



## **PLOWDEN MEDAL WINNERS' CITATIONS**

**Ksynia Marko**

**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2016**

For her outstanding and invaluable contribution to textile conservation over four decades. Ksynia Marko is an extraordinary and internationally recognised practitioner, mentor and ambassador for the profession, who has successfully bridged the gap between institutional and private practice, and through her deep commitment to training and standards has raised the profile of textiles conservation in the UK and abroad.

Her innate understanding of textiles has made her an intuitive conservator who has produced consistently exemplary work, including leading on the treatment of many important textiles for both the National Trust and private clients. She has won international recognition for her pioneering work in the care and conservation of textiles. This in turn has led to numerous invitations to participate in international research projects and advisory groups. Her openness to new techniques and enthusiasm to investigate new theories has resulted in many methodologies, now taken for granted in textile conservation, being developed or refined by Ksynia.

Since the 1980s she has mentored and trained a generation of conservators who now serve in National Museums or private practices. Her support for developing the skills base for textile conservation reaches beyond professionals to include internships in her private practice and National Trust and NADFAS volunteers. Many of those now working at the highest level have been trained by Ksynia or have been influenced by her work.

Her ability to communicate has reached beyond the confines of textile conservation. Through her influential talks and publications Ksynia has gained a reputation for excellence with collectors, academics and institutions. Most importantly she has brought textile conservation to the attention of the general public.

Ksynia is arguably one of the most influential textile conservators practising in the UK today. It is rare to find all these qualities and combination of talents in one person.

**Nancy Bell and Sarah Staniforth CBE**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2015**

**NANCY BELL** For her evolutionary work in developing a risk based approach to environmental management of heritage collections, bringing together archive, museum and library collections and taking account of wider ecological implications. This work would not have been achieved without her leadership, determination and energy.

Nancy Bell's combined academic qualifications in science and history, practical skills in manuscript conservation and her ability to enthuse and lead others has taken her to the highest echelon of the conservation profession. She is in the vanguard of those who advocate an interdisciplinary approach and collaborative research.

This award also recognises her involvement in professional activities outside her normal duties which is exemplified by her role as editor of *The Paper Conservator*, an important conservation journal. This is further illustrated by the fact that she has given evidence to the House of Lords, Science and Technology Committee, on the provision of science funding for cultural heritage and in her role in establishing and co-chairing the National Heritage Science Forum.

**SARAH STANIFORTH CBE** For her outstanding contribution to the conservation of historic buildings and their collections and her commitment to the training of the next generation of conservators through scientific research and professional development.

Trained in both chemistry and the conservation of easel paintings, Sarah Staniforth has brought to the conservation profession a powerful mix of scientific rigour and practical application. She has been one of the leading figures in preventive conservation both nationally and internationally over the last three decades writing, teaching and lecturing on diverse aspects of the subject, and in particular she has been a leading exponent for the relationship between preventive conservation and the sustainable use of resources and energy.

As well as encouraging research within the National Trust, she has worked directly with external researchers and has commissioned high quality research in universities and other institutions. She has also been generous with her advice and support by sharing her experience and knowledge and inspiring others through her leadership.

Her energy, clarity, warmth and natural authority make her an exceptional advocate for conservation science, conservators, historic buildings and their interiors and collections.

**Dr Jim Tate**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2014**

For his significant contribution to the advancement of conservation and his unwavering passion for the application of science in promoting the understanding of artefacts.

As a physicist he has used his extensive knowledge of science to great effect. His collaboration and work within and out with the conservation sector has been one of his real strengths, whilst much of his scientific research has been conducted on a collaborative basis.

Extremely focused on raising the awareness of conservation, he has co-published around 40 papers and articles and has been involved in the organisation of conferences, seminars and events as well as the promotion of the conservation and conservation science in Scotland and beyond.

This award recognises his extensive interest and deep concern for all aspects of conservation. His inclusive approach has ensured that staff and students have benefitted from his considerable knowledge and, more widely, the general public through the application of science to the long-term preservation of collections in his care.

**Jonathan Betts MBE**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2013**

For his tireless and pioneering work in furthering the understanding, conservation and ethical treatment of historic clocks and watches.

