



SANDOWN TOWN COUNCIL

Press Release

LIBRARIES, LEARNING & LITERATURE

Sandown Library celebrated Libraries Week this year with a drop-in session from Healthy Lifestyles Isle of Wight offering help and advice to people hoping to stop smoking or lose weight, the launch of a new reading challenge for adults and the publication of new leaflets highlighting all the great services the library offers.

The iconic library was opened in 1905, money for the library was donated by Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish businessman who had migrated to the US as a child with his parents. Having worked his way up from a factory floor worker to owner of the largest and most profitable industrial enterprise in the world (Carnegie Steel Company), he later devoted his life to philanthropy with a particular interest in local libraries, world peace, education and scientific research. In 1903, the Sandown Urban Council approached Mr Carnegie for a loan to build a library. A loan of £2000 was offered, and after much discussion over location and necessity, a public poll was organised which concluded an overwhelming majority of approval by the people of Sandown, although not as much support from the people of Lake). The library was built on land donated by Mr Alexander Keller (builder of the Savoy Hotel) and was opened by Lord Alverstone (Lord Chief Justice of England) in 1905. By 1906 there were 2,745 books available with an additional reference library, a ladies room had been opened, and fossils from around the Island (now housed at Dinosaur Isle) formed a geology collection.

Celebrating Libraries Week, the Library has launched Book Bingo, a fun challenge that encourages readers to diversify their reading and gives them the chance of winning a £50 book token.

Louise Emery, Senior Library Assistant, said 'We're gradually starting up all of our events and activities in the library again and it's great to start seeing all of our old customers and some new ones back in the library'

CLlr Heather Humby MBE added 'The range of services available at the Library is continually growing, and local residents continue to benefit from them'

Derek and Gina Poole from the Historical Association concluded 'We are just finishing our Sandown Chronicle restoration project, supported by a grant from Sandown Town Council, and we will be opening it later in October'.



L-R Gina Poole (SHA), Cllr Heather Humby MBE, Derek Poole (SHA), Louise Emery & Phil Ramage (Sandown Library)