

Awards nomination questions

2026

For reference only – please apply via

<https://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/opportunities/awards/>

If you wish to submit a nomination by video or audio format, please answer these questions below and email the file to: rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk (The length should be no more than 15 minutes.)

The Heritage Crafts Awards, established in 2012, celebrate and highlight the traditional living crafts made in the UK that contribute to our national heritage, such as silversmithing, woodworking, dressmaking and tailoring, leatherworking, pottery, building crafts, upholstery, weaving, embroidery and similar other crafts where there is a significant degree of hand skill at the point of manufacture.

We are indebted to our partner organisations for providing funding to allow us to present a unique suite of awards and bursaries specifically for traditional crafts.

You can use this document to help collate your responses before submitting your nomination online.

2026 Awards:

- Makers of the Year: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and UK (questions 25-30)
 - Fashion and Textile Maker of the Year
 - Precious Metalworker of the Year
 - Woodworker of the Year
- Emerging Makers of the Year (questions 31-36)
 - Emerging Building Craftsperson of the Year
 - Emerging Embroiderer of the Year
 - Emerging Greenwood Worker of the Year
 - Emerging Leatherworker of the Year
 - Emerging Metalworker of the Year
 - Emerging Stained Glass Maker of the Year
 - Emerging Upholsterer of the Year
 - Emerging Weaver of the Year
- Trainer of the Year (questions 37-44)
- Trainee of the Year (questions 45-54)
- Community Catalyst of the Year (questions 55-58)
- Lifetime Achievement Award (questions 59-63)
- Environmental Sustainability Award (questions 64-69)
- Patron's Award for Endangered Craft (questions 70 -75)

Nomination form

Applying for a Heritage Crafts Award is free. Nominees can be any age. Applicants may nominate themselves, or can be nominated by others.

Please check the website to see when applications both open and close:

<https://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/opportunities/awards/>

If you have any questions or need assistance with the application process, please email Rae Weaver at rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk

** Indicates required question*

The nominator

1. If you have applied to Heritage Crafts previously, what was it for and when?

2. Are you, or the person you are nominating, a Heritage Crafts member? *

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

3. Are you nominating yourself or someone else? *

- Myself (skip to question 12)
- Someone else

Details of person making the nomination, i.e. the details of the person completing this form

4. Your first name *

5. Your last name *

6. Your business or organisation (if applicable)

7. Your role at organisation (if applicable)

8. Does the person you are nominating know you are putting them forward for the award(s)? *

- Yes (we will keep them updated on their application)
- No (we will keep their nomination a secret unless they are selected as a finalist)

The following details will be used to correspond about the award(s):

9. Email address *

10. Phone number

11. Can we add your details to our mailing list? *

- Yes
- No

We will only use this information to keep you updated about the work of Heritage Crafts, in accordance with our privacy policy. Heritage Crafts does not pass on contact details to any other individual or organisation.

The nominee

Details of the person being proposed for the award(s)

12. First name *

13. Last name *

14. Craft *

15. Business or organisation (if applicable)

16. Role at organisation (if applicable)

17. Website/ social media (if applicable)

18. Address, including postcode *

19. Email address *

20. Phone number *

21. Postcode (we need this to help us understand where across the UK our award opportunities are reaching)

22. Date of birth *

23. Ethnicity *

- Asian or Asian British
- Black, Black British, Caribbean, African Arab or Latin American
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
- White
- Don't know or prefer not to say
- Other:

24. Disability *

- No
- Yes, limited a little
- Yes, limited a lot
- Don't know or prefer not to say

Makers of the Year

These Heritage Crafts Awards are to recognise a heritage craftsperson who has made an outstanding contribution to their specific craft within the previous 12 months (since 1 March 2025). This award will recognise 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. We expect this to be someone who demonstrates the highest level of craft skill and is held in high regard amongst their peers, but it need not be the most glamorous or high-end craft; we promote the simple, humble crafts too.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'maker' please answer the questions about yourself.

