



# NEWS RELEASE

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

**A pargeter, a shoe maker, reverse glass sign makers and a passementerier are the recipients of the latest round of grants awarded to help safeguard some of the UK's most endangered craft skills.**

**Heritage Crafts**, which is currently working on the fourth edition of its groundbreaking **Red List of Endangered Crafts**, has awarded a further five grants from its **Endangered Crafts Fund**, which was launched in 2019 to increase the likelihood of endangered crafts surviving into the next generation.



This round of the Endangered Crafts Fund has been offered with the generous support of the **Pilgrim Trust**. The five successful recipients are:

- **Elizabeth Ashdown**, from London, to enhance her existing practice by learning high-level passementerie skills from expert Clare Hedges.
- **Paul Chamberlain**, from Norfolk, to create short films to support the teaching of the craft of reverse-glass sign making.
- **Michelle Dawson**, from Dorset, to supplement her glass restoration practice by learning high-level reverse-glass sign making skills from David A Smith MBE.
- **Stephanie Firth**, from Derbyshire, to start up a business specialising in handmade bespoke orthopaedic shoes.
- **Anna Kettle**, from Bedfordshire, to create short films to support the teaching of the craft of pargeting.

These five projects follow 42 awarded in previous rounds, covering endangered crafts such as type founding, wallpaper block printing, clockmaking, tinsmithing, kiltmaking and many more.

As usual the fund was oversubscribed, and Heritage Crafts hopes to work with many of the unsuccessful candidates to identify other funding and support opportunities.

Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager **Mary Lewis** said:

*“The pressures facing practitioners of the UK’s most at-risk skills have only been exacerbated by the succession of crises that have included COVID-19, the energy crisis and inflation. These projects will provide future generations with opportunities that they might not otherwise have, to pursue fulfilling careers while safeguarding this important part of our national heritage.”*

Since 2019, the Endangered Crafts Fund has been funded through generous donations from organisations including the **Pilgrim Trust**.

Past funders have included the Dulverton Trust, the Sussex Heritage Trust, the Swire Charitable Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Benefact Trust, and the Prince of Wales’s Charitable Fund, as well as individuals who have donated sums from £5 right up to several thousands of pounds.



Heritage Crafts 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).

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- For press information and photographs, contact **Lottie Whalen**, PR Officer – [lottie@heritagecrafts.org.uk](mailto:lottie@heritagecrafts.org.uk).
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#### **Photo captions:**

- Elizabeth Ashdown, passementerier. All rights reserved.
- Stephanie Firth, shoemaker. All rights reserved.

## **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](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk)

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

The 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 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>

## **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.

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