



HERITAGE
CRAFTS



Sussex Heritage Trust

design for the future,
respect for the past

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 29 March 2023

Heritage Crafts and Sussex Heritage Trust award three new grants to help save endangered crafts from extinction

A block printer, a trainee rake maker and a reverse glass sign artist have been awarded grants to help safeguard some of Sussex's most endangered craft skills.

Heritage Crafts and the **Sussex Heritage Trust (SHT)** have awarded the grants through the Heritage Crafts' Endangered Crafts Fund, which was launched in 2019 to increase the likelihood of endangered crafts surviving into the next generation.

Sarah Burns is a textile block printer and natural dyer from West Sussex. Her craft is founded on the use of seasonal natural dye colours that are foraged from the hedgerows and fields around her – fruitwood prunings in winter, hedgerow cuttings in the spring, fruits and flowers in the summer and warm oak tannins in the autumn. She will use the grant to install two large dye kettles to increase her output and make the business more sustainable whilst upskilling her apprentice.



Kevin Copeland is Woodland Manager at Veterans' Growth, a charity in Westfield, East Sussex, dedicated to helping ex-service personnel who are suffering from mental health issues by offering horticultural therapy and support. Kevin will train in traditional wooden rake making in order to pass these skills on to service users and the wider community. Rakes are useful to the charity, as they hand collect the hay from their meadows, and to others in the area who are interested in farming and managing land in a more traditional and sustainable way.

Eddy Bennett is a reverse glass sign artist from Brighton who uses acid etching to create the distinctive patterns recognisable from Victorian-style advertising signs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His grant will enable him to purchase a plotter to cut vinyl etching stencils and provide custom stencils to other reverse glass sign artists in the region.



In 2021 Heritage Crafts published the third edition of its groundbreaking **Red List of Endangered Crafts**, the first research of its kind to rank the UK's traditional crafts by the likelihood that they will survive into the next generation. The report assessed 244 crafts to ascertain those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which four were classified as extinct, 74 as 'endangered' and a further 56 as 'critically endangered'.

The successful project joins six previous Sussex recipients funded through the partnership between Heritage Crafts and SHT, including a trainee millwright, two flint wallers, a brick maker, a trug maker, a wallpaper maker. Nationally, over 50 projects have been funded through the Endangered Crafts Fund since 2019.

Mary Lewis, Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager, said:

"The current energy crisis means that our craft skills are at more risk than ever before. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Sussex Heritage Trust to address the specific challenges to endangered skills and knowledge in Sussex, a region renowned for its craftsmanship and material heritage."

Simon Knight DL, Chairman of the Sussex Heritage Trust, said:

"Excellent architecture and design, traditional building skills and craftsmanship are an important part of the rich heritage of Sussex. This partnership with Heritage Crafts addresses the particular challenges of these crafts and facilitate the transfer of endangered crafts, building skills and knowledge to the next generation."

For more information about the Endangered Crafts Fund, email Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager Mary Lewis at mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk or SHT General Manager, Helen Reeve at helen.reeve@sussexheritagetrust.org.uk.

ENDS

Contacts:

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

Photo captions:

- Sarah Burns, textile printer. Photo by Alun Calender.
- Eddy Bennett, reverse glass sign artist.

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 Sussex Heritage Trust

The Sussex Heritage Trust (SHT) is a registered charity established in 1977 to preserve, improve and encourage the appreciation of the architectural and natural landscape of Sussex. It does this by recognising and celebrating high quality conservation, restoration and new built projects in Sussex, taking a strategic interest in Sussex building and landscape conservation issues, highlighting, surveying and reporting on Buildings at Risk, working with government agencies, local authorities and community groups on heritage projects, and offering relevant educational opportunities in the conservation building and construction industry, for young people based in Sussex.

www.sussexheritagetrust.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>