

# CANOLFAN Y CELFYDDYDAU ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

Press Release  
Datganiad i'r Wasg

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Tales from Aberystwyth's Past are recorded for posterity

*Information begins...*

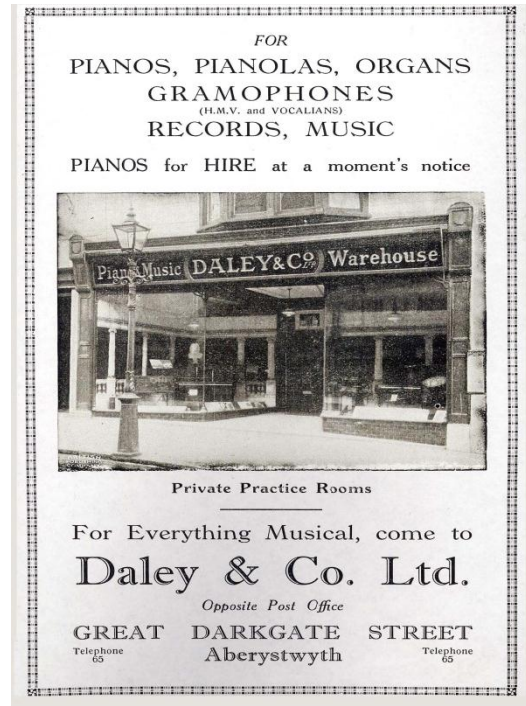


Image courtesy of Ceredigion Archive

A new oral history project recording memories of Aberystwyth is being launched at the end of January. The project, which is a partnership between Aberystwyth Arts Centre and Aberystwyth Business Club, involves recording digital and oral history stories from older people in the Aberystwyth area, which will ultimately contribute to a permanent digital archive for the town.

For the first part of the project, called 'Siopa' artists Anna Evans and Amanda Partridge used a reminiscence basket and old photographs to inspire memories of shopping in Aberystwyth. They worked with users of Aberystwyth Day Centre, members of the Women's Institute, residents of Bodlondeb in Penparcau to record their memories, and also with members of the Arts Centre Youth Theatre who enjoyed finding out about the history of the town and how it has changed over the years. The result is an intriguing collection of recorded stories and old photographs which will be shown in the Arts Centre cinema at a special screening for those who have taken part in the project to date, on Friday 27 January. Siopa will also be shown at Bodlondeb in the future for those participants who are unable to travel to the Arts Centre.

Amongst a host of fascinating stories we hear about the shop in Great Darkgate Street that gave things away, the 40 shilling suit, a day out with meringues and fish and chips, what happened on the top balcony

of the old cinema, where the children from Ardwyn School used to hide when they were should really have been in school and how Dad's Army was set up in Aberystwyth.

Arts Centre Director Alan Hewson said *'We are very grateful for the support of Aberystwyth Business Club which has enabled this project to go ahead. The results are sure to provide a fascinating window into the history of Aberystwyth.'*

The next stages of the project, starting in March, will continue to build up the archive. The artists will be working with young people alongside the older members of the community in various settings including schools, daycentres, residential homes, WI groups, chapels and people's own homes. In particular they will be looking for stories of Aberystwyth from during or before the Second World War and would welcome contact from anyone with old photographs, memories or stories they would be willing to share. This project will be led by Huw Davies from the BBC Wales Digital Storytelling team.

For further information on the project please contact Gill Ogden or Cath Sherrell on 01970 622882.

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Notes for editors:

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Participants will be viewing their stories at the arts centre on Friday 27 January at 3pm alongside members of the Business Club – photographers and reviewers are welcome to attend this event if requested in advance.