

Heritage Angel Awards NI – Winners Announced

The quest for the 2021 Northern Ireland Heritage Angels came to a conclusion last night with the presentation of eight awards at a glittering ceremony which took place in Belfast City Hall. 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 Historic Building or Place for projects under £1M

Winner: Cushendun Building Preservation Trust - The Old Church Centre, Cushendun

Highly Commended: Greenwood Cottage - Billy McNeilly; Nigel Brady 21 Ballynahinch Street and 1 Arthur Street, Hillsborough

Best Major Regeneration of a Historic Building or Place for projects in excess of £1M

Winner: Grand Opera House, Belfast

Highly Commended: Peter Acheson, Charles Sheils Charity Almshouses, Killough; Michael Dunlop, The Merchant House, Donaghdee

Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People

Winner: Niamh Kelly - Reimagine, Remake, Replay

Highly Commended: Jade Thorne, YEP! Portrush; Armagh Townscape Heritage 3D Project

Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project

Winner: Peter Scott – Railways Pres Society of Ireland, Whitehead Railway Museum

Highly Commended: Martin McKenna -St McCartan's Church, Augher; Paul Collins - One Shore Street, Donaghadee

Best Heritage Research, Interpretation or Recording

Winner: Friends of Shankill Graveyard – Isobel Hylands

Highly Commended: Bishops and Buildings – A pictorial celebration of Armagh's architecture; Plight of the Big House- JAK Dean

Best Maintenance of A Historic Building Or Place

Winner: Killymoon Castle – The Coulter Family

Highly Commended: US Consulate Building – Danesfort; Gracehill Moravian Church - Raymond Kitson

Public Vote: Martin McKenna -St McCartan's Church, Agher

Lifetime Achievement Award Marcus Patton, OBE Heritage Advocate

The ceremony, hosted by Wendy Austin, Journalist and BBC Presenter featured entertainment by Brigid O'Neill, performing Belfast Angel and her new single, Sisters Born Here, accompanied by Matt Evans and Anthony Toner. Anthony Toner also performed God Look Down to Mrs Boyd from his new album, Six Inches of Water, inspired by local stories and landmark buildings in East Belfast. Local artist Rory Nellis, performed one of the entries in the inaugural 'Heritage Arts Challenge,' Belfast Tropical Ravine which was written by local songwriter John Sharpe. Helen Mark read the selected Heritage Arts Challenge prose and poetry entries from Helen Lyttle and Mary Flynn respectively.

Dr David Johnston, Chair, Ulster Architectural Heritage

From their inception back in 2017 the Heritage Angel Awards have gone consistently from strength to strength, being met with incredible enthusiasm. We have been truly amazed by the volume of effort and commitment from groups and individuals across Northern Ireland from the variety of projects who were nominated and applied. The awards are not only about good outcomes for heritage, but the people behind the projects, those who are making a real and lasting difference by rescuing, recording and celebrating Northern Ireland's historic environment.

Lord Lloyd Webber, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber, whose charitable foundation helped to found the Heritage Angel Awards, said: "Congratulations to all of the participants of the 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"

Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Kate Nicholl

On behalf of Belfast City Council, I am delighted to send congratulations to all of the winning and highly commended projects from the 2021 Heritage Angel Awards. We were delighted to host this year's ceremony in the splendid surroundings of Belfast City Hall and to join with those who share a passion for our local heritage. I wish all of those nominated all the very best for the future as they continue their invaluable work".

Notes for editors:

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

Contact: Maura Ahern, Executive Assistant, UAH

Telephone: 028 90550213

Mobile: 07474306336

Email: admin@uahs.org.uk

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

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