



# NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2024

## **Cardiff maille maker wins inaugural Heritage Crafts Wales Maker of the Year Award supported by Silverlining**

**Maille maker Phil Parkes has won this year's inaugural Wales Maker of the Year Award, supported by Silverlining, 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 **Silverlining**, celebrates a heritage craftsperson in Wales 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.

**Phil Parkes** is an accredited conservator with over 30 years' experience. Since 2018 he has been studying maille (sometimes known as 'chain mail') and working to disseminate understanding of this endangered craft. In this relatively short time, he has become recognised for his incredible skill, and recently completed a piece of 15th century style maille for a researcher in Australia to study the effects of different types of arrowheads against maille armour.

The two other finalists for the award were **Ian Dennis**, an antler worker whose work with Guerrilla Archaeology to reinvigorate this lost craft has seen him recreate complex antler items recovered from historic sites in Scotland, and **Mari Thomas**, a jewellery maker who has received commissions from leading cultural institutions such as the Welsh Assembly Government, National Eisteddfod of Wales and the National Library of Wales.



Founded in 1985, **Silverlining** has built a reputation for innovation and excellence at its base in Wrexham, blending traditional hand skills with cutting-edge techniques to make one-of-a-kind furniture that is known for creativity and performance.

ENDS

#### **Contacts:**

- For press information and photographs, contact **Tess Osman**, Grants and Awards Officer – [tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk](mailto:tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk).

#### **Photo captions:**

- **Phil Parkes**, winner of the 2024 *Wales Maker of the Year Award*, and **Mark Boddington**, Founder of Silverlining. Photo by Robert Wade.
- **Phil Parkes**, winner of the 2024 *Wales Maker of the Year Award*, and **Mark Boddington**, Founder of Silverlining. Photo by Dewi Tannat Lloyd.

#### **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](http://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>