

Weekend

Things that flew
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A beacon of hope

Abaco's historic Elbow Reef Lighthouse restored pgs 08 +09

Thanks to a grant from the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) worth over \$472,000, an important piece of Bahamian history has been restored and will continue to delight future generations.

The iconic red-and-white striped Elbow Reef Lighthouse in Hope Town, Abaco, was officially re-opened yesterday following months of arduous renovation work in the wake of Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

A special ceremony to mark the completion of the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Restoration project was held on the island yesterday.

Constructed in circa 1863, it is the last active kerosene burning and manned by keeper light station in the Bahamas, with eight historical outbuildings and an original working light tower.

The Elbow Reef Lighthouse was one of 11 manned light stations commissioned by the British Imperial Lighthouse Service in between 1836 and 1887 to serve as remote outposts in the Bahamas.

When the Bahamas gained its independence in 1973, oversight of the lighthouses passed to the country's Port Department.

The lighthouse at Elbow Reef was saved from automation by the Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society (BLPS), which was formed in 1992. This group, which later became the Elbow Reef Lighthouse Society, took over all the maintenance needs.

And so, while lighthouses worldwide have removed their original manual parts in favour of the efficiency of electricity, hence removing vital technology that made them authentic, the Elbow Reef Lighthouse remains the only active one in the world that has not been outfitted with electricity. The lens is still hand-wound by a keeper and fuelled by kerosene to this day.

Culture

A beacon of hope restored

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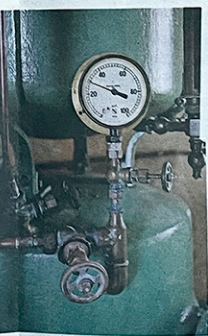
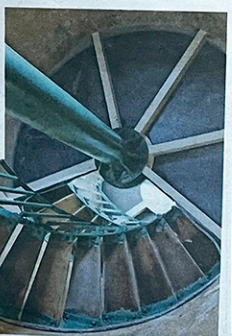
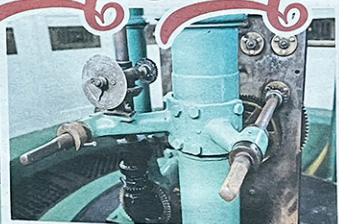
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(Photos/Dante Carre)