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HENDON CIVIC NEWS

LIBRARY SERVICE IN HENDON

An article by

Councillor (Mrs.) N. I. Cullinane
Chairman of the
Libraries and Museum Committee

Hendon's Library Service has developed over a period of 35 years and in this comparatively short time we can with due modesty claim that it has established a reputation as one of the leading systems in the country. It now comprises a Central Library, five branch libraries, a local history museum at Church Farm House and these are supported by two travelling libraries which visit twelve additional sites each week in various parts of the Borough. Special services include a music library with a stock of nearly 6,000 gramophone records available for loan, a school library service to 48 schools, a book delivery service to the housebound and special facilities for blind readers.

There is a high level of demand for books in Hendon and the libraries form one of the busiest systems in the London area. The Central Library in the Burroughs first opened its doors to the public in December 1929 and a progressive policy of development established branch libraries at Golders Green (1935) Mill Hill (1937) Edgware (1952) Burnt Oak (1954) and Childs Hill (1962). A Travelling Library Service was introduced in 1947 and the Gramophone Record Library established in 1949.

The policy of the Council in improving and extending the facilities has met with remarkable success and it is interesting to compare the demands made upon the service in the year 1930-31, with those experienced in 1963-64. In 1930-31 the recorded issue of books amounted to 376,422, whereas in 1963-64, 2,167,254 books and gramophone records were issued to the public. Registered readers numbered 16,686, 14.3% of the population, compared with 78,160 using the libraries today, equivalent to 51% of the present population. The library service has always been a local service, administered by

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

from The Worshipful the Mayor of Hendon,
Councillor J. W. Shock, J.P., M.A., F.C.A.
and The Mayoress, Mrs. Shock

The Mayoress and I take this opportunity of expressing to all in the Borough of Hendon our best wishes for the New Year.

The year will be an eventful one in Civic Affairs as it will see the Borough of Hendon hand over the reins to the London Borough of Barnet. The Hendon Civic News will keep you informed of Council Activities.



The Children's Library at Edgware.

the local authority and in close contact with the demands of readers. In the past the provision of a public library service has always been "permissive"—there has been no obligation or compulsion to provide such a service and, if it has been provided, there have been no required standards to which it must conform. It is entirely supported by the local rate and it would not be unfair to suggest that the standard of public library services in any area has been some indication of the local authority's recognition of the cultural needs of the community it serves.

In the future it will face a new challenge in the improvements envisaged in

the new Libraries Act, the developments in education and the general increase in leisure. The Libraries Act imposes a duty on local authorities to provide an efficient service and on the Secretary of State for Education and Science to supervise development. This country is in the midst of substantial programmes to raise the standard of education which are bound to lead to increased demand for books. Library service in the future is seen as complementary to all branches of the education service, as an indispensable aid to activities in the industrial, commercial and technological fields and as an essential element in the cultural life of the community.

LARGE PRINT BOOKS

Many thousands of people with poor or failing sight have been deprived the pleasure of reading because the print in books and newspapers was too small. Now a series of large print books has been issued which are available in each of the Hendon libraries. Specially produced on a non-profit making basis the first twelve titles are now available:—

Agatha Christie	<i>A Pocket full of Rye.</i>
Edgar Wallace	<i>The Avenger.</i>
Netta Muskett	<i>The Fettered past.</i>
Thomas Firbank	<i>I bought a mountain.</i>
Agatha Christie	<i>Ordeal by innocence & Cat among the pigeons.</i>
Denise Robins	<i>The Enchanted island.</i>
Naomi Jacob	<i>A Late lark singing.</i>
Frank Slaughter	<i>Epidemic.</i>
Barbara Cartland	<i>The Wings of love.</i>
Ernest Raymond	<i>The Chatelaine.</i>
Vicki Baum	<i>Written on water.</i>

CENTRAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

All the Hendon libraries contain quick-reference books such as dictionaries, encyclopaedias and year books but the main reference collection is housed in the Central Library at The Burroughs. Over 25,000 books and pamphlets, a trained and qualified staff, seating for 32 readers, photocopying machines and microfilm readers are the component parts that make up the Reference Library service but these facts give little idea of the range of subjects covered by the stock.

The Reference Library can tell you how many cars were exported in 1963 and the coefficients of linear thermal expansion of the rare metal columbium. It can supply the name, address and telephone number of a manufacturer of thermometers in Tokyo or the reason why the lily of the valley is thought to be an unlucky plant by the superstitious.

It can provide you with an up to date reading list of books and articles on the after-care of discharged prisoners and it can tell you the growth rate of a cocker spaniel.

It contains dictionaries ranging from an early edition of Dr. Johnson to the latest edition of a multilingual technical dictionary, encyclopaedias including the latest edition of Britannica, the French Grand Larousse, the still unfinished Encyclopaedia of World Art, and directories of 101 trades and professions.

