

# NEWS RELEASE

Monday 9 October 2023

## Heritage Crafts awards four new training bursaries for young people facing financial hardship

**Heritage Crafts is delighted to award four new bursaries for young trainees to learn heritage craft skills, supported by the Principality Building Society's Future Generations Fund, the Arts Society and DCA Consulting.**

These follow previous bursaries supported by DCA Consulting and the Arts Society, and are the first to be provided with the support of the Principality Building Society's Future Generations Fund. They are intended to support heritage crafts trainees aged 25 and under who are unable to meet the cost of their training, as the UK continues to deal with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

**Abby Gray**, originally from rural Galloway and now based in Glasgow, participated in a trainee programme in the costume department of an independent feature film in 2021. She had no prior professional experience, but as a result realised that university wasn't the right path for her and that she wanted to pursue a career in bespoke tailoring. Her bursary will allow her to undertake an apprenticeship with renowned tailor and dressmaker Alis Le May. In the future she would like to run her own business focusing on creating bespoke clothing for people who feel that they aren't catered for.



**Logan Beckford-China**, aged 16, is based in Cornwall and passionate about supporting the critically endangered craft of Cornish hedging, having been introduced to the craft through Heritage Crafts' Pre-apprenticeship Project earlier this year. Logan intends to undertake 40 days training under the auspices of the newly-formed Cornwall Rural



Education and Skills Trust (CREST) while studying in the evenings for his GCSE in Environmental Management. He intends to work as a freelance Cornish hedger, the first of a new generation that will ensure the future of this centuries-old craft.

**Barney Murray** is a Denbighshire-based early-career drystone waller who took up the craft after deciding that he preferred being outdoors than studying at college. His bursary will allow him to undertake the extremely rigorous and notoriously challenging Drystone Walling Association's Master Craftsman certification scheme, under the mentorship of master waller Andy Loudon. In the future he intends to take on an apprentice of his own, replicating his own training path.



**Bodhi King**, based in Pembrokeshire, took up blacksmithing after attending a private week-long course last year in mid Wales. After experiencing homelessness he has spent the last few years building a more financially stable life for him and his son. His bursary will allow him to undertake a number of specialised courses focusing on traditional and heritage blacksmithing. He intends to operate as an independent blacksmith, doing smaller local jobs whilst developing his skillset and portfolio to do larger heritage and architectural work.



**The Arts Society** is a leading arts education charity with a global network of local societies which bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. Its belief that the arts have the potential to enrich peoples' lives is at the heart of everything it does.

**DCA Consulting** is a Birmingham based culture, creativity and regeneration consultancy and project development company working on arts, creative industries, media, heritage, regeneration and broader economic development projects.

The **Principality Building Society's Future Generations Fund** is a Wales-wide fund set up in partnership with Principality Building Society with the aim of having a positive impact on society and the lives of young people in Wales.

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

*“We are thrilled to be partnership with the Principality Building Society’s Future Generations Fund, the Arts Society and DCA Consulting to help young people facing financial hardship to develop their skills and careers in viable heritage crafts. We are very excited so see the emergence of a new generation of heritage craftspeople.”*

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**Contacts:**

- For more information contact **Tess Osman**, Grants and Awards Officer – [tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk](mailto:tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk).

**Photo caption:**

- Abby Gray, tailor
- Logan Beckford-China, Cornish hedger
- Barney Murray, drystone waller (photo by Erin Lloyd)
- Bodhi King, blacksmith

**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 Arts Society**

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<https://theartsociety.org>

### **About the Principality Building Society's Future Generations Fund**

The Principality Building Society's Future Generations Fund is a Wales-wide fund set up in partnership with Principality Building Society with the aim of having a positive impact on society and the lives of young people in Wales.

<https://communityfoundationwales.org.uk/grants/the-principality-building-societys-future-generations-fund>

### **About DCA Consulting**

DCA is a Birmingham based culture, creativity and regeneration consultancy and project development company working on arts, creative industries, media, heritage, regeneration and broader economic development projects.

[www.dca-consultants.com](http://www.dca-consultants.com)