

# It's all go...

IT HAS been a hectic time in your library since we were given the keys of the place by the county council. If you haven't been into the library recently, you are in for a surprise – the extra space that's been created will amaze you.



Community Library



**CLIP NEWS**

The newsletter of the Friends of Puddletown Library

Spring 2013

'And this has all been achieved without losing any of our book space,' says Bill Maunder who, along with Peter Bishop and members of the management committee, did all the heavy lifting. 'In fact we now have extra shelves for Puddletown's collection of "free loan" books, CDs and DVDs which anyone who holds a library card can borrow for as long as they like – just sign for what you take and we'll trust you to bring it back,' says Bill. 'There won't be any fines or chivvying letters.' The Friends management committee launched the free loan system when it was learned

that the Dorset library service was no longer going to supply DVDs etc. Discs and books in good nick are always welcome. The extra space in the library has been created by cannibalising the big bank of shelves that stood in the middle of the floor. These have been used to create extra shelves along the walls. You can see what a difference this has made in the pictures of our youngest library users taking advantage of the extra floor space during one of their regular Thursday morning sessions (see P2). This isn't the only change: the Friends group has invested in new fur-

niture so that we won't have to lug chairs and tables down from the Village Hall for meetings and discussions. Why not drop in to meet friends and try the range of games now available? And to make such meetings more companionable the Friends have bought a high spec hot drinks dispenser. There will be no fixed charge for a fresh coffee, tea or chocolate...but we'd welcome a contribution towards our costs: 50p a cup is suggested.

***Tell us what you think of what we've done: there's a box for your views and suggestions on the main desk.***

## Lord 'Downton Abbey' raises a laugh – and a hatful of money

The Oscar-winning screen-writer Julian Fellowes, creator of the Sunday evening blockbuster *Downton Abbey*, showed that he talks as well as he writes when he filled Puddletown Middle School hall for us. He provided an amusing evening of reminiscences and anecdotes about his time in Hollywood and the famous actors and directors he has worked with. As a bonus for his packed audience he asked his charming wife Emma to sit beside him to make sure he heard his enthusiastic questioners correctly. 'The event was a triumph,' says treasurer Stephen Buck. 'The sale of tickets to hear his talk and our raffle boosted our finances to the tune of a staggering £2,500.' The Friends group is most grateful to the school for its hospitality and help with selling tickets.



Actor, author and wit: Lord Fellowes and his wife Emma



*Our youngest booklovers revelling in the extra floor space now available in Puddletown library*

## It pays to catch 'em young

ONE OF the most successful aspects of the work of the Friends of Puddletown Library has been the Thursday morning sessions for our youngest customers. For nearly five years now a dedicated team of volunteers has been opening the library for a 'tots'n'toddlers' get-together at which they can enjoy a hands-on session with our books – and listen to a story. The children pictured are from the Pumpkins group that meets in the Village Hall and they come through to the library as soon as the connecting door is opened. This child-friendly policy obviously pays as Puddletown's children are among the most active of Dorset's seven community libraries so



*Pictures: Jenny Maunder*

far this year. Our youngsters also do well every summer in the national book events.

**15th April, Church Room, Puddletown. Be there**

**Put the date in your diary. It's our first annual meeting since we took over and there are big decisions to be made. So come along at 7pm, or earlier, for a glass or a cup. You'll have the chance to air your views on our new constitution. We also want your ideas on where we go from here and your vote on our accounts and our committee.**

## We still need your money

Although the Friends group made a handsome profit out of our evening with Julian Fellowes, we are still dependent on our members' subs to keep the show on the road. Our new membership year begins on 1 April so please make sure you get your fiver (or £8 for couples) to Stephen Buck at 3 High Street, Puddletown DT2 8RT. Membership cards will be available at the AGM and from the library. There you can pick up

a form which will allow us to claim Gift Aid on your subs. You can also find a form there to pay by standing order. It's the painless way to do it.

**MONEY RAISERS:** We raised £60 through the silent auction of the books Kate Adie gave us. You can bid for our three old teaching computers and our printer in the same way. Just enter your bid on the forms you'll find in the library. But be quick: the bidding closes at the end of March.