

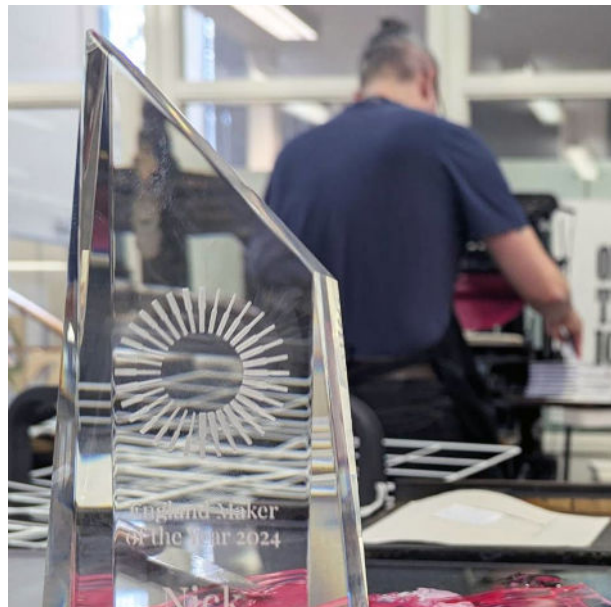


NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2024

York typecaster and letterpress printer wins inaugural Heritage Crafts *England Maker of the Year Award* supported by the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation

Typecaster and letterpress printer Nick Gill has won this year's inaugural *England Maker of the Year Award*, supported by the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, including a £1,000 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 award, supported by the **Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation**, celebrates a heritage craftsman in England who has made an outstanding contribution to their craft within the previous year. It recognises a contribution that is far beyond the ordinary, either in pushing their craft to new levels, contributing to its promotion or continuation in an exceptional way.

Nick Gill has cast type for a wide range of prestigious clients, published eight well-received letterpress books, and printed presentation volumes for the University of York's new Chancellor and for HM King Charles. He is a passionate advocate for the endangered crafts of type casting and letterpress printing; his commitment to quality and attention to detail also make him an exceptional teacher who has made a very significant contribution to preserving these crafts.

The two other finalists for the award were **Phill Gregson**, who trained as an apprentice wheelwright with his family and qualified through Hereford College of Technology in 2003, since when he has been made a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights and Master Wheelwright, and **Riina Öun**, who has been a leather accessories maker specialising in leather gloves for over 20 years, since she learned the craft during her degree back in 2003. Recognising the endangered status of glove making, she has been teaching workshops internationally since 2017.

The **Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation** supports innovative people working in field-based science, art and craft, teaching and protection of the natural world.

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Photo captions:

- **Nick Gill**, winner of the 2024 *England Maker of the Year Award*.

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>