



# PLUM

**Puddletown Library, Upkeep and Maintenance**

## Volunteers to the rescue

ON MONDAY 3 November Puddletown library will make history. It will be the first in Dorset to use volunteers to assist professionally trained librarians.

The volunteers, who will be shown next month how to use the new technology to be installed in Puddletown (see *story right*), are needed because Dorset County Council is cutting back the number of hours it will pay for a professional librarian — from the present ten and a half hours a week to a mere six. But by using volunteers — all members of our organisation — Puddletown's library will manage to keep open for **TEN** hours every week. Its opening hours, from 3 November, will be:

**Mondays: 3.30-7.0pm (with volunteers working 5.30-7.0)**

**Wednesdays: 2.30-4.30pm**

**Fridays: 3.30-6.0pm (entirely staffed by volunteers) and**

**Saturdays: 10am-noon.**

Although we have always opposed cuts in the number of hours our professional librarians spend with us, we can see some

benefits in the new timetable. It will, for example, mean the library will be open for four days a week instead three and, for the first time, we will have the chance to use the library on Saturdays. I hope this will prove useful.

Perhaps even more importantly the use of volunteers in our library will, I feel sure, make it seem even more 'ours' — and give us the opportunity to widen the choice of services the branch can offer. In our last newsletter, you may remember, committee member Rosie Wyndham floated the idea of running our own book club so that we could use the library, outside the normal opening hours, as a venue for an informal chat about a book all participants will have had the chance to read. There must be many other ways in which we could use the library for the benefit of the whole community. Suggestions please to:

**Mike Chaney, chairman**

**11 High Street, Puddletown (848352)**

**chaneatley@tiscali.co.uk**

**For more on what's involved in being trained to work as a volunteer librarian, see Page Two**

## Puddletown leads the way

PUDDLETOWN HAS been chosen to be one of Dorset's first libraries to get the benefits of computerised customer self-service. From the beginning of November, when you return your books you will be able to place them into newly installed equipment which will automatically recall from its memory when you borrowed them — and display any fine you may have incurred. You can even use the new machinery to pay. If you haven't the money with you, or don't want to pay that day, it will just remember what you owe...and ask for it next time.

Puddletown has been chosen, together with Colehill and Burton Bradstock, to be the first in the county to get this new equipment. This is so that it will be in place when volunteer librarians start working to support the professional library staff when the number of hours they work is cut (*see story left*).

**For more on the new technology see overleaf**