Beyond his principal work on the chronometers and timepieces at Greenwich, he has consistently promoted ethical horological conservation across a much wider field, especially through his work over many years with the National Trust. He has transformed entrenched attitudes both within the museum sector and in private collections by his committed and constant advocacy.

This award recognises his determination and dynamism in teaching, lecturing and guiding his professional colleagues, clockmakers, students and curators for the past 35 years. His acknowledged leadership in horological conservation has been instrumental in transforming this discipline as well as inspiring and training generations of clock conservators.

**Professor May Cassar ACR FIIC FRSA FSA**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2012**

For her enduring commitment to improving the professional standing of heritage conservation practice nationally and internationally.

Professor May Cassar is an accredited conservator who has helped to establish principles and standards that underpin the work of conservators regardless of their particular area of specialism. Using her combined practical, academic and scientific experience Professor Cassar has successfully transformed thinking and practice in heritage science research, training and policy. Having held a number of important appointments culminating in her current position as Professor of Sustainable Heritage at University College London her participation in teaching, and research in particular, has been hugely significant.

Professor Cassar's tireless energy and enthusiasm, combined with her passion and commitment to conservation in its widest sphere is demonstrated through her active participation in a wide range of related appointments, committees and projects and through her prolific writing. There are few professionals working in conservation today who have not been influenced by Professor Cassar's work and her generosity of spirit.

**Kate Colleran**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2011**

For her singular contribution to paper conservation and to the establishment of the Institute of Conservation and her commitment to the education of conservation professionals.

Kate Colleran brings to the conservation community an unstoppable enthusiasm and deep commitment for the profession. As one of the driving forces in the successful merger of the Institute of Paper Conservation into ICON, she has championed the education and development of young professionals both through her private paper conservation practice and her teaching in the UK and abroad. She was one of the early ardent proponents for the creation of a UK wide system of professional accreditation for conservators of all specialisations. One of her many legacies to conservation is her leading role in the setting up and running of the Chantry Library in Oxford, which was one of the first dedicated libraries for conservation in England.

Having a strong sense of independence, dedication and probity Kate Colleran exemplifies all the ideals that Anna Plowden was so passionate about.

**David Watkinson**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2010**

For his significant and innovative work in archaeological conservation.

This award recognises David Watkinson's outstanding contribution to archaeological conservation through his teaching, research and science based work. He has worked unstintingly, often during challenging times, to develop and deliver conservation training and education at Cardiff University for over 30 years. His research work on controlling corrosion in archaeological and historical ironwork is highly regarded and has been widely published gaining him international recognition. This has culminated in his groundbreaking work on S.S. Great Britain, and his contribution towards controlling the environment surrounding the ship thereby reducing its corrosive effects.

His life-long interest and commitment to conservation, and the great importance he attaches to the sharing of knowledge and research, is demonstrated by his active participation in conferences and research projects and through serving on many boards and committees for the greater benefit of the conservation community.

**Professor Nicholas Pickwood**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2009**

For his unceasing dedication to the study and conservation of historic libraries and rare books.

This award recognises his craftsmanship, scholarship, innovation and teaching in the field of book conservation. He is a practical conservator, an academic and an innovator. His work for the National Trust and St. Catherine's Monastery where he was leader of the library conservation project is evidence of this. A person of great patience, kindness and good

humour he has had a formative influence, through his teaching, on book conservation and conservators for more than thirty years. He has recently established the “Ligatus” project in conjunction with the University of the Arts for the study of historic bookbinding through the development of digital tools and resources.

His innovative work has had a fundamental effect on current practice and will stand as a reference point for future generations of conservation professionals.

### **David Pinniger**

#### **THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2008**

For his longstanding and invaluable contribution as entomologist, teacher and author to significantly improving the conservation of collections by reducing and managing the threat posed by insect pests.

He has revolutionised the approach to pest management in museums, historic houses, libraries and archives, providing a lasting legacy to the conservation profession. His valued input includes his practical work, publications, teaching programmes and research. His introduction of the Integrated Pest Management System to UK museums and historic houses has had a beneficial impact on costs and treatment strategies.

A natural and entertaining orator, he occupies a unique position in the conservation world as someone who has come from outside the profession, yet is now fully integrated into it. He has provided an impartial and balanced view and set up numerous national and international networks of fellow professionals.

