

La Mare finds inspiration in decorative book bench

A DECORATED bench has inspired students at La Mare de Carteret Primary School to get reading.

The book bench was made for last year's Guernsey Literary Festival.

The bench is shaped like an open book and has been decorated as a tribute to local literary character Ebenezer Le Page. Since then it has been taken to local schools to help encourage young people to read.

The bench arrived yesterday at La Mare de Carteret and was unveiled in an assembly before being placed in reception.

Head teacher Kim Hutchison said it was a wonderful addition for the school.

'It's fabulous,' she said.

Reading sessions will be held there to help younger students.

'It will be very well used,' Ms Hutchison said.

Art students Lauren Perry and Sam O'Neill, along with art teacher Charlie Buchanan, spent several days designing the bench before creating the design in acrylic paint.

Sam, 17, is currently studying maths and art at Elizabeth College. He has a special link to La Mare de Carteret – his mother is a learning support assistant at the school. He said he had really enjoyed taking part in the project and hoped to come into the school and read with the pupils.

'It's been a very unusual project and a great opportunity,' he said. 'It's been really interesting to try something new.'

The bench depicts several scenes from *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page* – the iconic local book written by G.B. Edwards.

Sam said he had to read the book before taking on the project. 'I really enjoyed it [painting the bench],' he said.

Schools' Library Service liaison officer Alan Nel came to the school's assembly to officially hand over the bench for a week.

He said it had already been enjoyed by several different schools.



Schools' Library Service liaison officer Alan Nel, left, pictured with artist Sam O'Neill, who helped design the book bench for the Guernsey Literary Festival. The bench has been brought into several island schools and yesterday saw the start of La Mare de Carteret Primary School's turn.