A scientist can consult Mellor's "Comprehensive treatise on an Inorganic and theoretical chemistry," while the student of literature can study "The

LENDING LIBRARIES

Membership of the lending libraries is available to all who live, work or attend school in the borough and also to the holders of tickets issued by other library authorities. Books may be borrowed from any of the six libraries or the twelve Travelling Library sites, and are issued for three weeks.

Over 250,000 volumes are available for loan from the lending libraries and these cover not only a wide range of subjects, but also include an extensive stock of novels. Books not on the shelves may be reserved on payment of a 3d. fee and facilities exist to enable books to be obtained from other libraries if necessary.

WHERE ARE THE LIBRARIES?

CENTRAL LIBRARY	The Burroughs, N.W.4. HEN 8537/8.
GOLDERS GREEN	Golders Green Road, N.W.11. MEA 2168.
MILL HILL	Hartley Avenue, N.W.7. MIL 5066.
EDGWARE	Hale Lane, Edgware. STO 5550.
BURNT OAK	Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak. MIL 3112.
CHILDS HILL	320, Cricklewood Lane, N.W.2. SPE 5390.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Through the school library service which has been in operation since 1930, books are provided in the school for every child from admission age to the boy or girl in the sixth form of the Grammar School. It is essential with modern methods of education that books should be available in the school as a source of information. The stock of 37,000 books is selected by the teaching staff and administered and maintained through the Central Library. To supplement the service, collections of books are lent to the schools for extended periods for use in connection with project work and school journeys. Classes also visit the libraries for the same purpose.

A collection of illustrations on every branch of knowledge numbering 20,000, is maintained at the Central Junior Library mainly for the use of teachers. The librarians-in-charge of the Junior Departments are always glad to advise teachers about children's books for class use and for teaching to children.

Cambridge History of English literature." The historian can find the English Historical Documents series, the artist Benezit's "Dictionnaire des Peintres," and the student of current affairs may consult Keesing's Contemporary Archives. Statistical series of every kind are taken and filed including a wide range of Government Publications.

You can find the British Museum "Catalogue of Printed Books" in more than three hundred volumes and a single-sheet issue of the Board of Trade Business Monitor.

Scientist or technologist, business or professional man, student or just an ordinary citizen seeking information, the Reference Library can help them all.

LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN

A library service is available to all children who live or go to school in the area. There is no age limit and all children are welcome. The children's departments are attractive and colourful with their shelves of brightly-jacketed books and interesting displays to attract the young readers. Children are encouraged to help with the running of their own libraries and there is no lack of volunteers to serve as Junior Library Helpers. There is a friendly atmosphere in the libraries and children are happy there.

The stock of nearly 152,000 books is carefully selected from the more than 2,000 books published annually for children in this country. Whatever his age or interests, the child will find books he can enjoy and which will help him as a source of information. The librarians-in-charge of the Junior Departments are trained and experienced in this field so that they are able to advise the children in their care.

Storytelling is a regular feature in the libraries, particularly for children between the age of three and five. In this way children are introduced to books at an early age and at the same time enjoy listening to a good story. There is an annual Book Week during which boys and girls visit the library and meet authors and illustrators. At Christmas special programmes of puppet shows and stories and a Book Quiz are arranged at all the libraries. The Illustrations Collection of 20,000 items is available for lending to children as well as adults.

The children's libraries offer an up-to-date and active service to the children of the borough.

THE ALDERMEN OF THE COUNCIL



Alderman Arthur Paul, J.P.

Alderman Paul has lived in the Borough of Hendon for 30 years, and was elected a Councillor for the Burnt Oak Ward in May, 1949. Appointed an Alderman in 1958, he was Mayor of the Borough of Hendon in 1958-59.

He has served on all Committees of the Council, and on the former Special Committee for the re-organisation of Local Government. At present, he serves on the Education, General Purposes, Housing, Public Health, Libraries and Museum, Appeals Committees, and the Information Sub-Committee.

Appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Gore Division of Middlesex in 1952, Alderman Paul is also a Governor of Copthall Girls County Grammar School, Woodcroft Secondary Modern School, St. James R.C. School and Annunciation R.C. School.

Alderman Paul has served for many years on Area 4 Health Committee of Middlesex County Council, and has been a member of the Kings Cross and District Local Appeals Tribunal of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance since 1948.

He is Leader of the Labour Group of the Council of the Borough of Hendon, is Vice-President of Watling Community Association, and Vice-President of Hendon Overseas Friendship Association.

Elected a Councillor for the New London Borough of Barnet in May, 1964, for Burnt Oak Ward, he serves on the Education, General Purposes, Libraries and Arts, Health, Childrens, Welfare and Appeals Committees.

