



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: Tuesday 29th November 2016

New Annual Awards to Recognise Northern Ireland's 'Heritage Angels'.

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society will be introducing Heritage Angel Awards to Northern Ireland in 2017. The awards will be supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Department for Communities.

From 2017-20 the Heritage Angel Awards will acknowledge and profile the achievement of people-individuals, groups and communities in their projects and best practice to conserve, record, protect and celebrate heritage in Northern Ireland. UAHS will be highlighting the importance of heritage projects and work of the heritage sector to wider society, showcasing best conservation practice and construction in heritage work and skills. Overall the awards aim to recognise and profile achievement, to inspire and increase activity to help conserve and protect built heritage.

It has been announced that the Heritage Angel Awards will be supported by £130,000 over three years from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, (ALWF) Arts and Heritage Fund, with the project featuring as the biggest recipient announced in the 2016 round. The introduction of Heritage Angel Awards follows existing awards in England and Scotland, led by Historic England and the Scottish Civic Trust, also supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. In Northern Ireland the awards will also be funded by the Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division, (HED) with whom UAHS has for over 20 years been a partner on providing the 'Built Heritage at Risk Register for Northern Ireland', (BHARNI). HED has committed to providing £10,000 to March 2017. It is hoped that support from HED can continue to 2020.

The first Heritage Angel awards ceremony will take place at the Grand Opera House, Belfast next year, coinciding with the celebration of UAHS' 50th year.

Heritage Angel Awards for Northern Ireland has been developed by UAHS in consultation with other organisations in the Heritage Sector including: Historic Environment Division, (HED), Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, (CAF/QUB), Construction Industry Training Board Northern Ireland (CITBNI), Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Heritage Trust Network (HTN), and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC).

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation:

'The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has awarded grants worth a total of £566,911 to 19 projects across the UK. The grants form part of the foundation's active grant programme and support arts and culture projects that make a real and ongoing difference to people's lives.'

Receiving the biggest grant this year is the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society who will receive £130,000 to support the Heritage Angel Awards from 2017-2020. Having supported the English and Scottish Heritage Angel Awards for several years, the foundation's grant towards the introduction of the awards in Northern Ireland will realise the celebration of heritage across the UK for the first time.

The awards will acknowledge the achievements of people, groups and communities, and aims to inspire and encourage further activity across Northern Ireland's heritage sector. The first ceremony will be held at Belfast's Grand Opera House in 2017 alongside the organisation's 50th anniversary celebrations.'

(Part of the ALWF press release dated 25.11.16)

Department for Communities Minister, Paul Givan MLA: *"My Department is delighted to be part of this exciting initiative to raise awareness of the contribution that the built heritage can make to communities across NI.*

My Department's Historic Environment Division will be assisting this initiative through the Historic Environment Fund's Revival stream of funding which aims to promote the social value of our historic environment and the contribution this can make to wellbeing and sustainable employment.

We applaud the UAHS for bringing these awards to NI and look forward to working with them to acknowledge the significant achievements of individuals and groups in the sector whose actions are instrumental in saving heritage structures and those whose efforts champion and raise awareness of the importance of traditional skills and education initiatives."

Nicola McVeigh, Chief Executive, Ulster Architectural Heritage Society:

"UAHS is delighted to lead in bringing the Heritage Angel Awards to Northern Ireland and welcomes support for this from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Department for Communities Historic Environment Division.

Heritage Angel Awards will for the first time, on a Northern Ireland scale, acknowledge and award those who make a real difference to the protection and conservation of our valuable, irreplaceable architectural and archaeological heritage.

The awards will recognise important work for the care and protection of our important heritage assets. By highlighting achievement we hope to inspire many more people to get involved in heritage projects. It is fitting that the first awards ceremony will coincide with UAHS' 50th year."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society:

UAHS 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 the UAHS 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. The UAHS 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

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation:

The 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.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £14m 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, including the Arts & Heritage Fund. www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

Historic Environment Division:

The Historic Environment Division is part of the Northern Ireland government, Department for Communities. It aims to support and sustain vibrant communities and a strong economy through realising the significant, ongoing value of our historic environment.

The Historic Environment Fund was introduced in 2016 by the Department for Communities for projects that help to ensure our historic environment is appreciated, protected and made accessible to present and future generations. One of four streams, the Revival stream of funding aims to promote the social value of our historic environment and the contribution this can make to wellbeing and sustainable employment. <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/historic-environment>

For Further Details Contact:

Nicola McVeigh
Chief Executive
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
66 Donegall Pass,
Belfast,
BT7 1BU

T: 028 9055 0213

E: chiefexecutive@uahs.org.uk