

PRESS RELEASE

Video and images available – links below

CANAL PROJECT SHORTLISTED FOR A HISTORIC ENGLAND ANGEL AWARD

- Heritage Heroes project has been shortlisted as one of three finalists in the Best Rescue, Recording or Interpretation of a Historic Place category
- Public urged to vote for public choice award at HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards
- Annual awards supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation celebrate heritage angels who have made a lasting difference to historic places

16th October 2017

The Canal & River Trust and Help for Heroes are celebrating being named as one of three finalists in their category of this year's prestigious Historic England Angel Awards.

The two charities came together to deliver an ambitious canal restoration and career recovery programme for wounded, injured or sick servicemen, women and veterans. The project gives the ex-veterans the opportunity to gain qualifications and readjust to civilian life and was made possible by £500,000 funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Heritage Heroes was set up to support veterans carry out vital restoration work on some of England's oldest canals. The first phase of the programme took place at the Ryeford, outside Stroud. Veterans worked with volunteers at Cotswold Canal Trust to restore the Ryeford Causeway.

Jason Leach, Enterprise and Restoration Team Manager for the Canal & River Trust, said: "We are so pleased that Heritage Heroes has been recognised by the Heritage Angels awards. The project has literally transformed lives as well as canals and historic structures. We are really proud of what the project has achieved and the partnership that we have with Help for Heroes."

Mike Lee, Help for Heroes Project Manager says: "We are very excited to be nominated for a Heritage Angel award. 59 wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans have benefitted from the project and it's great to see the difference it's made to their lives. It's incredible that their work is being recognised by experts."

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "I'm delighted to champion the people who protect the precious buildings and places around us. Everyone who has been shortlisted for an Historic England Angel Award has made a significant difference to our landscape and built environment."

Congratulations to all of them! This year I am especially pleased that we are crowning an overall UK winner for the first time, showcasing the crucial work that is being done across the country by local heritage heroes.”

Vote for Heritage Heroes

While the four category winners will be decided by a panel of expert judges, each project is now seeking the public’s support to win a further award. All 12 shortlisted projects are in the running for the **Historic England Followers’ and Telegraph Readers’ Favourite** award chosen solely by the public.

Voting is now open. Cast your vote at [HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/AngelAwards). Voting closes 5 November 2017.

Chaired by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the 2017 judging panel comprises historian Bettany Hughes, TV’s Restoration Man George Clarke, the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Baroness Lola Young and Historic England’s Chief Executive Duncan Wilson.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

For more information, interviews, video footage, or images contact Lucy Scott, Campaigns Manager, on 07789 178506 or lucy.scott@canalrivertrust.org.uk

For interviews with Help for Heroes beneficiaries contact Kirsty Williams, on 01980 844389 or kirsty.williams@helpforheroes.org.uk

Images available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/14bvwnine1b1u4/AAAGL8LPM3QnXm9IX2Qrcej5a?dl=0>

Video content of Heritage Heroes available at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=FMAECBrXQwk

**Please direct media enquiries about the Historic England Angel Awards ceremony on 20 November 2017 to the Historic England Press Office
020 7973 3250 / communications@HistoricEngland.org.uk**

**To view the full shortlist, visit: [HistoricEngland.org.uk/AngelAwards](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/AngelAwards)
[#AngelAwards17](https://twitter.com/AngelAwards17)**

The Historic England Angel Awards were founded by Andrew Lloyd Webber and are co-funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. Since 2011 these annual awards have celebrated the efforts of local people, either individuals or groups, who have saved historic buildings and places.

Historic England is in its second year of a three-year funding agreement with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. The three years of funding are for 2016, 2017 and 2018 and total £150,000.

For more information about the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards visit:

www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk

For more information about the Northern Ireland Heritage Angel Awards visit:

<https://heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk>

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

@CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

Help for Heroes offers comprehensive support to those who have suffered life-changing injuries and illnesses while serving our country. This support is provided through grants direct to our Heroes and their families, grants to other charities and through four Help for Heroes Recovery Centres across the UK. A recent study launched in January 2016 by Help for Heroes and King's College London found of the 750,000 men and women who served as Regulars between 1991 and 2014, at least 66,000 need long term support.

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

@HelpforHeroes

About [Historic England](#): We are Historic England, the public body that champions and protects England's historic places. We look after the historic environment, providing expert advice, helping people protect and care for it and helping the public to understand and enjoy it.

About the [Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation](#): The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew 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 more than £16m 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, £2.4m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need.

In 2015, the Foundation awarded over £1.5million in 46 new grants to organisations, made 17 grants totalling £860k to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships worth over £300k to young performers on the brink of their careers. In addition, the Foundation pledged a further 3 years' funding to the Historic England Angel Awards and established the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards with the Scottish Civic Trust and Historic Environment Scotland.

About The Telegraph: The Telegraph is the media partner for the Historic England Angel Awards.

About our sponsors: Founded in 1966 and granted a Royal Warrant in 2004, **Selectaglaze** is the leading designer, manufacturer and installer of secondary glazing in the UK.

Starting off with just four members of staff, the company has expanded over the years to 90+ and has continued to evolve its secondary glazing systems to meet the varying needs of a vast range of clients. Selectaglaze has had the privilege of working on notable projects from the Hoover Building to Windsor Castle, the Supreme Court to Banqueting House. By installing its systems, it has aided the buildings in becoming warmer, quieter and safer.