



HERITAGE
CRAFTS



NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 18 May 2022

A unique tinsmithing masterclass will be held in September with generous support from The Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers and the Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Fund.

Tinsmithing is listed as a critically endangered craft on the Red List of Endangered Crafts. With very few remaining tinsmiths in the UK, we are bringing traditional tinsmith Karl Schmidt all the way from South Dakota to deliver a five day masterclass at the Museum of Making, Derby.



Endangered Crafts Manager **Mary Lewis** said:

“We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Derby Museums and The Worshipful Company of Tin Plate Workers alias Wire Workers. This funding will allow us to pass tinsmithing skills on to the next generation of makers and supports our mission to further the appreciation of heritage craft skills as a vital part of the cultural life of the UK.”

Tinsmithing Masterclass

Where: Museum of Making, Silk Mill Lane, Derby DE1 3AF

When: 12 to 16 September, 10am to 4pm

Cost: £250 (two free bursary places available on application)

If you feel that you would benefit from this training but can't afford to fund your own place, please get in touch with mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk. We will assess applicants based on their financial need and how their skills will help to safeguard the critically endangered craft of tinsmithing for the future.

Using tools and techniques of 19th century tinsmiths, students will learn how to lay out projects using patterns, cut and shape tin plate, and assemble shaped tinplate pieces into items they can take home, such as a tin cup or tankard, a tin scone, tin ornaments and icicles, cake/biscuit cutters or a lantern.

Students will make multiple items, each one building on previous skills and techniques and gradually increasing in complexity over the course of the five-day workshop. They will learn how to develop patterns, workshop safety, how to use basic tinsmith's tools and stakes, how to operate hand-crank machines, soldering, traditional construction techniques and more, all applied to specific creative tasks. The workshop will give participants a first-hand understanding of tinsmithing as a recognised heritage craft.

For more information about the course or the bursaries, email Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager Mary Lewis at mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

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Contacts:

- For press information and photographs, contact **Daniel Carpenter**, Operations Director – daniel@heritagecrafts.org.uk.
- For more information about the course or the bursaries, contact **Mary Lewis**, Endangered Crafts Manager – mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

Photo credit:

- Karl Schmidt, tinsmith

About Heritage Crafts

Founded in 2009, the Heritage Crafts is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered as the 'Heritage Crafts Association', 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

About the *Red List of Endangered Crafts*

The Red List of Endangered Crafts, created by Heritage Crafts, was the first to rank traditional crafts in the UK by the likelihood they would survive the next generation. The 2021 edition of the Red List, funded by the Pilgrim Trust, assessed 244 crafts to identify those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which four have been classified as extinct, 56 as critically endangered, 74 as endangered and 110 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. Heritage Crafts 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>

Derby Museums

Derby Museums is an independent charitable trust which is responsible for the rich cultural and creative history of Derby. It manages three sites across the city, the Museum and Art Gallery, Pickford's House and the Silk Mill, and holds and curates all the art and collections within them, including the world's largest collection of paintings by Joseph Wright of Derby.

www.derbymuseums.org

The Museum of Making

The Museum of Making is a new visitor attraction in the heart of Derby, exploring 300 years of Derbyshire's manufacturing history. On what is widely regarded as the site of the world's first modern factory at Derby Silk Mill and part of the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage site.

Completely designed and put together with the people and industries of Derby, the museum has on display over 30,000 objects, the vast majority of which have not been seen by the public before. It tells the stories of our making past to inspire the modern maker in all of us. The Eagle Engine on display at the new Museum of Making is on long term loan to Derby Museums from the Science Museum.

The Museum of Making has been developed and is operated by Derby Museums, which secured major grant funding from The National Lottery

Heritage Fund (£10,695,000), Arts Council England (£2,739,000) and D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (£3,700,000). Significant support has also been received from Derby City Council, Rolls-Royce and a range of charitable trusts and foundations.

www.derbymuseums.org/museum-of-making