



HERITAGE
CRAFTS



Essex
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NEWS RELEASE

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Heritage Crafts and Essex Community Foundation announce new small grant to help endangered crafts in Essex

Heritage Crafts has received funding from Essex Community Foundation to provide a grant of up to £2,000 through the Heritage Crafts' Endangered Crafts Fund, which was launched in 2019 to increase the likelihood of endangered crafts surviving into the next generation.



Heritage Crafts published the fourth edition of its groundbreaking **Red List of Endangered Crafts** in May this year, 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 259 crafts to ascertain those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which four were classified as extinct, 84 as 'endangered' and a further 62 as 'critically endangered'.

As a result of this alarming threat to our cultural heritage, Heritage Crafts set up its Endangered Crafts Fund in 2019. Nationally, 59 grants have been awarded through the Fund since 2019.

Applicants based in Essex can apply for a grant for any amount up to £2,000 which can cover or contribute towards:

- training for yourself to learn a new craft or technique;
- training for an apprentice so that you can pass on skills and knowledge;
- investing in more efficient tools and machinery;
- developing reduced-carbon routes to market;
- exploring the use of alternative materials while maintaining the heritage character of your practice; or

- innovative approaches to supporting and promoting endangered crafts.

Only crafts listed as endangered or critically endangered on the 2023 edition of the *Red List of Endangered Crafts* are eligible. In addition to the funding you will also receive support from the Endangered Crafts Manager and the Heritage Crafts team to ensure that your project is a success. This will be unique to your project but it could include mentor support, business support or signposting to other opportunities.

Mary Lewis, Endangered Crafts Manager at Heritage Crafts, said:

“A combination of COVID, Brexit restrictions and spiralling energy costs have put additional pressure on the craftspeople who nurture some of our most important cultural traditions and skills. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Essex Community Foundation to address the specific challenges to endangered skills and knowledge in Essex.”

Andy Payne Worpole, Head of Programmes at Essex Community Foundation, said:

“Ensuring these traditional crafts are not lost forever is so important. We hope this funding will encourage applications from individuals who want to develop their skills or learn a new craft and where finance is the barrier to them achieving their goals.”

The fund is now open for applications via the Heritage Crafts website at www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/ecf-apply, with a closing date of Friday 6 October 2023. In addition to the Essex grant there are also grants available in the rest of the UK.

For more information about the Endangered Crafts Fund, email Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager Mary Lewis at mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk or the Grants Team at Essex Community Foundation grants@essexcf.org.uk.

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Contacts:

- For information about the Endangered Crafts Fund, contact **Mary Lewis**, Endangered Crafts Manager – mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

Photo caption:

- Passementerie by previous grant recipient Elizabeth Ashdown.

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 Essex Community Foundation

The Essex Community Foundation is an independent charitable trust established in 1996 by local businessman Ian Marks CBE DL and his wife Angela. It provides grants to charities and voluntary organisations in Essex by working with individuals, families, businesses and charitable trusts, helping them to fund local groups that are tackling the issues they care about most.

www.essexcommunityfoundation.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 2023 edition of the Red List, funded by the Pilgrim Trust, assessed 259 crafts to identify those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which 62 were classified as critically endangered, 84 as endangered and 112 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>