

Former lifeboat station to house historic archives

by Chris Betteley

chris@cambrian-news.co.uk

THE former Aberystwyth Lifeboat Station in Queen's Road will be transformed to house some of Ceredigion's historic archives after a successful funding bid.

Ceredigion Archives have been handed £113,926 to transform the building from the Welsh Government's Transformation Capital Grant Programme which is supporting museums, archives and libraries across the country.

The station was built in the 1870s to accommodate the town's lifeboat, and was later used as the BBC broadcasting studio.

It has been used by Ceredigion council for many years for storage.

The next phase of its existence will see it being upgraded for use as a store for some of the county's historic archives.

Ceredigion Archives, the county record office, is situated nearby in Canolfan Alun R Edwards, the Old Town Hall.

Helen Palmer, County Archivist, said: "Since the Archives moved in 2012 we have had so many important donations and deposits to the archives that we really need more space to house the collections."

"We were already using the Old Lifeboat House for non-archival items, so it seemed an excellent op-



The former Aberystwyth Lifeboat Station in Queen's Road

portunity to re-purpose a significant and well-loved building as a new store.

"The Old Lifeboat House was built to store something precious to Aberystwyth and the wider area. We like to think that this tradition will continue in its new use."

The building will be equipped with a system to regulate temperature and humidity to ensure the long-term preservation of manuscripts, and other safeguards will be installed to make sure that the contents of the building are

safe and secure.

The new facility should provide almost 80 cubic metres of additional space for the county's archive collections.

The building will not be open to the public, but documents will be transported securely to the archives in the Old Town Hall upon request.

Helen added: "We are extremely grateful to Welsh Government for its practical and timely support of important community services such as archives, museum and libraries, and to the National Archives for its advice and support in the development of the facility."

"It is absolutely brilliant to know that we will have space to develop

the county's fascinating archival collections into the future, for everyone who has an interest in the heritage and history of this county."

The funding was announced by the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Lord-Elis-Thomas at a conference last week.

"This fund will widen access for our communities, promoting cultural engagement, providing learning opportunities and supporting community cohesion and prosperity," he said.

"I look forward to visiting the new facilities in due course, and encourage everyone to see what their local museum, archive or library has to offer."

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