



EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 ON SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2014

New awards programme launched to recognise the work of the voluntary sector in championing Scotland's heritage

A new awards programme to celebrate the contribution of volunteers across Scotland who work to protect, understand and value the historic environment was launched today.

The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards will recognise the work of voluntary groups and individuals in protecting and celebrating our built heritage, and will be funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation.

The Foundation has awarded the programme preparatory funds of £25,000 as well as up to £48,000 in each of the first two years of the scheme. The annual awards programme will complement and run parallel to the existing English Heritage Angel Awards which were founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber (Lord Lloyd Webber) and English Heritage in 2011.

A partnership between Historic Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, the Scottish Government, Scottish Civic Trust, Archaeology Scotland and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, the new awards will seek entries from across Scotland. The first awards ceremony will take place in autumn 2015.

The first such awards in Scotland, the programme supports the delivery of the new Historic Environment Strategy, *Our Place in Time*, with its strong emphasis on community participation in heritage.

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs said: "Scotland's heritage is of us all and for us all, empowering, enriching and shaping our communities. The contribution of volunteers and voluntary groups to understanding, protecting and valuing our heritage is tremendous and I am delighted that the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards will recognise that good work.

"This exciting new enterprise is unique in Scotland, and supports the delivery of the new Historic Environment Strategy, *Our Place in Time*. I hope it will inspire people to get involved in voluntary work which celebrates our heritage."

John Pelan, Director of the Scottish Civic Trust said: “This awards programme is the first of its kind in Scotland, and will celebrate the valuable contribution of the voluntary sector in championing our heritage. The award categories will be wide-ranging and will give us the chance to recognise the work of a broad selection of voluntary groups and of individuals. The English Heritage Angel Awards do a fantastic job of celebrating community and grassroots projects and I am delighted that the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation will fund this similar initiative to highlight the work of volunteers in Scotland.”

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: “Protecting our architectural heritage is a vital part of our cultural life. Architecture is the most vulnerable art form. Temporary change of taste can wipe away a building that is by definition irreplaceable. I am half Scottish, my mother was a Johnstone, and I'm married to Madeleine whose father was a Brigadier in the Black Watch.

“And so, I am particularly proud to help Scotland's heritage community celebrate the reclamation of some of our most cultural treasures. The 'Angel' Awards are a brilliant way of saying 'Thank You' to those individuals who have made a significant contribution towards protecting our heritage. I hope, by raising awareness of sites at risk, these Scottish landmarks will be maintained for posterity.”

The timetable for the 2015 Awards will be announced at Scotland's Community Heritage Conference on 8 November. A dedicated website is currently under development.

Ends

Notes for editors

1. Historic Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment. The agency is fully accountable to Scottish Ministers and through them to the Scottish Parliament. For more information visit www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
2. Register for media release email alerts from www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/news. If you wish to unsubscribe at any time, please email hs.website@scotland.qsi.gov.uk
3. Information on Scotland's Community Heritage Conference can be found [here](#).
4. Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland can be found [here](#)
5. Historic Scotland around the web:

Twitter: [@welovehistory](#) ; [@edinburghcastle](#) ; [@ScottishTen](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/visithistoricscotland

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/welovehistory

YouTube: www.youtube.com/historicscotlandtv

Instagram: www.instagram.com/historicscotland

Homecoming: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/homecoming (#hshomecoming)

Blogs: www.stirlingcastle.gov.uk/blog
www.edinburghcastle.gov.uk/blog

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6. Scotland welcomes the world in the Year of Homecoming 2014 providing a year-long programme of events alongside the Ryder Cup and Commonwealth Games. The Year of Homecoming Scotland will run until 31 December 2014 throughout the length and breadth of the country. Visitors from around the world are invited to join in a celebration of the nation's food and drink, active pursuits, cultural heritage, nature and ancestral heritage. Homecoming Scotland 2014 is a Scottish Government initiative being led by EventScotland and VisitScotland, supported by numerous partners. To find out more visit www.homecomingscotland.com. For more on Historic Scotland's Homecoming activities visit <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/homecoming> or instagram or tweet us using the hashtag #hshomecoming

Contact: Alice Wyllie, Media and PR Officer
Direct line: 0131 668 8603
Mobile: 07920 768 096
Email: alice.wyllie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
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ABOUT THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION:

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was founded in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

Since 2010, the Foundation has awarded grants of over £9m 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, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation also owns two important paintings, a Canaletto "Old Horse Guards from St James's Park", currently on exhibition at Tate Britain and a Stanley Spencer "The Garage" on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.

www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

Twitter: @ALWFoundation

For Media Enquiries relating to the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation please contact Rachael Lloyd of BLJ London:
Tel 020 7932 1599
Email: RachaelL@blj.co.uk



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