

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Heritage Angel Awards 2019– Shortlist Announced & Public Vote Now Open**

The search for Northern Ireland's Heritage Angels is moving forward with the final Heritage Angel Awards shortlist revealed today. These annual awards aim to celebrate unsung angels of local heritage- individuals or groups, who have rescued an historic building or site, worked as craftsmen or apprentices, or recorded and interpreted a historic place.

The Angel Awards are not just about heritage, but the people that make heritage projects happen. Showcasing what is possible when people take interest in and take action for the care and consideration of our heritage.

Comprising 15 projects across five different categories, the shortlist showcases a range of diverse heritage initiatives across Northern Ireland. The 2019 shortlist includes private owners; volunteers; community groups; apprentices; craftsmen and young people. All of the shortlisted candidates have developed their interest in heritage, in different ways and applied this into quality schemes in Northern Ireland.

The overall winner in each of the categories will be named at the Northern Ireland Heritage Angel Awards ceremony on Tuesday 29 October at the Market Place Theatre, Armagh. This special event will be hosted by Wendy Austin, with special guests, Joe Mahon and Marie-Louise Muir.

The event will also celebrate 'Heritage in Song and Spoken Word'. Local artists will perform bespoke material, specially created for the event, about Armagh's built heritage. This year's fantastic line-up includes: Brigid O'Neill; Tony Villiers; Rioghanch Connolly; The 4 of Us - Brendan & Declan Murphy; Maria McManus and the Armagh Pipers.

Tickets are free. All welcome. Book online at: [www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/events](http://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/events)

**UAH is now calling for members of the public to cast their vote for their choice from the shortlist online at [www.heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk](http://www.heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk). This is open until Friday 11 October. Please encourage your readers to vote for their favourite project!**

The Awards are funded by Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and the Department for Communities in 2019.

#### **Nicola McVeigh, Chief Executive Ulster Architectural Heritage Society**

*"Ulster Architectural Heritage has been truly overwhelmed with quantity and quality of entries received in this the third year of the Heritage Angel Awards in Northern Ireland. From over 80 applications, across over 60 projects, we can now reveal the 15 shortlisted this year. We are looking forward to celebrating achievement for heritage with the people that make it happen, on the evening 29 October at the Market Place Theatre, Armagh. I am also very excited to hear the bespoke material from poets and singer-songwriters that are being created especially for the event. All welcome."*

#### **Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber**

*"Protecting architectural heritage is a vital part of cultural life. Architecture is the most vulnerable art form and one that I have been passionate about all my life. I'm delighted my Foundation can support the Heritage Angel Awards for the third year in Northern Ireland and shine a spotlight on those who have made a significant contribution towards protecting the country's heritage. By raising awareness of the impact individuals can have, our aim is to inspire others to get involved and work together to save and protect Northern Ireland's heritage for our future generations."*

**Councillor Mealla Campbell, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

*“We are really looking forward to welcoming the Heritage Angel Awards NI to Armagh in October and where better to host these awards, with Armagh City’s rich and stunning Georgian architecture and heritage. This is a fantastic way of acknowledging and celebrating the remarkable and passionate people who work tirelessly to protect and preserve our local heritage and culture. I look forward to the award ceremony in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh and extend my best wishes to all the shortlisted nominees.”*

**Full details and films on each of the shortlisted nominees can be viewed at [www.heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk](http://www.heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk)**

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, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and the Department for Communities. They are further supported by 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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**Ulster Architectural Heritage:**

UAH 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 UAH 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. UAH 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](http://www.uahs.org.uk)

**Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation:**

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.

The Foundation now runs an active grant giving programme and has awarded grants of over £20m 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](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

## **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council**

With a population of 210,300 and covering an area of 554 square miles, the borough of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon is the second largest council area in Northern Ireland. Employing approximately 1,400 employees (full and part time) and led by 41 Elected Members, ABC Council covers a wide and diverse range of departmental responsibilities including Planning powers, Community Planning, Economic Development, Environmental Services, Tourism, Arts and Culture etc. These powers are underpinned by key support functions to deliver outstanding public services for the benefit of citizens, businesses and visitors.

