

HISTORIC ENGLAND PRESS RELEASE

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER NAMES HISTORIC ENGLAND ANGEL AWARD WINNERS 2017

- **Grade I listed The Piece Hall in Halifax named the first ever Overall Winner!**
- **The brothers who transformed derelict baths into an indoor BMX park, the woman behind a complex project to restore the Piece Hall in Halifax, young film-makers with learning difficulties in Newcastle, an apprentice mason working at extreme heights in Northumberland and a man who made it his personal mission to repair and paint hundreds of milestones across Norfolk are all celebrated as winners**
- **The Source BMX Park in Hastings wins the public vote!**
- **Images: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Qlor4IBFFHa76Sqm1>**

On Monday 20 November 2017 Andrew Lloyd Webber announced the winners of the Historic England Angel Awards 2017.

Supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, the Historic England Angel Awards celebrate the efforts of individuals and local groups across the country that have devoted their time and energy to bringing irreplaceable historic places back to life.

The ceremony was co-hosted by Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose first love has always been our nation's heritage, and historian Bettany Hughes at the Palace Theatre in London. Nominees came from across the country to celebrate the achievements of all groups.

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "Congratulations to all the winners! I'm delighted that these awards shine a spotlight on people who work tirelessly to bring our heritage

back to life in such a vibrant way. I am especially pleased that we have crowned an overall UK winner for the first time. I am thrilled that it is the Piece Hall in Halifax. This stunning example of urban renewal should spur on the councils of every major city and town in Britain to do something similar. It is as if St. Mark's Square in Venice has been deposited in West Yorkshire and puts Halifax on a par with major cities in Europe. The only word I can use to describe it is inspirational."

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England said: "The Historic England Angel Awards show how the historic environment is for everyone. From the restoration of The Piece Hall which has become a lively destination in Halifax to the innovative business using craft skills to fix bottle kilns in Northumberland, the winners are breathing new life into our historic places. The variety and calibre of this year's winners is truly impressive and I urge others to enter next year's awards!"

The 2017 awards were judged by Andrew Lloyd Webber, TV's Restoration Man George Clarke, the Dean of Westminster - the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, historian Bettany Hughes, Baroness Lola Young and Historic England's Chief Executive Duncan Wilson.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation supports the Angel Awards scheme in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The awards launched in 2011 in England, followed by the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards in 2014 and the Northern Ireland Heritage Angel Awards this year.

Introducing the 2017 Overall Winner, Sponsored by Battersea Power Station

The Overall Winner award is new for 2017. Andrew Lloyd Webber and an Angel Award judge from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland together chose one ultimate winner to receive the highest accolade.

2017 WINNERS

2017 Overall Winner, Sponsored by Battersea Power Station

Claire Slattery - The Piece Hall, Halifax

In 1779, the West Riding of Yorkshire ruled the cloth trade and the Grade I listed Piece Hall is a monument to this time. Claire Slattery undertook a complex project to restore the beauty of the Georgian building and return it as a place of pivotal importance in Halifax. By 2009, work was urgently required to restore the stonework and remedy earlier repairs. Claire successfully secured funding to safeguard the future of the Piece Hall and in 2012 restoration work began. Claire also played a key role in developing heritage spaces within the building, where visitors can learn about what has made the hall so special throughout its history and experience its atmosphere as a trading hall. Thanks to the dedication of Claire and her team, [the Piece Hall](#) reopened to thousands of visitors on 1 August 2017.

Battersea Power Station Development Company Chief Executive Rob

Tincknell said: “The Piece Hall is an outstanding example of where a building’s cultural and industrial history have not only been rescued but enhanced. This is an exceptionally difficult ambition to realise, and on behalf of the team working on Battersea Power Station it is an honour to support this award which is I am certain is both hard-won and richly-deserved.”

Claire, Slattery who scooped two Angel Awards said: “It’s taken me completely by surprise and I am thrilled! We seemed to blow people away with our project. It’s a wonderful achievement and everything we could dream of! The Piece Hall is loved in Halifax and this award can only help with bringing in more visitors from across the globe.”

Historic England Followers' and Telegraph Readers' Favourite

Chosen by public vote

Rich Moore and Marc Moore - The Source BMX Park, Hastings

Brothers Rich and Marc Moore have rescued a derelict Victorian swimming pool on Hastings' seafront and turned it into a state-of-the-art facility for BMX riders and skaters. Having raised more than £1 million in funding and enlisting the support of the local community they opened the [Source BMX Park](#) in March 2016. The brothers overcame significant construction challenges to turn the dank underground building into an all-weather centre for BMX riders and skaters. However their perseverance has paid off as the park has already welcomed over 70,000 visitors from all around the world. What was once a disused Victorian building that reflected the faded glory of a declining seaside town has become a vibrant new space that is helping to put Hastings back on the map.

