



NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Gail McGarva wins fifth annual *President's Award for Endangered Crafts* supported by the King Charles III Charitable Fund

Dumfries and Galloway boatbuilder Gail McGarva BEM has won the fifth annual *President's Award for Endangered Crafts* supported by the King Charles III Charitable Fund, including a £3,000 prize awarded at a special presentation at Eltham Palace on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

Heritage Crafts was set up 14 years ago as a national charity to support and safeguard heritage crafts skills, and has become well known for its *Red List of Endangered Crafts*, the first research of its kind to rank traditional crafts in the UK by the likelihood they will survive the next generation.



The *President's Award* celebrates an experienced practitioner who has gone to great lengths to ensure the continuation of their at-risk skills for the benefit of the next generation. The award of £3,000 is funded by the **King Charles III Charitable Fund** and the winner is selected by Heritage Crafts Patron His Majesty the King from the three finalists.

Gail McGarva BEM is a builder of boats, teller of stories and keeper of memories. As a traditional wooden boat-builder, she is passionate about preserving working boats in danger of extinction. Her specialism is the building of replicas or as she prefers to call them 'daughter boats', breathing life into a new generation of these traditional craft. Gail plans to

use the funds to build a traditionally-constructed St Ayles Skiff and pass on the skills to the next generation through the process of the build.

The first runner-up was **Sally Morrison**, who specialises in engraving and enamelling watch dials at the watch company anOrdain. Her interest in champleé enamelling, the art of applying translucent enamel over a usually textured and precious metal background, has made her the best of a very small and elite group of crafts-people working in this field. Sally received the

Patricia Lovett Award, a £1,000 award for second place, donated by former Heritage Crafts Chair **Patricia Lovett MBE**.



The second runner-up was **Donna Campbell**, a linen damask weaver at the Irish Linen Centre in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, who weaves damask cloth using a centuries-old process transferring designs via punch cards onto a Jacquard loom.

For a second year running Heritage Crafts commissioned reverse glass gilder and Endangered Crafts Fund recipient **Eddy Bennett** to make the trophy for this year's winner using an array of reverse-glass techniques.

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Contacts:

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

Photo captions:

- **Gail McGarva BEM**, boatbuilder winner of the 2024 *President's Award for Endangered Crafts*, and **David Clarke**, Heritage Crafts Chair. Photo by Robert Wade.
- **Gail McGarva BEM**, boatbuilder winner of the 2024 *President's Award for Endangered Crafts*.

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 *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 have been 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>