The town of books opens a new chapter in its



Argraff arlunydd o sut bydd Castell Y Gelli Gandryll yn edrych ar ôl gwaith atgyweirio

As the crowds gather for the 29th Hay Festival another local landmark is about to steal the limelight. At the centre of this picturesque market town and dominating the local townscape is Hay Castle, a 12th century structure that has fallen into disrepair.

But that is all about to change thanks to National Lottery support of over £4million to rescue and conserve this ancient structure and bring its long and varied history alive for today's generation.

The award to the Hay Castle Trust will enable it to save and consolidate the castle ruins, while at the same time providing access to the keep, restoring the mansion and reopening the ancient gate. In addition a museum-standard gallery will be created including an educational space and café, providing inspiring spaces for use by the local community and the public.

Nancy Lavin Albert is managing director of Hay Castle and welcomed the announcement: "The Trust's aspiration is to create an inspiring and meaningful place for people to enjoy their heritage and the arts, learn new skills and participate in community events. The Castle is currently in a critical state of disrepair so this announcement today is great news for the town, both culturally and economically."

Hay Castle is located in Hay-on-Wye, on the border of England and Wales and is recognised as the Town of Books and home of Hay Festivals. The ancient gateway houses one of the oldest surviving in situ defensive wooden gates in the country, while the 17th-century mansion is noteworthy for its striking Dutch gables and mammoth chimneys.

When the project is complete, Hay Castle will be open to the public for the first time in its 800-year history.