

HERITAGE ANGEL AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND



PRESS RELEASE

Heritage Angel Awards NI – Winners Announced

The quest for the first ever Heritage Angels in Northern Ireland came to a conclusion tonight with the presentation of six awards at the inaugural Heritage Angel Awards NI, which took place in the Grand Opera House, Belfast. The awards funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation with further support from the Department for Communities celebrated individuals and groups who have rescued historic buildings or sites, worked as craftsmen or apprentices, or recorded and interpreted historic places.

Best Rescue of a Historical Building

Bill Wolsey -

Hearth Revolving Fund
A and E Damoglou

Project: The Dirty Onion – WINNER

Project : Sion Mills Stables - highly commended
Project: 71 Main Street, Moira - highly commended

Best Contribution to a Historic Project by Young People

Tom Meharg –

Red Brick Belfast
AmmA Centre Armagh

Project: Belfast Community Archaeology Dig – WINNER

Project: Red Brick Belfast - highly commended
Project: AmmA 2.0 - highly commended

Best Craftsman or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project

Chris Balmer, George Irwin & Kieran Loughran – Project: Ballycopeland Mill Restoration – WINNER

Callum McCaffrey
Bernard Cunningham

Project: Mount Stewart Restoration – highly commended
Project: Ceiling Rose Restoration – highly commended

Best Rescue, Recording or Interpretation of a Historic Place

Bellanaleck Local History Group – Project: The resettlement of eleven WWI ex-servicemen on Cleenish Island, Upper Lough Erne - WINNER

Inland Waterways Assoc of Ireland Newry & Portadown Branch Project: New Life for the Old Canal – highly commended
Sebastian Graham Project: Mills of Northern Ireland – highly commended

Public Vote

Sebastian Graham, Mills of Northern Ireland

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr Fred Hamond, Industrial Archaeologist

The ceremony, hosted by Wendy Austin, Journalist and BBC Presenter was entertained by local artists including Brigid O'Neill; Duke Special; Anthony Toner and Gareth Dunlop with the Ulster Youth Orchestra who collaborated on Heritage in Song an initiative funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Material included bespoke compositions on the Floral Hall; the Grand Opera House, Bank of Ireland, North Street and Templemore Baths, Belfast. Further entertainment was provided by comedian Nuala McKeever and poet Ciaran Carson. Over 700 people were in attendance and guest presenters included the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Makesh Sharma; Primrose Wilson, President UAHS; Suzanne Wylie, CEO, Belfast City Council; Joe Mahon, Lesser Spotted Ulster Presenter; Paul Mullan, Head, Heritage Lottery Fund and William Crawley, Journalist and BBC Presenter.

Nicola McVeigh, Chief Executive, Ulster Architectural Heritage

I am delighted that Northern Ireland has joined England and Scotland in finally recognising our Heritage Angels. We were truly overwhelmed by the level of interest demonstrated by the local heritage sector with over 80 nominations and applications received from a diverse range of 60 projects. The ceremony gave us the opportunity to recognise not only our winners but also everyone who took the time to enter. We were also thrilled to be able to link culture and heritage by the inclusion of the Heritage in Song project which has helped promote our message to a new audience. The Heritage Angel Awards is a three year project and I hope last night's success encourages even more entries in 2018 as well as awakening a renewed interest in our local heritage sector.

Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber

Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose charitable foundation helped found the Heritage Angel Awards, said: "Congratulations to all of the winners of the inaugural Northern Ireland Heritage Angel Awards! They all deserve to be celebrated for their significant roles in saving Northern Ireland's heritage and for the time, enthusiasm, skills and energy that they have dedicated to this important cause.

"They will now go on to be considered alongside the English and Scottish winners to be crowned overall UK winner. I'm delighted that the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation is able to support this opportunity to put heritage heroes in the spotlight."

Iain Greenway, Director of Historic Environment Division at the Department for Communities said: "Historic Environment Division has long been aware of the dedication of individuals and groups to care for our fragile historic environment. We are delighted to have supported this awards programme which seeks to recognise these sterling efforts. To witness the delight tonight on both winners and nominees has been uplifting. I look forward to many more years of celebrating Northern Ireland's Heritage Angels."

Notes for editors:

About the Heritage Angel Awards NI The awards are administered by the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Department for Communities. They are further supported by The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF); Construction Industry Training Board (CITBNI); Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF); Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and Heritage Trust Network (HTN).

For further information on Heritage Angel Awards NI, please contact@

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The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society:

UAHS is a charitable, membership organisation founded in 1967. It exists to promote appreciation, preservation and conservation of architecture across the nine counties of Ulster. Over the last 40 years the UAHS has established itself as a fearless campaigner for buildings of merit, a generous resource of information on local architecture, and a fair and helpful source of advice. Its main activities include campaigning & lobbying, support & advice, publications and events. The UAHS works with the Historic Environment Division, (HED), at the Department for Communities, (DfC), to record and promote the conservation of listed buildings at risk through the Built Heritage at Risk NI, (BHARNI) partnership.

www.uahs.org.uk

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation:

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew Lloyd Webber 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 over £17.5m 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. www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

Historic Environment Division:

The Historic Environment Division is part of the Northern Ireland government, Department for Communities. It aims to support and sustain vibrant communities and a strong economy through realising the significant, ongoing value of our historic environment.

The Historic Environment Fund was introduced in 2016 by the Department for Communities for projects that help to ensure our historic environment is appreciated, protected and made accessible to present and future generations. One of four streams, the Revival stream of funding aims to promote the social value of our historic environment and the contribution this can make to wellbeing and sustainable employment. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/historic-environment>

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported almost 35,000 projects with more than £5.3bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk.

For full details on how to apply to the 2017 Heritage Angel Awards NI, nominate someone else for an award please visit www.heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk/

Keep up to date with the latest from the Heritage Angel Awards NI on Twitter and Facebook at @ulsterahs

Ends

7 November 2017