Married with one son, during the war Alderman Paul served with the Royal Air Force.

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES

The Travelling library service started in 1947 with a single van. Within two years it was necessary to extend the service, and two trailer-type mobile libraries were used. These were in action for the next fourteen years, providing a library service at twelve service points in the borough.

There have been changes in these service points because permanent branch libraries have been built at such places as Edgware, Burnt Oak, Childs Hill, and Finchley Garden Suburb. The purpose of the service now is to provide books for readers who live some distance from the permanent libraries and where it would be uneconomic to build branch libraries.

At the beginning of November 1964 two caravan-type trailers towed by Land Rovers were put into action to replace the previous mobiles. These contain many improvements gained from experience—better entrance steps, lighting, ventilation and heating. They each carry a selection of 2,250 volumes, of which over 400 are for children. The largest issue of children's books in Hendon is from the Travelling libraries—last year over 73,500 books were borrowed. Combined with the adult loans over a quarter of a million books were issued from the mobiles last year.

HISTORY OF HENDON

The residents of Hendon who are interested in their local history are fortunate in that three books have been written about their borough. The earliest is Evans "History of Hendon" published at the end of the 19th Century and now out of print. The second by Major N. G. Brett-James was published some thirty years ago and is also now unobtainable. Realising the need for an up-to-date history which would bring Hendon's story to the present day the Hendon Borough Council published in 1964 "The History of Hendon" by John Hopkins, the present Reference Librarian.

CHURCH FARM HOUSE MUSEUM

Probably nowhere in Hendon does the sense of the past still linger as in the corner near St. Mary's, Hendon's ancient Parish Church. The Church itself, the Greyhound Inn, The Model Farm and its fields and at the brink of the hill the weathered bricks and tiles of the Church Farm House Museum, all combine to convey a sense of the village that Hendon used to be. The Museum was built as a farm house during the 17th century, and its fields once extended down Greyhound Hill and into what later became the Aerodrome. The new roads, railways and subsequent buildings swallowed up the farm land until the house stood alone in its own orchard with its barns nearby until it was acquired by the Hendon Borough Council. After a brief career as emergency housing it was developed into a Museum of Local History which opened in 1955. Now the three ground floor rooms are furnished in period styles while the first floor rooms are given over to a series of exhibitions dealing with local history and the arts.

Apart from its contents, the fabric of the house itself is of considerable interest and the attics are accessible to the public who may see there details of the construction. The barns which once nestled by the side have now been replaced by two pleasant cottages and the orchard, still retaining its fruit trees, has been laid out as a public garden in which the pond and well are interesting features.

The current exhibition is :

**"DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT
THROUGH THE AGES"**

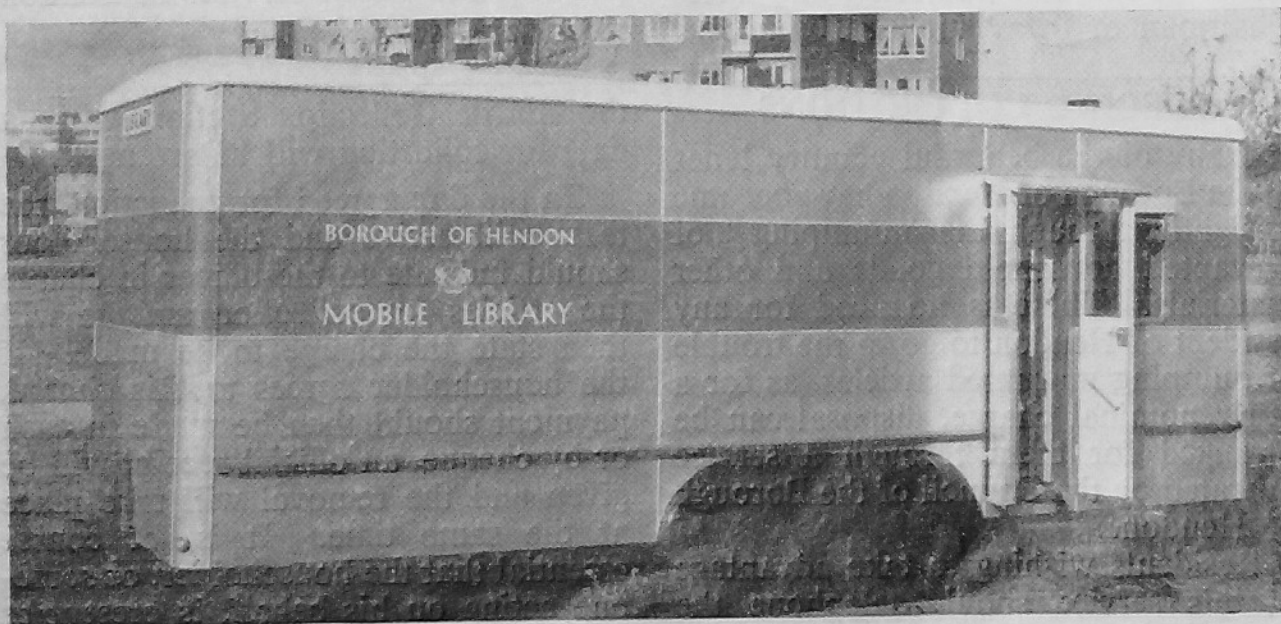
Opening hours are :

Weekdays (except Tuesdays) 10-12.30; 2-6.

