

SCOTTISH HERITAGE ANGEL AWARDS



DEADLINE: 11 AUGUST 2017

APPLICATION FORM

Please complete by entering text in the boxes or printing off and scanning a completed copy. The boxes will expand as you type. Return by email or post to the address at the end of the form.

The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards, funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, celebrate the efforts of people who go to extraordinary lengths to protect, save, record and share their local heritage. The awards recognise people who champion their local heritage and share and practise forgotten craft skills. They also celebrate young people, recognising their efforts to learn about heritage.

Nominations for Scottish Heritage Angel Awards can be made for individuals or groups. The winning individuals and/or groups are the 'Angels'. However, we recognise that nominations will be made in connection with a heritage project of some kind.

Name of group/individual who is being nominated as the 'Heritage Angel'. This can be one person/more than one/a group of volunteers/a local voluntary heritage group

Gavin's Mill Community Project (GMCP)

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Scottish Charity Number SC047198

Please provide contact details for group/individual

Telephone number

0141 955 0437

Mobile 07780 995 748

Email address

office@gavinsmill.org

In which category are you nominating a group or individual for a Scottish Heritage Angel Award? Please mark 'X' in one box only. A separate application form must be completed for each entry.

A	Best Rescue of a Historic Building	X
B	Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People (25 and under)	
C	Best Craftsmanship or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project	
D	Best Rescue, Recording or Interpretation of a Historic Place	

Name of person completing the form

John Edwards

Your telephone number (landline and/or mobile)

Landline: 0141 956 1814

The organisation you represent (if applicable)Milngavie Heritage Centre
www.milngavieheritage.org**Your postal address**

154, Mugdock Road, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 8NE

Your email address

john@tannoch.org

What is the name of the project/building associated with the nomination or nominee(s)? (if applicable)

Gavin's Mill, Milngavie

Is the project/building complete? Please provide date of completion or expected date of completion (see guidelines for eligibility). **Projects that have been completed within the past two years, or are due to be completed by the end of July 2017**, are eligible to be considered. However, it is the individual or group behind the project who will be assessed.

Completion of the initial (rescue) phase of the project was marked with the ceremonial opening of the Mill to the public by Sally Magnusson on March 1st 2017.

Address of project/building (if applicable).**Is there a website associated with the group/individual/project? If so, please provide the address**

Gavin's Mill, Gavin's Mill Road, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 6NB

www.gavinsmill.org

(still in its infancy: hands-on work on the mill building has been the group's priority)

Please summarise why you think this individual/group deserves to win a Scottish Heritage Angel Award. (up to 500 words)

The group has heroically rescued the iconic building, Gavin's Mill, for community use.

Milngavie, population now some 13,000, has been described as "the child of the Allander" because a series of water-dependent industries grew on the banks of the Allander Water, beginning with the corn mill. There has been a mill at this location since the time of King David (12th century), and it has been suggested that the name 'Milngavie' derives from 'Milndavie'. It is exceptional to find a mill building of this kind surviving to the present day in the centre of the town to which it gave birth. Gavin's Mill thus lies at the root of the town's identity.

Gavin's Mill has enjoyed a special place in the hearts and minds of Milngavie people for many years. When the town became a burgh in 1875, one of the people responsible was the miller, James Watt, who in 1876 became the burgh's second provost. When the mill was severely damaged by fire and demolition threatened during the 1960s, the efforts of a local architect to rebuild and revitalize it were greatly appreciated. Without such community concern the mill would probably have been lost completely to the 1970's by-pass construction. Recently a planning application threatening the setting of the building was successfully resisted by local people, after a long and hard-fought campaign.

Gavin's Mill Community Project (GMCP) is a SCIO established in January 2017 by East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade campaigners. With the closure of the Balmore Coach House in January 2017, GMCP saw an opportunity to develop Gavin's Mill as a centre for fair trade, heritage and community work. The group has restored the near-derelect mill within a remarkably short time. Using mainly volunteer labour, the project has repaired damage to the exterior and refurbished it inside and out so that it is now in use, not only as a fair-trade shop and café, but also as a meeting place for local groups. The kitchen has been refurbished so that soup and home-baking can be cooked by volunteers.

