

# Free Public Carnegie Library – Horbury

## A brief history of the Carnegie Library in Horbury

### 1<sup>st</sup> February 1904

The Clerk was instructed to apply to the Local Government Board for sanction to erect a Public Library on part of the site acquired for Public Offices. The Public Library Committee was instructed to obtain plans and estimates for building a Free Library and Mr B Watson of Batley was appointed the architect.



The Library was to include a

news-room with a separate portion for lady readers, a central hall covered with a glass roof, reference library, lending library, Librarian's room and caretaker's living room, with 2 bedrooms over the same. The whole of the building was to be of Delph stone, except for the back which was to be of Morley stone. The furnishings throughout were to be of oak, french-polished and french-polished oak dadoes were to be provided in certain rooms.

### 1905

A grant was obtained from the Carnegie Foundation of £2,000 and this, with money raised locally, was sufficient to build the Library.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 1905 the foundation stone was laid by Councillor A Horsfield.

### 14<sup>th</sup> February 1906

Councillor A Horsfield returned to officially open the Library. The first Librarian was James Kirkpatrick, who was also a tobacconist. The reading room was open daily from 9am until 9.30 pm and the lending library was open Mondays and Wednesdays from 6.30pm until 8.30pm and Saturday afternoons, 2pm until 5pm. Evidently malicious damage to a library book could result in 6 months imprisonment "with or without hard labour".

### 28<sup>th</sup> June 1912

A special meeting was convened to consider the arrangements for the visit to Horbury on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1912 of King George V and Queen Mary. The outside of the Council House and the Free Library were to be "suitably decorated".

### **6<sup>th</sup> September 1921**

The Council acknowledged an anonymous donation of £20 which enabled the Library Committee to buy 29 volumes of the “Encyclopaedia Britannica”.

### **13<sup>th</sup> February 1934**

The Library was converted into “open access”.

### **19<sup>th</sup> December 1940**

The Public Library Committee decided that if members of H M

Forces did not make more use of the Reading Room it would close at 7.30pm instead of 9pm.

### **14<sup>th</sup> December 1961**

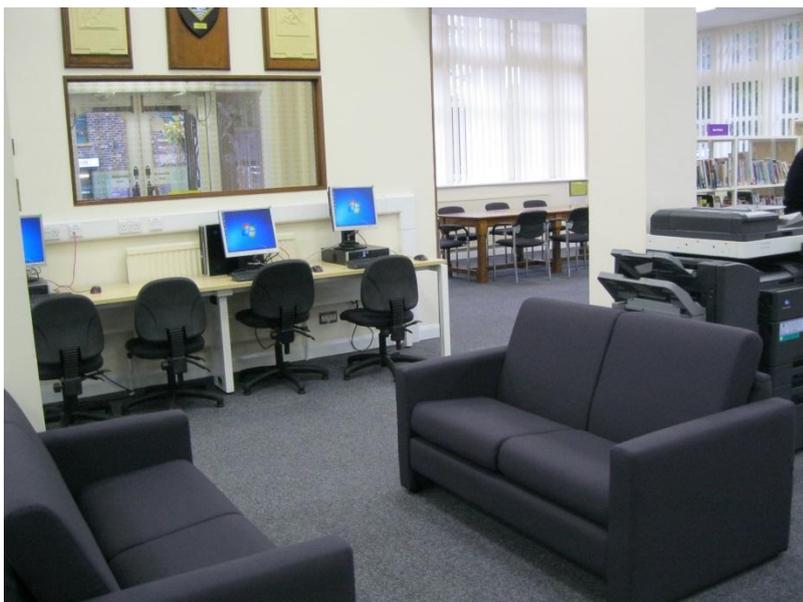
The Library Committee recommended that the renewal fee for members’ tickets should be raised from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1962 to 6d from 4d.

### **17<sup>th</sup> February 1972**

Owing to vandalism the Library Committee recommended that the door to the Reading Room should be closed at 7pm.

### **6<sup>th</sup> December 1979**

The Library was re-opened after refurbishment.



### **2000**

The Friends of Horbury Library were awarded a grant of nearly £5,000 to create a community archive. It was to include old photographs and documents about Horbury and district.

### **2004**

A tapestry depicting life through the ages in Horbury was created to mark the 100 years of the town’s Library.

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

A newly refurbished Horbury Library was opened by local cabinet member for Libraries Cllr. Dave Dagger. The Library was repainted, and fitted with new furniture, lighting, blinds and carpets to provide a light and airy atmosphere. The childrens section boasts comfy seating and a junior study area, whilst adults can relax on sofas, read or browse the internet, and benefit from a new self-service book issue machine.