Tuesdays 10-1.

Sundays 2.30-6.

Admission Free.



One of the new Mobile Libraries.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE MILL HILL WARD



Councillor A. P. Fletcher

After war service in the army, where he finished as a Lieutenant-Colonel, Councillor Fletcher settled in Mill Hill with his wife in 1945 and has lived there since; they have four children.

Elected to the Council for the Mill Hill Ward, as a Conservative in 1954, he has taken special interest in town planning, highways and finance, is now Chairman of the Buildings and Town Planning Committee and of the Appeals Committee.

For many years he has served as one of the representatives of St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on the Hendon Ruridecanal Conference. He is president of the Mill Hill Cricket and Hockey Club—he was a hockey blue at Oxford—and a Vice-President of the Mill Hill branches of the British Legion and of the United Nations Association. He sat on a committee which recently presented to the Inns of Court Conservative and Unionist Society a report suggesting alterations in the law of business tenancies.

Councillor Fletcher was elected a Councillor for the Mill Hill Ward of the London Borough of Barnet in May 1964, is Chairman of the Appeals Committee of the new authority, and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Many of the beautiful country lanes in the Borough of Hendon have become unsightly through the "dumping" of unwanted household goods and other materials. There is no need for any resident of Hendon to go to the trouble of dumping unwanted articles, as for a fairly nominal charge, disposal can be arranged for them through a service operated by the Council of the Borough of Hendon.

Residents wishing to take advantage of this service should telephone the Town Hall (Hendon 8282) and ask for



Councillor T. C. Stewart, O.B.E.

Councillor Stewart has lived in the Borough since 1933 and has represented Mill Hill Ward on the Council of the Borough of Hendon since 1961.

He serves on the Education, Highways and General Purposes Committees and is Vice Chairman of the Works and Civil Defence Committees. He is also Chairman of the Road Safety Committee of the Borough and Chairman of the Safe Driving Trials and Motor Cycle Rally Committees this year.

He has been Chairman of Mill Hill Ward and is an active member of that Ward Conservative Association. In May, 1964, he was elected a Ward Representative for Central Ward on the London Borough of Barnet.

He is a Governor of the two Orange Hill Grammar Schools and Edgware Secondary School.

In June, 1964, he was honoured by Her Majesty with the O.B.E. for political and public services in London and Middlesex.

the Refuse Collection Section, when a date for collection will be arranged.

On the day agreed for collection, the team will arrive and the householder should indicate to the officer in charge the articles for collection and he will then state the charge to be made. If the householder agrees to this charge, payment should then be made in cash or by cheque, an official receipt will be given and the removal will take place at the same time. It is, of course essential that the householder, or someone acting on his behalf, is present at the time of collection.



**Deputy Mayor of Hendon
Councillor (Mrs.) Clara Thubrun,
M.B.E.**

Councillor (Mrs.) Clara Thubrun trained as a school teacher in the north of England, but has lived in Mill Hill for 34 years. During the war she returned to teaching and taught for three years at Deansbrook Junior School.

In December, 1951, she was elected to the Hendon Borough Council as a representative for Mill Hill Ward, since when she has served continuously in that capacity. She was Mayor of Hendon for 1962/63 and is at present Deputy Mayor.

In May, 1964, she was elected to represent Mill Hill Ward on the Council of the London Borough of Barnet where she is Chairman of the Health Committee and a member of the Childrens, Welfare, General Purposes and Education Committees.

The main channel for her interest in the youth activities of the Borough has been the Girl Guides and for the past ten years she has been Chairman of the Hendon Division Local Association. She is also a member of the Management Committee of the Canada Villa Youth Centre.

A founder member of the Broadway, Mill Hill Townswomen's Guild in 1938, Councillor (Mrs.) Thubrun has held office in her own Guild, the local Federation, and now is a member of the National Executive Committee of the movement.

For some years she has been a member of the Hendon Group Hospital Management Committee, and is at present Chairman of the Bushey Maternity and Vice-Chairman of Colindale Hospital Committees.

Her other interests include drama and painting. She was awarded the M.B.E. in June, 1964.