

NEWS RELEASE

Monday 27 November 2023

Heritage Crafts awards nine more grants to help save endangered crafts from extinction

A thatching spar maker, a pigment maker, and a boatbuilder are among the recipients of a new round of grants to help safeguard some of UK's most endangered craft skills.

Heritage Crafts has awarded the grants through its Endangered Crafts Fund, which was launched in 2019 to increase the likelihood of at-risk craft skills surviving into the next generation. Six of this round's grants are funded by the **Sussex Heritage Trust**, the **Ashley Family Foundation** for Wales, and the **Essex Community Foundation** and were ring fenced for crafts practitioners within those areas.



In May this year Heritage Crafts published the fourth 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 259 crafts to ascertain those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which 84 were classified as 'endangered' and a further 62 as 'critically endangered'.

The nine successful recipients are:

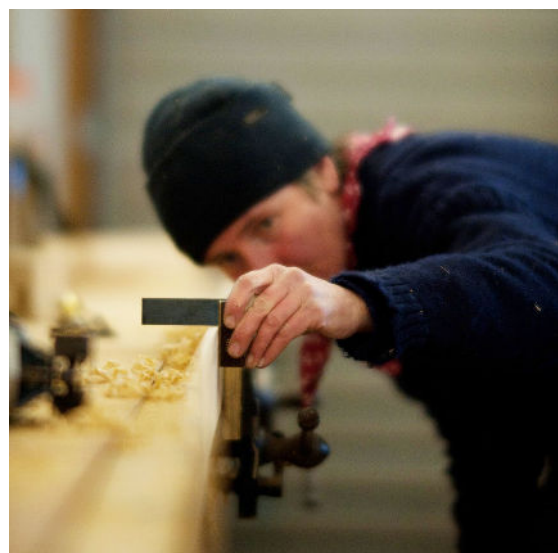
- **Andy Basham** from Essex, for himself and others to learn to make thatching spars from the last spar maker in East Anglia, and equip himself for production from his hazel coppice.
- **Will Holland** from Carmarthenshire, to develop his arrowsmithing skills and master the reproduction of historically forged arrow heads, and to teach the craft to others.

- **Charlotte Kenward** from West Sussex, to train and equip herself to offer traditional reverse gilded house numbers and signage to heritage properties.
- **Lucy Mayes** from London, to purchase equipment to produce a range of innovative and sustainable pigments from processing construction waste.
- **Gail McGarva** and the team at Building Futures Galloway, to equip a community workshop on the Solway Firth with tools needed to teach young people traditional wooden boatbuilding.
- **Rob Shaw** and team, from North Yorkshire, to equip the new coach trimming workshop of Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway, offering a space to train more of their volunteers.
- **Travis Smith** from Hampshire, to train in hand hewing of timber and apply his skills to the restoration and reconstruction of historical building and the construction of new ones.
- **Stephanie Turnbull** from Newport, to trial the use of alternative types of limestone and other stone substrates for lithographic printing, and to publish her findings.
- **Jessie Watson-Brown, Matthew Bailey** and **Jamey Rhind-Tutt** from Devon, to equip a new tannery to produce traditional bark-tanned leather from wild deer skins.



These nine projects follow 57 others awarded in previous rounds, covering endangered crafts such as coppersmithing, Highland thatching, sailmaking and many more. Previous funders have included **The Radcliffe Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, The Dulverton Trust, The Swire Charitable Trust** and others, as well as individuals who have donated sums from £5 right up to several thousands of pounds.

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.



Mary Lewis, Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager, said:

“The survival of endangered craft skills relies on the people who make a positive choice to learn, make and teach these crafts. These projects will provide future generations with opportunities that they might not otherwise have, to become productive and healthy members of our shared craft community and to safeguard this important part of our national heritage.”

For more information about the Endangered Crafts Fund, email Heritage Crafts Grants and Awards Officer Tess Osman at tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

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Contacts:

- For more information and photographs, contact **Tess Osman**, Grants and Awards Officer – tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

Photo captions:

- Andy Basham, coppice worker and thatching spar maker
- Lucy Mayes, pigment maker
- Gail McGarva, boatbuilder

About Heritage Crafts

Founded in 2009, Heritage Crafts is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered as the ‘Heritage Crafts Association’, the national charity 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 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 are 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>