Double award winners Rich and Marc Moore said: "It feels really crazy and overwhelming! We weren't expecting to win an award. It's a really cool thing for Hastings and the business. Later on, the kids will appreciate how amazing this building is and it may plant a seed in them to appreciate architecture. It gives you that feeling that if you can restore this big historic derelict building, you can pretty much do anything!"

Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People

Beacon Hill Arts - Hidden Histories at Newcastle Castle

Young film-makers with learning difficulties, autism and additional needs worked with Newcastle Castle to bring to life the Hidden Histories of notorious characters from the castle's past. The talented Beacon Hill Arts team researched the lives of castle residents from bygone eras and then carried out all aspects of the film-making process to produce a trio of films about them and a music production. The project not only delivers a highly original history lesson, it helps to dismantle stereotypes of disability. The videos can be viewed on the [Newcastle Castle website](#)

On winning their award, Daniel Ratcliffe from Beacon Hill Arts said: “It was very surprising, nerve-racking and exciting that we won such a big award. I didn’t really expect it and can’t believe that it’s actually real!”

Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project

Kenny Brunskill - Corbridge Bottle Kilns, Northumberland

Kenny Brunskill has carved out a niche as a mason working at extreme heights - a skill that is highly sought after in the world of conservation. Having left the British Army in 2003, Kenny developed a passion for masonry whilst working at Stone Technical Services. His enthusiasm, work ethic, maturity and natural skill at working at heights have made him the “go to” guy for masonry work on steeples and spires around the region. When the Tyne Building Preservation Trust looked to repair and consolidate the landmark Corbridge bottle kilns, it became clear that difficult access meant an innovative approach would be required. Kenny and his team devised a way to carry out repointing and brick replacement with a mixture of rope and spider crane, resulting in the safeguarding the immediate future of the kilns. They also ran a day for trainee bricklayers to experience the challenges of working at height.

Kenny Brunskill said: “It’s amazing and I am chuffed to bits.”

Richard Pavlou, Group Operations and Business Development Manager at Stone Technical Services Group added: “Kenny has served his country twice. He has come back from Iraq serving in the army and is now helping to preserve these amazing buildings and structures for future generations to enjoy.”

Best Rescue, Recording or Interpretation of a Historic Place

Nigel Ford - Milestone repairs, restoration and reinstatement across Norfolk

Nigel Ford has made his personal mission to rediscover, repair and paint hundreds of milestones across Norfolk, most of which date from the early 1800s. Nigel has worked tirelessly to recover every accessible milestone in the county, whether concealed by brambles or lying in ditches, broken or buried. With the help of keen

volunteers, from local Brownie packs and school children to HRH The Prince of Wales, so far over 150 individual markers have been restored to their former glory. At every step Nigel has passed on his practical knowledge as well as his passion, ensuring Norfolk retains its connection to a time when simple stones guided travellers through the county.

On receiving his award, Nigel Ford said: “It’s fantastic and a real credit to all my helpers as well. My biggest problem now is to get a carpenter to widen the doorway to accommodate my big head!”

Best Rescue of a Historic Building, Sponsored by [Selectaglaze](#)

Joint winners

Claire Slattery - The Piece Hall, Halifax AND Rich Moore and Marc Moore - The Source BMX Park, Hastings

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Meredith Childerstone, Chairman of Selectaglaze said: "We are pleased to sponsor this award and are very impressed by both winners. Each has demonstrated strong community support to find a sustainable long term use for buildings that have been part of local history. This helps retain the best of our architectural heritage for future generations."

ENDS

Further information and images from Historic England Press Office
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HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards

#AngelAwards17

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Historic England Angel Awards were founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber and are co-funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. Since 2011 these annual awards have celebrated the efforts of local people, either individuals or groups, who have saved historic buildings and places.

Historic England is in its second year of a three-year funding agreement with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. The three years of funding are for 2016, 2017 and 2018 and total £150,000.

For more information about the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards visit:

www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk

For more information about the Northern Ireland Heritage Angel Awards visit:

<https://heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk>

About [Historic England](#): We are Historic England, 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 over £18m 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.

Over the past year, the Foundation has awarded 47 new grants to organisations, made 30 grants to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships to young performers on the brink of their careers.

About The Telegraph: The Telegraph is the media partner for the Historic England Angel Awards.

About our sponsors: Founded in 1966 and granted a Royal Warrant in 2004, **Selectaglaze** is the leading designer, manufacturer and installer of secondary glazing in the UK. Starting off with just four members of staff, the company has

expanded over the years to 90+ and has continued to evolve its secondary glazing systems to meet the varying needs of a vast range of clients. Selectaglaze has had the privilege of working on notable projects from the Hoover Building to Windsor Castle, the Supreme Court to Banqueting House. By installing its systems, it has aided the buildings in becoming warmer, quieter and safer.

Battersea Power Station: www.batterseapowerstation.co.uk