### **Vincent Daniels**

#### **THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2007**

For his long and exceptional contribution to the development of understanding in conservation, the excellence of his dedicated research and his ready engagement with the practitioners of the conservation profession.

The reward recognises his innovative research and the way in which he has brought scientific research from many disciplines to the solution of problems faced by conservators in preserving the heritage. In addition he has published numerous works, which are both wide ranging in their content and highly relevant to the conservation fraternity, particularly with regard to the conservation of paper and related artefacts. This, together with his refinement of conservation principles and their dissemination to researchers and practitioners alike, has had a major impact both in the United Kingdom and internationally.

The award also recognises the quality of his contribution as a teacher and his generosity and good humour in communicating and sharing his knowledge with all who seek it.

**James Black**

**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2006**

For his invaluable contribution to the development of the international conservation profession.

This award recognises his pioneering development work in the field of international academic projects, which have involved the creation of professional programmes, including distance learning and training advice, of the highest standard. Alongside this, he has also published a substantial body of enlightening works concerning art, antiquities, preservation and related topics, many of which are fundamental to current practice – which otherwise would not have been available.

It also recognises his outstanding dedication to the profession over many years – and the major role he has played in the preservation of our cultural heritage.

**Carole Milner**

**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2005**

For her outstanding contribution to the development of the conservation profession.

This award recognises her pivotal role in enabling conservators to develop partnerships and speak with a unified professional voice. Firstly she helped create the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations. Subsequently, under the aegis of the then Museums & Galleries Commission, she energetically supported the Conservation Forum, which became the National Council for Conservation-Restoration of which she was latterly Chair.

Of particular merit however is her inspirational and dedicated leadership, which has led to the creation of the new Institute of Conservation, forged from five existing organisations. She has led with characteristic probity, and an extraordinary commitment of her personal time, to bring about this historic development of establishing a unified and inclusive lead body for the conservation of the cultural heritage in the United Kingdom.

**Christopher Clarkson**

**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2004**

For striving tirelessly to raise standards in book and manuscript conservation.

This award recognises the outstanding contribution he has made to practical conservation, his detailed and intelligent interpretation of book structures and materials, as well as the development of new techniques and treatments and his extensive writings – most notably his seminal study of medieval bindings, recognised as the classic text in the field.

It also recognises his pioneering and inventive contribution to preservation, storage, exhibition and handling of materials, now embedded as part of good practice – and his continuing dedication to the education and training of young conservators world wide, with whom he is only too willing to share his knowledge.

**Clare Meredith**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2003**

For devoting an extraordinary amount of her time and energy – freely, enthusiastically and selflessly – for the greater good of conservation and for working tirelessly to create opportunities for young people entering the profession. For mentoring colleagues and for promoting professional accreditation – and for striving always to raise and set the highest possible standards.

Above all, for having the vision and generosity to share this, voluntarily, with others in the private sector – and Historic Scotland – as well as with a wide range of international conservation bodies.

**Dr David Leigh**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2002**

For striving tirelessly to raise standards in conservation – especially in the field of conservation training.

This award recognises his own teaching practice, his example and leadership at the several departments and organisations over which he has presided, including those at Southampton and Cardiff Universities, the Museums & Galleries Commission, the Museums Training Institute, West Dean College, and currently the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

It also acknowledges that he has enabled many conservators, of all ages, to develop their skills and experience through opportunities that would not have been available to them without his initiatives, including the national conservation awards and many others.

**Donald Insall Cbe**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2001**

For his exceptional record of public service in the interests of conserving the architectural heritage, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

This award recognises his unique contribution over more than four decades to the development of both practice and policy for historic building conservation.

It also acknowledges the outstanding example he has set through his leadership, writing and teaching, in tirelessly promoting the need for positive continuity in conservation planning.

**Dr Jonathan Ashley-Smith**  
**THE PLOWDEN MEDAL 2000**

For his tireless and visionary commitment to the conservation of the moveable heritage.

This award recognises the substantial contribution that Dr Jonathan Ashley-Smith has made to conservation, especially his ground-breaking work on object risk assessment, which continues to redefine our approach to our heritage.

The award also recognises his current research into the question “Why conserve?” – acknowledging that this has already made a significant impact on both the public and professional perception of conservation.