

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

CARNEGIE LIBRARIES CELEBRATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed Carnegie Libraries Celebrations at Hendon Library.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland and emigrated to America in 1848 when he was 11 years old. By 1888 Mr Carnegie owned 7 iron and steel works, coalfields, iron mines, railways and a fleet of steamers. He returned to Scotland in 1901 where he established or assisted in establishing no fewer than 1,300 libraries in Britain. Books and libraries were always an important part of Carnegie's life.
- 2.2 Andrew Carnegie donated £10,000 to the County Borough of Sunderland for the building of two branch libraries. The sites were donated by local notaries of the time and three libraries were built with the funding available. These are Hendon library, Monkwearmouth library and Kayll Road library. Andrew Carnegie opened Monkwearmouth library in 1909 whilst visiting Sunderland to receive the Freedom of the County Borough of Sunderland on 13 October 1909.

3.0 HENDON LIBRARY

- 3.1 Vice Chairman of the Museum and Library Committee Councillor J Hindmarch laid the foundation stone in February 1908.
- 3.2 Hendon library was opened in October 1908 by Samuel Storey, D.L, J.P
- 3.3 It is proposed to host a programme of events to celebrate the centenary from Friday 17 October - Monday 20 October 2008. A VIP and invited guest reception will take place on Monday 20 October from 2.00pm – 4.00pm; this will entail a programme of speeches, cake cutting ceremony, light refreshments and a photo opportunity. Some of the highlights of the proposed programme include:
- Learning Officer from Tyne and Wear Museums will deliver a handling session with an invited school group to look at life in the 1900's.

- An illustrated local history talk on the Hendon area in Edwardian times.
- Family History taster session.
- Exhibition highlighting the development of the library over the years and also incorporating 100 years of Wind in the Willows (published in 1908).
- Costumed photographic sessions with an Edwardian theme.
- Memories collected from library borrowers over the years and uploaded onto library webpage.

4.0 PROMOTION

- 4.1 A press release will be issued at the beginning of October and contact will be made with the heritage reporter from the Sunderland Echo, where it is anticipated a feature article will appear on the Carnegie libraries.
- 4.2 Costs for a promotional bookmark to commemorate the three Carnegie libraries are currently being sourced.
- 4.3 A comments book for guests and borrowers to sign or add memories will be purchased and will circulate the three libraries.
- 4.4 An authentic certificate or scroll will be costed to present to all attendees over the celebration period.
- 4.5 Costs are being sourced for a promotional flyer to be produced, listing the programme of events at each of the venues.
- 4.6 All programme and events will be added to the library website and Sunderland events website.

5.0 FUNDING AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local history talks and exhibitions are being provided free of charge.
- 5.2 Hospitality costs will be met by existing library budgets
- 5.3 The proposed marketing material will have some costs and funding will be met from within existing Culture and Tourism budgets.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and to receive further updates in the future.