

Rotary donates cash for books to primary

A primary school now has more books on its shelves after receiving donations from a local benefactor.

St Dominic's Catholic Primary School was given £350 by Rotary in Harpenden, the charity arm of the town's rotary club.

The contribution was matched by the Rotary Foundation, which supports educational and other projects both at home and abroad, and went towards the purchase of 90 reference books costing £750.

Head teacher Elizabeth O'Brien said: "Even in the digital age there is always room for attractively produced, lively, reference books. The children are making good use of them."



Historic paintings of Harpenden pub are returned after 97 years

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Historic paintings of a Harpenden pub have returned home almost a century after being painted.

The striking pair of oil paintings, portraying the White Horse Pub in Redbourn Lane, Hatching Green, as it used to look, were produced by local stained glass artist Ernest Heasman in 1919.

From his studio home on East Common, Mr Heasman painted local landscape scenes as well as creating stained glass and hand-painted tiles.

The works were handed back to the pub in a ceremony last month after they came into the possession of former Harpenden resident Ian Taylor, whose grandparents ran the White Horse from 1917 to 1929.

Ian was joined at the hand over by his wife Hazel, Patricia Yates and Jean Gardner from the Harpenden & District Local History Society and pub general manager Sam Brawn.

Ian said: "My mother was born in the White Horse while my grandparents ran the pub and I believe it was my grandfather who actually commissioned Heasman to do the paintings."



■ Patricia Yates from Harpenden & District Local History Society, Sam Brawn, manager of The White Horse, Jean Gardner from Harpenden & District Local History Society, Hazel Taylor and Ian Taylor with the paintings of the pub

"I inherited them and for many years we have enjoyed having them in our own home.

"Both my wife Hazel and I felt, however, that their rightful home was back at The White Horse and we were pleased when the current owners, Peach Pubs, agreed to purchase them and give them a

permanent place on display in the pub."

He added: "I feel happy that Heasman's work has come back to its original home almost a hundred years after he painted them and I think he would be happy too. I hope they stay in the building forever as they belong there."

Sam was delighted to welcome the art back to its right original home.

"This is a beautiful old building dating back to the 17th century with some delightful nooks and crannies, and having this important piece of its history back in the pub for guests to see, is wonderful.

"We shall treasure them."



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