



● A large, enthusiastic audience of Weyford Infants and Bordon Infants surround storyteller and former teacher Mike O'Leary



● Mill Chase pupil and book enthusiast Samantha

# A page turns in history

By PHILIP WALLER

**K**ids adore it, adults love it – for a quiet read or a soothing story, it's the place to be.

From the day it opened on July 14, 1986, Bordon library has become one big success story.

And while most fairy tales have a happy ending, this one's set to run and run.

The award-winning Pinehill Road library celebrated its birthday in style last week after ten years of serving the local community.

Schoolchildren, local people and councillors got together for a host of stories, talks and fun activities to help close one illustrious chapter in the library's history – and open up another.

The seeds of Bordon's book-reading culture were sown long before the state-of-the-art library was built.

From 1957 to 1977, the town's readers were served by a shuttered shelving library in St Mark's Hall.

A mobile library took over in 1976, calling at Chalet Hill, Martinique House and Sutton Field in Whitehill.

But Bordon was a growing

The present impressive structure was put up and officially opened in 1986.

Designed in the Classical Basilica style by architect Robert Adam, the £354,000 building featured in several books, including Prince Charles' Vision of Britain, and won an award for the quality of its brickwork.

Since the library opened, it is estimated the library has:

- STAMPED out nearly two million books;
- REGISTERED 20,000 readers;
- TAKEN and supplied 30,000 requests for books;
- DEALT with more than 150,000 enquiries;
- READ 3,000 stories to under-fives;
- HELD 60 holiday activity sessions for up to 2,000 children;

But it's the people running and using the library who have helped make it the thriving hub of the community it is today.

Librarian Kate Ford has been at the library since 1987 – and she has enjoyed every minute of it.

"It's the people here, both staff and customers, who make it all worthwhile," she said.

"They take their library very personally and very seriously – the staff here feel appreciated by our customers and we appreciate them."

The library held a birthday card competition to celebrate the occasion.

The results are: **5-year-olds and under:** 1. Yasmin Lyons, aged 5; 2. Stacey Howell (5); **6-8 year-olds:** 1. Tracey Wilmott (8); 2. Lydia Davies (6); **9-12 year-olds:** 1. Clare Onslow (10); 2. Ricky Swan (9).

Others highly commended: Jessica Kohn (3); George Gray (9); Charlotte Ansell (9); Sharron Fensome (9); Rebecca Carver (8); Kim Bone (8);



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