25. For which of you the following awards would you like your maker to be considered? Feel free to pick more than one:

Makers of the Year:

- England Maker of the Year
- Northern Ireland Maker of the Year
- Wales Maker of the Year
- Scotland Maker of the Year
- Fashion and Textile Maker of the Year
- Precious Metalworker of the Year
- Woodworker of the Year

Emerging Makers of the Year:

- Emerging Building Craftsperson of the Year
- Emerging Embroiderer of the Year
- Emerging Greenwood Worker of the Year
- Emerging Leatherworker of the Year
- Emerging Metalworker of the Year
- Emerging Stained Glass Maker of the Year
- Emerging Upholsterer of the Year
- Emerging Weaver of the Year
- Trainer of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Community Catalyst of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Environmental Sustainability Award

26. Please provide evidence of the maker's excellence of standard of craft, such as awards, accolades, notable commissions etc. (250 words max) *

27. Does the maker also teach their craft? Please give brief details (250 words max) *

28. Please explain how the maker's work has demonstrated excellence in the past 12 months (250 words max) *

29. Please explain how the maker's work has demonstrated excellence over an extended period of time (250 words max) *

30. Please explain how the maker's work has helped to further the craft and/or safeguard craft skills (250 words max) *

Emerging Makers of the Year

These awards celebrates an early-career heritage craftsperson (in the first 5 years of their professional practice) who has made an outstanding start to their craft career. The award

winner will be highly skilled amongst their peers, whilst raising the perceived value of their craft through sharing and awareness raising. They will have given themselves a fantastic chance of achieving long-term success, perhaps overcoming disadvantage or setbacks along the way.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'maker' please answer the questions about yourself.

31. For which of you the following awards would you like your maker to be considered? Feel free to pick more than one.

- Emerging Embroiderer of the Year
- Emerging Greenwood Worker of the Year
- Emerging Leatherworker of the Year
- Emerging Metalworker of the Year
- Emerging Stained Glass Maker of the Year
- Emerging Upholsterer of the Year
- Emerging Weaver of the Year

32. How long has the maker been practising their craft? *

33. Please give a brief description of the training/ learning undertaken by the maker (250 words max) *

34. Please provide evidence of the maker's high standard of craft, such as any prizes, reviews or endorsements from experienced craftspeople (250 words max) *

35. Please give a brief description of what makes the maker exceptional (250 words max) *

36. Please give a brief description of what the maker intends to do in future (350 words max) *

Trainer of the Year

One of Heritage Crafts' key aims is to ensure that traditional crafts skills of the highest standard are passed from one generation to the next. The enthusiasm, knowledge and experience of key individuals can really influence the number and quality of skilled craftspeople in the UK. Broadly classified as 'trainer', the award winner could be anything from a teacher, tutor, workshop leader, master or simply a craftsperson who offers one-to-one advice. The trainer might give anything from taster sessions for beginners to masterclasses for professionals.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'maker' please answer the questions about yourself.

37. Approximately how many years has the trainer been practising their chosen craft? *
38. Approximately how many years has the trainer been teaching? *
39. Over this period, approximately how many people has the trainer taught in total? An estimate is fine. *
40. Please give a brief description of the trainer's previous experience (250 words max) *
41. Please give a brief description of training currently given by the trainer (250 words max)*
42. Please give a brief description of how the trainer shows a dedication to their craft (250 words max) *
43. Please give a brief description of how the trainer has an impact on safeguarding traditional craft skills (250 words max) *
44. Please give examples of what previous trainees are doing now (250 words max) *

Trainee of the Year

Heritage Crafts aims to ensure that traditional craft skills survive into the future, and this requires a regular intake of enthusiastic and dedicated new entrants. Identifying and recruiting the right trainee can make the difference to the continuation of heritage craft businesses and in some cases crafts themselves. Broadly classified as 'trainee', the award winner could be on a formal apprenticeship scheme, a less formal traineeship, an institution-based course with a high degree of practical training, or even be pursuing 'portfolio-style' training comprising of short-courses and workshops, as long as training has formed a significant part of at least twelve months prior to applying.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'trainee' please answer the questions about yourself.

