

Getting ourselves noticed

YOU'VE HEARD this before, but we really are only a short time away from taking over the library.

So it won't be long before it will be our name over the door. And that is partly what this issue of your newsletter is about: getting that name as widely known as possible.

The management committee of the Friends of Puddletown Library has decided that our enterprise should be called **CLIP** (the initials stand for **Community Library in Puddletown**).

Your committee is inviting designs using that word in as eye-catching a way as possible. We will need to get ourselves noticed. We'll be putting a big sign up over the door and, with permission, an even bigger one on the wall so that we can be seen easily from the road. We need a design we can use to stamp our identity on all our activities. That's called branding. We want the **CLIP** brand to be one you can be proud of.

What's in a name...?

UNTIL NOW every edition of this newsletter has appeared under the title of  but we will soon need a new title  for this publication. The editor hopes you can find one that shows that we are running the place, making it all happen.

Not only will we be issuing the books and supervising the computers, with the support of the Dorset Library Service, but we will soon be extending the hours during which our library will be open. We plan to open for at least two hours every day save Sundays. We are confident we have enough community support and enough volunteers to staff the place so that it will be open every weekday afternoon between 3pm and 5pm and on Saturday mornings from 10am to noon.

But that's not all. The name 'Community Library' means just what it says. Our library will become a real community asset. It will take on a much wider role for the villages we serve. So we need not only a new name for this newsletter but your ideas for the future.

Give us the tools to finish the job

THE TEAM now on the verge of taking over Puddletown's library has had a productive — and profitable — year in its quest to raise the money it will need to meet all the costs that running the library is going to mean for our community.

Last month, for example, we were awarded £750 from the Hall and Woodhouse Community Chest. Earlier in the year we were given £1,000 from the fund set up by West Dorset District Council to distribute the money it raises from its Sunday car-boot sales in Dorchester.

We are very grateful to all the organisations that

have supported us — and, of course, to our members and friends who have made such a success of our 200 Club and one-off events like our Race Night and the talk by Kate Adie.

But our main on-going way of funding our work is through your subscription. So, if by chance you have neglected to renew yours this year, it is never too late to make amends.

Please send your £5 (£8 for couples) to our treasurer, Stephen Buck, at 3 High Street, Puddletown DT2 8RT or drop it through his letterbox. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of Puddletown Library.

Training begins for the next volunteer crew

AFTER MONTHS of silence on how the next batch of volunteer librarians are to be trained to work in the library, we were told on Monday (1st October) that a training session has been organised for next week - for Tuesday 9th.

Chairman's report

We are delighted that progress is being made at last but the fact that we have been given only a week's notice says something about the last-minute rush by the Dorset Library Service as it tries to catch up with itself.

We are still being told that the library could be handed over to us in a couple of months but your management committee doesn't believe that to be possible. In fact CLIP's managers have told County Hall that they'd rather wait until after Christmas to take over. Then we will be able to make more of a splash with our opening ceremony.

We say a sad goodbye to a good friend



Jenny Maunder presents Marilyn Wheller with her long service gift

OUR POPULAR library manager, Marilyn Wheller, has left us to take over the library at Crossways. On the day she left the Friends of the Library held a tea party for her and presented her with a Kindle (an electronic book reader) to mark her nineteen and a half years of service in Puddletown. 'Your smile will be sorely missed,' she was told. You may not have seen that we have been collecting money towards the cost of her gift. Please ask any volunteer if you'd like to contribute.

Using the web to get our message across

CLIP has already started on its campaign to tell the world about the new enterprising team who will be running the library as a community asset from next year. The organisation has set up its own website. As yet there is nothing to see but you will soon you'll be able to log on to

www.puddletownlibrary.org

Roy Bennett, who is masterminding this useful way of get-

ting our message across, points out that we will also be able to communicate with each other more effectively than by email or telephone.

Roy explains that the CLIP site will also be accessible through other sites, including that run by Puddletown parish council. This means that we can draw attention to our fund-raising activities much more effectively.

Christmas and New Year opening

Puddletown Library will be closed on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day and will shut at 5pm on New Year's Eve. This means that if the county council is still running our library then our volunteers will get the evening off on the 24th and 31st of December.

200 Club winners

The Friends group continues to benefit from your generous support for the monthly 200 Club prize draw which we have been running for most of this year.

The winners of September's prizes were: Sandra Lovelock (141), Laura Dindar (66) and Sheila Cox (99).

If you have an email address please send it to roy@revroy.com