contact **Mary Lewis**, Endangered Crafts Officer – [mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk](mailto:mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk).

#### **Photo captions:**

- Oak swill basket making. Photo copyright Lorna Singelton.
- Folding knife maker Michael May. Photo by Thomas Husbands.

#### **About the Heritage Crafts Association**

Founded in 2009, the Heritage Crafts Association (HCA) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the advocacy body for traditional heritage crafts. Working in partnership with government and key agencies, it provides a focus for craftspeople, groups, societies and guilds, as well as individuals who care about the loss of traditional crafts skills, and works towards a healthy and sustainable framework for the future. Its aim is to support and promote heritage crafts as a fundamental part of our living heritage.

[www.heritagecrafts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk)

### **About the HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts**

The HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts, created by the Heritage Crafts Association, was the first to rank traditional crafts in the UK by the likelihood they would survive the next generation. The 2019 edition of the Red List assessed 213 crafts to identify those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which four have been classified as extinct, 36 as critically endangered, 71 as endangered and 102 as currently viable.

The Red List shows that the craft knowledge, skills and practices that form an important part of our shared cultural heritage, are – for a number of reasons – at risk of being lost. The HCA believes that these cultural assets are as important as unique heritage buildings and ancient beautiful landscapes and could provide future generations with fantastic opportunities to enrich their lives and the lives of others.

<http://redlist.heritagecrafts.org.uk>

### **About Allchurches Trust**

Allchurches Trust is one of the UK's largest grant-making charities and gave more than £17.8 million to churches and charities in 2019. Allchurches' funds come from its ownership of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. Visit the website [www.allchurchestrust.co.uk](http://www.allchurchestrust.co.uk) for more information.

[www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk)

### **About the Radcliffe Trust**

The Radcliffe Trust supports the development of the skills, knowledge and experience that underpin the UK's cultural heritage and crafts sectors.

[www.theradcliffetrust.org](http://www.theradcliffetrust.org)