



Heritage Crafts Association

# Heritage Crafts Association

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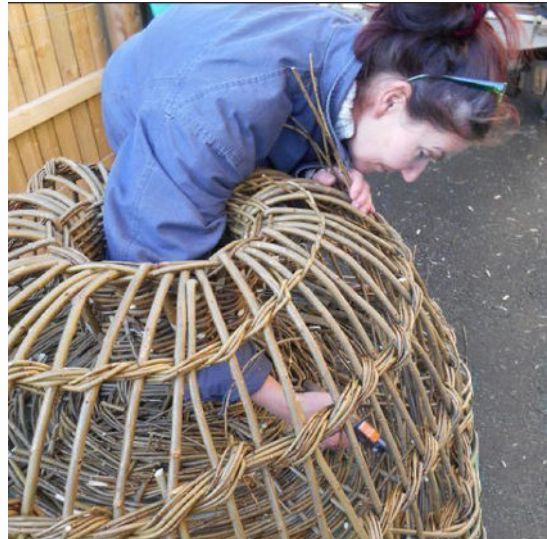
## NEWS RELEASE

Monday 5 October 2020

### Five new grants awarded to help save endangered crafts from extinction

A coppersmith, a withy pot maker and a disappearing fore-edge painter are among the recipients of the latest round of grants awarded to help safeguard some of the UK's most endangered craft skills.

The **Heritage Crafts Association (HCA)**, which has begun work on the third edition of its groundbreaking ***HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts***, has awarded a further five grants from its Endangered Crafts Fund, which was launched in 2019 to increase the likelihood of endangered crafts surviving into the next generation.



This round of the HCA Endangered Crafts Fund has been offered with support from **Allchurches Trust** and the **Swire Trust**. The five successful recipients are:

- **Lizzy Hughes**, from London, to develop her coppersmithing skills to include joinery, so that she's able to make objects constructed from multiple parts such as buckets, watering cans and funnels, and to teach the craft.
- **Sarah Ready**, from Devon, to develop her practice as a withy pot maker, producing pots for her son to fish with off the Devon coast, and to document the craft.
- **Gillian Stewart**, from Glasgow, to expand her bookbinding practice by training as a disappearing fore-edge painter, and to teach the craft.

*Supporting and promoting heritage crafts as a fundamental part of our living heritage.*

[www.heritagecrafts.org.uk](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk)

The Heritage Crafts Association is registered with the Charity Commission as Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1159208

- **Alex Ward**, from Shetland, to develop his furniture making business to incorporate the production of moulding planes for fine furniture making, and to teach the craft of plane making to his two sons.
- **Lois Walpole**, from Shetland, to publish a book on the critically endangered craft of kishie basket making.

These five projects follow 13 awarded in previous rounds, covering endangered crafts such as scissor making, sail making, damask weaving, boot tree making, cockle basket making, folding knife making, neon bending, coracle making, fan making and swill basket making.



As usual the fund was oversubscribed, and this was only compounded by the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sole traders and micro-businesses that make up the heritage crafts sector. The HCA hopes to work with many of the unsuccessful candidates to identify other funding and support opportunities.

HCA Endangered Crafts Officer Mary Lewis said:

*“No-one could have anticipated the impact of COVID-19 at the beginning of this year, not only on craft businesses, whose selling, teaching and supply chains have been curtailed, but on the craft skills themselves, many of which were on the brink even before the pandemic hit. We passionately believe that these skills have lots to offer a post-COVID future, as productive and fulfilling tools with which to rebuild a sustainable economy.”*

The Endangered Crafts Fund has been funded through generous donations from organisations including **Allchurches Trust**, **The Swire Charitable Trust** and **The Radcliffe Trust**, as well as individuals who have donated sums from £5 right up to several thousands of pounds.

Paul Playford, who heads up the heritage grants programme at Allchurches Trust, said:

*“We hope that our funding will help enable these talented craftspeople to further develop their skills, as well as to hand them down to future generations and share their craft with new audiences; potentially opening doors to new funding opportunities in these challenging times. We feel privileged to play our part in telling their story, raising awareness of ancient practices that are so important to preserve for future generations and hopefully inspiring others to follow their lead.”*

The HCA continues to seek further donations to save even more of Britain's most endangered crafts from oblivion. Donations are welcome at any time – for more information visit [www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/ecf](http://www.heritagecrafts.org.uk/ecf).

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#### **Contacts:**

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- For information about the Endangered Crafts Fund, contact **Mary Lewis**, Endangered Crafts Officer – [mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk](mailto:mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk).

#### **Photo captions:**

- Moulding plane. Photo copyright Alex Ward.
- Withy pot maker Sarah Ready. Photo by Sarah Ready.

#### **About the Heritage Crafts Association**

Founded in 2009, the Heritage Crafts Association (HCA) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), 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 HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts**

The HCA Red List of Endangered Crafts, created by the Heritage Crafts Association, was the first to rank traditional crafts in the UK by the likelihood they would survive the next generation. The 2019 edition of the Red List assessed 213 crafts to identify those which are at greatest risk of disappearing, of which four have been classified as extinct, 36 as critically endangered, 71 as endangered and 102 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. The HCA 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>

### **About Allchurches Trust**

Allchurches Trust is one of the UK's largest grant-making charities and gave more than £17.8 million to churches and charities in 2019. Allchurches' funds come from its ownership of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. Visit the website [www.allchurchestrust.co.uk](http://www.allchurchestrust.co.uk) for more information.

[www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk)

### **About the Swire Charitable Trust**

The Swire Charitable Trust is an independent UK grant-making trust. Since 1975 it has supported a wide range of charities that share its commitment to delivering positive and lasting change to UK society. It receives its funding from John Swire & Sons Ltd, the parent company of the Swire Group.

[www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk](http://www.swirecharitabletrust.org.uk)