

## HISTORIC ENGLAND ANGEL AWARD WINNERS 2018 REVEALED

- The restoration of Liverpool's historic boys' club, a project which trains Great Yarmouth's young people in conservation skills, a traditional brick making company in Suffolk, an online mapping resource for Bristol that lets the public explore their local heritage, and the major regeneration of Chatham Historic Dockyard in Kent are all celebrated as winners
- Wilton's Music Hall in London wins the public vote
- Foyle Civic Trust in Northern Ireland crowned Overall Winner for the UK
- Images: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Wb4h5UReW8oRjhMWA>

Last night (Tuesday 27 November 2018) the winners of the Historic England Angel Awards 2018 were revealed at a ceremony hosted by historian Bettany Hughes at the Gillian Lynne Theatre in London.

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. Finalists came from across the country to celebrate the achievements of all groups.

**Andrew Lloyd Webber said:** "Huge congratulations to all the winners who have worked tirelessly to help preserve our heritage and encouraged others to get involved. I would like to thank them and their communities for the brilliant projects and schemes which play a vital role in protecting historic buildings and landscapes and which encourage young people to develop traditional craft skills.

I am especially pleased that we have tonight crowned the Foyle Civic Trust, part of the Walled City Partnership in Derry, Londonderry as the first overall UK winner. This project benefits the local community and shows how individuals, volunteer groups and local councils can work together to regenerate our heritage. I wrote a musical called "The Beautiful Game" about the troubles in Northern Ireland and what this project has done in Derry struck a chord with me, as I think it did with all the judges."

**Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England said:** "The Historic England Angel Awards illustrate how diverse our historic environment is. This year's winners include a family-run brick-making business, the rescue of the oldest surviving purpose-built boys' club in Britain, an online mapping resource for Bristol, teaching young people new building skills and the regeneration of Chatham Historic Dockyard. These well-deserved winners are having a huge positive impact on our historic places."

The 2018 awards were judged by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the Dean of Westminster - the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, historians Bettany Hughes and Dr Suzannah Lipscombe and Historic England's Chief Executive Duncan Wilson.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation supports the Angel Awards scheme across the UK. The awards launched in 2011 in England, followed by Scotland in 2014, Northern Ireland in 2017 and Wales for the first time this year.

## 2018 WINNERS

**UK Overall Winner** - chosen by Andrew Lloyd Webber and an Angel Award judge from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales

### **The Foyle Civic Trust, Derry - part of The Walled City Partnership**

A legacy of the troubles is the destruction of historic buildings around Derry's walls. Repairs were perceived as a short term measure with owners aware of the possibility of further damage. It was against this backdrop that the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) scheme emerged, recognising that Derry's built fabric was an asset to the city.

Initial success in securing support from the Heritage Lottery Fund by the project instigators, the Foyle Civic Trust, supported by its statutory partners, led to the development of the Walled City Partnership Limited, working to create a fantastic city centre to visit, work and live. As of June 2018 the THI will have facilitated the repair and restoration of over thirty historic properties

**Historic England Followers' Favourite** - chosen by public vote

### **Wilton's Music Hall, London**

Wilton's Music Hall in the East End of London has a turbulent past, surviving life as a rowdy Victorian music hall, Methodist mission and rag warehouse, as well as a fire and plans for demolition. Its restoration as a modern-day theatre and performance venue blends old and new to retain much of the building's historic fabric and unique identity. Without the efforts of staff and volunteers, the remarkable comeback of the cherished East End venue would not have been possible.

### **Best Heritage Research, Interpretation or Recording**

#### **Pete Insole for Know Your Place project, Bristol**

The Know Your Place project is a digital mapping resource that lets members of the public not only explore their local heritage but contribute to it, building new layers of history in counties across south west England. The brainchild of Bristol City Council's Principal Historic Environment Officer, Pete Insole, Know Your Place invites people to participate in managing heritage by sharing their stories. Community contributions enrich the historical archive and uncover history that would otherwise have stayed hidden.

### **Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project, sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance plc**

#### **Bulmer Brick & Tile Company for the craft of traditional brick making, Suffolk**

For over 80 years Bulmer Brick & Tile has been mining rich seams of London clay in Suffolk to hand make bricks for heritage projects all around the UK and further afield.

