

The Library

There were books in glass-fronted bookcases in the little committee room in the Reading Room soon after it was opened in 1878.

In the 1920s Miss Williams, who lived in what is called Russell's Close started to organise a library in the Reading Room. Miss N. Neighbour continued the work from 1936-1952. The library was open 4-6pm on Thursdays. There were 100 fiction books and 50 non-fiction; the books were changed every three months from Oxford. Mrs Osmond and Mrs. Martin took over and opening times were Friday 2-6pm. In 1957 the library moved to the little back room in 1, Lower Icknield Way and was open longer hours. It was surprising how many books there were, the walls might have been elastic. The shelves were arranged by content, romance, crime and detection, gardening, etc. In 1973 the new library was built in St. Andrews school ground. It was opened in 1974. It is a big room with a large and varied selection of books and new books are added frequently. There are also periodicals and newspapers. In the same building was the further education room and the baby clinic and lavatories.

The Pattern Library

This was started by 2 young mothers in 1974, in one of their houses. Dress and knitting patterns could be borrowed. Opening hours were Monday to Friday 10-11.30 am and Wednesday 7-9pm.