



9 September 2019

Hats off to Beards

The public facing parts of the Gloucestershire Archives building in central Gloucester have been completely refurbished, marking the end of the project to develop the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub.

Gloucestershire Archives have been joined on site by Gloucestershire Family History Society and the Gloucestershire Constabulary Archive volunteers. There is a brand-new training suite, The Dunrossil Centre, which will be used for archives and community training, as well as for hosting public events. There are also 3 new state of the art strongrooms for housing archive collections.

Beards Construction picked up the building project earlier this year, after the previous contractors left the site in November 2018 and subsequently went into administration. Since April, Beards have built a new entrance, created the car park and completed the new strongrooms, including installing 3 miles of specialist shelving.

Beards' determination to finish the job on time was put to the test when a blackbird nested in the porch of the Family History Society's half-finished office. Contractors and staff alike had to adjust their plans and work around the blackbird whilst she raised two broods of fledglings – 8 baby blackbirds in total.

Yesterday Gloucestershire Heritage Hub held a Garden Party to thank Beards, and to give visitors an opportunity to see the new building, community garden and other facilities.

Quote from Beards “_ “We’re delighted to have worked with Gloucestershire Archives on this fantastic project and being part of the team that delivered The Heritage Hub. I know this facility will be a great asset for people of Gloucestershire for many years to come”. Says Marc Bayley Director at Beards.

Cllr Lynden Stowe, cabinet member for finance and change, said: “I am very grateful to Beards for bringing this major project to a successful conclusion. The Heritage Hub is a fantastic resource in gathering, keeping and sharing the documented history of Gloucestershire and beyond, and we have already had many compliments from visitors who are thrilled with the new facilities.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Gloucestershire Heritage Hub is a major transformation project funded by Gloucestershire County Council, the National Heritage Lottery Fund, and many other funders.

The Heritage Hub can be found at Clarence Row, Alvin Street, Gloucester, GL1 3DW.



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

Gloucestershire Archives @ The Heritage Hub is open from 9am-4:30pm, Tuesday-Friday and on the first Saturday of each month.

There is a free Memory Café based at the Gloucestershire Heritage Hub on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Media op:

Photo of Beards at celebration Garden Party (on 8 September) can be provided.

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