

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SEARCH FOR NORTHERN IRELAND'S HERITAGE ANGELS TAKES A STEP FORWARD**

#### **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 get involved with 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 2018 shortlist includes private owners; volunteers; community groups; apprentices; craftsmen and young people. All of whom have developed their interest in heritage, in different ways and applied their interest 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 6 November at the Guildhall, Derry~Londonderry. The event will also celebrate 'Heritage in Song and Word', where local artists including Brigid O'Neill; Glenn Patterson; Eilidh Patterson and Eoin O'Callaghan will perform material around the heritage theme. Tickets are free. All welcome. Book online at: [www.uahs.org.uk/events](http://www.uahs.org.uk/events)

**We are also asking 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 19<sup>th</sup> October. Please encourage your readers to vote for their favourite project!**

The Awards are funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation; Derry and Strabane District Council and the Department for Communities. An overall UK winner will be selected and celebrated at the London ceremony on Tuesday 27th November.

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

"We were truly overwhelmed with quantity and quality of applications/nominations received in this the second year of the Heritage Angel Awards in Northern Ireland, which has highlighted the continued strength of interest in preserving our historic buildings and sites for future generations".

Our judges now have the difficult task of choosing our overall winners. I'm looking forward to celebrating the success and hard work of all our finalists on 6th November at the Guildhall.

#### **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 second 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".

### **Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Councillor John Boyle**

“On behalf of Derry City and Strabane District Council, I would like to congratulate all the nominees who have been shortlisted for the awards which will be held in the city for the first time this year. “We are delighted and proud to be hosting the ceremony and the Guildhall’s Main Hall will prove a fitting backdrop to the event.

“The awards are an ideal way to recognise and acknowledge the selfless contribution of the many groups and individuals who promote and celebrate our local heritage, work that often goes unseen behind the scenes.”

Full details and films on each of the shortlisted nominees can be viewed at <https://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/heritageangelawards>

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, Derry & Strabane District Council and the Department for Communities. They are further supported by The Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (CAF); 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:

Contact: Maura Ahern, Communications & Events Officer, UAHS  
Telephone: 028 90550213  
Mobile: 07474306336  
Email: [events@uahs.org.uk](mailto:events@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](http://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 £19.5m 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)

### **Derry and Strabane District Council**

Derry City and Strabane District Council is one of eleven Council areas in Northern Ireland. It encompasses an area of 1,341 square kilometres and is home to a population of 147,720

people. Derry is recognised as the regional city in the North West of Northern Ireland, is the second largest city in NI and is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland. The city has a unique connection to the arts and literary world – befitting its designation as the UK's first ever City of Culture 2013. The District's Sperrin Mountains are Northern Ireland's largest and least explored mountain range and are a designated area of natural beauty. Derry-Londonderry and Tyrone and the Sperrins are designated as NI signature tourism destinations. Information on Council services and initiatives are available at [www.derrystrabane.com](http://www.derrystrabane.com)



Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle Chathair  
Dhoire & Cheantar  
an tSrátha Báin  
Derry Cittyie & Strábane  
Destríck Cooncil