The rescue of this building is the first stage in an ambitious longer-term project. GMCP has successfully negotiated a lease from the owner, with an option to purchase the property after 3 years. The Project intends to raise sufficient funds to buy the Mill and some adjacent land in order to extend the facilities. The new facilities will include provision for exploring the history of the mill, its place in the development of local agriculture, and the parallels that exist between this history and current developments in farming in Africa. It will host heritage walks, generate sustainable energy and market locally-grown produce as well as provide flexible social spaces. It will help young people learn skills in food growing, cooking and catering.

GMCP is working in partnership with:

Milngavie Community Development Trust www.milngaviedt.co.uk

Milngavie Heritage Centre www.milngavieheritage.org

Milngavie in Bloom <http://milngavieinbloom.webplus.net>

Baldernock Gardening Club www.baldernockgarden.org

Balmore Trust www.balmoretrust.org.uk which brings wide experience in local and overseas development work.

Please describe the building/project (200 words)

Gavin's Mill is a B-listed former corn mill situated on the Allander Water in Milngavie's designated Town Centre, and, indeed, in the Town Centre Conservation Area. The existing building, dating in part from at least the 17th century, is built of stone and has slate roofs. It has undergone many changes over the years and now has the form of twin gables with a central gutter. Inside, besides the two main floors, there is an attic used as the office and a slightly lower mezzanine area adjoining the upper floor. The overshot mill wheel is still in place, but is not currently usable.

The corn mill was operational until the 1960s fire. Following restoration in the late 1960s, Gavin's Mill housed a popular café, an architect's office, some small shops and, for the last 20 – 25 years, Indian and Chinese restaurants. When the last of these restaurants closed around December 2014, having for some years been used solely for carry-out meals, the building was locked and abandoned.

When GMCP took on the tenancy, the interior was filthy and the exterior showing signs of dilapidation. The roof leaked and there was regular flooding at times of heavy rainfall.

Please consider how the nominee(s) meets the following criteria.***Sharing***

How did the 'angels' contribute to/benefit the project? What new skills have been learnt or shared? How has the project enhanced the knowledge/skills of volunteers? (Max 200 words)

GMCP volunteers have played a hugely important part in the project. They were entirely responsible for the management of the refurbishment, in particular the coordination of tradesmen and volunteers engaged in the refit. Volunteers were wholly responsible for cleaning, decorating, shop-fitting and re-stocking; and major works required in restoring external spaces.

Local historians provided an exhibition recounting the Mill's history; further interpretative media will feature as the Project develops.

Local gardening organisations have completely transformed the garden, over-run with non-native invasive species.

The new fair trade shop and café is run by a Board of volunteers and staffed almost entirely by volunteers who are rapidly learning the skills required, including baking and supply of soup. Volunteers continue to work on restoration of the building and grounds as well as on shop fitting and internal maintenance. Without such volunteer contribution, it would have been impossible to cover the initial start-up costs.

All of this was co-ordinated by GMCP, and financially underwritten by individuals and the Balmore Trust, who also provided an interest free-loan for the cost of initial stocks.

The new fair trade shop and café have already become popular with local people.

Need:**What was the need for the project? (Max 200 words)**

The need for this project arose from the imminent closure of Balmore Coach House in the adjacent parish of Baldernock, which coincided with the Milngavie community's aspiration to rescue Gavin's Mill from dilapidation following disuse.

Balmore Coach House was one of the first UK Fair Trade shops and had provided support for the development work of the Balmore Trust (over £1 million in grants to local and overseas development projects). With closure of the Coach House due in January 2017, a new venue for the work which had been based there was urgently sought.

The potential for Gavin's Mill as a community and tourism asset for the town had been highlighted by Milngavie Heritage Centre in 2011.

In 2015, extensive community engagement by a subgroup of Milngavie Community Council (the precursor of Milngavie Community Development Trust), showed that the aspiration for rescue and community ownership of this building was widespread.

However, only with the extra-ordinary initiative and energy supplied by Gavin's Mill Community Project did a possible pathway become apparent towards the fulfilment of this long-standing aspiration.

GMCP saw an opportunity to develop Gavin's Mill as a centre for fair trade, heritage and community work. Local community and heritage groups have given enthusiastic support to the project.

