

This Library was founded on May 24th 1867 as a result of a public meeting held in the house of Mr David Lewis and was then described and known as The St Albans Mutual Improvement Association, the object of such Society being as recorded in the minutes. "The mutual mental improvement of its members". Classes for special studies of various subjects being formed, lectures on current topics, readings and discussions were also a part of the means devised for the advancement of culture and general knowledge. The names of the first committee and officers of the Society were as follows:-

President: Doctor Augustus Florence

Vice Presidents: Mr William Moor and Mr St Quinton

Secretary: Mr J Dixey

Librarian: Mr C Duggan

Committee: Messrs J Berberry, Watson, D Pine, H Price, Cumberworth, Smith W Butler, Rowbotham, D Lewis, R Butterfield, R Cutler, Thos Lewis.

A plot of land part of rural Section No. 311 situate in what is now known as Dover Street, St Albans Christchurch was given by Mr William Moor for a building, being conveyed by him to two Trustees namely The Reverend John Aldred and Mr Geo Gould.

The necessary buildings were forthwith erected and were duly opened to the public residing in St Albans on October 28th 1867.

Now after a period of fifty three years the old premises being too small has rendered necessary the erection of a new and more suitable building on this site.

The present officers of the Society are:-

President: Mr J W Beanland

Honorary Secretary: Mr H E Powell

Librarian: Mr A Knight

Knight

Committee: Messrs D J Hathaway, Mrs Hamilton, W Pearce, B Moore, J Lorimer, W Thomson.

Honorary Vice Presidents: His Worship the Mayor of Christchurch, Doctor H T J Thacker M.P., L M Isitt M.P., A Williams, E H Andrews, George Capper, Joseph Hamlet, William Moor.

Vice President: Mr R J Ecroyd

Honorary Treasurer: Mr J Jowsey

Auditors: Mr C Pritchard and Mrs S

The following are the names of the Presidents since 1867

1867-71	Dr A Florence	1900-07	J Moore
1872	Mr Threadwell	1905-06	J W Beanland
1873-74	J A Efford	1907-09	J Jowsey
1875	A J Howell	1910	J W Beanland
1876-81	J A Efford	1911-12	D J Hathaway
1882	J T Squire	1913	B Moore
1883	A C Birt	1914	A G Pearson
1884-89	W J Neate	1915	A Vincent
1890-91	G Capper	1916	A Soanes
1892-93	J J Hunter	1917-18	W J Dangerfield
1894-99	Thos Palmer	1919	R J Ecroyd
		1920	J W Beanland

Dated this the thirty first day of July, Nineteen Hundred & Twenty, at St Albans. Christchurch