



# Press Release

## **The Devon and Exeter Institution**

For immediate publication

### **The Devon and Exeter Institution, Library and Reading Rooms secures National Lottery investment, for the restoration of the library roof, care of collections, interpretation and learning.**

The Devon and Exeter Institution (DEI) has received a confirmed grant of £271,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the restoration of the library roof, care of collections, interpretation and learning, it was announced today.

The project will take place over the next three years and will deliver:

- a restored and structurally secure building;
- conservation and care of the historic book collection and archive;
- interpretation which includes public talks and displays;
- a learning and engagement programme and digital resources;

The project aims to encourage more people to learn about and appreciate the historic value of the DEI – its building and setting in Cathedral Close and its library and art collection.

Founded in 1813, the DEI is a product of Eighteenth Century Enlightenment and civic pride.

The founding vision was to promote:

*“The general diffusion of Science, Literature and the Arts”*

The DEI is a membership library which has a programme of public talks on Mondays and roof tours on Wednesday afternoons.

*“ We are delighted to receive support from the Heritage Lottery Fund which will not only enable us to complete the work on our roof and collection but will also bring us another step closer to our founding aim - to be at the heart of cultural life in Exeter and the County of Devon - through increased public awareness and engagement”*

Said John Manley-Tucker, Chairman of Trustees at the DEI

Nerys Watts, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund South West, said:

“Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players we’re able to fund this exciting and much-needed project at the Devon and Exeter Institution. Not only can urgent conservation work now be undertaken to maintain the historically significant building but our funding will also open up the libraries’ impressive

collections to the public properly for the first time, encouraging visitors to learn about the building and its place in local life. Located in the heart of Cathedral Close it will be a wonderful addition to the fascinating heritage of Exeter and Devon.”

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About The Devon and Exeter Institution**

Founded in 1813, the DEI is a product of the Eighteenth Century Enlightenment and civic pride.

The founding vision was to promote

*“the general diffusion of Science, Literature and the Arts; and for illustrating the Natural and Civil History of the County of Devon, and the History of the City of Exeter”.*

The Institution occupies historic premises at the heart of Exeter in the Cathedral Close. Adapted from what was once a medieval house belonging to a canon of the Cathedral, the library of the Institution is housed in two elegant Georgian rooms which provide space for individual research and for cultural events, lectures and musical evenings. There are also two smaller meeting rooms enjoying beautiful views of the Cathedral and a popular restaurant.

The Institution is cherished by members and visitors alike for its calm and peaceful atmosphere in the midst of a busy city. Many scholarly books and articles have had their origins in its quiet spaces and a number of leading academics acknowledge the part the Institution has played in the early stages of their careers.

### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

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### **Further information**

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