45. Approximately how long has the trainee been learning their chosen craft? *
46. Please give a brief description of training currently received by the trainee *
47. Is the trainee pursuing a particular qualification? (if so please specify) *
48. Where is the training taking place? *
49. Is the trainee currently paying for tuition? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
50. Is the trainee currently a paid employee? *
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know
51. Please give a brief description of the trainee's previous experience and work history prior to training *

52. Please give a brief description of what makes the trainee exceptional *
53. Please give a brief description of how the trainee will have an impact on the safeguarding of traditional craft skills *
54. Please give a brief description of what the trainee intends to do in future *

Community Catalyst of the Year

The Community Catalyst of the Year award is awarded to someone who goes above-and-beyond to promote the benefits of craft within their community, whether that be a local community or a community of interest. Typically, they will be committed to widening participation, and their way of working will create a groundswell of enthusiasm that brings others along with them.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'maker' please answer the questions about yourself.

55. Please describe what the nominee has done in the past year to promote the broad benefits of heritage crafts in their local community or 'community of interest' (250 words max) *
56. Heritage crafts often face challenges in reaching diverse audiences. How has the nominee actively identified and addressed barriers to participation, ensuring that they include under-represented groups? (250 words max) *
57. Community Catalysts spark enthusiasm that motivates others. Share an example where the nominee's actions have directly inspired individuals or organisations to advocate for, practice, or support heritage crafts. (250 words max) *
58. What long-term changes have come about as a result of the nominee's intervention? How are they ensuring these changes continue to grow and remain relevant for future generations? (250 words max) *

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is to recognise a heritage craftsperson who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to their specific craft over 25 years or more. It will recognise a lifetime's dedication to a particular traditional skill, resulting in a practitioner operating at the highest level, having made a significant impact on the continued high-esteem in which their craft is held. We expect this to be someone who makes excellent work and has done for a long time, as well as being held in the highest regard amongst their craft peers, but it need not be the most glamorous or high-end craft; we promote the simple, humble crafts too.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'maker' please answer the questions about yourself.

59. How many years has this maker been practicing their craft? We expect most Lifetime Achievement Award recipients to have been practicing their craft for at least 25 years. *
60. Please provide evidence of the maker's excellence of standard of craft, such as fellowship of a craft organisation, awards, accolades etc (250 words max) *
61. Please provide a description how the maker's work has demonstrated excellence over an extended period of time (250 words max) *
62. Has the maker also taught their craft? Please give brief details (250 words max) *
63. Please explain how the maker's work has helped to further the craft and/or safeguard craft skills (250 words max) *

Environmental Sustainability Awards

Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) and Heritage Crafts will award two £1,000 prizes as part of their Environmental Sustainability Award, open to any craftsperson or micro-business, working with traditional craft skills or materials, who has improved their environmental sustainability within the last 12 months.

The two prizes will each honour a distinct aspect of environmental stewardship. One will be given to a craftsperson or microbusiness demonstrating an innovative approach to environmental sustainability, rarely before seen, that can act as inspiration for others to explore new ways of thinking and working. The recipient of this prize will have pioneered a truly innovative solution, technique, or process that challenges conventional wisdom and inspires others to explore new horizons in sustainable craftsmanship.

The other prize recognises the achievements of a craftsperson or microbusiness that has made substantial and measurable progress in transforming the environmental impact of their craft business through a series of incremental changes and improvements. The recipient of this prize will have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to sustainability by implementing practical initiatives that reduce waste, conserve resources, and mitigate environmental harm over time.

If you are completing this form on your own behalf, where it refers to 'maker' please answer the questions about yourself.