Perseverance:**What challenges had to be overcome? Did the project suffer any setbacks? (Max 200 words)**

GMCP has had to contend with

- A collapsed ceiling, caused when an upstairs toilet cracked after being frozen during the winter 2016-17;
- Cleaning ingrained dirt from all areas. A small army of volunteers helped to clear rubbish and clean the entire building; many now help in the shop and cafe. Volunteers from Tesco removed the carpet from the main room, which had been the restaurant.
- Safety issues around the height of the main room – a scaffold tower was needed for electrical and decorating work;
- Heating and drying out the interior, especially the ground floor café area which was uninviting particularly during the winter; the central heating has been overhauled and the building is gradually drying out and warming up.
- the need to maintain a dedicated and enthusiastic body of volunteers to staff all aspects of the work of the shop and café. 4 volunteers are required at any time, usually working for 3-4 hours a shift: some 48 volunteer shifts per week.
- Establishing good governance of the project as a whole.
- Ensuring good financial control
- Meeting all environmental health, data protection and care of vulnerable persons legislation.

Legacy:

How has the project contributed to the future of a heritage site/s and/or the sharing of knowledge and skills. (Max 200 words)

The project has prevented the deterioration of Gavin's Mill, which was in danger of falling into irrevocable disrepair. It has begun a new era in the life of the building, as a fair-trade shop and café in the first instance, but with ambitious plans for restoring the Mill as a centre for sustainable development, including working with the Milngavie Heritage Centre to explore and interpret the Mill for the local community and visitors as an important part of the local industrial heritage. Due to its location at the start of the West Highland Way, Milngavie receives visitors from all over the world.

The project has led to the formation of a mills research group, with members from Milngavie, Bearsden and Baldernock heritage groups, who have been carrying out intensive research into the history of Gavin's Mill and other mills in East Dunbartonshire. Relatives of the last miller and of the architect who restored the building after the fire were interviewed and photographs, drawings and historic items obtained. In March, Milngavie Heritage Centre mounted a week-long exhibition "The Mills of Milngavie and District" in the former courtroom of Milngavie Town Hall.

PLEASE SEE FINAL PAGE FOR INSTRUCTION, DECLARATIONS AND CHECKLIST.

INSTRUCTIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Any text submitted should be written by you and may be widely published by the organisers* or other media.

Please submit a maximum of six images with each entry. Images can be supplied on CD or emailed with a completed application form to shaa@scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

Please make sure each image is no bigger than 2-3MB in size and in JPEG format. Any images submitted may be published online and used widely to promote the awards. **Please do not send PDF documents of printed publications/leaflets. Please ensure that permission has been granted for reproduction of all images and supply credits where applicable.** Please try to keep image sizes reasonable. If you have difficulty sending images to the above address you can use an alternative address: scottishheritageangelawards@gmail.com (Max 25MB in total for all images)

Applications can also returned by post to:

Scottish Heritage Angel Awards
c/o SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST
The Tobacco Merchant's House, 42 Miller Street
GLASGOW G1 1DT

Nominations must be submitted by Friday 11 August 2017

You should receive an acknowledgement by email within 7 days of submission. If you have not received an acknowledgement please contact the organisers at the address below.

CHECK LIST. YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS. PLEASE TICK.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM	√
IMAGES SUPPLIED IN JPEG FORMAT (MAX 6)	√

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING AND MARK WITH A 'X' IF YOU AGREE

I have read and agree to the <u>terms and conditions</u> of this competition (see website)	X
I agree to participate in any reasonable publicity in relation to these awards	X
The organisers* may keep your details on record and may contact you in the future. Please tick here if you are happy for us to contact you in the future regarding Scottish Heritage Angel Awards.	X
I confirm that I have permission to reproduce all images supplied, and that they may be used for the purposes described in the Scottish Heritage Angel Award Rules.	X
I confirm that I have obtained the permission of the individual/group being nominated (if applicable)	X

*The organisers: The Awards are run by a partnership of Scottish Civic Trust, Historic Environment Scotland, Archaeology Scotland and Scottish Government. The Scottish Civic Trust is the main delivery partner.

For all enquiries contact:

Scottish Heritage Angel Awards, c/o SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST, Tel: 0141 221 1466

Email: shaa@scottishcivictrust.org.uk

www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk

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