



Pioneering Scottish awards encourage early interest at national conference

Volunteers helping to contribute to the safeguarding of Scotland's historic environment are being urged to put themselves forward for a new awards initiative that seeks to recognise and celebrate their valuable work.

Groups and individuals from all across Scotland are now being encouraged to put forward expressions of interest for the inaugural Scottish Heritage Angel Awards, due to be presented in autumn 2015. The announcement – made today (8th November) at Scotland's Community Heritage Conference in Perthshire – coincides with the launch of the official website for the new awards programme.

Funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, the awards will showcase the ongoing work and dedication of volunteers throughout Scotland, whilst supporting the delivery of the new Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, *Our Place in Time*, which places a strong emphasis on community participation and engagement in heritage.

Local groups and individual volunteers will now have the chance to register their interest ahead of the formal application process, which is due to open in spring 2015.

Andrew Lloyd Webber, said: "I am delighted that Scotland is getting the opportunity to celebrate its rich and vital heritage through the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards. The aim of the Awards is to recognise the work and dedication of both individuals and groups who go to great lengths to support the historic environment and to safeguard it for generations to come. I would really like to encourage all volunteers with relevant heritage stories to come forward and join me in celebrating the rescue of some of Scotland's most beautiful and cultural locations"

Commenting at the Community Heritage Conference, Chair of the Steering Group for the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards and Joint Chief Executive of Historic Scotland and RCAHMS, Ian Walford, said: "The awards will be a wonderful platform to mark the often unsung heroes whose work contributes greatly to the protection, understanding and value of our heritage and historic environment.

"As we move closer to the formal application process next spring, for the first year of the awards, we are pleased to welcome early expressions of interest in this Scotland-wide initiative."

The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards, the first of its kind in Scotland, will celebrate the work of volunteers for their contributions to understanding and protecting the nation's heritage and history for generations to come.

John Pelan, Director of the Scottish Civic Trust, added: “Volunteers and groups across the country now have the opportunity to register their valued contribution for the first annual Scottish Heritage Angel Awards.

“We look forward to receiving early notes of interest from volunteers and groups for these awards, which will play a pioneering role marking the work they do for the wider benefit of Scotland’s historic environment.”

Expressions of Interest forms for the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards 2015 are available from the dedicated awards website:

www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk

Ends

7th November 2014

Notes for editors

About the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards

The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards are supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. The initiative is a partnership between the Foundation and Historic Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, the Scottish Government, Scottish Civic Trust, and Archaeology Scotland.

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.

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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

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