The family firm is run by Peter Minter whose extensive knowledge about the historic fabric of buildings enabled the family to grow from a small firm matching bricks for individual customers to a thriving business working on prestigious buildings like Hampton Court Palace and the law courts at Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

*Adrian Saunders, commercial director at Ecclesiastical, said: "As the UK's leading insurer of Grade I listed buildings, we believe it's crucial to invest in traditional craft skills to preserve the UK's heritage. We're delighted to sponsor the award for Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project. Many congratulations to the winner, The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, a family-run traditional brick making company. This award celebrates their craft skills and knowledge of historic buildings."*

### **Best Rescue of a Historic Building or Place, sponsored by Keymer** **(projects under £5m)**

#### **The Florence Institute, Liverpool**

The Florence Institute, affectionately known as “The Florrie”, is the oldest surviving purpose-built boys’ club in Britain. It was founded in 1889 by former Liverpool mayor Bernard Hall and named as a tribute to his daughter, Florence, who died at just 22. For a century it provided safe recreation to boys from poor communities in south Liverpool and it was these same people who led the long struggle to not only restore the building to splendour but bring it back to life for local people. Even after it had been damaged by fire and constant exposure to the elements, the building in the Dingle remained a repository of childhood memories for generations of working-class youth in the area. Its rescue and transformation into a modern, multi-purpose community hub means it is once again a place where people of all ages can create memories.

*Christine Leadbeater from Keymer said: "It is an honour and a privilege to sponsor and present this year's Best Rescue of a Historic Building or Place Award to the Florence Institute, Liverpool. At Keymer, we are proud to be associated with Historic England, and to work closely with them, to ensure that our historic buildings live and breathe for generations to come. The Florence Institute is a fantastic restoration, which returns this magnificent building to its original splendour, and offers a place where the community can once again come together."*

### **Best Major Regeneration of a Historic Building or Place, sponsored by Selectaglaze** **(projects over £5m)**

#### **The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent**

For almost four centuries, the Royal Dockyard at Chatham on the Medway River made naval ships, including Nelson’s flagship HMS Victory. Its closure left a chasm for communities whose lives had revolved around it for generations. For the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, the question was how to regenerate an 80-acre site to make it self-sustaining. Its entrepreneurial strategy of “preservation through re-use” has created a thriving multi-purpose site for future generations and a major tourist attraction in the South East.

*Meredith Childerstone, Chairman of Selectaglaze, said: "We are very pleased to support this award as it recognises the importance to communities of retaining buildings with significant architectural heritage. The regeneration of the Historic Chatham Dockyard in such a sensitive and sustainable way allows it to be enjoyed today and by future generations, making it a worthy winner."*

### **Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People**

#### **The Young Person International Training Project, Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust**

The Young Person International Training Project was created to bridge the gap between the lack of training and opportunities for young people in Great Yarmouth and the millions of pounds for heritage funding that the town attracts because of its historic significance. The Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust teaches young people transferable conservation building skills in England and at workshops at a farmhouse in Bulgaria, where British youth work alongside trainees from other countries to create an international conservation community.

**ENDS**

**Further information and images from Historic England Press Office  
020 7973 3250 / [communications@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:communications@HistoricEngland.org.uk)**

**[HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards)  
#AngelAwards18**

#### **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 has 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](http://www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk)

For more information about the Heritage Angel Awards Northern Ireland visit:  
<https://heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk>

For more information about the Heritage Angel Awards Wales visit:  
<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/about-us/heritageangelawardswales/>

#### **About [Historic England](#)**

We are [Historic England](#) the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops. We protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. We care passionately about the

stories these places tell, the ideas they represent and the people who live, work and play among them. Working with communities and specialists we share our passion, knowledge and skills to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all.

#### **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 over £19.5 million 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.

#### **About Ecclesiastical Insurance plc**

Ecclesiastical is proud to sponsor the Best Craftsperson or Apprentice Award. We're a passionate supporter of heritage skills, investing in projects that will help ensure the future of today's heritage. A financial services company with a charitable purpose, we are the leading insurer of Grade I listed buildings and are proud to have been trusted to protect much of the UK's heritage and art since 1887.

#### **About Keymer**

Keymer Hand Made Clay Plain Tiles and Wienerberger's Heritage Service are very proud to support Angel Awards and more specifically, the Best Rescue under £5m Award. It's an honour to be associated with this award. It's a wonderful recognition of the people who care and are passionate about the British history and its buildings. They dedicate their time and passion to ensure the history will continue through generations to follow.

#### **About Selectaglaze**

Founded in 1966 and Royal Warrant Holder since 2004, [Selectaglaze](#) is one of the leading providers of secondary glazing in the UK. We are supporting these awards again to recognise the important work, the dedication and the skills required to bring these historic buildings back to modern day use. It is something we take great pride in and know the demands these old quirky buildings can present; having worked in Listed and heritage buildings all over the UK. By installing sympathetic secondary glazing treatments, we have helped bring many buildings up to 21st Century standards, making them warmer, quieter and safer for generations to come