64. Is your nomination for (please see award description for more details): *
- an innovative approach to environmental sustainability
 - incremental changes and improvements
65. Are you, or the person you are nominating, a QEST Alumnus?*
- Yes

- No
- Don't know

66. Please introduce yourself as a maker and tell us about the key achievements in your career (300 words max) *

67. Please explain what you have done to (a) innovate or to (b) be more efficient in the past 12 months (300 words max) *

68. How is this having a positive impact on the environment? Please include evidence such as carbon footprint, energy consumption and financial impact – feel free to include hyperlinks or submit supporting documents (300 words max) *

69. What is the wider or longer-term impact of your approach? (300 words max)*

Patron's Award for Endangered Craft

This grant of £3,000, supported by Heritage Crafts' Patron His Majesty The King, will be awarded to an esteemed practitioner of endangered crafts whose proposal makes the best use of the funds to secure the survival of that craft.

Eligible crafts are those categorised as 'endangered' and 'critically endangered' in the The Red List of Endangered Crafts 2025 edition. (Please note that for the purposes of this grant, the only eligible crafts are those listed. The list of eligible crafts may be amended in future years in the light of more research.)

Eligible applications will be carefully assessed and scored by a high profile, specially selected judging panel, made up of sector and specialists in their craft. The three applications with the highest combined scores will be put forward for consideration by HM The King who will select the winner of the Patron's Award 2026.

(This category can only be chosen and completed by the maker, not the nominator.)

70. Please give a brief description of your current craft work (250 words max) *

71. Please provide evidence of the standard of your work (250 words max) *

72. Do you also teach your craft? Please give brief details (250 words max) *

Proposal for Patron's Award for Endangered Craft

73. What do you plan to use the £3,000 grant for? (350 words max) *

74. Please explain how your proposal will help secure the survival of your craft (350 words max) *

The information contained in this Patron's Award project plan is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. As a recipient of this grant:

- I undertake to keep the Grants and Awards Officer fully and immediately informed of all

developments connected with this project

- I agree to use the grant only for the purposes listed above
- I will complete a breakdown of purchases made for the grant within the Spending Log.
- I will be able to present all receipts/proof of purchases for items and costs associated with this grant to Heritage Crafts if requested.
- If requested, I understand that I am liable for costs if accurate receipts are not supplied to Heritage Crafts for purchases made as part of the project
- I will share updates on progress of my project at key points
- I will accept (by prior appointment) a visit from Heritage Crafts staff
- I agree to images and testimonials shared being used by Heritage Crafts and any dedicated funder who has specifically supported your grant.
- I will cooperate (where possible) with any Heritage Crafts publicity requests
- I agree to the terms and conditions noted within this project plan
- I agree to adhere to Heritage Crafts' Safe Working Practices, including the Code of Conduct and Expected Behaviour, throughout this project

75. I agree *

Referee

Please give details of a referee in support of this proposal. Referees can be the head of a relevant organisation, chair of the appropriate craft society, eminent craftspeople, members or employees of the maker's organisation, apprentices/trainees or people who have benefited from the maker's work. The referee may be contacted as part of the assessment of applications.

70. Title *

71. First name *

72. Last name *

73. Business or organisation (if applicable)

74. Role at organisation (if applicable)

75. Email address *

76. Phone number *

77. Relationship to maker *

Images

Please send in four images of the work of the maker – ideally including images of them at work. Please provide the images as jpeg files, no larger than 10MB per image. Label all the images with the maker's surname and the numbers 1 to 4 to correspond with details provided here (e.g. Bloggs1):

78. Image upload

If you have any difficulties uploading your images, you send to rae@heritagecrafts.org.uk

79. Permission – I own the copyright (or have authorisation from the copyright owner) and give permission for Heritage Crafts and the awards funder to use the attached images in print and online. *

- I agree

Declaration

The information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

80. Signed*

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