

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER NAMES HISTORIC ENGLAND ANGEL AWARD WINNERS

- **Ex-soldiers excavating a Spitfire crash site, a construction supervisor at Dudley Zoo, a young man saving a derelict hospital, a couple helping to regenerate Goole, a local trust restoring Clevedon Pier and a charity helping to maintain a conservation area are all celebrated as winners -**
- **Judges are: Andrew Lloyd Webber, ceramics manufacturer Emma Bridgewater, TV's Restoration Man George Clarke, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, historian Bettany Hughes and Historic England's chief executive Duncan Wilson.**
- **Celebrity presenters include: TV journalist and news presenter Fiona Bruce, Art Historian Philip Mould and English actor, novelist and screenwriter Julian Fellowes**

Images: <https://goo.gl/photos/owfozoVJoTTnDvNX9>

Andrew Lloyd Webber joined Historic England last night to announce the winners of this year's Angel Awards. The awards, presented with fellow judge Bettany Hughes, are a celebration of the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to save our heritage. The ceremony featured a special appearance by Julian Fellowes, the writer and executive producer of 'Downton Abbey' who was there to present the People's Favourite Award.

Special appearances were also made by TV journalist and news presenter Fiona Bruce and Art Historian Philip Mould who presented awards at the glittering ceremony at The Palace Theatre in London.

Heritage Minister Tracey Crouch said: "These awards celebrate the inspirational people who have worked so hard to preserve our nation's heritage and who encourage others to get involved. Heritage tells us so much about the nation's history and the Angel Awards recognises the fantastic projects that ensure it can be seen and understood by people for many years to come."

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "I would like to congratulate everyone who has been shortlisted for an Angel Award for their dedication to saving England's historic buildings and places - often working on their own initiative, without outside help or funding. These awards shine the spotlight on their brilliant and inspirational work."

Duncan Wilson, Historic England Chief Executive, said: “The show was all about recognising the volunteers and groups who do so much to help rescue our heritage for future generations. We are surrounded by historic buildings and places that help tell the story of who we are, but many depend on local volunteers for their very survival. These awards celebrate the vital work of those heritage heroes.”

The awards are judged by Andrew Lloyd Webber, ceramics manufacturer Emma Bridgewater, TV’s Restoration Man George Clarke, the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, historian Bettany Hughes and Historic England’s chief executive Duncan Wilson.

Aon Estates Practice is sponsor of the Outstanding Contribution to Heritage and The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) is sponsor of the Best Community Action Project.

The Telegraph is media partner for the awards, which are funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

The Winners of the 2016 Angel Awards are:

Best Community Action Project, sponsored by The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS):

Operation Nightingale, Netheravon Barrows, Spitfire P9503 Crash, Wiltshire, South West: Since 2011 Operation Nightingale has helped service personnel who have fought for the British Armed Forces recover using archaeology. The project has worked on archaeological sites across Britain and overseas. Three of the soldiers involved have now gone on to work as professional archaeologists, one has achieved a First Class honours degree in archaeology from Exeter University, and many have declared a lifelong love of archaeology as a result.

Richard Osgood Senior Archaeologist, Defence Infrastructure Organisation, Ministry of Defence said: “It’s a really nice surprise to win this award. It’s a huge testimony to the men and women of the British Armed Forces that their skill sets outside of the military environment are also of huge benefit to the nation. If heritage and archaeology can improve people’s lives – what a gift!”

Best Rescue of a Heritage Site

Julie and Howard Duckworth, Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire: Since 1983 husband-and-wife team Julie and Howard Duckworth have been bringing empty

properties back into use. They have invested over £4.5 million into the regeneration of Goole, particularly on Aire Street, which was the heart of the historic Aire and Calder Company Town. Their first restoration in Goole, of the Station Hotel, created 38 jobs and 12 affordable, environmentally friendly apartments. They are now beginning to turn around the fortunes of the Goole Conservation Area, currently on Historic England's at risk Register.

Howard Duckworth said: "All the buildings were derelict and weeks away from being pulled down. We just want to put Goole on the map – the community has been amazing."

Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People

Joshua Aitken-Dunkeld, Isle of Wight, South East: Josh first joined the Friends of Frank James - a group dedicated to saving a derelict Grade II listed hospital- when he was just 16 years old. He quickly became a key member of the group, taking responsibility for digital championing of the site. He led the way in highlighting the plight of the building to the public and telling the sad story of Frank James by setting up the website, creating beautiful YouTube videos and running the project's social media presence. Without these vital communication channels the group would not have been able to gain support locally or reach out to grant giving bodies.

Joshua Aitken-Dunkeld said: "I am proud to be representing the Isle of Wight's heritage. This award is one of the best things that's happened to me, it feels a bit like a dream. I love this building to bits and we're one step closer to getting it saved."

