



Heritage Crafts Association

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

NEWS RELEASE

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Research project aims to shine light on the plight of endangered crafts during COVID-19

The **Heritage Crafts Association** (HCA) is pleased to announce a new six-month research project funded by the **Pilgrim Trust**, which will provide a major update and expansion of its groundbreaking **Red List of Endangered Crafts**, first published in 2017.



The Pilgrim Trust

The 2019 Red List of Endangered Crafts brought the plight of these skills to national attention, with coverage across the national press and BBC Radio on the day of publication. It identified 71 endangered and 36 critically endangered crafts, which, for a number of reasons, including a lack of effective training routes and an ageing workforce, faced an uncertain future.

The HCA has spent much of 2020 supporting the sole traders and micro-businesses that make up the UK heritage crafts sector through a particularly difficult time, as opportunities for direct selling and teaching their skills have been curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 edition of the Red List will consider the knock-on effect of this on the viability of the crafts skills themselves.

HCA Endangered Crafts Officer **Mary Lewis** will take up the role of Research Manager for the project, thanks to funding of £15,000 from the Pilgrim Trust. The funding will also contribute to a series of endangered crafts symposia gathering together experts in particular craft disciplines to more fully investigate the rarer skills and local variations that make up their craft.

The 2019 version of the Red List is available to view at www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/redlist. If you would like to contribute information for the new version, please email Mary Lewis at redlist@heritagecrafts.org.uk. The updated Red List will be published at a press launch in May 2021.

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

www.heritagecrafts.org.uk

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

Mary Lewis, HCA Red List Research Manager, said:

“COVID-19 has only exacerbated the challenges facing endangered craft skills, and our mission is to bring to light the knowledge and practices that are now on the brink, so that as a society we can have an informed debate on which parts of our intangible cultural heritage we want to keep as a resource for the future. Over the next few months I will be reaching out to craft practitioners to renew and supplement the existing data, with both accuracy improvements and real world changes. Please feel free to contribute by contacting me at redlist@heritagecrafts.org.uk.”

Sue Bowers, Director of the Pilgrim Trust, said:

“We are delighted to support the continuing development of the Red List which is so important in tracking the state of heritage crafts in the UK and creating the platform for discussions about how we can bring about positive change in the future.”

ENDS

Contact:

- For press information, photographs and general enquiries, email Daniel Carpenter, Operations Manager, at daniel@heritagecrafts.org.uk.
- For information about the HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts, email Mary Lewis, Red List Research Manager, at redlist@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

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.

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About the Pilgrim Trust

The Pilgrim Trust aims to preserve and promote Britain’s historical and intellectual assets and to provide assistance to vulnerable members of society. Sixty percent of its funding is directed towards projects aimed at

preserving the fabric of architecturally or historically important buildings, or projects working to preserve historically significant artifacts or documents.

www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk