

7th January 2013

JUST AS our Christmas and New Year celebrations are coming to an end, we Friends of Puddletown Library will have another excuse to raise a glass. On Monday 7th January we will be staging a little party at the library to mark the fact that on that day we will take over the running of our library from the county council.

We hope you will be able to join us from 3pm onwards when our most popular speaker – the famous BBC journalist Kate Adie – will be on hand to cut a ribbon for us...and for the cameras.

We are likely to get plenty of media coverage because we here in Puddletown will be making history. We will be the first of the little libraries Dorset County Council is to cease to fund to go it alone. So we need a good crowd of happy faces – and you might even get to see yourself on the television news too.

We will be inviting the people responsible for the library system at the county council to demonstrate our gratitude for the help they are giving us to ensure that we make a success of running our library as a community facility. It is estimated that the help we'll get from Dorchester will be worth more than £5,000 a year with a grant of a further £2,000 to help us with our start-up costs.

...that's our date with destiny

Puddletown's community library will be Dorset's first

Those costs are going to be hard for a small organisation like ours to meet, even though we have been given helpful support by many local organisations. So your subscription is vital to us if we are to pay the rent and keep the place warm and dry (*see note below*).

The council will continue to supply our books and the self-service machine that makes it so easy to borrow, return and now to renew your books. And the computers will still be there for you with the promise of more modern models soon.

In fact the volunteers who have been helping to run the library for the past four years hope that you won't notice any difference when we take over completely. Most of them have been given full training in how to operate the library's computerised management system.

There will be some new faces on duty to help you from January onwards: we have at least a dozen new volunteers to help us take on the extra work once the county council's paid staff are no longer there to help us. Our volunteers come from many of the villages that use the library, not just from Puddletown.

There will be a lot of extra work, too – the volunteers will be doing twice as many shifts and more than double the hours that they are used to working. If you think you could help please mention it next time you're in the library.

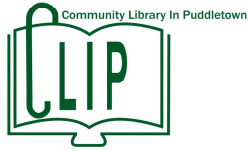
To begin with we will stick to the four days a week opening that we are used to (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday). But we will regularise the hours of opening: the library will be open from 3pm to 5.30 on weekdays and, as now, from 10am to noon on Saturdays.

The volunteers are eager to get started...but their enthusiasm will be wasted if you don't continue to support the library. It has been a long fight to keep it alive. So remember the old saying: use it or lose it.



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Community Library

Now Open

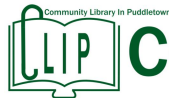


Above is the new sign that tells the world we're in business...

NEW SIGNS are being created to symbolise the changed status of Puddletown's community library. The sign below will be fixed over the door; the one above will be shown on the fence facing the road whenever the library is open for business.

This is volume 16 of the newsletter of the Friends of Puddletown Library for **Christmas 2012**. Your management committee wishes all readers a merry Christmas and a happy literary new year.

The new signs incorporate the community library's logo the word CLIP (*community library in Puddletown*) superimposed on a book together with Dorset County Council's lion symbol to acknowledge the help we are being given by the county council.



Community Library



...and here's the sign over the door

These are just the outward and visible signs of all the work that is being done to transfer the library from local government control. The Friends group will run CLIP for the benefit of anyone who lives in the Puddletown civil parish, which includes Tolpuddle, Athelhampton and Burleston and, of course, also for the benefit of the many people who come from more distant villages to use our library.

We are sure there must be many activities that this valuable space could be used for, says Mike Chaney, the outgoing chairman of the Friends. At the moment the place is used only in the afternoons save for Thursday mornings, when the pre-school children come in to get acquainted with books and to have a story read to them, and Saturday mornings. We are actively pursuing the idea of making the bookcases more mobile so that they can be pushed aside when people want to hold meetings or just want to get

together for a chat. Mike points out that there is nowhere else in the area, other than the church or commercial premises, for people to meet in a warm, weather-proof place without having to book it in advance.

Bright ideas are needed to help us use the library building more adventurously

We would need more volunteers if we were to open the library as a

drop-in morning drop-in centre, says Mike. But we are sure there money about if the community wants us provide this sort of service. We all know how isolated people can become as a result of the area's poor public transport provision.