Best Research Project:

Port Sunlight Village Trust and Wirral Borough Council, The Wirral, North West: The Port Sunlight Village Trust is a registered charity which manages the Port Sunlight Museum, all of the green spaces, around 250 houses and eight principal buildings in the village. Their aim is to conserve and maintain the Port Sunlight conservation area, encouraging a better understanding of its value as a heritage site. The charity worked with Wirral Borough Council to implement the Local Listed Building Consent Order as a positive way of conserving and enhancing Port Sunlight. This saved diminishing resources within the local authority and provided greater clarity to homeowners. Through their hard work and

collaborative approach they have actively addressed local conservation issues and are a positive case study for future local groups and councils to learn from.

Heather Alcock, Conservation Advisor, Port Sunlight Village Trust said:

“We now have a fast track system which will ensure we are doing the right thing for our heritage. This is an overwhelming moment for us.”

Outstanding Contribution to Heritage, sponsored by Aon Estates Practice:

Carlo Diponio Construction Supervisor at Dudley Zoo, Tecton Buildings at Dudley Zoo, the Black Country, West Midlands: Carlo is the construction supervisor at Dudley Zoo who has made a huge contribution to the restoration of the Tecton Buildings at Dudley Zoological Gardens. The Tectons were designed by Russian born architect Berthold Lubetkin and Dudley Zoo boasts the world's largest single collection of Tecton buildings. All 12 of them are listed and in 2009 the buildings were granted 'World Monuments Fund' status, giving it the same status as Machu Picchu and the Taj Mahal. In 2014 Heritage Lottery Funding was granted to refurbish these amazing structures. Carlo is the Zoo's expert in the field of concrete and knows the best techniques for restoring these buildings which were instrumental in bringing modernist architecture to the UK.

Carlo Diponio, Construction Supervisor at Dudley Zoo said: “Wow! This award is totally unexpected. It’s an absolute pleasure to work on these buildings; hopefully it won’t stop here. You must give it a go [volunteering] – you will remember it for the rest of your life. The more people that look at concrete buildings the way I did, the better.”

People’s Favourite:

Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust Ltd, Somerset, South West: The Trust was formed to bring the Grade I listed Clevedon Pier back to life, following its collapse and near demolition in the 1970s. Over the decades the Trust has raised funds to bring, according to John Betjeman, “the most beautiful pier in England” back into use. In May this year, a new visitor centre was opened marking the end of the restoration. The Trust knew the local community was central to their efforts and organised a community share offer. More than 1,100 shareholders signed up, raising over £250,000

Simon Talbot-Ponsonby, Chairman Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust said: “We’re so lucky at Clevedon with all the support of the community that saved the

pier from demolition. We built a beautiful modern structure at this Grade I listed pier which will make it sustainable for the future.”

Ends

The full shortlist for the Historic England Angel Awards is:

Best Research Project:

- Star Carr Research Group, Star Carr Early Mesolithic Site, near Scarborough, North Yorkshire
- Pride of Place: England's LGBTQ Heritage, across England
- Fylde Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Lytham St Annes Town Art Collection stored at the Fylde Council Town Hall, Lancashire, North West
- Port Sunlight Village Trust and Wirral Borough Council, The Wirral, North West

Best Community Action Project, sponsored by The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS):

- Operation Nightingale, Netheravon Barrows, Spitfire P9503 Crash, Wiltshire, South West
- Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust Ltd, Somerset, South West
- Richard Jefferies Museum Trust, Swindon, South West
- West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust, Former Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel, Stourbridge, West Midlands

Best Rescue of a Heritage Site:

- Julie and Howard Duckworth, Goole, East Riding of Yorkshire
- The Arkwright Society, Building 17, Cromford Mills, Derbyshire
- Suffolk Mind and the Churches Conservation Trust for the rescue of St Mary at the Quay, Ipswich, Suffolk, East of England
- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the rescue of Ashton Old Baths, Greater Manchester, North West

Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People

- William Fakes, Leeds, West Yorkshire
- Joshua Aitken-Dunkeld, Isle of Wight, South East
- Heritage Hunters, Auckland Castle, North East
- Fishponds Church of England Academy, Bristol, South West

Outstanding Contribution, sponsored by Aon Estates Practice:

- Alan and Griselda Garner, Toad Hall and the Old Medicine House, Cheshire, North West
- Carlo Diponio - Construction Supervisor at Dudley Zoo, Tecton Buildings at Dudley Zoo, the Black Country, West Midlands
- Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain, Head Gardeners, West Dean Gardens, Chichester, South East
- David Lovell, Britain from Above and Enriching the List, across England

END

Further information from: Historic England Press Office Tel: 020 7973 3250 or communications@HistoricEngland.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR:

The Future of the Angel Awards: Historic England has £100,000 funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation to run the Angel Awards for another two years.

About Historic England: We are Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage), the public body that champions and protects England's historic places. We look after the historic environment, providing expert advice, helping people protect and care for it and helping the public to understand and enjoy it.

About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation: The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of more than £13.6m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £2.4m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need.

In 2015, the Foundation awarded over £1.5million in 46 new grants to organisations, made 17 grants totalling £860k to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships worth over £300k to young performers on the brink of their careers. In addition, the Foundation pledged a further 3 years' funding to the Historic England Angel Awards and established the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards with the Scottish Civic Trust and Historic Environment Scotland.