



NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Huddersfield corset maker wins Heritage Crafts *Trainer of the Year Award* supported by the Marsh Charitable Trust

Emma Brackenbury has won the 2024 Heritage Crafts *Trainer of the Year Award*, supported by the Marsh Charitable Trust, 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 **Marsh Charitable Trust**, celebrates for those who have gone above-and-beyond in the last twelve months to pass their craft skills on to a new generation of makers.

Emma Brackenbury spent the first eight years of her career working as a costume maker in film, with credits including *Fantastic Beasts*, *Artemis Fowl* and *Jurassic World*. In 2023, she set up the *Corsetry Retreat*, a residential course held over several days in which she and other guest tutors coach attendees through the creation of a made-to-measure corset or set of stays. The course has proved to be immensely popular over the last two years and students have gone on to work in costuming for TV, film, theatre, opera and ballet.

The other three finalists for this year's award were **Derek Hunt**, who teaches stained glass in-person and online, including free tutorials, interviews, and inspirational videos to over 33,000 social media subscribers, **Lynn Mathias**, who has over 30 years' experience in the repair and restoration of historic buildings, playing a critical role in keeping centuries-old skills and techniques alive among younger generations, and **Harriet Page**, who has been employed as the Bristol Upholstery Collective's lead tutor in 2018, since when she has trained a team of four fellow tutors and six cohorts of students.

The **Marsh Charitable Trust** runs a portfolio of awards with a number of nationally and internationally recognised partners to celebrate the outstanding contributions of people who are committed to social, cultural and environmental causes.

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Contacts:

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

Photo captions:

- **Emma Brackenbury**, winner of the 2024 *Trainer 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>